



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632

March 21

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies Mt Wombat

53.725MHz (-1 MHz offset), **In Service**

146.65MHz (-600 kHz offset), **In Service**

438.2MHz (-7 MHz - offset -D-Star), **In Service**

438.650MHz (-7 MHz offset and 91.5 Hz tone access only), **In Service**

438.900MHz (-7 MHz offset- DMR repeater), **In Service**

439.775MHz (-5 MHz offset), **In Service, IRLP (node #6990)**

476.475 MHz (+750 kHz off set) CB Repeater WBT03 Channels 3- 33, **In Service**

VK3RDS, 438.7625 MHz (-7 MHz offset DMR repeater) **Shepparton on test @ VK3YNV QTH**

Access to most analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise/carrier mute (less sensitive).

Club informal on air get togethers - Wednesday evenings. All welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-

2mx repeater 8.00pm 146.650 MHz,

3.63 MHz SSB ± interference 8.30pm.

The vintage radio club have a sked at 11.00am Sunday on the 2 mx repeater.

Meetings the first Saturday of the month from 10 am for informal chats and technical talks. A BBQ follows (a gold coin donation). Business meeting 1 pm (except January when no meeting occurs) at

Flexible Learning Centre, 18 Channel Road (250 metres from Archer Street), Shepparton.

Variations in these times, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – [www.sadarc.org](http://www.sadarc.org) or [www.sadarc.org.au](http://www.sadarc.org.au) Face book - [www.facebook.com/sadarc.org](http://www.facebook.com/sadarc.org)

Info for the page contact - Denny French on [denny3782@gmail.com](mailto:denny3782@gmail.com)

Want to get your licence? SADARC has examination assessors, contact the secretary for details.

The following repeaters do not belong to our club but provide good signals for many members.

Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters, TX, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz 23/04/2021

**DISCLAIMER:** - No guarantee is given as to the accuracy of information in this newsletter.

**Warning:** - There is a danger of electrocution or injury when working on electrical/radio gear or working at heights doing antenna work. You do so at your own risk.

President: - Peter Rentsch VK3AXI [peter@rentsch.com.au](mailto:peter@rentsch.com.au)

Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday VK3KBY

Secretary: - Andy Ashley VK3AJA [secretary@sadarc.org](mailto:secretary@sadarc.org)

Assistant Secretary: - Geoff Angus VK3ZNA

Treasurer: -Andy Ashley VK3AJA [secretary@sadarc.org](mailto:secretary@sadarc.org)

Membership Sec: - Andy Ashley VK3AJA "

Webmaster: - Ray Gardner VK3YNV [ray@etheira.net](mailto:ray@etheira.net)

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson

Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Josh Gardner & Rodney VK3UG – with power to co-opt.

Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) [rodlynn6@bigpond.com](mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com) , Andy VK3AJA (Distribution)

# SADARC April 2021 Meeting

Minutes taken by VK3ZNA Geoff (Assistant Secretary)

## Apologies (7)

VK3FALN Alan, VK3YYY Ian, VK3HEN Darren, VK3PNG Bruce, VK3GSR Geoff, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3AJA Andy.

## In Attendance (19)

VK3AXI Peter, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3OV Pat, VK3BLD Rob, VK3ASK Peter, Stevo, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3ZE Huntly, VK3TEX Les, VK2RK Rob, VK3ELV Phil, VK3EB Dallas, VK3UG Rodney, VK3TJS Jacek, Josh, VK3YNV Ray, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3PR Stewart VK3AFD Arthur, VK3GEK Graeme.

**Visitors** from Sandhurst Amateur Radio and Electronics Group Inc; Bendigo: - VK3CKC Kevin, VK3JLL Jack, VK3JED Antony.

## Minutes

The minutes, as published in the March newsletter, were read by VK3AXI Peter, Moved by VK3GEK Graeme, seconded by VK3BPH Kevin, all in favour.

## Inwards Correspondence

Face book Page: - To be brought 'more up to date' to attract younger persons to Electronics and Amateur Radio. Our page presently has 245 followers. Volunteers VK2RK Rob, and Josh to address content, Moved VK3TEX Les, seconded VK3BLD Rob, all in favour.

