

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



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

August 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday September 5th.

Venue; SADARC Club Rooms

Mooroopna Scout Hall

Echuca Road Mooroopna.

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 Next 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 kicks off around 10am with some Arduino discussions and some general catch up. Then comes the BBQ lunch at 12, followed by a brief meeting at 1pm and then a presentation by Denys VK3ZYZ on the popular topic of Arduino.

Diary Dates

- September 5th. Regular club meeting
- Sunday September 13, SADARC Annual Hamfest
- October 3rd. Regular club meeting
- October 16-18 Jamboree of the Air.
- December 5th. Xmas Breakup Lunch TBA
- Every Thursday morning from 10am, Coffee and chat at Scout Hall.

Editors Comments

All good news for the club, we are now the proud owners of a trailer, which includes a pump-up mast, capable of going to 100 feet. Thanks

Kevin VK3KFM for selling this unit to the club at such a reasonable price after Kevin put in so much hard work assembling this unit.

Kevin was our man behind the mic at our last meeting and as well as telling us all about how he got into radio, he also spent a lot of his talk describing the many challenges he had in getting the trailer together, the favors needed to get the mast onto the trailer and his many challenges in completing this project.

Thanks Kevin, it was a really interesting presentation with many pictures, some shown in this newsletter.

I received a message from our President a couple of Weeks ago informing us the Josh Cronin had passed his advanced licence exam. Congratulations Josh and welcome to our club.

For those who like DXing, make sure you utilize our 3 SDR services. I am amazed at the signals I hear every afternoon on 40 metres, from so many European and American stations. It is great to spend a few hours listening to the various ham bands on the SDR's, particularly when they are top notch receivers installed in a wonderful location with really low noise levels.

Another item, which has captured my time over the past Month, is a website I discovered, which has every addition of Amateur Radio magazine, from 1933 to 2012. Some really great articles in these magazines and some great home brew projects. Most of the projects are very much analogue, but for old timers like me it makes really great reading.

Well, that's it for me, see you all at our next meeting on September 5.

73's and best regards
Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Presidents Report

Thank you to everyone who attended our latest meeting, and a special thank you to all those who continue to pitch in and take on the many jobs that help make our meetings and the club such a success.

Now that we have our own clubrooms, there is a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes to prepare for our monthly meetings and regular weekly activities. There are many cogs in the system, and each person who lends a hand helps keep everything running smoothly.

A particular thank you goes to Mark, VK3MFE, for taking the time to purchase the essentials needed to keep the kitchen stocked with tea, coffee, milk, sugar and all the other necessities.

With activities taking place twice a week, as well as our monthly meetings, it is surprising how quickly we go through coffee, sugar and milk. It is actually a very good sign, because it shows that the club is attracting strong turnouts and that members are making good use of the clubrooms.

It was also fantastic to see so many members put their hands up to volunteer for our upcoming Hamfest. The Hamfest is not only an important event for our club, but also a great event for amateur radio throughout the region.

It provides an opportunity for operators to catch up with old friends, meet new people and finally put faces to the voices they may have been speaking with over the radio for many years. Amateur radio often begins with a voice or callsign coming through the speaker, so it is always enjoyable to finally meet the person behind that voice.

Events such as the Hamfest help bring the amateur radio community together. They give people the opportunity to exchange equipment, share ideas, discuss projects and encourage newcomers to become involved in the hobby.

The success of the event depends heavily on our volunteers, so thank you to everyone who has offered to assist. Every job, large or small, contributes to making the day run smoothly and ensures that visitors have an enjoyable experience.

Speaking of members becoming motivated and involved, a big thank you goes to Kevin, VK3KFM, for presenting his entertaining and informative “Man Behind the Mic” talk.

Many of us have seen Kevin’s impressive portable operating setup, complete with the mast, marquees, dual television screens, Starlink, fridges, computers and enough equipment to operate comfortably from almost anywhere. I have probably forgotten something from that list, but I am sure Kevin will remind me!

The photographs from his earlier portable operating days were particularly entertaining. Seeing how he managed to cram radios, antennas, batteries, camping equipment and everything else into his Barina was an achievement in itself.

I think the club may need to create a new award especially for Kevin—the **Portable Tetris Champion Award**—for his ability to make use of every available centimetre of space in the car.

