



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

February 2024 Newsletter

Next Meeting Saturday March 2nd.

SADARC committee

President:- Peter Rentsch – VK3AXI

Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday - VK3KBY

Secretary:- Rob Hose - VK3BLD

Treasurer:- Ian Saunders – VK3YYY

Membership Sec:- Ian Saunders - VK3YYY

Assistant Secretary:- Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI

Webmaster:- Ray Gardiner - VK3YNV

Hamfest Co-ordinator:- Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI

Newsletter (editor):- Peter Simpson – VK3ASK

Technical Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Denys VK3ZYZ, Josh Gardiner & Robert VK2RK – power to co-opt.

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

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

Meetings the first Saturday of the month from **10 am** for Arduino training, plus informal chats and technical talks. A BBQ follows (a gold coin donation). Main meeting 1 pm (except January when no meeting occurs) at 360 Health Centre, 18 Channel Road (250 metres from Archer Street), Shepparton.

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

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 \pm 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 or 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.

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The next SADARC meeting will be held on Saturday March 2nd, at our regular clubrooms, 18-22 Channel Road. Note this is no longer Flexible Learning, the property is soon to be signed as 360 Health.

The format for the next meeting is as follows;

- 10am Arduino course with Denys VK3ZYZ, Ray VK3YNV and Josh.
- 12.00 Pizza Lunch
- 1pm Club meeting plus talk on current projects with displays.

Diary Dates

March 2 ND	Regular club meeting.
April 6 th	Regular club meeting

Presidents Report – February 2024

My apologies for missing the General Meeting and the AGM and I will explain my absence at the next meeting. It is something I would prefer not to be published in the Newsletter. Thanks to Ray VK3YNV who I understand chaired the meeting and did a great job. (perhaps the next President in waiting!)

Thank you to all the outgoing committee for their work over the year and welcome to the new committee for 2024. A special mention to Arthur as retiring Secretary who kept me on the ball as best he could. I don't mind being reminded to do things if I have slipped behind. We are all human, have our lives to live and are all volunteers. We just happen to be volunteers for the best hobby in the world, but I am a little biased.

Some thoughts for the ensuing year ahead. The Club is growing slowly and that is good to see. We must be doing something correctly. But I see that we can do other things. All Amateurs are not interested in the same aspects of Amateur Radio. Some love 23cm and up, some love DX, some love soldering, some love contests, some love providing a service to the community in emergency communications plus there are many other facets of Amateur Radio not mentioned. No matter what your interests are it is all still Amateur Radio and operates under the one umbrella.

Instead of me telling you which way I see members interests can any member who has a specific interest in a certain area let me know via email or approach me directly at the meeting. I can't make any promises that your special interest will be accommodated but between myself and the committee we will have a look at the suggestions and discuss it further at the following meetings.

Please also note that your Subs of \$30.00 were due at the February Meeting.

Keep on the Radio and keep the bands alive, the DX is happening, 15 and 10 are firing up, particularly 10.

Cheers,

Peter Rentsch
VK3AXI
President

SADARC. Feb. 2024 Meeting Minutes.

Club Rooms, 360 Health Centre. Shepparton

In Attendance: VK3BLD Robert, VK3FALN Alan, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3YYY Ian, VK3AFD Arthur, VK3ASK Peter, VK3TJS Jacek, VK3JSD Stevo, VK3ZNA Geoff, Josh, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3VSM Graeme, VK3GSR Geoff, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3YNV Ray, VK2RK Robert, VK3BF Allan, VK3YYY Ian, VK3FMAA Mike, VK3ELV Phil., VK3MFE Mark, Adrian Allen, VK3OV Pat, VK3UI John and visitor Andrew.

Open Meeting: President Peter VK3AXI being an apology, Ray VK3YNV declared the meeting open at 1:40 pm. And asked Arthur VK3AFD if he could take the minutes.

Apologies: VK3AXI Peter, VK3TEX Les, VK3EB Dallas, VK2JKN Jim.

Minutes of last Meeting: Moved by Ray VK3YNNV that the minutes of the Oct. 2023 meeting as published be accepted. Seconded by Robert VK2RK. All in favor.

