



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

## November 2022 Newsletter

### SADARC committee

President:- Rob Hose - VK3BLD  
Secretary:- Arthur Duke - VK3AFD  
Membership Sec:- Ian Saunders - VK3YYY  
Webmaster:- Ray Gardiner - VK3YNV  
Newsletter (editor):- Peter Simpson – VK3ASK  
Technical Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Denys VK3ZYZ & Josh Gardiner – power to co-opt.

Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday - VK3KBY  
Treasurer:- Ian Saunders – VK3YYY  
Assistant Secretary:- Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI  
Hamfest Co-ordinator:- Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI

To contact any member of the committee above, email [committee@sadarc.org](mailto:committee@sadarc.org) and specify who you wish to communicate with and the subject. Items for the newsletter [newsletter@sadarc.org](mailto:newsletter@sadarc.org)

Communications Manager (External Events): Darren Glasson (VK3HEN) – subject to confirmation.

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. The next meeting will be held on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> a Xmas lunch at the Peppermill Inn.

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

**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. 25/08/2022

### VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies Mt Wombat

53.725MHz (-1 MHz), **In Service** 146.65MHz (-600 kHz), **In Service**  
438.2MHz (-7 MHz -D-Star), **In Service** 438.650MHz (-7 MHz 91.5 Hz tone), **In Service**  
438.9MHz (-7 MHz - DMR), **In Service** 439.775MHz (-5 MHz), Now back in service, IRLP  
(node #6990)

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

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

The three following repeaters are not the clubs but are allied to the club in one way or another.

Mt Major VK3RDU, 146.850 MHz, 439.875MHz. Mt Bruno VK3RWC 147.325 MHz **(-1.6 MHz 123Hz)**

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

Your TX offset is shown in brackets

Club informal on air get togethers, all welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-

Wednesday- 2mx repeater 146.65 MHz 8.00pm, 3.63 MHz SSB ± interference 8.30pm,  
Sunday – 2 mx repeater 146.65 MHz 2 pm & 8 pm & The Vintage Radio Club – 2 mx repeater 11 am  
A number of semi-private HF skeds take place either daily or weekly, locally or further afield.

Website – [www.sadarc.org](http://www.sadarc.org) or [www.sadarc.org.au](http://www.sadarc.org.au) Face book Page – Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Direct Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/481867453084459>

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

## In this Issue

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- **Editors comment**
- **President's Report**
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- **Final farewell to Rodney Champness**

## Next Meeting

The next SADARC meeting will be our Xmas Breakup Lunch and get together with the Historical Radio Society.

Details are as follows;

Date; Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Time; 12.30 onwards  
Venue; Peppermill Inn, meeting in the beer garden area.  
Address; 7900 Goulburn Valley Highway Shepparton  
Note; Wear some mosquito repellent if possible

Meals and drinks ordered from the bar.

## Editor's Comments

Our November club meeting certainly created a busy day for all members. It started at 10 with the Arduino course, this month run by Ray and Josh. Their topic was 7 segment displays, how to wire them to the Arduino board and how to make them display. Another interesting topic for all concerns.

We then moved on to the general chat time and the usual BBQ, which as always goes well and gives us time to talk over club issues, projects and future plans.

At 1pm, we had our necessary AGM, which pretty much re-elected the same committee, with a couple of exceptions shown at the top of this newsletter.

Apart from the elections, a great deal of time was spent debating the need to change the annual date for future AGM's. In the end it was decided that we will hold another AGM in February 2023 and this will then be the nominated month for the future.

Next came the general meeting with the usual reports and then a lengthy discussion about possible changes to the club's name. As we all know, this is an ongoing debate as there is a need for the club to attract new, younger members with an interest in electronics, not just radio.

In the end it was decided that the club should stay with SADARC with a possible sub-heading such as incorporating electronics". This was one of many suggestions and I am sure the debate will continue in the future.

One of the really interesting parts of the meeting were some very valid comments given by Kevin Eagles, who is a comparatively new member with younger ideas, Kevin pointed out that we need to make ourselves known to other groups, let more people in the community know what we are all about and most importantly aim for a permanent club house where we can set up and demonstrate our hobby. He made the very relevant point that if you join a football club, it is expected that there will be a ground to kick the football, with our club we need a place to play and demonstrate radio. Some food for thought from a younger member who wants to see our club survive and prosper.

