

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



Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club and Electronics Club

March 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday April 4th 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, 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 Mooroopna Scout Hall, for March 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

- April 4th, Regular club meeting, venue Mooroopna Scout Hall.
- April 5th, Bunnings Sausage Fundraiser
- May 2nd, Regular club meeting at Mooroopna.
- Sunday September 13, SADARC Annual Hamfest.

Editors Comments

Well, our March meeting turned out to be a great success, back at our old venue in Mooroopna. We were all happy with the improvements, which have

been made at the hall and plenty of discussion was held regarding the setting up of a ham shack and the installation of antenna's.

As we pay one Monthly fee for the use of the hall and have almost total access to the venue, there was much discussion about a regular coffee meeting and extra days when we can get together and enjoy ham radio.

We plan to make this our home, so we will need to plan days for the installation of equipment and a general tidy up around the building.

I will be away over the easter break, so will be an apology for the next meeting and the Bunnings BBQ day, but I wish you all the best and hopefully the takings from the BBQ, top our last Bunnings effort.

Best wishes

Peter Simpson

VK3ASK

Presidents Report

Well, here we are — after six years we have returned to the old Mooroopna Scout Hall.

Despite it being a long weekend, we had a very encouraging turnout for the meeting. It was great to see many members walking through the hall for the first time, while others were revisiting a place that holds a lot of memories from earlier days of the club. There was plenty of discussion throughout the afternoon as people looked around and began thinking about what the space could become for the club moving forward.

A number of ideas were floated about the potential the hall has and the kinds of activities we could run there. One suggestion was a **Thursday morning**

coffee and construction day, which I think is a great idea. One of the big advantages of having a space like this is that it gives us a base — somewhere we can meet regularly, experiment with equipment, hold demonstrations, run construction days, and generally bring members together around the practical side of the hobby.

Of course, the hall itself is only the starting point. For the club to move forward and grow, it will require participation from its members. A successful club does not happen by itself; it grows through the energy, ideas, and willingness of members to contribute.

I would encourage everyone to take a moment to think about what they would like the club to offer them, but also what they might be able to contribute in return. That contribution doesn't need to be large. It might simply be helping at an event, sharing knowledge, assisting with a project, or volunteering to organise an activity. Many small contributions from many people are what ultimately make a club vibrant and active.

It is certainly my hope to see SADARC become more active in a number of areas that we perhaps haven't fully developed in recent years. One of those areas is increasing our public visibility. With that in mind, I encourage members to come down and show their support for the club station operating in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day contest on March 21–22.

Amateur radio is a fascinating hobby with a long history and an important role in communication, yet many people in the community have never been exposed to it.

With the facilities we now have access to, there are many opportunities we could explore. These might include outside broadcasts and field activities, public demonstrations of amateur radio equipment, inviting guest speakers to

talk about different aspects of the hobby, or hosting technology and electronics days where members can share projects and ideas.

Another area I would like to see develop further is the social side of the club. Amateur radio has always been as much about friendships as it is about technology. Informal gatherings, BBQs, family-friendly events, and relaxed operating days can all help strengthen the sense of community within the club while also making it easier for new members to feel welcome.

Amateur radio itself is a very diverse hobby with many different facets. Some members enjoy contesting, others enjoy technical experimentation, antenna building, digital modes, satellite work, emergency communications, or simply having a chat on the air. Within our club we are fortunate to have people with a wide range of knowledge and experience across many of these areas.

One thing I would particularly like to encourage is for members to share that knowledge with others. If you have an area of expertise or a particular interest within amateur radio, please consider giving a short talk or demonstration at one of our meetings. These do not have to be formal presentations — even a short informal explanation of a project, piece of equipment, or operating technique can be incredibly valuable to others.

Many people underestimate how much knowledge they actually have. What may seem simple or obvious to you could be something that another member has never encountered before. Sharing that knowledge is one of the ways we all continue to learn and grow within the hobby.

Looking ahead, the coming months will give us a chance to explore what we can make of this new chapter for the club. With the Scout Hall as a base, and with the enthusiasm of members behind it, there is plenty of potential for SADARC to become more active, more visible in the community, and an even more enjoyable place for members to share their interest in amateur radio.

As always, I welcome ideas and suggestions from members. If there is something you would like to see the club try, or something you would like to help organise, please feel free to raise it with the committee.

