

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



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

June 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday July 4th.

**Note; This meeting will be held at the Mooroopna
Scout Hall, our new Club house.**

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

We are going to try a different format for our Monthly meetings. We will try and make the meetings a bit more interesting for all members, by moving committee type issues to a monthly online meeting for the committee only.

This will mean that our Saturday meeting can be more of a technical discussion, with a technical report from the technical committee, any major issues brought to the members meeting on a Saturday and efforts to re-introduce the “Man Behind the Mic segment” and hopefully some guest speakers.

For our next meeting, Graeme VK3VSM, has offered to give a talk on his many years of involvement in electronics and amateur radio.

Diary Dates

- July 3rd. regular meeting at club house, including “Man Behind the Mic” this time President Graeme VK3VSM.
- August 1st. Regular club meeting.
- Sunday September 13, SADARC Annual Hamfest
- October 16-18 Jamboree of the Air.
- Every Thursday morning from 10am, Coffee and chat at Scout Hall.

Editors Comments

As many members are aware, sadly my wife Monica and I lost our eldest daughter to that horrible cancer.

She was a beautiful vibrant girl who we loved dearly and she will be sadly missed.

I would like to thank those members who contacted me, or passed on messages expressing their sympathy. Thank you all.

Now on a happier note, I am really sorry I missed the last meeting. It sounds like much was achieved with antenna installations and the construction of shelves. We really do have many talented and dedicated members. In this newsletter, there are a few photos of the activities from the last meeting.

I am also sorry I missed the talk given by my good mate Adam VK3UU. We have spent many years on and off working together in television. Adam was a master control operator at Seven for many years and we caught up regularly. In later years Adam worked on the Seven project to move to our new studios at the Docklands and was the expert on all things DVB and compression. He certainly knows his industry and I am sure would have given an entertaining and educational talk.

Our president Graeme VK3VSM is the man behind the mic for our next meeting, which I am sure will be another interesting talk.

Please take the time to read through the minutes of our last meetings as there are many important activities coming up over the next few months.

See you all at our next meeting.

Peter Simpson
VK3ASK

Presidents Report

Despite it being the King's Birthday long weekend and a cold winter's day, attendance at the meeting was higher than it has been for quite some time, with around 28 members in attendance, normally we average around 22-25. We also welcomed two new members who joined on the day, along with a

former member who hadn't attended the club in more than 10 years, Kane VK3HKH.

It's also pleasing to report that we have had a couple of recent successes on the licensing front. Over the past few weeks I have conducted examinations for two aspiring amateurs. Andrew Gibbs successfully passed his Foundation Licence examination and has since been issued the callsign VK3AXG. More recently, Eric sat his Foundation examination on Thursday morning and also achieved a successful result.

The Thursday morning coffee crew were on hand to congratulate Eric on passing his exam, and it is always encouraging to see new people entering the hobby. On behalf of the club, congratulations to both Andrew and Eric, and we look forward to hearing them on the air in the near future.

Looking around the room, it almost felt as though we had already outgrown the hall. We might have to start looking for a larger venue before too long—but not just yet, I'm still recovering from the search for this one!

Denys certainly had an eventful start to the day. While driving to the clubrooms, his vape battery pack failed rather spectacularly, filling the car with smoke. Fortunately, Denys was able to pull over safely and no harm was done. It also served as a timely reminder of the importance of respecting the safety of lithium batteries.

Before the meeting, we held a working bee with Kevin VK3KFM and Geoff VK3GSR stringing up the G5RV antenna that Geoff generously donated to the club. At the same time, Scott and Taylor put their carpentry skills to test, building shelving for both the radio shack desk and the electronics workbench. I must say, the new shelving has really brought the shack to life and made the space feel much more functional.

The format of our monthly meetings has changed slightly, with much of the routine club business now removed from the meeting agenda and taken to a

separate committee meeting. This leaves just technical report and finances for our monthly meetings and most importantly, making room for member presentations and activities.

