

Founded 1979 Incorporation No A0006677S P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632



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

October 2025 Newsletter

**Next Meeting, Saturday November 1st, at Channel
Road 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>

In this Issue

- **Next Club Meeting.**
- **Editors' Comment**
- **Presidents Report**
- **Minutes of October 2025 meeting**
- **An update on the Mooroopna Scout Hall**
- **Merrigum Car Show Report**
- **Radio Australia 83 Years of Broadcasting to the World.**

Next Meeting

The next SADARC meeting will be held on Saturday November 1st, 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, including the following;

- Decision on new club meeting venue
- Report on Radio Australia Project
- Display of current projects
- Final clean out of existing store room.

Diary Dates

- November 1st. Regular club meeting.
- November 23rd, Bunnings fund raising day.
- December 6th. Xmas break up lunch. TBA
- February 7th, February 2026 meeting, plus AGM

Editors Comments

At our last meeting, it was confirmed to all members that we would be unable to continue at our current venue after the November meeting.

360 Health have informed the club that we need to empty our store room and also start the New Year at a different venue.

A great deal of discussion was held about a suitable venue for the club and at this stage it was decided that our 1st meeting in 2026 will be held at the MEAC centre in Mooroopna.

Also, our President Graeme visited the Mooroopna Scout Hall and has come back with a positive report.

We all knew this would happen some time soon, but certainly not at such short notice.

So that's it, time to move on and start a new chapter, and hopefully one Day soon find a permanent club room at Radio Australia where we can enjoy and display our hobby.

At the end of this newsletter, is a re-print of an article from the December 2024 Australian DX news magazine, regarding the history of Radio Australia. See you all at the next meeting

Peter VK3ASK

Presidents Report

Thanks to everyone who attended the October meeting. It was great to see a strong turnout and plenty of friendly faces around the table. A special mention to Rob (VK3BLD) — it was wonderful to have you back after a few months away! And thank you to Geoff (VK3GSR) for giving Rob a lift on the way through — that's the kind of camaraderie that keeps our club strong.

The upcoming November meeting will be our final gathering at the 360 Health / Vision Australia complex. Next year, we'll be meeting at MEAC (Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre). The 360 Health space has been a welcoming home for us, but as we look ahead to the new year, the move marks an exciting new chapter for the club. Details will be shared once everything is finalised, but this transition represents a positive step forward as we continue to grow and

plan for the future.

It was with a touch of sadness that we needed to clear out our storage locker at the current clubrooms. As we sorted through boxes, shelves, and forgotten corners, it became clear just how much we've gathered over the years — bits of coax, old radios, spare valves, circuit boards, and all those “just in case” treasures that every amateur seems to collect. It was a nostalgic reminder of our club's long history and the projects, ideas, and shared enthusiasm that have built it over time.

I must admit, it also gave me the motivation to start sorting through my own collection of “just in case” parts — do I really need that length of cable I put aside five years ago? Perhaps it's a good reminder for all of us to take stock and simplify where we can!

A big thank you to Geoff (VK3GSR) for generously offering up some storage space for our collection. We'll need to arrange a working bee soon to go through and organise everything properly so we don't take up too much of his space. Many hands make light work, so if you're able to lend a hand, please keep an eye out for the call-out or let us know your availability.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with the cleanup and continues to support the club's growth and planning efforts. Every bit of effort — whether it's attending meetings, lending a hand, sharing ideas, or simply staying involved — helps build momentum toward a stronger, more connected club.

We look forward to seeing you all at the November meeting — let's make it a great send-off to our time at the 360 Health / Vision Australia complex!

73's

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

SADARC meeting minutes October 4th, 2025

Meeting opened 12:50pm

Apologies: 3KFM, 3TLS,3FALN

1. Graeme 3VSM opened the meeting with a welcome back to Rob 3BLD and visitors Colin and Andrea from BAREC.
2. Previous meeting minutes discussed. Moved Ian 3YYY, seconded Adam 3UU, carried.
3. Inwards: No inwards mail. To note with 360 Health closing out and no further information with regards a building availability from the Shepp Council
4. Outwards correspondence to various groups for potential clubrooms, two Scout Halls and the Hall in Mooroopna being the most promising. Correspondence, moved Adam 3UU, seconded Peter 3ASK, carried.
5. Treasurer's report received. Moved by Ian 3YYY seconded by Stevo 3JSD. Carried
6. Technical Report. The main project AllStar is still ongoing. Noted that the licence for this will be created under the new ACMA regulation (framework).
The club will provide assistance to BAREC for the maintenance requirements of the Rochester repeater site. Tech report moved Ray 3YNV, seconded Peter 3AXI, carried.
7. General Business. A reminder about the November fundraiser at Buntings on Sunday 23rd November. Please volunteer to ensure we have plenty of hands on deck.
8. A note to transfer further funds into the term deposit account.
SDR costs. A motion was raised to reimburse the team that brought the great SDR asset into the club. Proposed Peter 3ASK, seconded Ray

3YNV, passed. Information around Mick Lindsay's digital and analog system (Sys 1) at Rushworth was described with Sys2 to be added.

