

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



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

July 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday August 1st.

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 For our next meeting, Kevin VK3KFM is the man behind the Mic to tell us all about his experiences in Amateur Radio.

Diary Dates

- August 1st. Regular club meeting.
- September 5th. Regular club meeting
- Sunday September 13, SADARC Annual Hamfest
- 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

Well, it is all good news this Month for our club;

- Our new policy of keeping the Saturday meeting brief and taking all committee matters to a phone hookup seems to be working well.
- The club has purchased a 2nd hand fridge, so we can now keep the milk and meat cold.
- Ray VK3YNV is going to run a construction night this Thursday July 30, to build a crowbar circuit, details in this newsletter.
- We are now the proud owner of a trailer, with pump up mast, thanks to Kevin VK3KFM
- The hamfest is coming together really well, thanks to Peter VK3AXI
- Our club rooms are starting to feel like home with a proper shack, aerials a work bench and even a drink machine.
- Lastly our meeting numbers are up and people are showing new enthusiasm for ham radio.

So let's all make use of the new facilities and enjoy the club to the fullest.

73's and see you at the next meeting

Peter VK3ASK

Presidents Report

It was another excellent meeting for SADARC this month, with attendance continuing to trend upwards. We had approximately 32 people in attendance, making it another very encouraging turnout.

We welcomed several former members back to the club after many years. It's always wonderful to reconnect with people who have been part of SADARC's history, and we hope they'll continue to join us at future meetings.

We also welcomed several new faces to the club. It is encouraging to see new people discovering amateur radio and taking an interest in what SADARC has to offer. The continued growth in attendance reflects the welcoming atmosphere of the club and the enthusiasm of our members.

One of the ideas discussed at the meeting was developing a stronger relationship with BAREC by relaunching our joint luncheons and social gatherings like we did BC (before covid). I believe this is a great initiative that will strengthen the friendship between our two clubs, encourage the sharing of knowledge and experiences, and provide more opportunities for members to get together outside of formal meetings.

Preparations for this year's Hamfest are well underway, and there has already been considerable interest from both vendors and amateur radio operators planning to attend. The event is attracting a great deal of attention, with advertisements appearing across several platforms, so it is being well publicised. If the level of interest is any indication, we are expecting another successful Hamfest.

A significant portion of our next club meeting will be dedicated to finalising Hamfest arrangements and organising volunteers for the day. If you are able to lend a hand, even for a short period, your assistance would be greatly appreciated and will help ensure the event runs smoothly.

Kevin and I will also be taking part in the Remembrance Day Contest on **15-16 August**. This is always a fantastic social occasion for the club and provides an excellent opportunity to put our club station to good use while enjoying some friendly competition on the air. I encourage members to come along, either to operate or simply to enjoy the camaraderie throughout the weekend.

Looking ahead, the next major club activity after Hamfest will be **Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** in October. This is always a rewarding event and an excellent

opportunity to introduce young people to amateur radio through the Scout movement.

To help us plan the weekend, I encourage any members who would like to be involved to send an email to committee@sadarc.org outlining how they can assist. Once we have an understanding of the volunteers and activities we can provide, we will begin contacting Scout Groups throughout the region to coordinate the weekend's activities.

Thank you to everyone who attended this month's meeting and continues to support the club. Whether you are a long-time member, someone returning after an absence, or attending for the first time, your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute are what make SADARC such a strong and growing club.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting and working together to make the Remembrance Day Contest, Hamfest, and JOTA another great success.

73,

Graeme Martin VK3VSM

President

Shepparton & District Amateur Radio & Electronics Club (SADARC)

SADARC 2026 Meeting July 22nd, 2026

Location: On line

Time: Meeting start 7:30pm

1. Meeting opened by Graeme.
2. All present no apologies
3. Correspondence, Message received from Kara Begg about a stall at the monthly Mooroopna Market. This was a follow up to Ian 3YYY

speaking at a previous event. We have an invitation to have a stall at the market to showcase our club and contact the community that go there. The event is held each month on the last Sunday of each month with an additional date of the Grand Final Holiday 25th September as well as the Sunday regular market. It was agreed this would be a good event to support. Kevin 3KFM was first to indicate this was a great offer and we should support the club at these event. The committee decided the first would be the August event on the 30th (5th week coinciding with Fathers day week). We encourage all members to step up and put a great amateur radio face to the event.