See you all on December 3.

73's Peter VK3ASK

### Presidents Report

It has been a tumultuous year with a lot of good and some sad events. We lost 3 members during the year which is always a reminder that life is short and we should enjoy it while we are still able.

Our ranks grew with the addition of Stevo to our roll call.

After a couple of years of lockdowns, we were able to run our Hamfest again this year and it was wonderful to see so many exhibitors and visitors.

It is also great to be able to meet at the Club rooms again, to have a social time together.

The Arduino course has proven to be of great interest, and I am hopeful this will continue next year and help us attract new members to the Club.

The committee are working to upgrade our membership to include electronics as part of our hobby. Radio is the hobby centre pole, but we are getting more and more Electronics in our radios so it is the obvious way to attract new members.

I hope to see a lot of new projects next year, which will hopefully attract new people to join our club. It is vital that we expand into this area to ensure continued growth for the club. Let's get back to the Home-Brew of our hobby.

I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and as Safe and Prosperous New Year.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Break-Up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December commencing at 12:30 P.M. at the Peppermill Hotel in Shepparton.

I hope to see you all there.

73's Rob (VK3BLD)

## SADARC. November 2022, meeting minutes.

Club Rooms, Shepparton

**In Attendance:** VK3BLD Rob, VK3FALN Alan, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3AXI Peter, VK3YYY Ian, VK3AFD Arthur, VK3ASK Peter, VK3KUG Ray, VK3TJS Jacek, VK3JSD Stevo, VK3ZNA Geoff, Greg VK3POP, Paul Letson, Josh, Brian VK3BJH, Kevin VK3KFM, VK3AXI Peter

**Apologies:** VK3OV Pat, VK3GSR Geoff, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3 TEX Les, VK3EB Dallas, VK2JKN Jim.

**Minutes of last Meeting:** Read by Arthur VK3AFD, Moved by Arthur, Seconded by VK3BLD Rob. all in favor.

### **Business arising:**

**Fusion** -- Geoff VK3ZNA Reported that the paperwork has been completed. Geoff requested an invoice for payment. A frequency is not yet allocated.

**Wombat Visit.** Could possibly be a club trip in December.

**Xmas breakup** --Peter VK3AXI Reported that due to flood damage the Royal Mail out of action, so we need to seek new venue that can cater for up to for 50 people.

### **Inward Correspondence:**

1. Rick Thoms – Donation of equipment.
2. Geoff VK3ZNA -Thoughts on club change of name.
3. Geoff VK3ZNA --Update on Amateur base station application.
4. NEVARC -- Flood Recovery
5. Denys VK3ZYZ – Proxy Vote

### **Outward Correspondence:**

1. Jaycar - Letter of appreciation -re hamfest.

Moved by Arthur VK3AFD that Correspondence be accepted. Seconded by Peter VK3ASK

All in favor.

**Financial:** Ian VK3YYY Reported income for October of \$65.08 being composed of membership fee, trading table fee plus bank interest. Expenditure of \$347.29 was for name badge plus Hamfest expenditure. The Hamfest realized a profit of \$1093.71.

Moved by Ian VK3YYY Seconded by Robert VK3BLD all in favor.

**Newsletter** Peter VK3ASK, requesting input of articles for newsletter, including items for sale. Peter moved, second Ian VK3YYY. All in favor.

### **Technical:**

Ray reported that all OK . Getting Fusion up and running is the next thing and the trip to Wombat.

Moved by Ray VK3YN, seconded by Peter VK3ASK, all in favor.

### **General Business:**

1. Rodney's funeral. A card was signed by all present to give to Lynn. We estimate that approx..20 members of SADARC and the Vintage Radio Club will be in attendance and will form guard of honor.
2. It was moved by Peter VK3AXI that we make a donation of \$100 to Hospice Care. Seconded by Geoff VK3ZNA all in favor
3. Peter VK3ASK to compose an obituary for Rodney and forward to the editor of the Silicon Chip Magazine. Any input from members would be welcome.
4. Xmas Breakup. Peter VK3ASK suggested the Peppermill Inn as a possible venue.