Inward Correspondence:

1. Resident concerns regarding telecom tower to be built next to Radio Australia.
 2. Lyn Champness expressing her appreciation on receiving an Honorary Membership.
 3. Graeme VK3VSM advised that as a result of covid 19, The government has made available \$5 million dollars from 2022 to 2024 to support community -led initiatives.
- Our club might be interested.

Outward Correspondence:

1. Thank you to Jaycar for their support of our Hamfest.
 2. Thank you to Jacek and Bozanna for providing catering at the Hamfest.
 3. A formal invitation to the Vintage Radio Club of North Eastern Victoria to attend our monthly meetings and also to make full use of our forum.
- It was moved by Ray VK3YNNV the correspondence be received seconded by Peter VK3ASK all in favor

Business arising from Correspondence.

There was much discussion regarding Government funding, or a grant from Connected Communities, as to how we could use the funding, but whether it would qualify for this grant is another thing. We would need to highlight the benefit to the community of reliable communications during disaster situations. Ray VK3YNNV suggested that we seek funding for backup solar power for our Mt. Wombat installation. It was moved by Ray VK3YNNV and seconded by Peter VK3ASK that Graeme VK3VSM investigate a grant application.

Treasurers' Report.

Ian VK3YYY Reported income since 1 Oct. 2023 of \$1036.36. made up mostly of membership fees, redemption of \$500 bond for Hamfest Hall hire, and \$135 for assistance with Comms on day of O'Keefe Rail Trail. There were no expenses. Ian VK3YYY move that his report be accepted. It was seconded by Ray VK3YNNV – all in favor.

Technical and Station. Ray VK3YNNV reported a virtually trouble-free year, although there were 7 power outages in January alone. This highlighted the need to upgrade to

lithium batteries. Ray VK3YNV asked Rob. 2RK if he would investigate, he agreed to work on this proposal.

Josh stated that solar panels were a necessity for Mount Wombat. Geoff VK3ZNA advised that the proprietor of his building is willing to provide internet service for RDS/ DMR/Fusion repeaters. Geoff is having difficulty finding a rigger for the necessary work on the tower.

It was moved by Ray VK3YNV that the technical report be accepted, seconded by Arthur VK3AFD, all in favor.

General Business.

1. Hamfest. Ray VK3YNV moved that we hold our Hamfest this year on the 2nd Sunday in September, this would be the 8th of September. The motion was seconded by Rob. VK3BLD – all in favor.

2. Fold-up Chairs. It was moved by Peter VK3ASK that we accept the offer of six chairs from Barrie VK3KBY. Moved by Peter VK3ASK that we also purchase another 10 chairs at \$9.00 each. Seconded by Rob. VK3BLD – all in favor.

3. Advertising It was suggested that we have an A-Frame sign on Channel Rd. on the day of our meeting. Josh has volunteered to organize. Jacek to follow up free advert in Shepparton News.

4. June Meeting. Geoff VK3GSR has offered his premises for our meeting in June, with working displays and a roast dinner covered by donations. His offer was enthusiastically accepted.

5. BBQ. As a result of change of tenants at our Clubroom, our BBQ has been taken by Flexible Learning. Mike VK3FMAA has kindly offered to donate one. Thanks Mike.

Meeting Closed at 2:20 pm.

Editor's Comments

Our February meeting was certainly a busy and lively event starting with the Arduino training, a pizza lunch and then not one, but two meetings.

Unfortunately, our chairman Peter VK3AXI had family commitments and was not able to attend the meetings, but the chairing and controlling of both meetings was carried out by Ray Gardiner VK3YNV who did a great job.

The general meeting contained lots of lively discussion about possible grants and how this money could be best used. You can read this information in the minutes contained in this newsletter.

The minutes of the AGM will be released at a later date, but to summarize the main points are as follows.

- Our new constitution, which has been forwarded to all members, has now been approved by the members and will now be the model rules of the club. This constitution will now be sent to Consumer Affairs for ratification.
- As the club is now operating under a new constitution, all previous resolutions become valid under the terms of the new constitution.
- It was agreed that the clubs operating year will now be from January 1 to December 31 each year, with the AGM occurring at the February meeting.
- The 2 existing by-laws, which were sent to all members, will now be part of the new constitution.