4. The club contact list has been passed to Peter 3ASK for Newsletter processing. Additional members have been added.
5. It was noted by Peter 3AXI about a bylaw we have in place that is required for the trailer purchase. A motion raised by Peter 3AXI, seconded Adam 3UU to write a letter to members asking for any nays to such a purchase as per the bylaw. Carried unanimously. An email to be sent out by Peter 3ASK for the conformance to the bylaw.
6. Tech report. It was noted there has been a lot of propagation ducting east west with operators as far as Naracoorte tripping the repeater. This can cause issues by holding up multiple repeaters co-channelled but not within ground wave overlap. It is a rare occurrence and could be constrained by use of CTCSS tone but was deemed not at this time an issue as the ducting will collapse soon.
7. Hamfest update. At this time, we have 20 tables confirmed and growing. It is expected that a table rush will occur in the weeks prior to the event proper. Prizes are being sought and several have already been offered for the event raffles.
8. Community events. Seymour College and the Seymour Community group. It was discussed and a motion raised and passed to send an email invitation to them for a visit on a Thursday to be confirmed

which date. Adam 3UU to send the letter to the College Teacher and Community Youth Organiser. The invitation is a meet and greet to see if the aim is compatible with the club before committing to further visits.

9. Club Events. The next monthly meeting will feature Kevin 3KFM as “The man behind the mike”. Looking forward to his talk.
10. Ray 3YNV spoke about the next Thursday evening construction project. It is for a crowbar protection circuit designed by VK3HCU. A great low-cost initiative with the PCB at \$1 and the components \$5. Such value might stretch the only 10 available kits. Get in quick for yours on Thursday 30th July.
11. General Business. Ray has received the asbestos report made on the Radio Australia site. The 50page document outlines a very comprehensive need for remediation prior to any activities at the site. The cost of this will be quite a daunting challenge running into 6 digits.
12. Note that there were no motions presented at the meeting on Saturday July 4th. So no minutes need to be published.
13. Meeting closed 8:22pm

Adam Cleary VK3UU Secretary

Build your own Crowbar protection module

No, we’re not talking about that great big heavy bar, used in the garden to break up soil. This is an extremely valuable module, which can be built for around \$6. And will protect your equipment from over voltage, or reverse polarity.

The device kicks in and blows a protective fuse if the voltage from your power supply goes above 15 Volts.

It's a design by Jordan VK3ACU, here are a couple of videos with the details

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHiNpC_LVuI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoAiVcCcrEI>

Ray, VK3YNV has purchased 10 kits for this module, \$1. For the PCB and \$5. For all components and is having a construction night, this Thursday July 30 at the club rooms.

So come along, buy the kit for \$6. And Ray will show you how to construct.

This is a very valuable little module, which may save you causing expensive damage to your valuable gear.

Collection of old Radio's and Test Equipment

Geoff Angus, VK3ZNA has just spent a day collecting some vintage equipment from the estate of the late Geoff Coates.

Geoff Coates worked for the PMG's department for many years working as a transmitter technician at the Goshen Transmitter site, near Swan Hill.

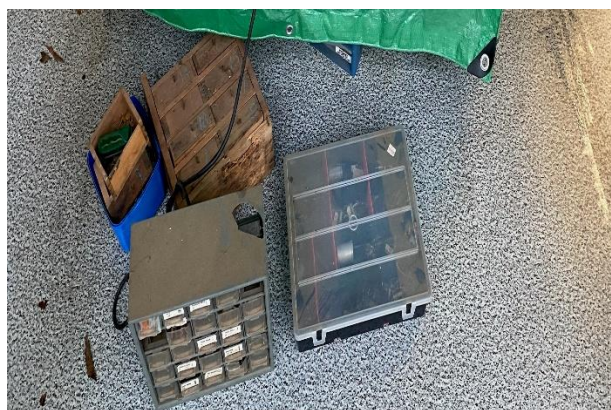
Below are photos of this vintage equipment, together with some brief descriptions.

