



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632

Repeaters VK3RGV Freq: 53.725MHz (1 meg offset), 146.65MHz (IRLP Node #6992) (600 kHz offset), 439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), 438.2MHz (D-Star) [D-Star not operational at this time on Mt Wombat] Access to the analog repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise mute (less sensitive).

Club Network informal on air get togethers. All welcome. Club callsign VK3SOL:-  
Wednesday evening - 3.62 MHz ± interference 7.00pm, 2mx repeater 8.00pm

The local vintage radio club has a get together at 11.00am of a Sunday on the 2 metre repeater. Many of their club members are members of SADARC too, so join in for a chat.

Meetings are held at 1pm on the first Saturday of the month (except January when no meeting occurs) at the Mooroopna Scout/Guide Hall off Echuca Road, Mooroopna. Variations in these times and days are normally notified in the preceding newsletter. Website – [www.sadarc.org](http://www.sadarc.org)

**DISCLAIMER.** No guarantee is given as to the accuracy of information in this newsletter. Warning:- There is a danger of electrocution or injury when working on electrical/radio gear. You do so at your own risk.

President:- Peter Rentsch	VK3FPSR	<a href="http://pages.cobram@bigpond.com">pages.cobram@bigpond.com</a>	
Secretary:- Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	<a href="mailto:andyashley@icloud.com">andyashley@icloud.com</a>	
Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY	Treasurer: - Ron Burns	VK3COP
Membership Sec: - Pat O'Shannessy	VK3OV	Webmaster: - Steven Hamer	VK3DP
Station Manager: - Vacant		Publicity Officer: - Vacant	
Technical Committee: - Phil VK3ELV, Ray VK3RW, Geoff VK3ZNA, Kevin VK3BPH & Rodney VK3UG			
Newsletter:- Rodney VK3UG (Editor)	<a href="mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com">rodlynn6@bigpond.com</a>	& AndyVK3AJA (Distribution)	

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## Newsletter----- November 2015

### Presidents Report November 2015

**Our next gathering will be at the Benalla Bowls Club for our annual Christmas luncheon with the members of the Vintage Radio Club. The date is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 1.00pm. Cost of the meal is about \$18.00 - \$20.00 per person and order at the counter. Please let Ron VK3COP know by no later than Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> if you are attending.**

Telephone: 03 5762 6288 email: [pegron@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pegron@bigpond.net.au)

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. A pleasant day was on order for a preliminary BBQ followed by our regular meeting, a Coffee break and then our guest for the day was Tim Roadley – race director for the Murray QUAD at which the Club will be doing the Comms on the long

weekend in March, so keep the Sunday free. We require a minimum of 12 operators for the day with 2m rigs. A rig with 70cm would be beneficial as well.

Bruce – VK3FBNG and Darren VK3HEN are the co-ordinators of this event as far as the Club is concerned and more information and final arrangements will be made at the February and March meetings.

Discussion was also held at the meeting of possibly participating in the Echuca Steam Rally on the long weekend in June. We would set up an outside broadcast station and operate from there. This may be done in co-operation with a display from the Vintage Radio Club. There appeared to be general feeling that we should investigate this so Bruce VK3FBNG got going as soon as arrived home and chased the Steam Rally organisers. They were very happy with the idea and were happy to oblige with anything we may require. More information to follow next year.

While we are on Christmas, Karen and I would like to wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and a great New Year. Safe travelling to all of you during this busy time of the year.

Peter  
VK3FPSR  
President – SADARC

### **SADARC Calendar of Events**

December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch – Benalla
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting with guest speaker
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	EMDRC Hamfest
March 5 <sup>th</sup> confirmed	Club Meeting – possible joint meeting with Bendigo at Goulburn Weir – to be
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Murray QUAD
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting with guest speaker

### **AGENDA**

#### **Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Meeting**

1:00 pm 7 Nov. 2015

- In Attendance were:
- VK3FNBG Bruce, VK3HEN Darren, VK3UG Rodney, VK3FALN Alan, Jason Jones, Colin Jones, VK3CAF Clint, VK3AO Alan, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3ZE Huntly, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3AJA Andy, VK3COP Ron, VK3FPSR Peter.
  