**'Yaesu Fusion' repeater** Email received by VK3AXI Peter from VK3FY Chris on progress of this project. A 70cm band antenna is required for Shepparton. The Shepparton site requires an Internet connection and a 7meg split diplexer filter, 240v AC and 12v DC power supply. The technical committee members are able to access sufficient sources to complete the Shepparton site for the installation of the 'Fusion' repeater. Moved VK3BPH Kevin, seconded VK3YNV Ray, all in favour.

## Outwards Correspondence

Nil

## Financial Report

VK3AXI Peter, received 2 membership A/C subscriptions, The WIA Insurance has been paid. We are waiting an account for the supply of the new 2 metre antenna on Mt Wombat that was installed late last year. Moved VK3AXI Peter, seconded VK3ASK Peter. All in favour.

## Technical Report

VK3YNV Ray has ordered a 'Meanwell' brand power supply for \$85 to replace the failed Tait P/S on the 2meter repeater. It is rated at 15volts at 30 Ampere but able to be adjusted to 13.8 volts to suit the Tait repeater. This is to replace the failed and older Meanwell unit in the TAIT P/S module.

VK3APO Peter Mill to be contacted for report on progress to complete the UHF link to Mt Big Ben. (VK3APO Peter to make contact again to establish reasons for inaction.)

VK2RK Rob put in a proposal to supply a repeater at Corowa and link it to the Mt Gwynne repeater. Moved by VK3UG and seconded by VK3BPH Kevin.

(Note: - I have been advised that the VK2RV has since withdrawn the offer. VK3ZNA)

## **General Business**

The **Echuca Steam rally has been cancelled at this time**, but it could be a 'one day' event.

**Club Room Antenna:** - The antenna for the Club Room was again discussed; VK3ASK Peter mentioned that 'they' required a drawing(s) of the proposed installation that is to replace the existing VHF TV antenna that is now unsuitable for this area. The Club could offer to supply a new UHF TV antenna, if they are interested. VK3GSR Geoff has offered to supply a new amateur antenna for the Club Room, but VK3UG Rodney mentioned that he is storing the 2 antennas that were removed from the Scout Hall, a Diamond 2 metre long antenna and a 6m Side Mount Dipole. These are to be inspected and tested prior to redeployment at our current Club Room.

The building lessees require that work on the roof be carried out by qualified person(s) with current 'working at heights' certificate. The Club does have a member with those qualifications.

**Radio Australia weekend QSL Cards.** VK3YNV Ray confirmed that the work in processing and sorting the cards is progressing slowly. A further update is to be made at our next meeting.

**Barbecue:** - As our barbecue was removed and sent for scrap, the lessee has purchased a new unit that is available to our Club provided it is kept clean and put back into the locked room after use.

**Newsletter distribution:** - VK3UG Rodney asked as to whom received their newsletter online. A few members indicated that they had not received it. It was mentioned that it can be downloaded from the Club website as soon as it is available.

VK3AXI Peter proposed that VK3UG Rodney be given the SADARC email/newsletter distribution list. Moved VK3UG Rodney and seconded VK3TEX Les. All in favour, carried.

**Visitors.** The Club were pleased to receive members of the Sandhurst Amateur Radio and Electronics Group Inc; The president VK3CKC Kevin and Secretary VK3JJL Jack with VK3JED Antony, VK3JGL Graeme and our member VK3PR Stewart.

**O'Keefe Marathon Bendigo to Heathcote.** VK3CKC Kevin gave a brief talk on the Race from Bendigo to Heathcote on 2<sup>nd</sup> may 2021. They are providing communications for the race and SAREC require amateur radio operators for various check points along the various routes of the O'Keefe event. There are 5 concurrent events to encourage participants, a 42km marathon, a 42km relay, a 21km half marathon, a 10km fun run and 5 km run/walk.

Should any member be available, please contact VK3CKC [kevin@bigpond.com](mailto:kevin@bigpond.com). Further details can be found on the SADARC website. If our members are able to participate, our Club would receive a small financial contribution.

As there was no further General Business. The meeting closed.

**Membership on the Microphone.** Our President, VK3AXI Peter gave a comprehensive overview of his life from living in the Hamilton area and entry into world of business, radio and eventually amateur radio. An excellent overview.

The next Membership talk is to be made by VK3AFD Arthur.

The Quiz compiled by VK3AXI Peter was based upon digital radio techniques. VK3YNV was the recipient of the 'bottle'.