The Election of all office bearers was carried out at the AGM and the results are as follows;

President;	Peter Rentsch-VK3AXI
Vice President;	Barrie Halliday-VK3KBy
Secretary;	Rob Hose-VK3BLD
Treasurer & Membership;	Ian Saunders-VK3YYY
Newsletter;	Peter Simpson-VK3ASK
Webmaster;	Ray Gardiner-VK3YNV and Graeme VK3VSM
Technical Committee;	Geoff Angus-VK3ZNA
	Ray Gardiner-VK3YNV
	Josh Gardiner
	Denys Parnell-VK3ZYZ
	Robert Campiciano-VK2RK

All positions were appointed unopposed.

The ACMA have also made some important changes to amateur radio licences, the details of these changes are shown below, plus the link to the ACMA, if you need further details

73's and best regards

Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Amateur Radio Licences

Below is a summary of the licencing changes, kindly put together by Robert-VK2RK.

"ACMA Announces

From 19 February 2024, we will no longer renew any non-assigned amateur licences. If you have a non-assigned amateur licence, you can surrender it and operate under the class licence. Surrendered licences may be eligible for a refund. Find out how to surrender an existing licence."

It means qualified amateur operators can operate foundation, standard or advanced

amateur stations without needing to apply for an individual licence or pay any fees. Alongside the class licence, there are new arrangements for qualifications, examination assessors, call signs and overseas visiting amateurs.

Around 180 accredited assessors are ready to conduct and assess amateur radio examinations.

List of current assessors can be found on the ACMA site

any qualified person can apply to the ACMA to become an assessor.

At this time repeaters and beacons will retain the assigned apparatus licence and the associated yearly fees.

Existing licences that have 294 days or more left to run can apply for a refund by surrendering the licence (i.e., a licence expiry date of 9 December 2024 or later.

Note this does not include your call-sign you get to retain what you have been allocated prior to the changeover.

To surrender your licence, email your surrender request, including your licence number and client ID and the date you would like your licence to be surrendered, to info@acma.gov.au

If you are entitled to a refund, the ACMA will automatically notify you.

For further details website: <https://www.acma.gov.au/give-your-licence>

In summary,

if you wish and don't care about any refunds, do nothing, when your assigned licence expires, you will automatically transition to the class licence.

if you seek a refund then follow the above procedure.

From now on no fees are to be paid unless you are a repeater or beacon.

Your operating conditions remain as before.

What call signs you have you get to keep.'

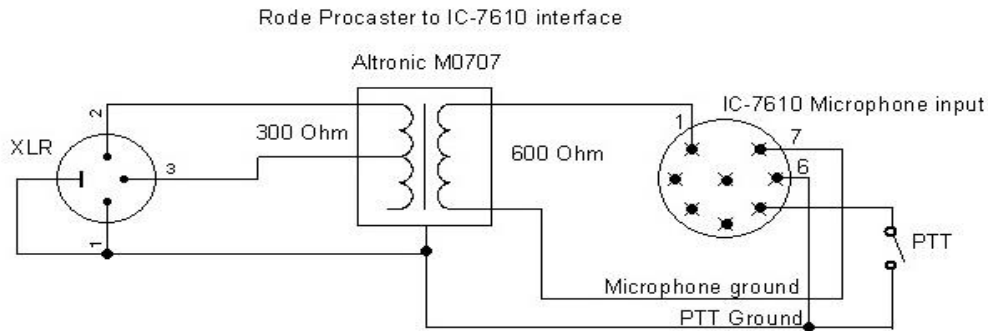
Connecting a Rode Procaster microphone to an Icon Radio

Below is an article kindly sent to me by Robert VK2Rk, showing how to connect a 300 ohm balanced mic. To an Icon Transceiver.

In this article I will show how to connect a RODE Procaster microphone to a IC-7300 or IC-7610
The specifications of the audio input impedance of both ICOM radios is 600 Ohms if the microphone is connected without any matching the level from the microphone will be very low as the impedance of the microphone is 320 Ohms.

Using a Neumetal shielded transformer from Altronics (M0707) the matching can be achieved. Attention must be paid to insure no earth loops are created. The body (Shield) of the transformer must be bonded to the XLR earth and the radio PTT ground.

