

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



Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club and Electronics Club

April 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday May 2nd, 2026.

Note; This meeting will be held at the Mooroopna
Scout Hall.

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, Kevin VK3KFM, 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

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 Mooroopna Scout Hall, for May meeting.

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

Our next meeting will be held at the Mooroopna Scout Hall, which is located in Echuca Road, next to the ambulance station and opposite the Macisaac Rd shops.

We will be following the usual format with doors opening around 10am for Arduino topics and general chat. BBQ at 12 and then our meeting at 1pm. Please come along, bring your ideas and suggestions, and help shape the future of our club in our new location.

Diary Dates

- May 2nd, Regular club meeting at Mooroopna.
- June 6th, Regular club meeting at Mooroopna.
- Sunday September 13, SADARC Annual Hamfest.
- Every Thursday morning from 10am, Coffee and chat at Scout Hall.
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Editors Comments

Not much for me to say this Month, I was not able to make it to the April meeting, so a little behind in the latest developments.

However, I understand that great progress has been made in cleaning up our new club venue, installing aerials and setting up the shack.

Congratulations and well done to all those involved.

Also, congratulations to Ray VK3YNV and the crew of dedicated members, who managed another very successful Bunnings fundraising day.

I am sure we will get the full run down on the Bunnings day at our next meeting.

In closing, I am sure all members are aware by now that our good friend and long term member, Barrie Haliday, passed away recently. Geoff VK3ZNA has provided a copy of the eulogy of Barrie, which is included in this newsletter.

73's and see you all on May 2nd

Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Presidents Report

Despite it being the Easter long weekend, we had a very good turnout at our monthly meeting. Attendance like this shows that members value what we're building together — not just the meetings themselves, but the broader sense of community, learning, and shared interest in amateur radio. It's a positive sign as we continue to grow and look at new ways to engage both existing and prospective members.

We were also pleased to welcome a guest, Andrew, who is interested in obtaining his Foundation licence. He sent me a message later that evening to say how impressed he was with how welcoming the club was — which is a great reflection on all of you. Andrew will be provided with a Foundation training manual to help him get started, and we look forward to supporting him on his journey into amateur radio.

Now that we've settled into our new home, things are starting to come together. We recently cleaned out the storage locker and have begun bringing equipment back into the clubrooms, which is a great step forward. Our Thursday morning coffee sessions are also starting to take shape — while they may not suit everyone, they are building momentum. To improve accessibility, it was decided that we will also introduce a Thursday evening coffee catch-up.

With these regular gatherings in place, the next step is to give them more purpose through hands-on activities. We'd like to start introducing small construction projects and technical sessions, so if you have any ideas — whether it's a build project, demonstration, or short presentation — please let us know.

Finally, a working bee was held on April 18 to help further establish the hall as our clubrooms. This included antenna setup, tidying the shack, and general organisation. It's an important step in creating a functional and welcoming space for the club moving forward. (A full report on the working bee is included in this newsletter)

Graeme Martin VK3VSm
President – SADARC

Minutes of April Meeting

SADARC 2026 Meeting April 4th, 2026

1. Apologies

- Adam (3UU)
- Peter Simpson (3ASK)
- Rob (3BLD)
- Geoff (3GSR)

2. General Business

- **Membership Update:** Barry Halliday passed away last Sunday. Condolences were extended to his family and all club members, who shared memories of Barry for many Years

. Funeral arrangements were discussed.

- Club Room Renovations: Significant progress has been made on the club room renovation project. Storage cabinet maintenance was completed, including the disposal of unnecessary items and the installation of new shelving by Jeff Russell. Signage was updated and installed in the club rooms.
- Events: A "Bunnings BBQ" event is scheduled for tomorrow. Further details will be communicated to the membership. The "John Moyle Contest" BBQ was a success, with approximately 70–75 contacts made during the event.
- Meeting Procedures: Thursday morning coffee meetings are increasing in attendance. These informal gatherings facilitate maintenance tasks and general club communication.
- Equipment Loan Policy: A member proposed a formal review of the club's equipment loan policy.
- Storage Solutions: The committee acknowledged the ongoing challenge of space in the club rooms. Discussions regarding the acquisition of an additional lockable storage unit to house fragile test equipment were deferred to the next meeting pending further budgetary review.
- Operational Software: Concerns were raised regarding the logging software utilized during the recent John Moyle contest, as it lacked a user-friendly interface. Improvements for future events were recommended.
- Prohibitions: It was explicitly noted that the consumption of alcohol within the club building is strictly prohibited due to council regulations.