It was a great presentation and a good reminder that portable operation , along with your home set up does not always require the biggest vehicle or the most expensive equipment. What matters most is enthusiasm, preparation and the willingness to get out there and have a go.

Finally, I encourage members to contribute articles to the newsletter about their own projects, activities and experiences. You do not need to be an expert writer, and the article does not need to be long. A few paragraphs and some photographs are often all that is needed.

You might write about an antenna you have built, a repair you have completed, a portable activation, a new radio or piece of test equipment, a contact you were pleased to make or even a project that did not work as expected. Sometimes the projects that go wrong can teach us just as much as the ones that work perfectly.

Sharing these stories helps other members learn, encourages discussion and may inspire someone else to try a similar project. Every member has knowledge and experience worth sharing, so please consider submitting something for a future newsletter.

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

SADARC 2026 Meeting August 25th. 2026

Location: On line

Time: Meeting start 7:40pm

Order of business

1. Opening and welcome from Graeme. In a brief recap Graeme confirmed the trailer purchase payments for transfer to Kev have been approved, with the payment to be executed in the near future.
2. Apologies, Peter 3AXI, Kev 3KFM, Geoff 3ZNA (technical challenges)
3. Previous minutes – nothing arising
4. Correspondance
5. Tech report. There will be a visit to Mt Wombat to restore the internet. Ray reported that the Tech committee is looking ways of doing a re-boot/reset remotely (out of band of the internet feed) or similar heart-beat trigger to be able to automatically reboot the internet connection in the event it drops out. In that visit the new Meshcore Repeater will be installed. It was noted that the Hashtag group Meshtag_SADARC is not behaving as expected this to be investigated.

6. Financial report. Ian reported the rent had been paid. The financial report for the month to be completed at months end as per normal.
7. Hamfest. 3 more bookings have been received.
8. Events update. JOTA. A note for an update as to the Scouts requirements has been sent to the Scout Leader who is our point of contact.
9. Newsletter and promotions. The promotion for the Hamfest has been readied by Peter 3ASK. Further a request vis Denys for 1FM to do a promotion. Graeme has been doing Facebook interactions responding to several interested parties. The digital invite has been sent to councillors. A potential invite to the Shire executives or officers to be considered.
10. Other clubs interactions – nil this month.
11. Discussion around the goods from VK3ACK sk. The equipment has been put at Geoff 3GSRs as an intermediate storage while the assets are disbursed. First cab is the members of the Vintage Radio club, potentially next is SADARC (museum display) or members perhaps the Hamfest and with the remainder undecided..
12. General Business. The deluxe club badge with rolling LED displays is well advanced with Josh' lead. The first 5 prototypes are all subscribed so you will have to wait for the next batch as you will have missed out! You will get to see these as soon as available, watch this space or on the fortunate few.
13. Man behind the Mike this month is a focused event with Denys 3ZYZ doing an Arduino talk. A very topical one I suggest the club really get behind this as the flexibility of the platform has to be seen to be believed.
14. Meeting close 8:25pm

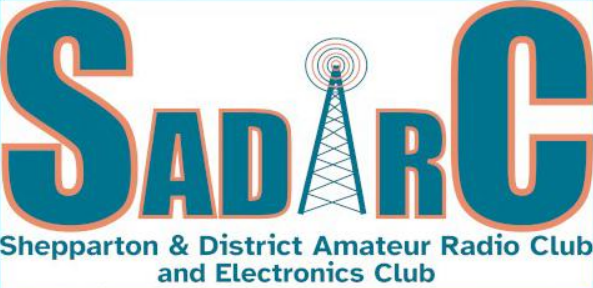
Adam Cleary VK3UU Secretary

Hamfest 2026

Don't forget our 2026 Hamfest is on again, please spread the word and if you are available, please come down and help out.

Many hands make light work and this is a big day for our club.

Peter Rentsch VK3AXI has a list of volunteers for the day, so if you have any questions, or have not yet given Peter your name, please send him an email at peter@rentsch.fun



Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club
and Electronics Club

ENTRY \$5

**HAM, COMMS & ELECTRONICS
FEST**

SUN 13TH SEPT 10AM-12PM
(open to Exhibitors at 8:00am)
St Augustines Parish Church Hall
96 Orr St, Shepparton

\$25 TABLES*
**trader booking includes 2 entries*

ALL ENQUIRIES and BOOKINGS
hamfest@sadarc.org

146.650 MHz-600kHz 123 Hz CTCSS

Mains protection Circuit.