73's

Graeme Martin VK3VSm

President – SADARC

Minutes of March Meeting

SADARC 2026 Meeting March 7th 2026

1. Meeting opened 13:04
2. Graeme opened the meeting in our new location 1st Mooroopna Scout Hall
3. Apologies: Daryl 3WDE, Dallas 3EB, Mark 3MFE, Rob 3BLD, Lindsay 3ZMN, 3ZDK, 2JKN
4. The previous meeting minutes accepted as presented Ian 3YYY second Adam 3UU
5. Inwards correspondence, Development Edge formally replied indicating that we will not be offered access in any form to the former Radio Australia site
Outwards – Grant Application for Ham Fest
-Confirmation we will purchase 2 bay binary
-Ryans fresh fruit request to supply onions for Fund raiser
Correspondence Graeme 3VSM. Second Peter 3ASK carried
6. Financial. Ian 3YYY provided the current finances. Moved and accepted unanimously
7. Tech report. Ray 3YNV reported that the D-STAR fault is a failed EMMC and that the replacement due to the specific configuration and code required is non trivial and may take a while. The plan for the 2 bay binary is

to install it initially on the hut roof and later to migrate it to the tower. The installation will require cavities which will need to be sourced. A general discussion on Meshcore was had with the group to raise no objections to its locating in our facilities at Mt Wombat. No specific timeline or priority yet.

8. General Business. Further to the Development Edge discussion Geoff 3ZNA explained that he had been in contact with D.E. and the detail is that Development Edge do not want anybody (c.f. tenants) in the hall due to Asbestos risk. This follows on from the known fact of the East end being closed to anybody due to said risk.

Coming up fast is the Bunnings BBQ on Easter Sunday

A reminder to let Ray know of your availability to assist. This is a fantastic community facing event as well as a great money earner.

Please avail yourselves to attend even as a visitors as the BBQ can be crowded at times!

Bill C SWL indicated he has a 2 section crank up tower. The base is good but does need cable stays, the main structure is sound. Talk to Bill for those interested.

As we now have a permanent home with much freer access an informal midweek meeting each Thursday was suggested starting at 10:30 am. All should consider this as it has much more specific hobby focus and interaction without any club functionality getting in the way of enjoyment. I hope to report next month about its initial success and attendance.

Josh indicated badges are getting closer

9. SWL report. Stevo reported RNZ new frequencies are being listed as well as the BBC World Service
10. Community engagement. No report this month
11. Graeme closed the meeting at 2:35pm

Thursday Morning Coffee Catchup.

On Thursday the 12th we held our first inaugural coffee catch-up at our new clubrooms. The morning was scheduled to begin at 10:30 am, however a few eager members arrived a little earlier, with the first people turning up around 10 am.

The idea behind the gathering was to create a relaxed and informal morning where members could drop in for a coffee, have a chat, and catch up with each other. It was great to see members making use of the space and enjoying the opportunity to spend some time together outside of the usual formal meetings.

It was decided that these Thursday morning catchups will be a regular thing. These coffee mornings are a simple but important way to keep the social side of the club active and give members another reason to drop by the clubrooms.

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

Below some photos of the Thursday group



What is the John Moyle Field Day

Contest History

The contest is run each year in memory of the late John Moyle who was a long term editor of the Wireless Weekly, (later Radio & Hobbies - later Radio Television & Hobbies) from 1947 until his untimely death in 1960.

He served in the RAAF with distinction and was responsible for a number of innovative solutions to keeping radio and radar equipment working under difficult wartime and working conditions.

The WIA decided that a suitable long term memorial to John Moyle would be a Field Day with a focus on portable or field operation. The contest has been conducted annually ever since.

Contest Introduction

The Field Day is held over the 3rd full weekend in March and run from UTC 0100 on the Saturday to 0059 on the Sunday. All stations are welcome to participate, but DX stations can only claim points for contacts with VK, ZL and P2 stations. All VK, ZL and P2 stations can claim points for all contacts, with any station in the world, if valid serial numbers are exchanged.

Aim Of The Contest

The aim is to encourage and provide familiarization with portable and field operation and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are therefore specifically designed and focused to encourage maximum participation.

This Years Winners

Full Results for 2026 will be available via a link below and on vklogchecker dot com

SADARC Takes Part in the John Moyle Field Day

Mooroopna Scout Hall, March 21st-22nd

Kevin, along with his daughter Aliessa (apologies if the spelling isn't quite right!), a few of Kevin's friends (non radio operators) and myself set up for the John Moyle contest over the weekend of the 21st-22nd at our new clubrooms at the Mooroopna Scout Hall.

As part of the contest requirements, everything had to be run portable — no mains power. Thanks to Kevin's incredible setup of solar panels, batteries, and a backup generator, we were very well prepared and fully self-sufficient.

