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

Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club and Electronics Club

July 2025 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday August 2nd, 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 August 2nd, 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, plus displays of current projects.

Diary Dates

August 2nd, Regular club meeting.
September 6th, Regular club meeting.
September 14th, 2025 Hamfest
November 23rd, Bunnings fund raising day.

Editors Comments

For me, the radio hi-light of the last Month, has been the regular visits I have been able to make to the club's new SDR, located on Bill's property at Violet Town. I am amazed by the strong signals being received on 80, 40 and 20

metre ham bands. There are many stations from JA land and also W land, coming in at strength 9 on 40 metres and 20 is amazing in the late afternoons and into the evening. I have also heard a few Japanese stations on 15 metres.
If you are interested in listening around the bands from the LF spectrum, up to 10 metres, you really need to have a listen to our SDR.
To gain access to our SDR, just go to https://vk3ynv.sadarc.org/
Thanks again to Bill Crocker, Dallas VK3EB and Ray VK3YNV, who have done a wonderful job in getting this service up and going, a really great service to our club.

At our last meeting Neil Patton VK3ZVX and Andrea Wilson VK3GOW, came across from the Bendigo radio club to discuss the future of the Radio Australia site.
Unfortunately, they were not able to stay around for the main meeting, but they have contacted the committee with some great suggestions as to how the RA site could be used in the future as an electronics museum and also a permanent home for our club.
They certainly came up with some great proposals, which have been reviewed by our committee and will no doubt be a topic of conversation at our next club meeting.
Also at our next meeting, final plans will be made for the 2025 Hamfest, which is being held on September 14. Many tables have already been booked and now it is time to allocate members for the various tasks we need to perform on the day.

That's if for me, see you at our next meeting.
All the best and 73's
Peter
VK3ASK

Presidents Report July 2025

Firstly, thank you all for making the effort to come along to the July meeting. The last two meetings fell during public holidays, so it was fantastic to see such a strong turnout, including a few guests. It really shows the strength of our club community and everyone's commitment to keeping the club active.

We were pleased to welcome Neil and Andrea from BARAC, who made the trip across to discuss Radio Australia with us. They raised some interesting points regarding the potential future, which aligned well with some of our interests and goals. I will provide a more detailed update and open the discussion for your input at our next meeting.

It was also great to see a few new hams along with other guests, who have recently moved to the area, attending the meeting. We warmly welcome you and hope to see you at future meetings and on the air.

It's always encouraging to see our local amateur community grow, and I encourage all members to say hello and help newcomers feel part of the club.

The room was abuzz with activity, with members showcasing their projects and sharing their progress, along with test gear discussions, it's always great to see the depth of knowledge and willingness to help that our members bring. These project sessions are not only valuable for those seeking advice but also help foster learning, friendship, and hands-on experience-key parts of amateur radio.

Next Month there will be some discussions about the upcoming Hamfest.

While we do have a meeting a week or so before the hamfest, I suspect it won't take up much time as the Hamfest has been running like a well-oiled machine for a number of years and we all know what needs to be done.

Lastly, I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who quietly helps out behind the scenes. Whether it's setting up the rooms before meetings, maintaining the repeater, updating the website, handling club communications, or helping others with their gear, your efforts are what keep the club running smoothly. It all contributes to making SADARC a vibrant, welcoming, and functional club for all of us.

That's all from me for now. I look forward to hearing your updates, seeing your projects, and continuing to build our club together.

Regards,

Graeme Martin
VK3VSM

SADARC meeting minutes July 5th 2025

Meeting opened 1pm

Apologies

Rob 3BLD, Dallas 3EB, Geoff 3GSR, Peter 3PCR, Kevin 3ZDK, Kevin 3KFM

1. Graeme opened the meeting with a welcome to visiting BAREC members today. A big day with 28 attendees at our club, quite a great effort.
2. Previous meeting minutes discussed. Moved Ian 3YYY, seconded Peter 3ASK, carried.
3. Inwards correspondence. Many QSL cards this month (10 packets). Letter from BAREC re a discussion around the future of (parts of) the Radio Australia property. Elements on the site are protected from

development some parts re-leased by the new owner. Ongoing discussions around a potential museum or other opportunities.
As a note no further correspondence received from Men's Shed or Council re site availability.

4. Outwards correspondence. A reply to BAREC on above.
5. Treasurer's report. Moved by Ian 3YYY seconded by Alan 3FALN. Carried
6. Technical Report. Ray reported the Allstar Node is still under test running on the bench. Ray mentioned Hayden VK7HH who has been doing a lot on his Youtube channel on AllStar. A link to his AllStar video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCZsM-FrVJlM&pp=ygUFdms3aGg%3D
   Repeater controller. SADARC will develop a daughter board for Hayden's controller (which he has available for around $60 AUD). This development is to replace the VK5DJ controller we are currently running.
7. General Business.
   HamFest is coming! The date is set September 14th. We will be at the usual Church site. A discussion around looking to widen the club membership and broadening our horizons. A s a result, invitations will be sent to CB clubs etc.
   Entry fee will stay at $5. We discussed table rates and put a motion proposed by Jacek 3TJS and seconded by Peter 3ASK to set fees for this year. Table fees will be $20 with two entry tickets and $15 for additional tables. A discussion was had around how to reduce the Kitchen costs some options presented.
   Some gear was provided by Wayne 3GMV free to a good home. If you grabbed something well done.
   SDR report. Bill gave a great report on the progress for the SDR system. 2 x SDRs are currently operating. We encourage all members to get on and use them! Noise level is the next target while it is OK much power-line / power supply noise relief can be seen as a possibility. It was noted

