



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

Repeaters VK3RGV Freq: 53.725MHz (1 meg offset), 146.65MHz (**IRLP Node #6992 not operating**) (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

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.

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| President:- Peter Rentsch | VK3FPSR | pages.cobram@bigpond.com | |
| Secretary:- Andy Ashley | VK3AJA | andyashley@icloud.com | |
| 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) | rodlynn6@bigpond.com | & AndyVK3AJA (Distribution) | |

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

Presidents Report January 2016

Well, here we are in 2016. Karen and I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I know we were very busy with family things, Christmas in Melbourne, New Year at home with visitors from Indonesia (who spoke very little English), then the next weekend back to Melbourne for a daughter's wedding and now this weekend more visitors from Melbourne with some grandchildren in tow. It's been great but I can't keep up the pace any more, especially when I want to play radio.

Talking of playing radio I have downloaded a piece of free software called LOG4OM. It is probably one of the best logging programs that I have used to date and I have tried numerous. It is free software and very comprehensive. What do I like about it. It is easy to use, there is a comprehensive manual, it shows the DX Cluster which if you wish you can filter by region.

When viewing the cluster if you double click on a spot and assuming you have your radio connected to your computer it will tune your radio to the band and frequency of the spot, fill in all the details on your screen including call sign, country, distance from you QTH date, time etc. Once you have made your contact you simple click the add button and move onto the next contact. This is a simple example of one of the features of this package, there are many more. Check out their website and decide for yourself - www.log4om.com

Over the break Andy VK3AJA has done some investigation into the IRLP and why it is not working. To put it simply. As you will all know IRLP uses the internet to communicate. The location where the IRLP hardware has been situated had a static IP address for the internet. The owner of that location has changed internet service providers and no longer has a static IP. This will mean that we need to relocate the IRLP hardware to a location that has a static IP. We have done that and that's been the easy part. We now need to get into the IRLP computer and set the IP address on it to match the IP address of the new location. Problem, the IRLP computer has a password and no one seems to know what it is. I have checked through all the documents that I have and as it was set up at least 5 years ago we don't seem to have a record of the password. If anybody can shed some light on this it would be greatly appreciated.

If we cannot get into the IRLP computer we cannot use the IRLP. As the computer that was running the IRLP is old the other alternative is that we purchase a new IRLP node that runs on a Raspberry Pi. The approximate price for this would be \$450.00AU landed in Australia from Canada. We would then need to configure it to suit our needs but obtaining expertise to do that would be fairly simple as one of our members has already set up his own Raspberry Pi node. More discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Thank you to Ron VK3COP who organised our Christmas gathering in Benalla and thankyou to all those who attended. A pleasant lunch was enjoyed by all and it is great that we can get together with the Vintage Radio Club Members and enjoy some fellowship with them.

Don't forget we have the Murray QUAD coming up in March and also the possibility of operating from the Steam Rally in Echuca in June.

That's it for this month, looking forward to catching up with everyone on the 6th February.

Cheers & 73's

Peter – VK3FPSR
President – SADARC

SADARC Calendar of Events

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| February 6th | Club Meeting (1pm usual location) |
| February 28 th | EMDRC Hamfest |
| March 5 th | Club Meeting |
| March 13 th | Murray QUAD |
| April 2 nd | Club Meeting with guest speaker |

END OF YEAR GET TOGETHER

On a very pleasant summers day Saturday 12th December at 1pm the annual end of year luncheon was held at the Benalla Bowls club. Thank you Ron VK3COP for organising the venue. This is a combined get together of the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club and the North East Vintage Radio Club. About half of the members of either club belong to the other club so it is an opportunity for a bit of cross pollination of ideas.

There were 26 who attended being made up of members of both clubs and members wives and partners. President Peter VK3FPSR spoke for a short time and certificates of appreciation were handed out to the ladies who helped make the Hamfest in September a success with their tireless work providing the food for those who attended. Without their help the day would not be anywhere near as successful.

Greg VK3POP was our president for the latter part of 2014 and until elections were held in October 2015 when Peter took his place. It was a very difficult year for the club and only through Greg's tenacity as president that various negotiations regarding our repeater site turned out as well as they have. Many may not be aware of the extent of these problems. In recognition for Greg's hard work he was also presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Already some members are looking at where we can have next year's end of year do. It is suggested that we investigate The Royal Mail Hotel in Mooroopna which has good standard meals at reasonable cost and they do have a back room where groups often have get togethers.