- Apologies:
- VK3GEV Bob, VK3DSF Max, VK3PXJ John, VK3OV Pat.
  
- Confirmation of Minutes of previous Meeting. Accepted by VK3FBNG Bruce seconded by VK3HEN.
- Matters arising from the Minutes. None
  
- Inward and Outward Correspondence . None.

- Reports
  - Financial: Presented by Ron VK3COP moved they be accepted by Ron and seconded by Kevin VK3BPH
  - Technical: Presented by Rodney VK3UG. Who did point out our repeaters are probably the best in Victoria!
  
- General Business
  
- Christmas Function confirmed at Benalla Bowls Club for 12-Dec. @1PM for 1:30 PM lunch. The Vintage Radio Club will be joining us. Club will cover room booking fee. Please RSVP Ron VK3COP by 9-12-2015. (Ron 0357626288)The cost for meal will be \$18-\$20 per head. Please join us!
  
- It has been suggested that the BBQ at Nagambie with Bendigo Radio and Electronics Club be moved to March as the weather may be better, possibly March 6th. We will let you know.
- We have some guest speakers for next Year:  
(Dates to be confirmed)
  - Julie Vk3FOWL talking about her work in Schools.
  - Justin VK3JUZ talking about SDR radio.
  - Fred Swainston Chief Assessor at WIA.
  - Tim Roadley (Murray Quad) spoke to us about the communication needs for the event on 13 march 2016. Thanked the Club for last Years help and is happy for us to provide radio communications and personnel for the checkpoints. We will talk more about this before the event. We will require around 13 Members with cars and radios (possibly 2m/70cm at this stage).

Brian Webb's brother thanked the Club for help members gave removing Brian's equipment.

- Closure and date of next meeting  
Closed 2.00 PM

### **Editors Ramblings**

#### **COMING GOOD**

As most will know Max VK3DSF cracked his hip a couple of months back. He is progressing well and he is home and using a walking frame to get around until the hip is pronounced as being okay.

Pat VK3OV recently had his right knee joint replaced and he is now back home and either using crutches or a walking frame to get around.

As long as they can get near to the shack and the rigs we should have a chance to chat with them. The telephone works well or a drive in their general direction would be appreciated too.

We welcomed Colin Jones VK3NQS and his son SWL Jason who attended our November meeting. They are currently living in Mooroopna but expect to move to Tatura soon. We hope that we will see you regularly at our meetings and hear you on air.

#### **LICENCES**

Is your licence nearly ready to expire? The ACMA seem to have changed their method of advising licensees that their licence is about to expire. Previously licensees were notified around 6 weeks before their licence

was due to expire, but not so at this time. I'd suggest that members check the expiry date on their previous licence renewal and if necessary contact ACMA on a 1300 number if you haven't received your renewal. I found mine was about to expire so had to do something quickly, as I didn't want to lose my two letter callsign.

## **IDEAS**

We all want things to be interesting and we want the club to have interesting activities or talks or what have you. The committee would like you to put your thinking hat on and come up with things you would like to do or hear talks on, etc. Maybe you have done some interesting things that you would like to share with others. The committee can do some of these things but we do need the assistance of members to get the full benefit of anything that is proposed. You can email, phone or send a letter to me (The editor) or Peter with your ideas and how you may assist in making these things happen.

## **IRLP**

Andy is pleased to report that the IRLP node #6992 is now once again fully functional and the newsletter header has been altered to reflect this. As things change from time to time the header of the newsletter will also change.

I must admit I haven't been a great fan of the IRLP and don't fully understand its working but I had a very pleasant conversation with a ZL4 down in Invercargill New Zealand back a week or so ago. He worked at a maritime radio station ZLB at Awarua near Invercargill not long after I worked on Macquarie Island VJM. We had a great time reminiscing about the means of communication we used in those times. At Macquarie we would send weather and other reports to VIS Sydney Radio several times a day and Awarua would also take the weather messages too. This was all on hand or machine morse code (no computers). We had four transmitters available to us, one for use around Macquarie Island (low power), two AT20 s at 500 watts and a Redifon G423A of 1.5 to 2 kw output. Our weather and other messages sometimes didn't get through for days due to high auroral activity. The Redifon was an interesting transmitter. It tuned from 1.5 to 30 MHz on eight channels. It would work on USB, LSB, AM, CW and ISB. ISB is independent side band which meant that two conversations could be sent out at the one time on the transmitter, one on USB and the other on LSB. Neat!