## Presidents Report April 2021

Even though we held our meeting on the Easter Saturday we had an excellent attendance. Thank you everyone for making the effort to attend and especially thank you to the three visitors from Sandhurst Amateur Radio Club who were also in attendance. An enjoyable day was had by all with BBQ expertly cooked by Josh.

One of my passions in life is the enthusing of the young in the processes of learning. When I look back at my childhood, I see a very narrow field of vision. I was raised in a strong Church based home, went to a Church based Primary and Secondary schools and therefore I feel I was not exposed to much of what was available in the broader world. As an aside, I don't blame my parents for this; it was just the times in a strong rural community.

Moving on with my life I discovered the world of books in later secondary school. By reading books you are continually learning about new things, even novels can teach you a lot about history, tradition and mind sets, they inspire the imagination.

As Radio amateurs we have a passion as well and I see it incumbent on us to share that passion with others and the young. We do very well in sharing it with each other but not so well on sharing with the young.

Over my years as President of this Club we have often discussed how we can share these ideas but not a lot has happened. We have been involved in the occasional JOTA but then it goes no further.

At our next meeting I would like to have a Show N Tell. With COVID we have not been able to do this and from what I have seen there have been several projects worked on that other members may be interested in. So, what does a Show n Tell have to do with the young minds that are out there. Well, a Show n Tell is really projects developed from a passion. How can we pass that passion onto the young and inspire them to an ever-evolving world of Electronics?

I would really like to get down and put some solid plans in place to work out a process to get some young involved. Let's stop talking about and start to do it.

Let's aspire to inspire before we expire!

I hope to see as many as possible at our next meeting which will be a Show n Tell so please bring along your projects.

Cheers for now. Peter Rentsch President

### CLUB CALLANDER

1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Regular Meeting – Vision Centre BBQ – Show n Tell

5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Regular Meeting – Vision Centre BBQ

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June – Steam Rally Echuca – **To be confirmed**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 - Regular Meeting – Vision Centre

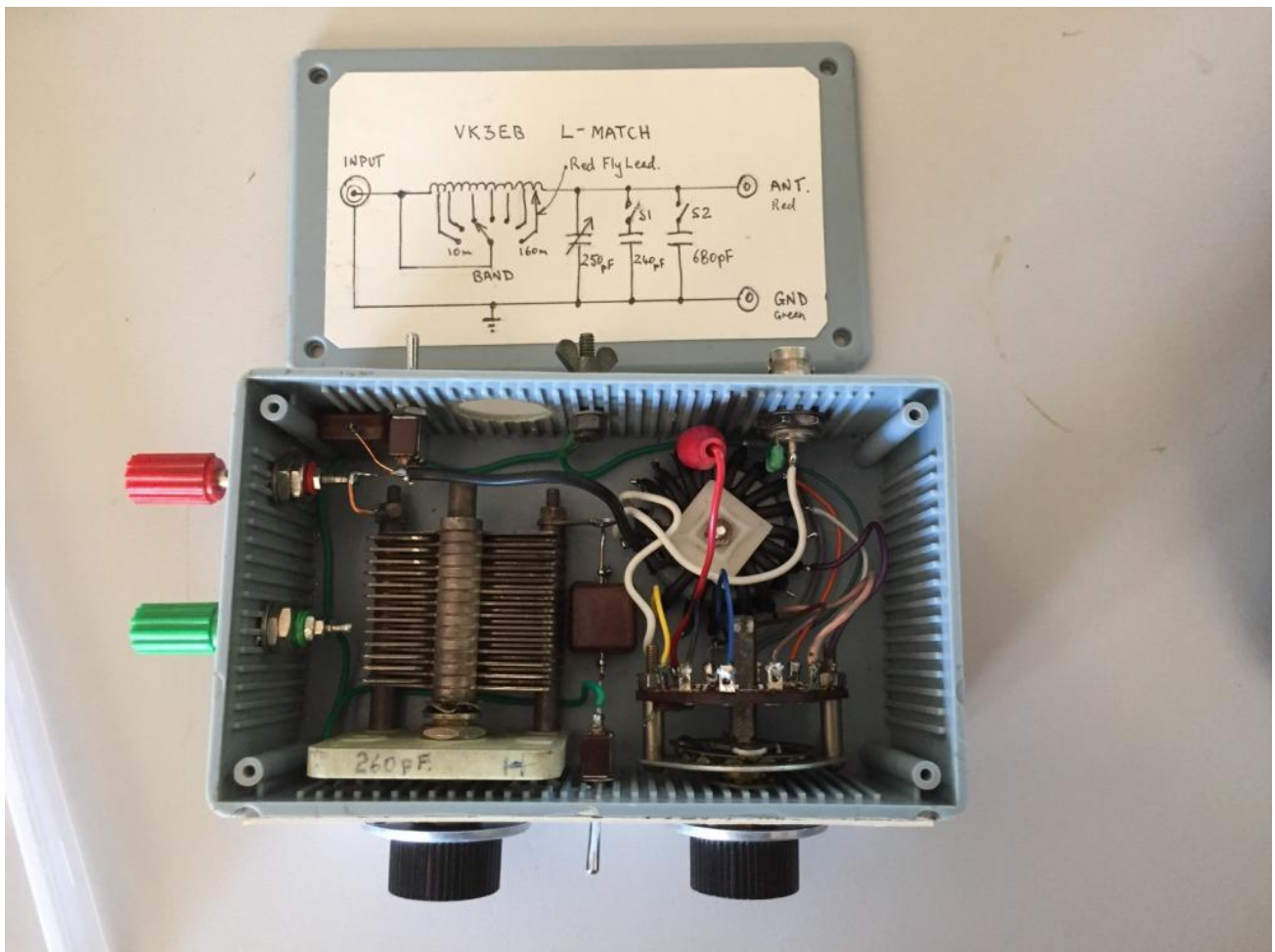
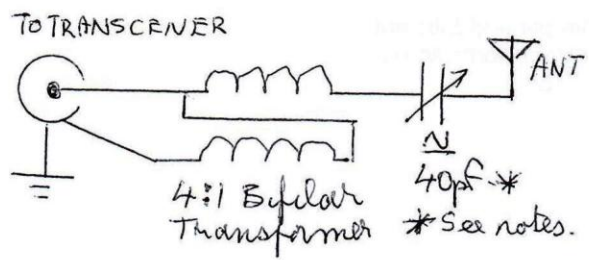
## Editor's Ramblings

