

Founded 1979 Incorporation No A00066775 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632



**Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club
and Electronics Club**

August 2025 Newsletter

**Next Meeting, Saturday September 6th, at club
rooms**

SADARC COMMITTEE

President – Graeme Martin, - VK3VSM

Vice-President: - Peter Rentsch – VK3AXI

Secretary: - Adam Cleary - VK3UU

Treasurer and Membership – Ian Saunders – VK3YYY

Webmasters - Graeme Martin - VK3VSM and Ray Gardiner – VK3YNV

Hamfest Co-ordinator: - Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI

Newsletter editor and Publicity - Peter Simpson – VK3ASK

Technical Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Denys VK3ZYZ, Josh Gardiner, also 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.

If you have items for the newsletter, forward to: 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 from 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, Sunday.

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>

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Next Meeting

The next SADARC meeting will be held on Saturday September 6th, at our regular club rooms, 18 Channel Road Shepparton.

The format for the day is as follows;

10am Arduino class with Denys, Ray and Josh.

12pm Our regular BBQ, with gold coin donation.

1pm Regular club meeting, final plans for hamfest, plus displays of current projects.

Diary Dates

September 14th ,2025 Hamfest

October 4th, Regular club meeting

November 1st. Regular club meeting.

November 23rd, Bunnings fund raising day.

December 6th. Xmas break up lunch. TBA

Editors Comments

Apart from some final planning for the upcoming Hamfest, the bulk of our last meeting was dedicated to a long-term plan for the club to utilise the facilities at the old Radio Australia site, known as RA.

A great talk was given by Neil Patton VK3ZVX and Andrea Wilson VK3GOW from the Bendigo radio club about the steps required for our club to move forward with plans to make the RA building our permanent club rooms and also a long-term plan to set up a radio and electronics museum at the RA site.

As most members would be aware, the RA site and surrounding land has been purchased by a consortium of business people, who plan to use the bulk of the land as a future housing project.

The actual Radio Australia building, plus some of the antenna towers are heritage listed, but at this stage we as a club have no idea what the plans are for the future and how the heritage listing can be utilised in the further development.

Although we have a semi-permanent venue at Channel Road for our meetings, we are not able to use the area during the Week, set up a ham shack, install antennas, or have a dedicated place where we can carry out projects.

Our club really needs a permanent home and there would be no better site than the RA buildings with those magnificent towers.

These questions were put to our members by Neil and Andrea and they were able to provide a plan, which could hopefully see us move forward in gaining access to the RA site.

They suggested that our 1st move should be to register as a charity, which would require some minor alterations to our constitution, application for a BAS number and then a formal application to the Charity Commission.

We were informed by Neil and Andrea that many radio clubs, including Bendigo, have already made this change and that it was a very simple process.

Looking at our current activities, in many ways we already fulfill the role as a charity, with our offering of assistance in licence training, willingness to assist members and the families of members to clear out old shacks and properly dispose of equipment.

Naturally we are also willing to assist with communications during any local disasters such as flood, or fire.

Why do we want to make this change you may ask?

Well, by going to the owners of the site, the Council and the estate agent, we would be in a position to request access to the property and in return as we are a registered charity, they would then be in a position to request a large reduction to the current council rates on the area.

Our club would also have an obligation to provide some ongoing maintenance to the area.

So, as pointed out by Neil and Andrea, all this is achievable with some hard work by the club committee and some ongoing support by all members once we gain access to the site.

So, the important steps to proceed are as follows:

- Gain a club ABN and apply for a change of status to become a charity group.
- Sit down with all relevant parties and negotiate a win/win scenario, which would give the club permanent access to the RA site and give the owners a reduction in ongoing rate costs.
- Carry out work at the site to establish a permanent club room. Until we have ready access this work cannot really be determined, but we do have many capable members who would be more than willing to assist.
- Start the long term and final process of establishing a radio and electronics museum for all members of the public, not just amateur radio.

In closing can I point out that a well run museum would be of great benefit to the City of Shepparton as it would attract tourists from all corners of Australia, not just radio enthusiasts.

This is a big task for us all, but given the dedication of our members, one which we can certainly achieve.