Thanks Geoff VK3ZNA for salvaging this equipment and thanks to Geoff Coates son, who has donated these items to our club.



Test equipment GR Impedance tester with Manual and Advance Audio and RF signal generators

Radiola New Zealand an unknown and Cream AU AWA



AWA 'Fret and Foot' 1930's and (sig gen again) and 2 creme AWA.

Misc components is cabinets



Coates Portable Radio's

Get Involved – Join the SADARC Forums!

One of the biggest strengths of any club isn't just what happens at meetings — it's what happens *between* them.

That's where the SADARC forums come in.

Whether you're experimenting with antennas, chasing down a bit of interference, working on a project, or just want to share what you've been up to in the shack — the forums give you a place to connect with other members anytime.

-  Ask questions and get help from experienced operators
-  Share builds, ideas, and projects
-  Post your latest contacts and on-air experiences
-  Stay up to date with club news and activities

Not everyone can make every Thursday session or monthly meeting — but the forum keeps you part of the conversation no matter where you are.

A quiet forum is a missed opportunity. An active forum becomes a knowledge base, a workshop, and a meeting place all in one.

-  If you haven't signed up yet, now's the time.
-  If you have an account, jump on and make a post — even a simple “g'day” goes a long way.

International Lighthouse Weekend 15th-16th August 2026

Below an email we received from the EMDRC regarding International Lighthouse Weekend, some members may find this of interest.

This is an annual radio event that is also a global event. It's not a competition, but an event that encourages portable operations from lighthouse locations. Originated in 1993 Scotland, the Amateur Radio Group wanted to create an event that could be held in their summer. Something they could enjoy along their coastal areas. Also promote Amateur Radio to the public. So, the ILLW was created and has become a great success. Details and information can be found on the web site www.illw.net

Globally over 400 lighthouses are registered for activation, over that weekend. The rules or guidelines are very simple, set up a station as close as possible to a lighthouse. And operate all or part of the 48 hour period. While potentially

engaging with the interested public, who might be out tripping around the coast.

It's also an opportunity to work a portable operation in the field, you may also work parks, or IOTA. Depending on the lighthouse location. Plus enjoy the scenic coast line and the small coastal towns, making for a great weekend. Even though it is winter in VK land.

So what is our plan for this year. Well EMDRC via VK3ILH has been invited back to Cape Otway, by the Great Ocean Road Authority Management. It's a Victorian Government body that manages a fair chunk of the Victorian coast line. The conditions are that we operate from a public space within Cape Otway precinct. That we engage with the public and satisfy any questions to do with amateur radio and the station.

However a few things needed to be completed prior to operating at Cape Otway this year. Submission to Great Ocean Road Authority. So a bit of paperwork, navigating through the system. Not all lighthouse operations required any of this, so it's a matter on checking.

The station will be setup in Historic Telegraph Station, in the precinct. Very fitting location given the history and use of the building. Accommodation is on-site in one of the Lighthouse Keepers Cottages, so hardly roughing it. The cottages are fully renovated and equipped kitchen. Plus a great coffee shop on-site, for morning snacks and coffee.

So, the plan is to venture down to Cape Otway Friday 14th August, establish the station. Operate through the weekend, and pack-up Monday 17th August, return to Melbourne. The drive from Melbourne is just over 3 hours, 217 km, depending on the route.

At the moment, like most recent years it's been a team of two, myself and Darrin Pearce. We would like to grow the team a bit in numbers, to assist with the operation and engagement with the public. Cape Otway last year was an exceptional site for low noise and a large number of DX contacts.

So, if interested please contact me.

But if you want to do your own lighthouse activation that weekend, there are plenty of Victorian Lighthouses along our coast. Lists are on the web site, some are controlled by Parks Victoria. Some no longer have on site accommodation, but you could activate during the day.

Glenn Alford VK3CAM/VK3ILH