- Our Secretary Andy has swanned off to the Flinders Ranges. What a great place to get away from it all for a few weeks.
- A well attended meeting on Easter Saturday with 23 folk in attendance including visitors. Some welcome visitors from Bendigo but a few of our members were away.
- The face book page is going to have some work done on it by Rob VK3RK in addition to that already being done by Denny French.
- Moves are afoot to shift the VL3DMR repeater to Geoff Angus's tower. At the same time a Fusion repeater would also be installed. No point in duplicating effort when one visit would be enough. More information on this activity as it becomes available.
- Some inquiries will be made about the long proposed link between Mt Wombat and Mt Big Ben which stalled a few years ago.
- Moves are afoot to install a 2mx/70cm antenna at the current club house, the one ex the Mooroopna Scout Hall. Later some HF antennas may be installed.
- Moves are afoot to lessen the load on the secretary who also sends out the newsletter and either this newsletter or the next it will be sent by the editor. There may be some teething troubles as the editor isn't the most computer savvy member of the club.
- Hear tell that there is a privately licensed 2 metre repeater in the area and it has a 1.5 MHz split. This makes it easier to filter transmitter and receiver signals than by using the 600 kHz split we currently have. I am wondering if we will ultimately have all the 2 mx repeaters with this split just as new UHF repeater splits went from 5 MHz splits to 7 MHz splits. Time will tell.
- As was passed at the meeting it is the intention that I (editor) will send out the newsletters in future (once I have the distribution list from Andy) which will eliminate double handling. For some reason or another many members did not get the last emailed newsletter. To alleviate this I would suggest that if members do not receive the newsletter by the Monday before the meeting please contact me (editor) and I'll send it again. A query- how far before the meeting would you prefer to get your newsletter?