3. Correspondence

Inward:

- Correspondence was received from the City of Greater Shepparton regarding a minor grant application. The application was unsuccessful; however, the committee intends to follow up to understand the reasons for the outcome.
- An email was received from a Florida-based ham operator, who expressed appreciation for the reception of our club's SDR.
- A communication regarding the club's mailbox payment has been resolved.

Outward:

- No significant outward correspondence was noted.

4. Financial Report

The club's financial position is stable:

- Membership: Eight new memberships were added.
- Expenditure:
 - o Rent: Two payments of \$100 each for Mooroopna Hall.
 - o Public Liability Insurance: \$431.
 - o Antenna purchase: \$1,200.
 - o Miscellaneous: Floats and signage costs were associated with the Buntings BBQ.
- Bank balances were disclosed at the meeting:
- Summary: The club remains in a strong financial position.

5. Technical Report presented by Ray VK3YNV

- D-Star Repeater: The repeater is currently functional, though audio adjustments are needed. The club is running multiple versions of D-Star and has confirmed compatibility with existing equipment. The club will retain existing compatibility features but will discontinue further development in this area.
- Back-up Server: The primary focus is the re-establishment of the "Dstar" back-up server. The original solid-state drive failed and is not currently replaceable due to cost and availability. Efforts are being made to repurpose the failed unit, and the committee is investigating alternatives.
- Antenna Systems:
 - o The "antenna" issue has been addressed with the installation of new equipment, and the team is finalizing a 2MX back-up system.
 - o The current proposal involves placing the antenna on the tower using a pulley system for easier maintenance.
 - o Comparative testing will be conducted once the antenna is installed to ensure stability and performance, with the aim of achieving a minimum of six months of reliable operation.
 - o The team acknowledged the difficulty and expense of accessing the top of the tower; therefore, alternative, more accessible installation methods are preferred.
 - o Technical considerations for a new antenna (12 meters, 15-meter tower) were discussed, including load-bearing limitations and safety.
 - o The team is coordinating with external suppliers for acquisition and mounting.
 - o Safety procedures, including the use of specialized rope and cable-tie securing methods, were emphasized.
 - o The committee discussed utilizing a "gin pole" and rigging system for safer tower maintenance and installation.

- **Site Infrastructure:** The committee confirmed the need to conduct a thorough audit of current equipment power consumption and grounding safety at remote sites.
 - **Safety Audit:** The committee prioritized a site inspection of the power cabling and grounding systems at the main tower. A certified electrician must be engaged to assess the integrity of the earth leakage protection.
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6. Club Activities and Development

- **Upcoming Competitions:** The club confirmed participation in the upcoming Field Day event. The focus will be on portable operations to test field equipment and battery-power systems.
- **Training and Mentorship:** * The meeting discussed enhancing the mentorship program, including scheduled "how-to" workshops on antenna building and basic soldering techniques for newer members.
 - o A request was tabled to review the current training syllabus for aspiring amateur radio operators, focusing on updated digital mode operating procedures.
 - o It was emphasized that providing hands-on opportunities with club equipment is essential for skill development.
 - o Members were encouraged to share their home-brew projects during club gatherings.
- **Technical Sessions:** A key focus remains the development of technical workshops to assist members with equipment setup, demonstrating best practices, and troubleshooting.
- **Special Event Planning:** The committee discussed the potential for organizing "All Star Mornings" to demonstrate equipment setup and configurations.