Due to the late start caused by the working bee, we put the technical and financial reports on the back burner for the day to make way for an excellent presentation by Adam Cleary VK3UU. Geez, where do you start with Adam's presentation? There was so much covered that it would be impossible to do it justice in a few paragraphs.

Adam shared insights from his extensive career in the television industry, taking us on a journey through the evolution of television broadcasting in Australia. He spoke about the early days of pay television, including his involvement with Galaxy, one of Australia's pioneering pay TV networks, and the many technical challenges faced during those formative years. Along the way he worked with many of the major names in the telecommunications and broadcasting industries, including Seven Network, Ericsson, Telstra, Cisco, Alcatel and Philips, providing members with a unique behind-the-scenes look at how television infrastructure has evolved over the decades.

The presentation provided a fascinating look behind the scenes at the technology involved in television transmission. Adam explained many of the technical aspects of MPEG encoding, bandwidth management, signal distribution, compression techniques and the complex processes required to deliver television broadcasts to viewers across the country.

It was a rare opportunity to hear first-hand experiences from someone who has spent decades working in the industry. The presentation was both informative and entertaining, generating plenty of discussion and questions from members, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

After hearing about Adam's extensive experience in television broadcasting, I think the club may have found the perfect person to lead an Amateur Television (ATV) project. We might have to start working on him before the next meeting!

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club.

SADARC 2026 Meeting June 22nd, 2026

Location: On line

Time: Meeting start 7:30pm

1. It was agreed by the committee that the radio trailer from Kevin 3KFM will be purchased by the club. This great tool will enhance the club's ability in the field no end.
2. Financial report. We are very healthy in our finances, with cash in the bank and our investment account.
3. The hamfest is moving forward. Peter 3AXI will be in contact with vendors over the next period to canvas for tables. This year the expenses will be higher so we are looking for suggestions and ways of increasing revenue, all suggestions considered. Feel free to email (encouraged) the Committee with ideas.
4. At the June Saturday meeting, the man behind the mike was presented by Adam 3UU. He brought a video encoder and digital TV DVB-T modulator for ATV use. Some highlights that we might expand upon over the next months in the newsletter.
5. Seymour College visited SADARC on Thursday June 18, in advance of running events for Students from the College. Watch this space. The Committee wanting invited club members to participate. You will see an invitational email soon.

6. A motion was moved and accepted that the Vintage Radio Club would be invited to merge with SADRAC offering the Vintage Radio Club a closer engagement over the next 6 months with the view of looking to integrate the two clubs next Year.
7. JOTA is rapidly approaching! To be correct the event is called JOTA/JOTI, “Jamboree On The Air and Jamboree On The Internet”.
<https://www.jotajoti.info/>
 - i. When? October 16th through 18th
 - ii. What? Operating from the Scout Hall
 - iii. Needs? Running extension coax from the radio room to the Hall to accommodate equipment for the groups of Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Venturers, Rovers.
 - iv. What would we run? HF and VHF.
 - v. We will put a display setup for our activities in addition to radio.
 - vi. We will utilise both the Scout Hall and Guide Hall and potentially outside the hall with the radio trailer (weather dependent). This provides the acoustic separation as well as more Scout members on air. Put your hand up to be included for a roster for operating.
 - vii. Other potential outdoor activities? Suggestions welcomed.
8. At a Thursday evening meeting, there were new discussions around locating and running nodes around Alexandra to increase the service area and also funding these at a club level.

Adam Cleary VK3UU Secretary

Below some pictures from our last meeting



SDR Services

The club now has 3 fully functional SDR services available and we want our members to use them.

The web addresses are as follows;

[Strathy RX1](http://kiwi.sadarc.org/) <http://kiwi.sadarc.org/>

[Strathy RX2](http://redgum.sadarc.org/) <http://redgum.sadarc.org/>

[Strathy Rx3](http://listen.sadarc.org/) <http://listen.sadarc.org/>

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 Internation Lighthouse Weekend, some members my 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 and 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