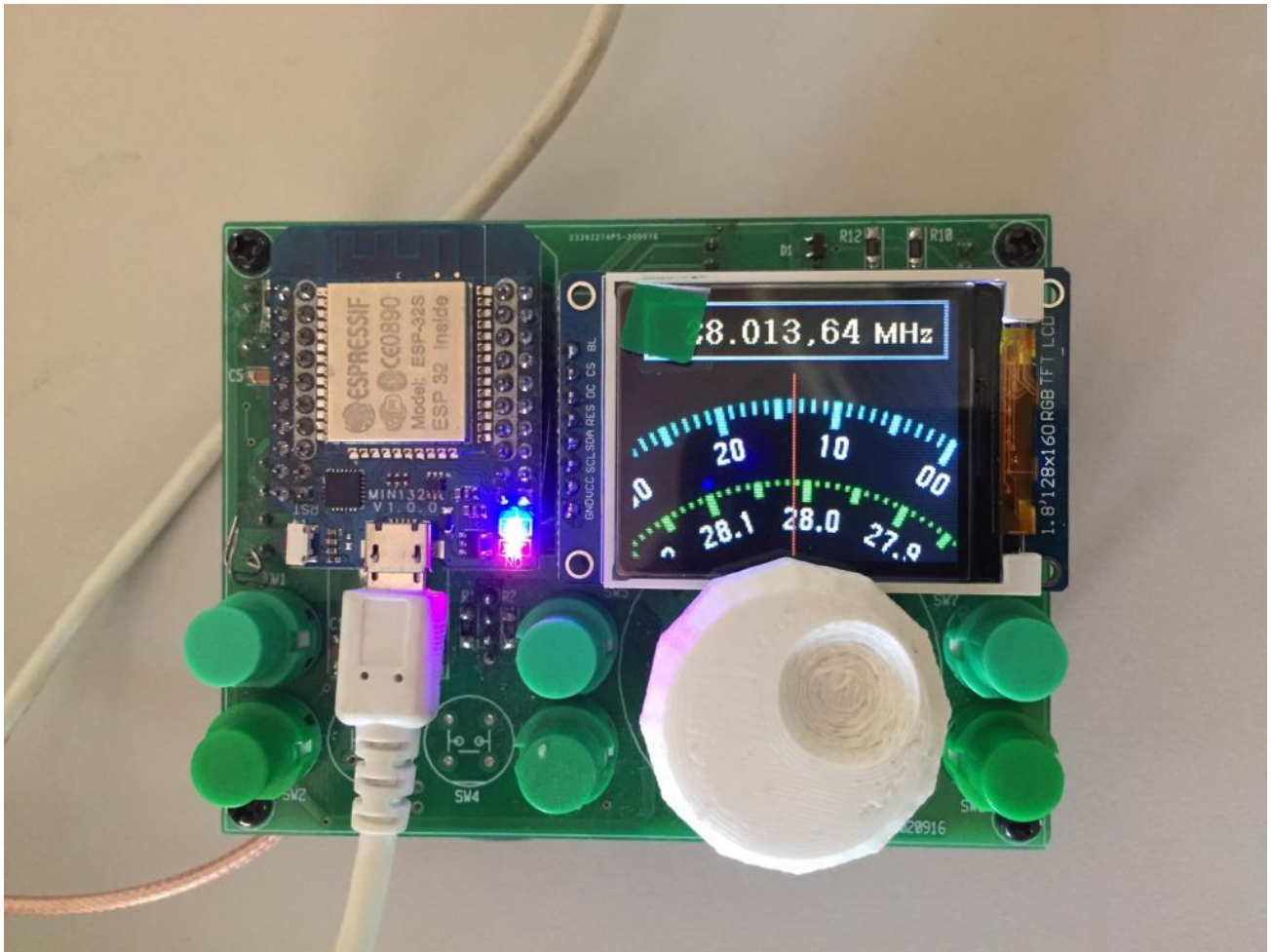
## **A 3/8 Wavelength 20 metre vertical antenna – An antenna as published in QST April 2019 – info supplied by David VK3ANP.**

Unfortunately things went wrong with the attachment of information from David so the information is rather abbreviated but construction of the antenna should not provide a problem. The vertical section is around 7.35 metres high and the radials are around 5.25 metres long. To match the 3/8<sup>th</sup> wavelength mast to 50 ohms a nominal 40 pF capacitor is placed in series with the base of the antenna and this is then attached to a 200 ohm to 50 ohm balun. David made his balun out of a square EHT ferrite transformer from a black and white TV. Or you could make one out of an Amidon FT240-43 toroid. The bifilar winding on the EHT transformer is 7 to 8 turns.

