

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



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

September 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting, Saturday October 3rd.

Venue; SADARC Club Rooms

Mooroopna Scout Hall

Echuca Road Mooroopna.

Club Meetings February to December

Official Meeting	1st Saturday of each Month from 10am, includes BBQ Lunch @ 12, meeting at 1.
Projects Activities	Every Thursday Evening from 7.30pm
Coffee and Chat	Every Thursday morning from 10.30am.

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 a review of the 2026 Hamfest.

Diary Dates

- October 3rd. Regular club meeting
- October 16-18 Jamboree of the Air.
- November 7th, Regular club meeting.
- December 5th. Xmas Breakup Lunch Peppermill Inn Hotel
- Every Thursday morning from 10.30am, Coffee and chat at Scout Hall.
- Every Thursday evening, projects and technical discussions.

Editors Comments

Hi everyone, our September club meeting turned out to be another great event with plenty of members showing up and plenty of food to eat at the BBQ.

The plans for the hamfest were short as everyone seemed to know their duties for the day and all plans were in place.

The hi-light of the meeting was the extremely interesting talk given by Denys, VK3ZYZ.. on Arduino.

Denys certainly knows this topic extremely well and did a great job in starting from the basics and working through the many practical ways that the Arduino processor can be used.

Many people think of Arduino as just a novelty processor for flashing LEDS, sending out a bit of morse, or displaying your callsign, but Denys demonstrated some really practical projects where Arduino can be the core of a VFO for existing gear, a stand alone VFO, or even the oscillator section of a new transmitter.

No more buying new Xtals, when they can be replaced with the Arduino driving a SI5351 oscillator module with 3 independent outputs.

Denys has spent many hours writing up detailed descriptions and circuits of his many VFO projects, which are available on our club forum. Go and check it out.

Well done Denys on presenting such an interesting topic, which is of great value to us all.

At our next meeting, I am sure time will be spent discussing our hamfest, what we did right and what can be improved and also where we should go for the 2027 hamfest.

Well, that's it for me, see you all at our next meeting on October 3rd.

73's and best regards

Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Presidents Report

A big thank you to Holly and Taylor for running the raffle at this month's meeting. It is one of those little things that helps add a bit of fun to the day.

And what a surprise it was when Holly pulled out one of the winning tickets and Adam, VK3UU, immediately called out, "That's me!" Sure enough, after checking the ticket, it was his and he had won. What are the chances of that happening? You really couldn't have scripted it any better. It certainly gave everyone a laugh.

I must also apologise that at this month's meeting we slipped back a little into the old format of working our way through the usual meeting points. Over the past few months we have been trying to move away from that style, with around 75% of the routine business now being dealt with at the monthly committee meeting.

Ideally, our general meetings should give us more time for presentations, demonstrations, technical discussions, guest speakers, project updates and, of course, plenty of time for members to catch up and talk radio.

That said, this month was a little different because much of the meeting was taken up with finalising arrangements for our Hamfest.

Although we have been holding the Hamfest year in and year out, it's still important that we take the time to go over everything properly. With an event of this size, there are always plenty of small details that need to come together.

The Hamfest is one of the club's major fundraisers and one of the biggest opportunities we have each year to put SADARC in front of the wider amateur radio community. We attract amateur radio operators from across Victoria and southern New South Wales, along with vendors, traders, collectors and people who simply enjoy catching up with others involved in the hobby.

Because of that, it is important that we put the club's best foot forward. We want everyone who attends to walk away with a positive impression of SADARC.

Perhaps most importantly, the Hamfest gives people the chance to put a face to the voice.

Amateur radio is a hobby where we can spend years talking to people over the air without ever actually meeting them face to face. You might recognise a callsign or a voice, but events such as our Hamfest give everyone the opportunity to finally meet in person, shake hands, have a conversation and catch up over a cup of coffee.

That social side of amateur radio is just as important as the technical side. The radios and antennas might bring us together, but it is the friendships and connections we make through the hobby that keep many of us involved.

The Hamfest is also one of those events where you really see the strength of the club and what can be achieved when everyone works together.

Denys also put on a very good presentation on Arduino. Most of us have seen some of the projects Denys has built over the years, and we know that he enjoys experimenting with Arduino and electronics. His presentation helped

make the subject a little clearer for those who may not have had much experience with it.

Arduino can sometimes look a little daunting from the outside, with a small circuit board, wires, sensors, components and the programming side of things as well. But once someone takes the time to explain how all those pieces fit together, you begin to realise just how much can be achieved with these relatively inexpensive boards.

You could also see Denys's passion for Arduino come through during the presentation. When someone has a genuine interest in a subject, it makes a big difference and often gets others thinking about projects they might like to try themselves.

That is exactly the sort of thing I would like to see more of at our monthly meetings. We have an enormous amount of knowledge and experience within SADARC, covering everything from traditional radio and antennas through to electronics, computers, digital modes, SDR, satellites, Arduino, Raspberry Pi and MeshCore.

So thank you to Denys for taking the time to put the presentation together and share some of his knowledge with us.

After all, SADARC is not just about holding a monthly meeting. It is about getting together, sharing knowledge, trying something new, helping each other and enjoying this hobby of ours.

Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

SADARC 2026 Meeting August 25th. 2026

The committee was not able to arrange a phone meeting for September, so I don't have any minutes to present to the club.

Graeme and I have summarized the activities from our September meeting, that's all we can offer this time around.

2026 Hamfest

Well, the 2026 Hamfest is done and dusted for another year and I am sure everyone would agree that it was another great success.

We had 178 people through the door, which is up on last year, plus we had 33 tables of parts and equipment, both old and new on display.

As usual, one of the great successes of the day is the wonderful catering, put on by Jacek, VK3TJS, his wife Bozena and daughters Patricia and Claudia. They do a fantastic job, everyone loves the food and it is a big financial boost to the day.

Below a message from President Graeme, followed by some photos of the event.

Ladies and gentlemen, could you please stand and give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back?

What for, you may ask? To me, the answer is obvious: a very successful and well-executed Hamfest.

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the day possible—the setup team, raffle-ticket sellers, door keepers, kitchen volunteers, clean-up team and everybody else who contributed their time and effort.

The day ran remarkably smoothly, without any major hiccups. There will always be lessons to learn and things we can improve for next year, but overall, everyone should be extremely proud of what we achieved.

We were also pleased to welcome three local councillors: Cr Rod Schubert, Cr Fern Summer and Cr Anthony Brophy.

Rod and Fern attended together, stayed for approximately 40 minutes and generously gave their time to assist with the raffle draw. Anthony also came along and shared that, back in the day, he had been a licensed CB operator.

It was wonderful to have all three councillors attend and gave us a valuable opportunity to build stronger connections with our local representatives. They were impressed by the range of equipment, the size of the crowd we attracted and the distances many visitors had travelled to attend.

I explained that our Hamfest is much more than simply a market. It is also an important social gathering where people who have spoken to one another over the radio throughout the year can finally meet face-to-face and put a face to the voice.

The councillors also offered some useful ideas for the future and indicated that they would be happy to support other community events in which the club may become involved. This could include opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio and provide information to the general public about the important role radio communications can play during emergencies.

Once again, congratulations and thank you to everyone involved. The success of the Hamfest was the result of a genuine team effort, and it showed what SADARC can achieve when our members work together.

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Graeme Martin

VK3VSM

President of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club