Refer to the IC-7300 or IC-7610 for the microphone socket connections.



Great Antenna, but lots of pain to install

Below an article from Phyl Dwyer, VK3 regarding his many trials and tribulations in getting our old 2 metre colinear back on the air at his QTH.

This shows how persistence can pay off in the end.

The old VK3RGV 2 metre colinear has been repaired/reconditioned for the second time. It was picked up from Shep in 2021 and repaired in 2022. I fell off a ladder and broke my wrist so that slowed progress. In 2023 a new mounting arrangement was built, then I fell off a ladder again and broke a few vertebrae. Finally in 2024 after upgrading my safety harness, I did not fall off the tower.



Some recent pictures from Mount Wombat taken by Rob VK2RK



Link to the ACMA website for Licence change details

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2023L01648/latest/text>

Notice from RASA

Below is a notice sent to our club from RASA, explaining the changes.

This report really gives the same details as presented by Robert VK2RK, but you may wish to read their information.



**BEING HEARD
IS IMPORTANT**
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia inc.
vkradioamateurs.org

AMATEUR RADIO IN AUSTRALIA IS NOW A CLASS LICENSE

From today Amateur Radio in Australia will permanently change to a Class License system. With this change the ACMA has assumed the management of Amateur Radio callsigns and oversight of all Exam Assessments.

This is a significant moment in the history of our hobby. For those of us who are already licensed and operating, the effects will be minimal. For new participants this change brings free exams via a new Assessor network.

By now all established callsign holders and clubs should have received a letter from the ACMA. Some of the text within the letter has confused operators about what they should do next, but the essence of that message comes down to the following points:

- If you already have a callsign, you don't have to do anything, just continue to operate.
- Existing operators will not have to pay any future fees in order to operate their station.
- The same applies to any current Club callsigns
- If you paid your last renewal after December 9, you may be entitled to a partial refund.
- The bands, frequencies and power levels you are entitled to use have not changed

- **Your legal ability to construct your own radio equipment, or report interference has not changed.**

If you wish to attempt an Amateur exam as a new operator or to upgrade, contact the ACMA to locate an assessor in your area.

You can read about the ACMA arrangements directly by following this [link](#):

Today the ACMA released a bulletin announcing the commencement of these new arrangements. The ACMA also reports that they are now able to new applications from persons who want to become an Assessor.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AMATEUR RADIO BAND PLAN

The Australian Band Plan is a roadmap of how we conduct ourselves within our authorised spectrum space. For most part it is non-binding convention which recommends areas of operation for voice, digital and telegraphy activity.

Late last year the WIA Technical Advisory committee made some proposals for change to the existing band plan and invited submissions on these suggestions. Mostly these were minor adjustments to realign the plan with new users of 6 metres and higher frequencies.

At RASA we examined the proposals put forward by the WIA on this matter and concluded that they were reasonable suggestions. RASA wrote to the WIA and endorsed these proposed Band Plan adjustments.

CALLSIGN CENSUS FOR 2024

As we now move into a new era of Amateur Radio, it is appropriate to benchmark where we are in Australia so that we may better track the direction and uptake of the hobby.

Next month QTC will include a feature article breaking down the data on Amateur Operator callsigns in each state and territory over time.

We can report here that as of the first of January this year there were **15,181** callsigns allocated within Australia. This is made up of **9,523** Advanced, **2,082** Standard and **3,576** Foundation operators.

Look for the full report in QTC next month.

RASA SEEKS ASSISTANCE FROM ITS MEMBERS

The RASA organisation is a dynamic one, with a continuous process of change within the management team to ensure the flow of fresh ideas and actions. Since RASA began 6 years ago we have achieved much by way of representation and information for its members. There is more work to be done and innovative projects are underway right now. We can't do this alone. If you are an Amateur Radio operator, RASA member and want to contribute to securing the future of our hobby, please consider joining the RASA team. Send an email to info@vkradioamateurs.org We'd like to hear from you.

UPDATE!