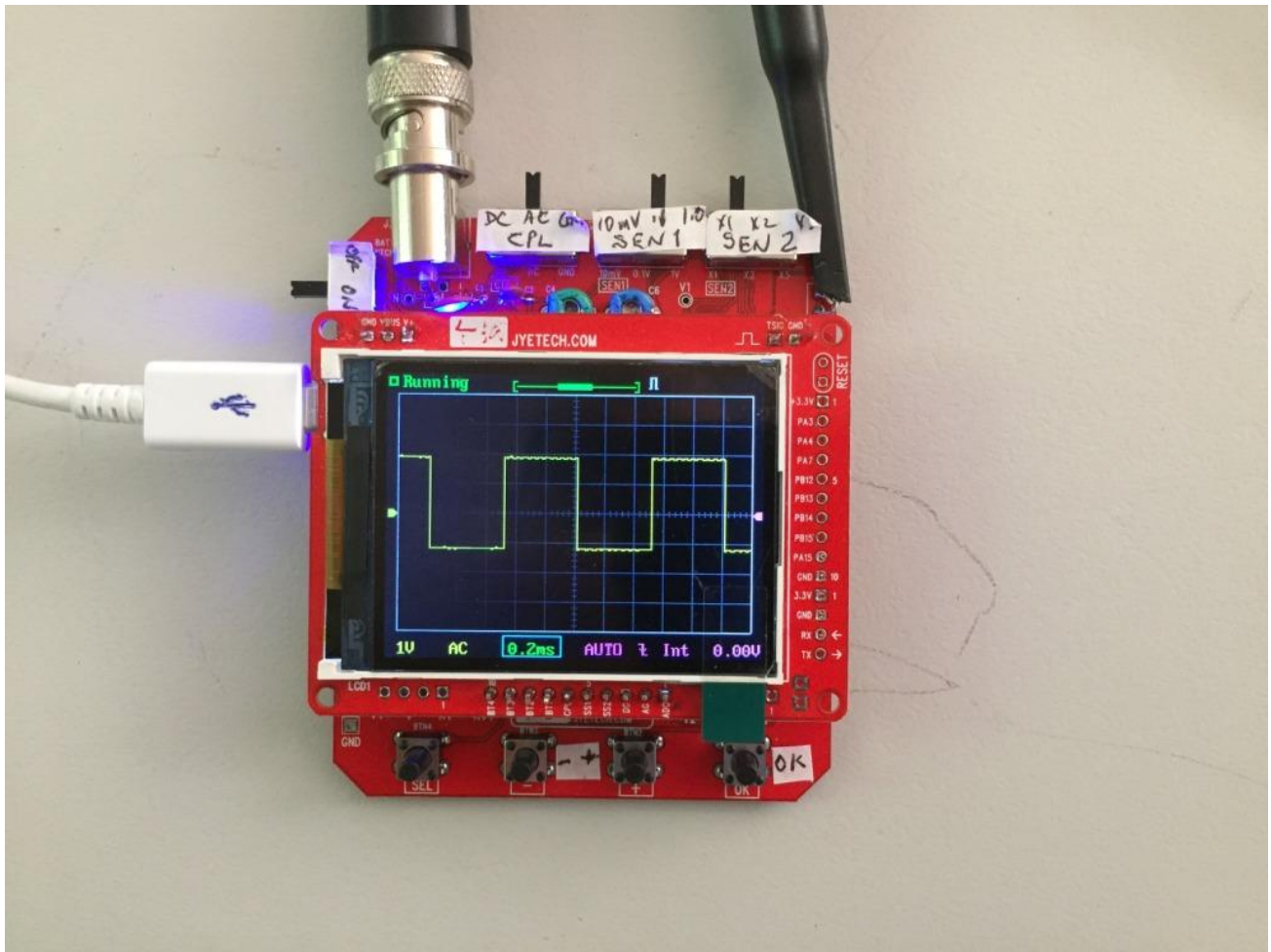
David reports that this antenna used with radials of around 5 metres works well. He also found that he did not need a series capacitor but I have usually found that this is necessary. Depending on the power used the capacitor needs to be variable with wide plate spacing. For best performance it is desirable to use something like a MFJ Antenna Analyser such as the MFJ259B to get the antenna just right. Anyone who would like further information on this antenna can contact David on [waringbd@westnet.com.au](mailto:waringbd@westnet.com.au)



VK3EBs HF portable L match ATU



Vk3ZZZs rather swish digital VFO with an analogue dial.



VK3ZNA Digital replacement panel for an old analog CRO to make it useful again.

The above three items should give members ideas on what they can do – sometimes with help from others. This accords well with President Peter's ideas on what way we should go forward to attract members throughout the Electronics community not just Amateur Radio.