7. Administrative and Community Engagement

- **Membership Outreach and Marketing:**
 - o The committee will prioritize the distribution of the latest club newsletter alongside membership renewal forms.
 - o Direct communication will be sent to members who have previously requested information or expressed interest in club activities.
 - o Postage costs are estimated at \$1.70 per item.
- **Club Website and Digital Presence:** The committee reviewed the web portal and noted that the interface requires modernization. A motion was passed to explore options for a revamped CMS (Content Management System) to allow for easier member posting of technical articles and logs.
- **Community Outreach:** The club received an inquiry regarding potential involvement in local STEM educational initiatives at area schools. The committee expressed interest, provided a clear framework for volunteer involvement and insurance coverage is established.
- **Club Facilities:** Discussions are ongoing regarding the procurement of cleaning supplies and the potential to secure items from the local council, including graffiti removal sprays. The club intends to undertake a cleaning project to improve the building's exterior.
- **Club Resources:** The meeting agreed to reorganize technical manuals and the reference library to improve accessibility.
- **Documentation:** The committee finalized the process for recording future meeting minutes, emphasizing consistency in documenting technical decisions and action items.

- **Communication Protocols:** All official announcements, including scheduling adjustments for workshops or events, will be distributed through the club's primary email list.
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8. Meeting Scheduling

- **Meeting Times:** A discussion was held regarding scheduling. While Thursday mornings are favored, the committee discussed implementing a "Thursday Night" session to accommodate members who cannot attend during the day.
 - **Frequency:** It was suggested that a "once a month" evening session may encourage higher attendance.
 - **Future Planning:** The committee will investigate the viability of holding a Thursday night meeting as a pilot program.
 - **Proposed Weekend Sessions:** Moving meetings to a Saturday morning was tabled for discussion, to be evaluated based on member availability.
 - **Governance:** It was determined that the current meetings operate on an informal basis; no formal motions are required at this stage for scheduling changes.
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9. Meeting Adjournment

- **Concluding Remarks:** The committee expressed appreciation to all attendees for their contributions and to those involved in ongoing site maintenance.
- **Next Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned with the understanding that the next committee review will focus on the progress of infrastructure updates and the results of the pilot evening session.

- Closing: The meeting concluded with a commitment to maintaining the momentum on facility improvements and outreach projects.

Thursday Night get together and Construction group.

A big thanks to Kevin Eagles VK3KFM for putting this project together

On the evening of Thursday, April 9, SADARC held its first Thursday night construction session, and it was a fantastic start. With around 10–12 members in attendance, along with a guest, the room quickly filled with conversation, ideas, and enthusiasm.

The night began with project updates, general discussion about current activities in amateur radio and around the world and plenty of ideas being shared about how we can make the most of our new club rooms. It was a relaxed and social atmosphere, exactly what we were aiming for with these sessions.

With coffee in hand, members then settled in for a presentation by Kevin Eagles VK3KFM, who introduced a video on flowerpot antennas—an inexpensive and easy-to-build end-fed vertical dipole made from coaxial cable. The design, originally by John Bishop VK2ZOI, was demonstrated through a construction video by Hayden VK7HH.

Following the presentation, the group got hands-on, beginning construction of a 2-metre antenna using materials generously supplied by Kevin. It was great to see members working together, sharing knowledge, and getting practical experience building their own equipment.

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

Thursday Night Coffee Group



Thursday Nigh Group, picture submitted by Jack VK3TJS



Club House Working Bee 18-4-26

The working bee on April 18, was a solid success. We didn't get through everything — numbers were a bit down, which was a shame — but we still managed to tick off quite a few important jobs.

We resurrected the existing 80/40m dipoles, which was a great win. The clubrooms got a proper clean, with Greg VK3POP doing a fantastic job on the bathrooms and kitchen — they're now spotless.

Outside, we cleared the paths, cleaned the leaf buildup off the roof, and tackled the storage shed. That involved sorting through what to keep and what needs to go. At the next club meeting, the items marked for disposal will be put out for members to take if they want anything — whatever remains will be thrown out.

One thing that became clear is that we've accumulated quite a bit of gear over time that was brought in for others to take, but instead ended up sitting in storage. It's something we need to be mindful of moving forward — if items are brought to the club, they need to find a home on the day, as we simply can't keep storing everything.

A really positive highlight from the day was a visit from Rowan Farran from the Mooroopna Steering Committee, who dropped by to see what we're about. I had a good chat with him about amateur radio and the role we can play in the community. We discussed the potential for emergency communications, community outreach, repair days, and even running sessions on things like 3D printing, Arduino, and ham radio. He also mentioned that the steering committee has access to grant funding for community projects and asked what the club might need. I noted that while air conditioning would be beneficial, it's more of a long-term goal given the size of the club. In the short term, I suggested that reliable internet access — such as NBN or Starlink — would be a more practical and impactful option.