5. Ray VK3YNV asked if there was any interest within the club in 160 meters AM. Ray VK3KUG had expressed his interest.

Meeting Closed. 3:00pm.

### Mount Wombat trip Report from Ray Gardner

Mt Wombat trip Saturday 12th November 2022

Josh and myself went up to investigate a mains power outage. The power went off Thursday night.

It turned out to be the circuit breaker on the side of the fire hut had tripped, so it was a simple fix.

While there we re-installed the 70cm -5Mhz split repeater that is the IRLP node for Mt Wombat.

The hilltop access gate has been bulldozed and the gate frame is bent and broken. I've sent the pictures to the DELWP guys who look after the fire hut, so they can organize whatever needs to be done for repair.

(Update: They are going to organize a repair crew)

The cover cap on the pipe that used to be the old antenna mount had been unscrewed, and so there was an open hole through the roof that was letting rain through into the hut. Luckily the cap was still there and we just replaced it and taped it up.

Regards

Ray

VK3YNV

### Final farewell to Rodney Champness

Myself and many of our club members, were able to attend the funeral for Rodney on November 8.

It was a large funeral and certainly indicated the number of close friendships he had retained over his 82 years.

There was a large family contingent, work colleagues and many club and personal friends.

An excellent eulogy was given by his eldest son Brendan and some of his thoughts are reflected below.

After a warm welcome to all present and some personal thoughts, Brendan summed up his father with the following; Thorough, dependable, inventive, clever, caring and passionate. For all of us who knew Rodney, I think this is an accurate description of this man.

He then went of to explain how Rodney had been born and raised on farms and spent his early working life as a farm hand.

This all changed when he found his 1st true love, not a young lady, but a desire and ambition to work in the radio and electronics industry.

Rodney worked as a radio technician until he married and then moved to Sale to work for the ABC radio 3GI service.

In addition to his passion for Radio's Rodney also had a passion for the Antarctic and so in 1966 he applied and was selected for his dream job as the Communications Officer at the Australian Antarctic base on Macquarie Island.

A big call for a young man who hadn't long been married, but he was seeking adventure.

Brendan reflected on the time when he was a child and vividly remembers his father having many slide show nights for family and friends, to share with people his experiences in the Antarctic. Now these were not your "usual" slide show nights, as not only did the slides come with a commentary detailing the type of animal or bird, or the power of the various pieces of radio equipment, he had also recorded the sounds of the penguins and seals and played this creating a kind of sound" effect in the background.

Rodney's next employment was with the PMG as a radio inspector. He was initially based in Warragul and then transferred to Benalla. I am sure he had plenty of challenges keeping some of the ham operators honest and sorting out all the issues with the new CB craze. Fun times for sure.

At around the same time that Rodney and Lyn were married, he started work at Radio Australia just out of Shepparton. For some wives the issue may have been that their husband worked night shift, however for Lyn it was that he would regularly come home and wake Lyn up to talk about how "Transmitter No. 1" or "Transmitter No. 2" was going. He was really dedicated and thorough with everything he did, and as some of you may know, at times this "passion was extreme.

His work at Radio Australia was the start of many new friendships and many of our current SADARC members worked and formed friendships with Rod.

Brendan spent some time talking about his father's passion for amateur radio and some of his early innovations, which to us hams seem quite common, but as a proud

son he was impressed with things like antenna switching for the various TV channels and the rotators he used for his directional radio aerials.

As many of you may know, Rodney, in 2004, published a book on the history of Outback Radio titled "From Flynn to Satellites". Although the book may not have been one which appealed to "the masses", when Brendan reflected on this achievement, it struck him that he didn't know anyone else who had written a book and hence a huge achievement, for his father.

Rodney's passion for vintage radio also led him to also write a monthly column in "Silicon Chip" magazine for nearly 20 years.

This article is only part of a very passionate and enthralling eulogy, written by a loving son, but it certainly reflects the respect he had for his dad and the wonderful life they shared.

Rodney did much for our radio club over the years as newsletter editor and his involvement with the technical committee.

He will be sadly missed.

R.I.P. Rodney Champness

Peter VK3ASK