See you at the next meeting

Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Presidents Report August 2025

Our attendance continues to grow and that is very heartening to see, we had a fantastic turnout at our August club meeting, with several new faces in attendance and a number of enquiries about how to obtain an amateur radio licence. It's always great to see growing interest in the hobby, and from speaking with our guests, it was clear they felt welcomed and at ease — a testament to the friendly and inclusive spirit of the club.

As always, a few members brought along their latest projects to share. Denys showcased his ongoing projects, while Kevin (VK3KFM) demonstrated his AllStar node setup and HamClock — a handy tool for tracking UTC time and propagation conditions.

With just one meeting left before our Hamfest, it's pleasing to report that most of the planning has been finalised. There may be a few small details to tidy up, but the Hamfest committee has things well under control. After all, we've been running this event for many years and have plenty of experience to draw on. That said, it remains our biggest event of the year and will need everyone's support to ensure it runs smoothly — all hands on deck!

The meeting did run a little longer than usual, but for good reason. BAREC(Bendigo Amateur Radio and Electronics Club) delivered an excellent presentation on their vision for the Radio Australia project, providing valuable insight and much-needed encouragement. It was reassuring to hear that we're not alone in this ambitious undertaking. A great discussion followed, with many thoughtful questions raised and answered. Of course, as with any project of this scale, there are still unknowns — but that's to be expected.

See you all at the next meeting

Regards Graeme Martin VK3VSm,

SADARC meeting minutes August 2nd 2025

Meeting opened 12:40pm

Apologies

Rob 3BLD, Jim 3JK, Alan 3BF, Kevin 3BPH, Colin and Jason

1. Graeme 3VSM opened the meeting with a welcome to visiting BAREC members today.
2. Previous meeting minutes discussed. Moved Ian 3YYY, seconded Adam 3UU, carried.
3. Inwards: Hamfest Hire agreement. Request for membership from Andre Braeutigam from Germany.
4. Outwards correspondence. Hamfest emails. Dallas will contact Anglican Church re deposit. Correspondence, moved Peter 3ASK, seconded Ian 3YYY, carried.
5. Treasurer's report received. Moved by Ian 3YYY seconded by Peter 3ASK. Carried
6. Technical Report. AllStar upgrade noted for 70cm in pipeline. A working group to be created for AllStar (October Colin 3DQS). Kevin 3KFM has his AllStar now. Plan to replace the 5DK controller. This upgrade is to be timed in line with the installation offline Battery upgrade. Moved Mark 3FME, seconded Denys 2ZYZ, carried.
7. General Business, guests. Neil 3ZDX, Andrea 3GOW and Graeme 3GRK, Rex 3OF and Col representing BAREC spoke to the group re a Radio Australia proposal. The discussion was great and well received including operational options such as Charity declaration to enable site management etc.

At the finish of the presentation Graeme thanks the BAREC team for coming across to present.

Due to the recent passing of a wife and mother of club members, Graeme suggested, and it was passed, that a card and flowers be sent.

8. Graeme 3VSM closed the meeting at 14:15pm

Adam VK3UU Secretary

Remembrance Day Contest 2025

Since the end of World War 2, one of the major Australian Amateur Radio contests has been the Remembrance Day event.

This event is held every year, in August, on the closest weekend to the end of WW2.

It has always been a major event and always attracted plenty of on air activity on most of the bands.

I well remember in 1975, sitting up all night to log as many contacts as I could. I don't remember the number, but I was fortunate enough to score 3rd prize. No trophy, just the glory of finishing with a high score.

Below is a report from our president Graeme VK3VSM relating the club activity for this year's contest. Over to you Graeme.

Remembrance Day Contest 2025 – VK3SOL

The Club was proud to participate in this year's **Remembrance Day (RD) Contest** over the weekend of **15–17 August**, operating under the club call sign **VK3SOL**. Club members **Kevin (VK3KFM)**, **Scott Chappel (VK3SNC)**, **Taylor (VK3THS)**, and myself **Graeme – VK3VSM** set up a portable station and camp at the old Scout Hall in Moira Park.

The RD Contest is one of the most significant events on the amateur radio calendar. It commemorates the amateurs who gave their lives during World War II and encourages friendly participation while honing operating skills. The contest is held annually on the weekend closest to 15 August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific.

Preparations and Setup

Kevin and I had been keeping a close watch on the weather. Early in the week, mild 17°C days gave way to a forecast of 12–13°C with rain for the weekend. Sure enough, scattered showers greeted us on Friday afternoon as we began setting up.