Iron on club patches. Graeme has been busy and has had iron patches for the club manufactured. These are fantastic and are for sale at \$2 each as a donation to club etc.

Merrigum Car show. The car show is again coming around and Kevin will be there, October 12th. All invited to man the station.

Stevo's SWL report was again made available with this month's frequency gems mentioned.

Radiosonde. A report on this great activity. Here is a link that you can use to get started: <https://sondehub.org/#!mt=Mapnik&mz=8&qm=3h&mc=-37.20905,145.10193&f=W0414632&box=aboutbox>

9. Graeme 3VSM closed the meeting at 14:45pm

Adam VK3UU Secretary

Report on Mooroopna Scout Hall from President Graeme

President Graeme, VK3VSM, visited the Scout Hall and it's looking like a very promising option for SADARC.

The hire cost is capped at \$100 per month, which gives us access every Saturday or Sunday if we wish. There's ample storage space available for our equipment, and a lockable storage area that we may be able to use once it's cleared out — it's currently filled with cushioned chairs.

We would also have the opportunity to establish a dedicated radio shack, with the freedom to add improvements or fittings as needed. The hall is equipped with two gas heaters and two ceiling fans, and Kelly has advised that two 7 kW split-system air conditioners will soon be installed, which should make the space very comfortable year-round.

An encouraging note is that Kelly has been speaking with the same council contact, Tania Zappeli, who I've also been in touch with. With both of us

liaising through the same person, there's a good chance we can coordinate our discussions and get things moving more efficiently.

Kelly also said that we could add advertising to the side of the building
" **Sadarc Shepparton And district radio club meets here**" and that we are also free hang things on wall inside the hall

There is a wooden power pole which the club installed eons ago , which is still there with a rotator on top.

In the corner is another power pole with a dipole attached to it.

There is still coax present running from the power pole and into the building in the area where the radio shack is located.

The radio shack still has the metal cage installed , currently it is being used as an office area, but Kelly said that she is willing to move things around to accommodate us,

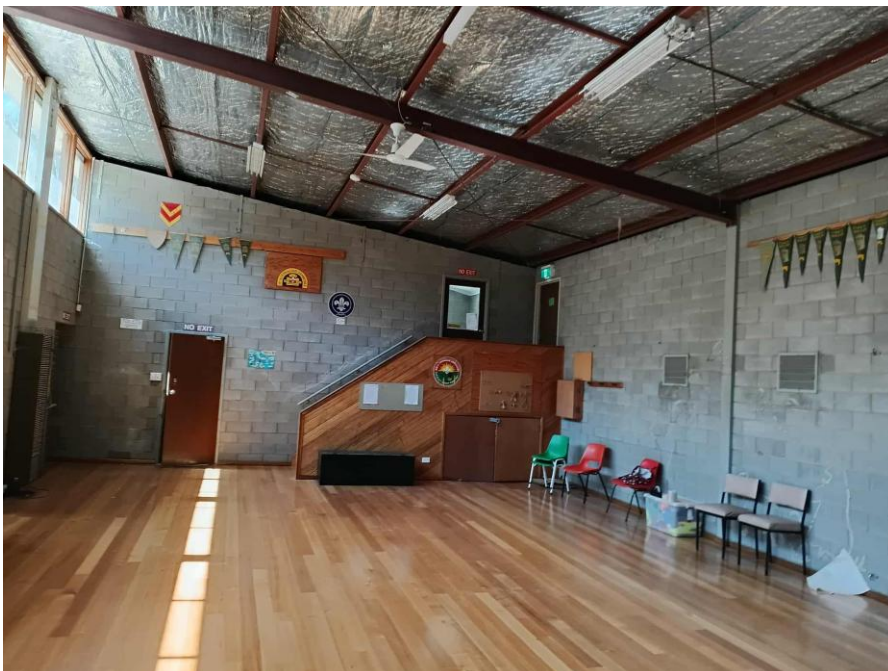
Overall, the Scout Hall appears to be a practical, affordable, and flexible venue that could meet both our meeting and storage needs.

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

Following are some pictures from the Mooroopna Scout Hall.





Merrigum Car Show

Below is a report from Graeme VK3VSM about their day at the Merrigum Car Show.

Kevin (VK3KFM) and myself, (VK3VSM) set up the SADARC display tent at the Merrigum Car Show, proudly showcasing amateur radio to the public. The display featured a variety of radios, antennas, and information about how anyone can get involved in the hobby. It was a great opportunity to promote SADARC and amateur radio within the wider community and to demonstrate how the hobby continues to evolve with modern technology and innovation.