that during an outage the noise floor dropped so the potential is there.
An additional discussion about an inactivity timer to ensure accessibility to optimise access to the limited user spots.
A request from Peter 3ASK to update email addresses for Newsletter distribution.
On a more sombre note, our great friend, and longtime member Barrie has been put into care. Requests to assist his wife in cataloguing his equipment and sale for presentation at the HamFest.
Discussion around the ACMA's request for response for the CB Class licence was had. Discussion points include the use of CTCSS to assist in emergency repeater monitoring etc. Other potential is use of FM.
SWL report. Stevo VK3JSD gave an update on various items including current frequencies for Radio NZ both signals very strong into VK3 on 8867.

Graeme closed the meeting at 14:15pm

Adam VK3UU Secretary

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 for the 1st table and $15. for additional tables.
Come along, tell your friends and family and lets make this another great success.

Letter to Shepparton News re-Radio Australia,
Written by Denys VK3ZYZ.

As the talk around the club at present is all about how we should endeavour to gain access to the old Radio Australia Building and Land, I thought it might be relevant to include the following in this month's newsletter. This is a letter sent to the Shepparton News in 2023, by Denys and it certainly indicates his passion to retain the area for the future of amateur radio and electronics enthusiasts.

Over to you Denys.

To The Editor, Shepparton News.

What would you do with a big lotto win?
One thing I want to spend the money on is to buy Radio Australia.
That was my place of work in the 70s and 80s. It was an interesting place back then, being Australia's voice to the world. There were 100KW transmitters, 50KW and 10KW ones as well. While I was there, the old original 100KW transmitters were replaced with new ones.
It is sad that the "Powers to Be" decided Radio Australia was no longer needed. And sad too that millions of dollars of equipment were scrapped so it is no longer possible to make it operate again. It was very hard to witness this destruction but fortunately I was able to be out there a couple of times while this was going on and rescued a few bits out of the big bins. A couple of things were a power supply and a device tester I built while working out there years ago.

What is possible though, is to turn the site into a wonderful technology museum. Also, I'd have it as a Maker Space, school technical learning centre and

the base for our local Armature Radio club.
Before it was finally sold to the current owners, our radio club were kindly granted access to the facility for 48 hours, 3 years ago, Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th, of March 2020. We constructed connections to the antennas and had ham radio sets connected to work around the world. This activity attracted a lot of interest worldwide and we had visitors from around Australia attending to get a chance to use the wonderful curtain array antennas on their ham radio sets. I talked to a couple of American hams on my low power radio but was mostly interested in making the hardware to facilitate the connection to the antennas. Another interesting activity on that weekend was the recreation of the Moon Bounce experiment that was tried out there many years ago. Back then, I think a 50KW transmitter was used, but this time, only 400W was needed. A signal was sent using an antenna that was aimed towards the Moon, and a few seconds later, the signal echo was heard. If you are at all interested in looking at more information of this weekend, see the Shepparton And District Amateur Radio Club (SADARC) forum post.
http://www.sadarc.org/xenforo/upload/index.php?forums/vi3ra-radio-australia-weekend.9/
The final transmission
brought tears to my eyes as that was the last time the Radio Australia tuning signal will ever be sent. Memories!
The current owners probably just look at it as a block of land to be developed and do not comprehend what they actually have. It is a bit like regarding The Mona Lisa as just a painting. Radio Australia, set up as I would like, has the capability to be a major tourist draw card for the area as there are many ham radio operators all around the world who would really love to have a chance to try the antennas out. Radio Australia is about the only last remaining place in the world that still has them still standing and is a real treasure. Many local hams and electronic enthusiasts (my self included) have items they are eager to donate to a museum there. One thing I rescued for the museum is an antenna VSWR trolly meter that was in the bin. It is a trolly that was lifted up to run on the feeder wires to the antennas and pulled back and forth to measure the minimum and maximum voltage to test the antenna tuning. A length of feeder could be set up across the transmitter hall to have this as a “working” exhibit. It would be great if there could be some local interest in this as it is a very rare

opportunity to do something this important.
Anyhow, that is what I would do with a big lotto win!
Denys Parnell VK3ZYZ.

Well done, Denys, you certainly wrote the letter with plenty of emotion and fondness for the old site, let’s hope we can turn things around.

Peter Vk3ASK

Our new SDR tower is standing and doing a great job with a 160 metre inverted V dipole