Fortunately, the Rotary-built shelter at the Scout Hall provided an excellent base of operations. Our first task was to hang tarpaulins as wind barriers, followed by preparing a campfire to keep the chill at bay. Once warmth and shelter were secured, we turned to establishing the station. Plans were made to operate across **2m/70cm, 6m, and HF bands**, ensuring broad coverage and flexibility.

Saturday – Contest Begins

Saturday morning saw us hoisting the final antenna—a dipole strung high between two gum trees. After a light-hearted “Olympic spanner throw” to get the ropes over the branches, we checked all equipment and awaited the official contest start at midday.

At 12:00, the first calls went out and logging began in earnest.

Visitors and Outreach

One of the highlights of the weekend was the strong interest from the local community. Around **ten local CB operators** dropped by to see what contesting was all about. We explained the basics of contesting and how it connects with **emergency communications preparedness**. Many departed with a fresh outlook on amateur radio, which was fantastic to see.

We were also pleased to have visits from **Ray, Mark** and **Andrew McCluskey**

for moral support, along with **Neil** VK3KAL who made the trek from Alexandra and was in camp for most of the day and into late evening. Later in the evening, **Colin and Jason** joined us, with Jason taking the microphone for a few calls. As the night wore on, **Taylor** asked if she could try her hand at contesting. She jumped on the mic, quickly found her rhythm, and tallied around **12 successful contacts**.

By the end of the weekend, we had logged approximately **150 contacts**, with the majority on **40m and 80m**.

We also had visits from members of the local wildlife, many kangaroos that stopped to see what we were doing along with a kookaburra.

Reflections

Operating conditions were challenging—the cold weather certainly took its toll, and more than once we found ourselves wandering from the microphone to thaw out by the fire. Still, the camaraderie, good humour, and community engagement made the event a memorable success.

It was also encouraging to hear several contacts comment that it was good to hear the **club's call sign** on the bands.

The RD Contest once again provided an opportunity to honour the amateurs who served, while strengthening both our operating skills and public awareness of the value of amateur radio.

We are already planning and looking forward to the next contest, the Oceania DX Contest, 4-5th October 2025

— **Graeme, VK3VSM**

[Below some pictures of what was certainly a great weekend for all concerned.](#)







2025 Hamfest

For any members who are not aware, the 2025 Hamfest will be held on Sunday September 14.

Once again, the venue is the St. Augustine Parish church hall 96 Orr Street Shepparton.

Doors will open at 8am for Exhibitors and 10am for the public.

Entry is \$5. Per head

Table cost is \$20 per table and also \$20. For any additional tables.

Come along, tell your friends and family and let's make this another great success.



Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club
and Electronics Club

**HAM, COMMS &
ELECTRONICS
FEST**

**SUN 14TH SEPT
10AM to 1PM**

St Augustines Parish Church Hall
96 Orr St, Shepparton

\$5 ENTRY

\$20 TRADER TABLES



ALL ENQUIRIES and BOOKINGS

hamfest@sadarc.org

146.650 MHz-600kHz 123 Hz CTCSS

sadarc.org

If you are planning to travel to Brisbane in early November, or would like to be involved by Zoom, then this might be of interest to some members.

QTech 2025

Brisbane VHF Group proudly presents the inaugural **QTech 2025** – a week-end conference all about amateur radio.

A program filled with inspiring presentations, live demonstrations, construction projects and more, including:

The future of amateur radio is in your hands.

Places to stay: 25-min travel from BNE airport. List of local accommodation options available on event web site.

Costs: \$125 + booking fee

Includes Sat morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, Sunday morning tea
\$30 + booking fee [streamed online only]

- YOTA
- Future of AR Townhall
- Ham radio hotspots
- VK9CV DXpedition
- Lightning Scatter
- ARISS Live feed
- POTA [Display]
- Deep Space reception
- Future of VHF/uWave Beacons
- IC-905 Expansion
- 10GHz EME
- 241GHz
- And much more

Dates & Times: Sat November 1st, 2025 9:00am - Sun November 2nd, 2025 12:00pm AEST

Location: Kedron-Wavell RSL

21 Kittyhawk Dr,
Chermside, Brisbane QLD 4032
Or streamed online
Dinner: Saturday night [at additional cost]

For tickets, contact the Brisbane VHF Group.