We were also pleased to have visitors from PJ (guest to the club), Rob (VK3BLD), Scott VK3SMC and Ray (VK3YNV), who stopped by to lend support and join in the discussions throughout the day.

Setting up at the Merrigum Car Show, and similar community events, plays a vital role in keeping amateur radio visible and relevant in today's world. These events give SADARC a chance to connect with people who might never have encountered amateur radio before, showcasing its blend of technical skill, public service, and lifelong learning. They also help strengthen the club's ties with the local community, raise awareness about licensing and training opportunities, and inspire younger generations to explore science, electronics, and communication through radio.

By taking part in events like these, SADARC continues its proud tradition of sharing knowledge, promoting innovation, and keeping the spirit of amateur radio alive for future generations.

Below, pictures taken on the day.



Below is an article from the December 2024 copy of Australian DX News.

**This article was written by Phil Kafcaloudes,
Thanks to Craig Seager from Australian DX News, for allowing
me to re-publish, hope you enjoy.**

ABC Radio Australia's 83 Years of Broadcasting to the World

By Phil Kafcaloudes, author of Australia Calling: The ABC Radio Australia Story

This is the story of one of the ABC's best kept secrets.

ABC Radio Australia was never intended to be a great secret. It was just the nature of the service that few Australians knew about it. When I hosted its breakfast program for nine years, I could count on one hand the number of people who knew what I was talking about when I told them I worked for RA. Most people mistakenly thought it was the same thing as Radio National. I would have to explain, yet again, that this was our version of the BBC World Service, a worldwide broadcaster.

RA was founded at the start of the World War II by prime minister Robert Menzies as an antidote to the disinformation being broadcast by Australia's new enemies, Germany and Russia. The idea of Australia Calling, as the service was initially named, was to provide an antidote to this propaganda, to counter that aerial bilge with factual, balanced and fair reportage.

An early transmitter shack at Lyndhurst, Victoria. (Supplied)

So with a small team of English, Spanish, Dutch and French broadcasters, a minuscule budget and some tiny transmitters in antiquated shacks in Victoria and New South Wales, Australia joined the short-wave age in December 1939. Despite the low power, Menzies's words were heard across the world:

"The time has come for us to speak for ourselves."

These 10 words led Australia into a new era. At that time, Menzies was an avowed Britophile, whose government had, only two months before, followed Britain into a world war. Now we were demanding our own voice.

This demand for independence would escalate. Within a few years, Australia would displease Winston Churchill by choosing to form close ties with the United States.

During those war years, the battle for the minds and morale of Australians intensified. The axis powers' propaganda became more hysterical, claiming, among other things, that a Japanese armada was assembled to Australia's north, about to invade.

In challenging this propaganda, the Australia Calling broadcasts had to straddle an ethical razor blade. For example, the network deliberately chose not to broadcast news of the deaths of soldiers when Japanese midget subs attacked Sydney Harbour in 1942. Nor did it broadcast information about looting by Australian servicemen after the Darwin bombings. The broadcaster believed these stories would be disheartening for Australians listening in occupied territories to the north. This wartime self-censorship may have had the best intentions, but imagine the danger to the service's credibility if these excisions were discovered.

As the war progressed, more language services were added and plans began for a large transmitter to replace the shacks. Shepparton in Victoria was chosen to house the massive array that could send strong short-wave signals right across the world. When these transmitters were opened in 1945, they were so strong that they were used in the immediate post-war period by then-immigration minister Arthur Calwell to reach into Western Europe as a publicity tool for his post-war immigration scheme.

So strong were Shepparton's transmitters that in 1948 they were used, successfully, to test whether radio waves could reach the Moon and bounce back to Earth. Although shortwave was not used when the Apollo missions eventually shot for the Moon, Shepparton proved that space was not a communication black hole. RA had played its part on the race to the Moon. Despite these success stories, the newly renamed Radio Australia had become perceived by the opposition to be so much of a tool in the Chifley Labor government that when the conservatives returned to power in 1949, the service's founding father Menzies planned to shut RA down. But in one of the most intriguing chapters in RA's history, the British Secret Service MI5 made an official protest, claiming the powerful Shepparton transmitters were central tools in information dissemination behind the new Iron Curtain. Menzies reversed his closure decision.

RA now began one of its heydays, changing from a government-operated service to an international broadcaster, not dissimilar to the BBC's own short-

wave service. The audiences appreciated its work. In the early 1950s it came second in a poll of world short-wave listeners. Surveys throughout the 50s still regularly had RA at the or near the top of the popularity polling, tag-teaming with the much more heavily resourced BBC for top position. And the letters from listeners almost filled rooms at RA's small offices in Melbourne.