He showed a lot of interest, and I let him know I'd be more than happy to come along to a steering committee meeting to talk about who SADARC is and what we can offer. I strongly believe community groups should be working together, not in isolation.

Rowan mentioned that their group is looking at developing an emergency preparedness plan for the area. I explained that the club would be well placed to support something like that, especially with emerging technologies like MeshCore.

For those who haven't come across it yet, BAREC are already doing similar work — running a survey in collaboration with their council on how MeshCore can be used in emergency situations.

SADARC CLUBROOMS ARE ON THE AIR!!! 📻

After relocating back into our “new old” clubrooms (long story for another day!), things are really starting to come together.

Today was a big step forward in making the place feel like home. At the working bee, one of the key jobs was getting the antennas up — because a radio club without a radio shack is like a football club without a football oval — and what a success! We now have 80m and 40m on the air, and to top it off, we put out a call and made contact with a VK7 in Beaconsfield. Not a bad way to christen the setup!

Next task is getting 2m/70cm up and running

There was plenty happening beyond radio too — the kitchen got a solid clean, the roof was cleared of leaf buildup, and the paths were tidied up.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and pitched in today. This is what club spirit is all about

One of the other projects is a basic electronics workbench, I talked to Ray and Josh about this, basic stuff like soldering iron, magnifying glass and light, the club already has tools that are still in their packaging. Ray and Josh will be looking at items that we will need, the station wont have SMD or oscilloscopes etc, but just basic stuff. I supplied a roll of anti static mat with straps

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

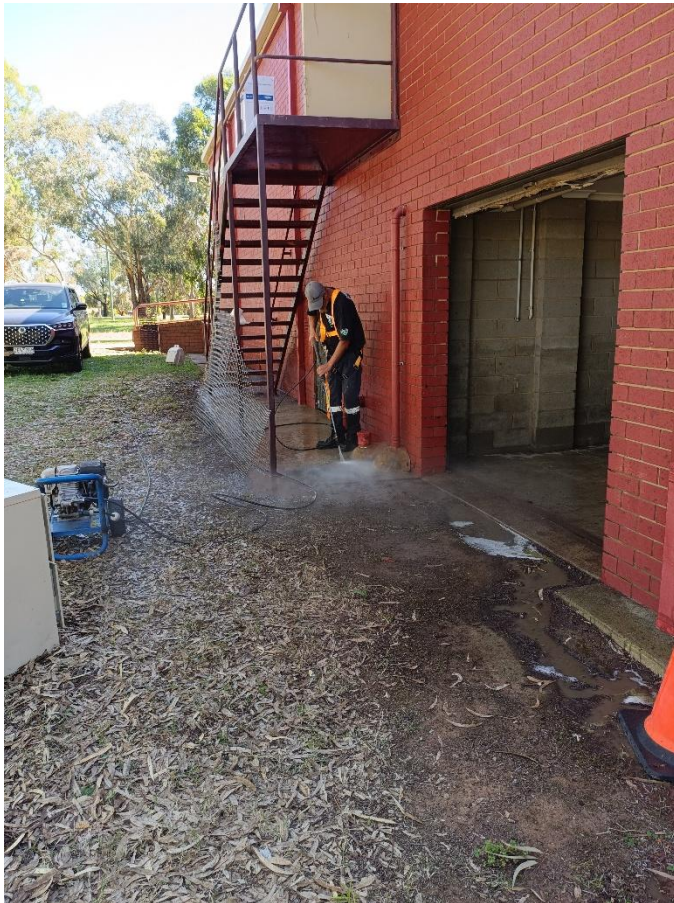
Some photo's of the Working Bee day, provided by Adam VK3UU



Floor Before Cleaning



Floor After a Pressure Wash.



Outside Concrete being cleaned.