TECHNICAL REPORT

All repeaters are functioning satisfactorily at this time in January with no changes from the report in the last newsletter.

The work for Austereo on Mt Wombat new tower is progressing and the sub-foundations have been laid as of mid January. From what I have been able to glean the tower should be installed by the end of January all being well. This seems unlikely see Stop Press. The installation of the antennas I haven't been able to ascertain what exactly is happening there, but should have some information prior to the meeting in early February.

IRLP

It didn't stay in operation long after I mentioned it in November's newsletter. However, Andy VK3AJA is looking at getting a more permanent internet link. He also has to obtain the password to activate it. Computers all seem to have these access passwords and if you haven't used a password in a long time or you take over the system the outgoing person in charge may forget to tell you of the password. See President's report on progress.

SNAIL MAIL

Australia Post has often been called snail mail due to its logo when turned on its side resembling a snail. Unfortunately it is becoming truly snail mail as ordinary letters will take now 3 to 6 days to deliver, so we may need to rethink when the newsletter goes out. We are in a quandary here as if we get the snail mail out in reasonable time for those who receive their newsletter by mail, this will mean that we need to send the mail out nearly two weeks before the meeting. Any items after that will not appear in the newsletter sent to you. If those who do have internet facilities were to elect to

have the newsletter sent by email it is practical to have an email send time about a week before the meeting. Plus keep in mind that the cost of postage has risen by 43% to a dollar as of January the 1st. So it would appear that postage \$1 + ink and paper will add 25 to 50 cents depending on how much ink and paper is used. The cost per year for 11 newsletters can be as high as \$16.50. A number of other clubs are facing the same dilemma.

INVERTER AIRCONDITIONER STANDBY POWER

As I mentioned in a recent newsletter the latest split system inverter air-conditioners have a substantial standby current. Ray VK3KUG can probably tell you more about why this is occurring as he works in the refrigerator and air conditioning business. Our small unit appears to draw about 60 watts and the larger unit 190 watts. This works out to nearly 6 kw per day that we are using that is being wasted. With the cost of power this is no laughing matter at around \$1.50 per day or around \$500 per year. If this concerns you do some investigation into why they draw so much power in standby. You could buy a reasonable rig for \$500!

I have had communications from Fujitsu on one of the air-conditioners and they state the power drain is of the order of 5 watts and with the heater which cuts in below 5 degrees the drain is around 28 watts. Ray VK3KUG and I did further tests on the air-conditioner with a range of other instruments including a Fluke and we still came up with figures much the same as I had. One instrument did read a lower current but still not 5 watts. I will be doing further tests and hoping to look at the waveform on an oscilloscope to get an idea of the wave shape as this may be why our meters are giving significantly different readings to the claimed official readings. Most cheaper instruments do not give correct readings on non sinusoidal waveforms. Higher specifications instruments have circuitry inside them that takes the oddball waveforms and converts them to sinusoidal equivalents. So the jury is still out on this one. I'll keep you informed when I do further tests and have accurate figures..

Bill and Alan discussing and examining Bill's latest project at the end of year do.



President Peter awarding Certificates of Appreciation to the ladies whose help makes the Hamfest a success. Greg our previous president was also awarded a Certificate for his work last year in difficult negotiations about our repeater site.



STOP PRESS (25-1-2016):-

Over the last month or two the Scout Hall at Mooroopna has been the target of five vandal attacks, the last being over the weekend before Australia Day. This last episode has caused quite a bit of damage and the kindergarten next door has by the look of the pictures in the *Shepparton News* had quite extensive damage done. One of the positives from this is that the security system has been reactivated – it had been out of commission for months.

I have checked and the building will be quite okay for our next meeting on 6th February

I contacted Geoff Broughton the fire watch observer on Mt Wombat and he reports that the sub foundation has been laid. I have contacted other interested parties and due to holidays I suspect I haven't been able to get information on when the base and tower will be installed. We need to know this as we will be involved with the dismantling of the existing tower and shifting of the antennas and fitting of some new antennas,

Rodney VK3UG Editor