In the 1960s, war would again feature in RA's story. Australian soldiers were being sent to Vietnam, and RA provided news and entertainment succour to the soldiers. Presenter Margaret Wood was particularly popular, becoming known as "the serviceman's friend". More women were being heard elsewhere on RA: Jocelyn Terry began hosting specialist shows for Antarctica, and Desley Blanch presented music request programs.

In the 1970s RA's journalism expanded. A tranche of young newspaper journalists were hired to form the service's first specialist reporting bureau. From this small start, Sue McCallister, Geoff Heriot and Graeme Dobell went on to have distinguished careers in international broadcasting. They were soon joined by journalist Sean Dorney who would become a household name in the Pacific.

The language services would expand too, with Indonesian journalists Nuim Khaiyath and Hidayat Djajamihardja for the Bahasa service and Warium Benson and Caroline Tiriman for the PNG Tok Pisin broadcasts.

Their local knowledge and contacts turned RA into a news gatherer that matured Australia's knowledge of these reporters' home countries. It wasn't without danger, however. Djajamihardja was only one of many journos to risk their lives for a story during the brittle Timor Lesté independence struggle. He was nearly killed by a rock thrown through his car window. He was then dragged out, and a gun was pointed at him as the guerrillas chanted: "Kill him, kill him." To this day, Djajamihardja does not know why he was not killed.

After the turn of the century, RA would have the biggest change in its history. Chief executive Jean Gabriel Manguy set up an ambitious network of FM transmitters across the region, a network that would eventually replace the ageing short-wave technology. A push into Asia also started. My program, The Breakfast Club, was hired to be a specialist flow program for Asia in late 2005, and Malaysian television journalist Sen Lam hosted the new Connect Asia current affairs program. Manguy pushed us into critical Asian markets where

we could not get an FM licence by organising live simulcasts with sister stations in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, and Malaysia, giving RA a potential reach in the billions.

For the Pacific, Isabelle Genoux fronted the cultural program In The Loop. Genoux remembers money was tight, and on one outside broadcast she had to work virtually solo from a hastily built shed in Vanuatu.

The existing Pacific current affairs program, Pacific Beat, was tweaked to be FM friendly, with more live content aimed at listeners driving to work.

The live-flow program format meant that when a major event occurred in our region, we were able to cover it as it happened. When an attack was made on the lives of Timor Lesté's president and prime minister, Jose Ramos-Horta and Xanana Gusmao, our program went live with the story for three hours after a listener alerted us by text.

Around the same time, our Fiji FM transmitter was closed down by the Fiji government after we broadcasted criticism of Frank Bainimarama's coup junta. Our Fiji-based technician was forced at gunpoint to go through the jungle and turn off the diesel-operated transmitter. And this was where short wave came into its own. Short wave cannot be stopped locally, and so the good work of Pacific Beat and the other programs was still able to get to the ears of Fijian people who were wondering what was really happening in their country.

Manguy's expansion was a highlight but there were many times when RA found itself vulnerable, particularly when governments changed. When John Howard became prime minister in 1996, RA was set to be shut down, but the last-minute intervention of then-foreign minister Alexander Downer got the decision reversed. Nearly 20 years on from that, RA had a big funding cut that saw the axing of many programs, including mine, and the redundancies of dozens of long-running staff.

Then in 2017 the last link to 1939, short wave, was abandoned. Long-time RA technician Nigel Holmes switched off RA at the Shepparton transmitter. RA's focus now became online and FM in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor Lesté, placing RA in an important place as the Australian government started its so-called Pacific Pivot, which broadened its international policy to its Pacific neighbours. This was timely with the shifting geopolitics of the region, which included China attempting to increase its influence with countries such as Solomon Islands who faced the vulnerabilities caused by

climate change, a world economic downturn, security fluctuations and pandemics.

As I write this, things appear to be on an upswing once more for RA. Throughout 2021 and into 2022, the ABC had been lobbying both government and opposition about the need for additional funding for the ABC's international activities given the rapidly evolving geostrategic landscape of the region. In the latest budget, the ABC has received \$32 million over four years for its work internationally. There are plans for an increased number of transmitter sites for ABC Radio Australia in the Pacific and an expansion of programs created for, with and about Pacific peoples.

RA has come a long way in its 83 years. The trip has never been easy; it certainly has not been linear and, in some ways, it has had to operate through changing geopolitics almost every decade while still maintaining the ABC's independence. It's been a rollercoaster, but RA is still there. And history tells us it has the stamina to stay there.

Dr Phil Kafcaloudes is a former Radio Australia presenter and was commissioned by the ABC to write the history of the service. *Australia Calling: The ABC Radio Australia Story* is available online at Booktopia. Highly recommended, as is another totally unrelated title from the former ABC journalist, *Deep Purple from 1984 On Track; Every Album, Every Song* (ABC.net/Matt Francis)



The end of an era: Nigel Holmes turns off RA's short-wave transmissions.