Kevin also brought along his latest acquisition — a 12-metre snorkel lift (cherry picker). This made getting ropes up into the trees an absolute breeze. Combined with his well-known mast setup, it was an impressive station overall.

On Friday night, we got most of the station set up, leaving the antennas for the next day. Around 7pm Friday night, we put up a 6m antenna using the snorkel lift as the mast — what a dream! We were hitting Corowa and Marysville on just 5 watts. We also had 2m FM running and were reaching repeaters far and wide (even though repeater work doesn't count for the John Moyle, it was still a good test of the setup).

Saturday morning came early, courtesy of hundreds of cockatoos and corellas making sure we didn't sleep in. We finished erecting the antennas: an 80m dipole, a 40m inverted V, and a 2m SSB Yagi.

Before the start of the contest we were tuning across the bands and heard a familiar voice Geoff 3GSR up in the mountains, so we had a bit of QSO with him

We counted down to the start of the contest and began calling, although initially there wasn't much activity on the bands. By mid to late afternoon,



The 12M Cherry Picker in action



SADARC at Bunnings on April 5th

As most of you know, SADARC will be holding another Bunnings BBQ day on April 5th, which is also Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday is one of the busier trading days on the Bunnings Calendar, so if the weather is kind, we should do pretty well.

It would be great to see a good turnout from members. these BBQs are one of the most effective ways the club can raise funds, and the money goes directly back into club projects

If you are able to assist on the day, then please contact Ray Gardiner VK3YNV and let him know you can help out

You can call Ray on 0418372966, or send him an email, ray@etheira.net

Band Plan Consultation from the WIA

WIA Technical Advisory Committee News – Friday February 27th 2026.

The WIA TAC Committee is pleased to announce that we have completed the work considering the feedback received on the Australian Amateur Band Plan consultation conducted during November and December 2025. We were very pleased to receive over 40 submissions from the amateur radio community commenting on almost all aspects of the proposed changes to the Amateur Radio band plans in Australia.

As a result of that feedback, further revisions were made to a number of bands, including:

- 6m (SSB segment widened),
 - 80m and 160m AM Centres of Activity chosen (1870kHz and 3686 kHz),
 - 40m Emergency Communications Channel revised to align with IARU Region 3 (7110 kHz)
- as well as changes to the final proposal for 23cm, which was able to consider

some late input from IARU Region 1.

We also clarified Amateur Television allocations, making it clear how FM Analogue ATV still fit within the band plans from 23cm to 3 cm and revamped further the 9cm band plan taking into account feedback received.

The rest of the changes followed the original proposals which were supported based on the feedback received.

Full step by step details of the outcomes for each of the proposed changes can now be seen in the **“WIA Band Plan Consultation 2025 – Outcomes”** information paper published by the WIA TAC Committee. This paper is available on our consultation's webpage here: [Link](#)

<https://www.wia.org.au/members/tac/consultation/>.

The WIA board voted to endorse the final papers at their February board meeting.

The revised band plan document has also been released, including a new introduction, updated graphics plus we have now released two band plan posters – one for LF to HF and one for VHF to SHF. All of the band plan documents are available from the WIA website at: [Link](#)
<https://www.wia.org.au/members/bandplans/data/>

The final step of this process will now commence which is to update the Amateur RALI licensing instructions to bring them into alignment with the new band plan. That work should be complete within the next month.

Thanks to the whole WIA TAC Team and to everyone who provided input to the consultation.

Regards,

Grant Willis, VK5GR

WIA Technical Advisory Committee Chairperson

Email: tac @ wia.org.au

Online Auction of Equipment from the late Graeme VK3NE

Below an email the club received from Mark VK3PI regarding an online auction for the sale from the estate of the late Graeme VK3NE.

The time line is below and as soon as we have more details regarding equipment, we will distribute to our members.

Hello all

Find attached a timeline for the forthcoming on-line auction of equipment from the late Graeme, VK3NE.

Please feel free to forward the flow chart on to your respective club members.

The catalogue of equipment available is being finalized in the next week and a copy will be sent to MRARC, WANSARC, BAREC and SADARC clubs on April 11, 2026.

Clubs can then distribute the catalogue to their members for review prior to the on-line auction which commences a week later.

Up to 150 items will be available, varying from receivers, transceivers, transmitters, antenna's, test equipment and other items.

Details of on-line auction registration, auction bidding processes and payment by winning bidders will be communicated closer to the on-line auction date.

Best wishes

Mark VK3PI

President WANSARC



Auction Process Timeline