## **AIR CONDITIONERS**

The latest inverter type reverse cycle air-conditioners are very efficient when they are working. But did you know that in the **off** condition as controlled by the remote control many still draw considerable power ostensibly to keep the compressor oil warm. I decided to do some checks on mine and this appears to be true. I have yet to do more accurate checks to see how much power is being wasted. The power drain is zero when the outside unit is turned off at the master switch mounted on it. This is not something that we are told of and certainly takes some of the shine off the claimed power savings of these inverter air-conditioners.

## **MT WOMBAT REPORT**

I enquired of Alan Tattersall (Austereo) about the progress with the installation of the new self supporting tower on the mount. At this stage Austereo is waiting for a quote to make the top section of the track safe for a concrete pumping vehicle to negotiate. It is a very rough track and these days O.H. & S. has high priority. Once a quote is agreed on (I understand) that work will be done then the job of installing the tower can commence. The tower itself is currently in storage at Shepparton. The person who will be in charge of the tower installation is well known to a number of members and I am quite confident the work will be done to a high standard. When the work on the new tower commences the lattice mast and the antennas on it will be taken down. The standby antennas on the hut will then be put into service so we will not lose repeater facilities, although some repeaters may be down a little in performance.

All repeaters except D-Star are working well, however, no work of consequence is envisaged on any repeaters until the new tower is installed.

**Six Metres.** The two co-phased 6 metre antennas will be installed. The performance of some of the cavity resonators needs some improvement by modification and/or retuning (there is some desense). The digital signal processing is doing its job satisfactorily but a by-product of its operation causes the audio output level to drop with weak noisy signals into the repeater. This could mean an audio AGC circuit may need to be fitted to overcome this. The improvement in performance is hard to be specific about with these improvements but an improvement of from 3 to 6 db in the repeater performance is not unreasonable to expect.

**Two Metres.** The repeater will have a new two metre antenna installed as it was considered by ARV that it was not a good policy to reinstall the existing antenna on the new tower from the point of long term reliability. Very little has been done to this repeater for some considerable time so a general check over of the cavities and the repeater itself would probably occur, although no problems are evident.

**Seventy Centimetres (analog).** The repeater had a replacement high gain antenna installed on the hut a couple of years ago and this is working well. There are thoughts that the repeater output power could be increased to 50 watts to make it more usable.

**D-Star 70 Centimetres.** This is currently working at Toby Corbet's QTH I believe (I don't have D-Star capability), which means it doesn't have much range. It is hopeful that in due course we will be able to re-install it on Mt Wombat with an internet connection which will give it a much wider communication range with enhanced facilities.

**UHF CB Repeater.** I have not heard any adverse reports on the 3/33 repeater. Apparently by 2017 the repeater will have to meet new standards. (The licensee for this service may need to do some checking.) Phil VK3ELV can tell folk more about this as he has just installed a new UHF CB repeater at 1200 metres on the Black Range near Cheshunt. This is rather higher than the 799 metres at Mt Wombat and I suspect it is probably being powered by batteries charged from solar panels. No doubt Phil can tell us more.

**Other facilities.** As time progresses the centre pole in the hut will be removed and a 19" rack will be installed to house our equipment, which will include the two power supplies (main and standby). Most coaxial cables going to the present lattice mast are expected to be replaced over time, but none on the hut are expected to need replacement.

**24/11/2015**

Kevin VK3BPH, Clint VK3CAV and Rodney VK3UG went to Mt Wombat and replaced the defective lock. It had been in use for 33 years and it had serviced us well but needed replacement. The lock was replaced with a new item with a different key. It fitted well once the mounting plate was modified and keys for the new lock have been distributed to those who need access..

The bracken fern was sprayed with herbicide to reduce the fire hazard around the hut.

Austereo have been busy on the site and it is now possible to drive right to the top of the mountain on a good quality metal screening track. A photo of the track and the base that has been excavated for the base of the new tower are shown on the next page.

**Note the next meeting of the club is the Christmas break up as listed earlier in the newsletter.**