Ongoing Announcements

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia is a Nationally Registered Body (626 025 714) and is a not-for-profit Association. Our purpose is to promote the hobby of Amateur Radio, preserve and enhance operator privileges and to facilitate emerging communications technologies.

We focus on local news items and real world practical initiatives to improve the hobby here in VK.

Does your club deliver courses? Contact us for these free resources.



Amateur Radio Welcome Packs... to read more or order these free packs follow this [link](#).

QRM.guru

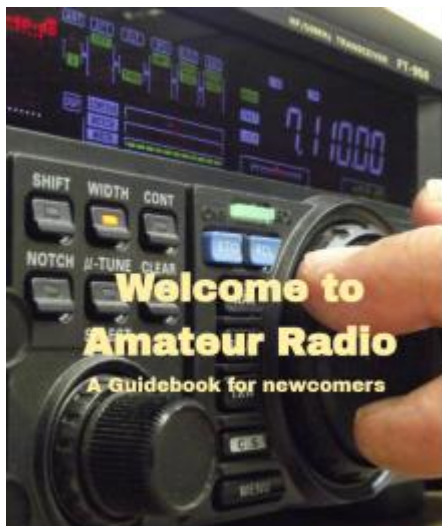
Resolving interference for Amateur Radio

TOOLS TO HELP IN YOUR FIGHT AGAINST QRM

Do you need ferrites or a DF Loop antenna to help in killing your local QRM?



We have a [PayPal shop](#) which makes ordering the Ferrite Kill kits even easier.



[Welcome to Amateur Radio](#)

And a reminder for those who are yet to download our free guidebook for newcomers to the hobby. It's now been downloaded over 1,400 times.

Grab your free copy [here](#) and please pass the link on to any newcomers.

Of course, we welcome your feedback. Being an e-book, we can publish updates easily.

[Why Join RASA?](#)

RASA is the premier representative body for Australian Amateur Radio. We are focused solely on improving our hobby. We conduct evidence based research to lobby the Regulator for better privileges. We provide information to help Amateurs better

understand the regulatory environment and we listen to your views. We promote new and emerging technologies and encourage Amateurs to become more active. We also address issues that impact the majority of amateurs in Australia. Our major project since 2019 has been a free online resource to help amateurs deal with QRM. Head over to [QRM guru](#) to see more.

In 2023 we focused on growing and supporting the hobby – starting with our guide book for newcomers, [Welcome to Amateur Radio](#), more on QRM Guru, DXing and getting out to visit clubs. And now we have a true e-magazine, QTC. Help us by joining today and/or making a donation. It's only \$10 per year. We need your support.

This article is an update on what we have achieved so far, what we are working on and what we hope to achieve in the future:

<http://vkradioamateurs.org/why-join-rasa/>

Old Sale Road
Drouin West, Victoria 3818
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powered by **memberplanet**

2024 WIA Convention

Below is an email we received from David VK4DN regarding the 2024 WIA Convention, which is being held in Bundaberg QLD. Some members may be interested in attending.

I'm David VK4DN from the Bundaberg Amateur Radio Club – We are hosting the WIA Convention and Expo/Hamfest here in Bundaberg on May 4th / 5th in 2024.

It is the biggest event in the calendar year for Amateur Radio in Australia! Our members are thrilled to be hosting the event and we would like to extend a warm welcome to your club and members to attend the event.

The weekend includes the WIA AGM, several keynote presentations by guest speakers / a Commercial Expo and Hamfest / Field Day. A gala dinner and lots of other activities! We have even managed to secure a contact with the ISS on Saturday evening with a local high school – (The kids will be able to talk with an astronaut on the space station!)

We are also seeking guest speakers for the event with several slots available – If any member of your club would be interested in doing a talk about something they are passionate about (preferably related to Amateur Radio!) 😊

It should be a very interesting weekend and an opportunity for amateurs from all over Australia to gather and network with other people interested in the hobby.

If you could please forward this email to your members, and discuss at the next meeting, it would be much appreciated! 😊

If you guys have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to make contact with me!

Should any of your members like to book a table for the HamFest or give a talk, please ask them to make contact as well.

Kind regards,
David VK4DN
Secretary – Bundaberg Amateur Radio Club
secretary@barc.asn.au
Ph: 0410 121 345