Marcus Chick, Vintage Radio Club President, sent our committee some details on a protection circuit, which would be connected to the mains side of a power supply to protect against sudden high current loads, power spikes and RF signals getting into power circuits via long power runs.

The circuit utilizes 2x MOV's, metal oxide varistors, some mains rated capacitors and 2x inductors.

If you are interested in this design, I would suggest you get in touch with Marcus for all the component details, such as the inductors.

Also, a Warning, please do not experiment with this circuit unless you are comfortable working with 240 Volt mains designs and also understand the capacitor requirements of components connected directly with the mains.

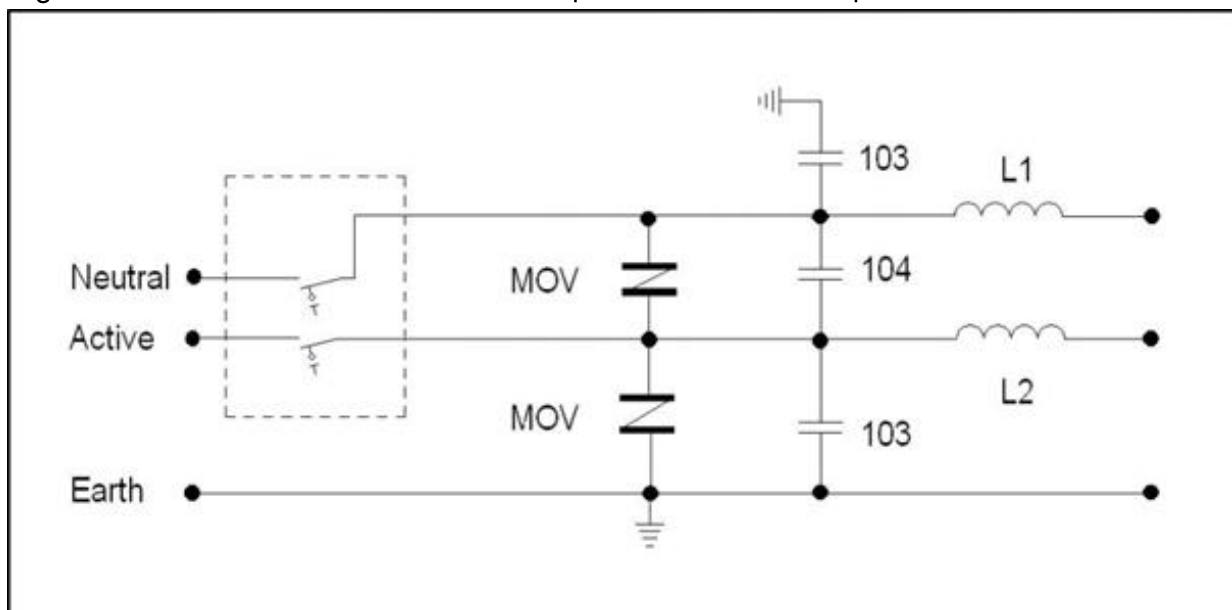
Part of the details from Marcus are shown below, along with his circuit

It should be noted that all capacitors should be types approved for mains. Metal Oxide Caps have apparently been noted to explode. On that basis mine are basically “bundled” in containment, or places that cannot be set on fire.

Basically, the caps are to deal with the RF in particular. The Inductors are a delay line & represent the inductive filter units, occasionally used. One MOV is wholly dedicated to clamping, the other will help clamp the voltage, however its primary function is aimed at the circuit breakers and the RCD's, this by destabilising them, as a “Crowbar effect” causing it to kill the circuit.

It should be noted that after the RCD; Earth, that has normally been tied to the grounding, in many cases, becomes a separate entity. Noting in the power upgrade it took some time to find the Neutral to Ground short on a flood light wiring; causing one RCD to lock in.

All caps are to be Mains Approved types. Caps to ground should not exceed 0.01uF (103), big is not better. As MOV's have been reported as able to explode: Consider containment.



Kevin VK3KFM talk and his mast project

Below some photos shown at our last meeting. Kevin put a lot of hard work into becoming a ham and setting up his trailer.





This is just a sample of what Kevin showed at our last meeting.
If you would like to see more, I am sure Kevin VK3KFM would be happy to oblige.