Eulogy of the late Barrie Haliday, VK3KBH, presented at his memorial service on Friday April 10th

Barrie was a life member of our club and had served as vice president for many Years

Barrie Halliday

Barrie was the only child to Ken and Gwen Halliday born in Melbourne on the 4/7/1945, the family moved to Kyabram 1949 as ken's father wanted help with his mercantile and undertaker business, their move to Kyabram was short as ken didn't take to being an undertaker. They moved to Shepparton and Ken worked for Dalgety's as a Stock and station agent.

Barrie started school at the Shepparton primary school, then when the St Georges Rd school opened, he went there as the Family lived in Sobroan St he loved his years there his mother was on the mothers committee, and he made friendships that still exist today.

Barrie went on the Shepparton High, I am told by those that went to school with him that he was a very intelligent and likeable student, he was always taking photos and developed them himself, he didn't like sports n fact he had a letter welcoming him to membership of the anti-football Club. During year 11 and 12 he worked part time for the Shepp news as a photographer, this led him to being the photographer for many local weddings and events. He was in charge of lighting at the Town Hall, now East Bank, he loved this work as he was there for all the big shows and visiting and local pop artists Bill Thorpe, Normie Rowe, Hoadley's Battle of the bands and many more taking photos as well as doing the lighting. He joined Shepparton Light Music company and was in many productions as well as being stage manager. He also did a short stint with a local surveyor.

In 1967 he applied for Office Manager position with the TRB and he was successful, for the next 26 years he worked for them then Vic Roads, working in

Shepparton, Mooroopna, Carlton, Hamilton then back to Shepparton as manager and to oversee the building of the new Vic Roads office in Corio St.

He married his first wife Kaye in 1975, they had two boys Malcolm born July 1977 and Kenneth September 1981, on New Years eve 1981 tragedy struck, and he lost his gorgeous boys. This was devastating for him.

Barrie had been a member of Apex Sherborne club but left when he was transferred Carlton in 1982, he had a passion for Ham Radio and was involved with the local ham radio club from the early 70's till his retirement in 2025 due to illness. He held many committee positions President more than once. Barrie joined Rotary while working in Hamilton in the mid 80's and then transferring back to Shepparton in 1988 to be closer to his aging parents. He joined the Rotary Club of Shepparton and was still an Honorary member till his passing, he loved the fundraising to help his local community and overseas projects and charity's. Barrie was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow, He held many positions on the board as well as being past President, Treasurer and Youth where he became involved in student exchange, he hosted many overseas children over many years as well as being involved with the South African student exchange by home hosting numerous students.

Barrie took to the social side with delight sharing meals and a glass of red or two, he was also involved Friendship Exchange in which overseas Rotarians are hosted in Australia and then you would be hosted by them in their country.

Barrie was a member of the G V Aero club joining in 1972 when he started learning to fly and has been a past President and had been on the board many times, he loved the flying and the social part of being with a great group of people. Barrie was always ready to help fix radio's and headsets or give a helping hand when needed. He was also on the Shepparton Aerodrome Advisory committee for many years.

In 1990, he met April and they married in 1994, as an only child, marrying April gave him a large instant family which has kept growing with the arrival of Grandchildren and Great Grand babies. They have enjoyed 36 years together with many overseas trip and outback journeys, they have always done everything together even sharing the flying, Rotary and friends.

In 1993 he was Jeffed, in his words, when Jeff Kennett was Premier and giving out redundancy's, he then purchased a Taxi licence which he owned for 6 years before Ritchie Trevaskis offered him the chance to purchase two school bus contracts as Ritchie was ready to retire, He and April drove one each, his and hers, They loved the interaction with the children especially as they were primary school and attended school concerts, graduation ceremony's dressing up on football, PJ, and book week days. Barrie lost his contract in 2012 due lack of students, and they sold April's contract in 2014. They moved into Kensington Gardens in 2019 and have loved the community there, the last 12 month have been hard for Barrie as he moved into care, but he never lost his beautiful big smile, the staff at mercy said Barrie's smile made there day.

He has lived a good life and made many other lives the better for having him as their friend and having known him. He will be terribly missed by his family and friends.

On behalf of the SADARC Members, thankyou April for allowing us to publish this Eulogy.

Deepest sympathies and best wishes to you and all the family.

Barrie Haliday R.I.P.

Thankyou also to Geoff Angus, VK3ZNA for arranging for the club to have access to this Eulogy.