



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*

*Inc. #6953T*

*May*

*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 @ 7.30pm**

At the B.A.R.G. Club House, Ballarat Airport

**All Welcome**



## **Contacting us**

You can write to the club at the address below, or e-mail the secretary

The Secretary : B.A.R.G. Inc.  
Box 1261  
Mail Centre  
Ballarat. Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)

We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

## Presidents Report

Hi to all members.

We now move into another phase of the year (Autumn) the trees change colour and drop their leaves, we as humans start battling down the hatchets for the next season (Winter)

Its time we look at our antennas etc, its easier now than mid winter when the winds blow and rain comes down, speaking of rain its time we received some its certainly dry.

Dont forget to look through the shack and see what we would like to dispose of meaning that the George Fowler auction is coming up at the end of the month 29<sup>th</sup> of May at the club rooms soup at 12 noon and the auction at 13:00 hours.

Can anyone who has updated their licence, altered their email address or even your home address, could you please contact Tom vk3twr on 53448542 or by email at [trwood@computer.org](mailto:trwood@computer.org).

The reason is that Tom can update any alterations to our members list and ensure that we know how to get in contact. In particular to make sure you get this newsletter!

Very short report this month sorry about that. Hoping to see you at the meeting on Friday.

*Doug Raper* - From the desk of President Doug vk3vba

## George Fowler Auction

Mark the date on the calendar, it's time again for the famous George Fowler auction. Now's the time to collect up that pre-loved gear. The stuff that's too good to throw out, but perhaps you won't have a use for any time soon. Some stuff is on the side table in the club rooms, but the good stuff has been stored out the back.

I've heard some rumours about what's in the back room (*not confirmed*). A few little gems apparently. For example, a KX3. 10 watts just not enough for some people. An IC-7300. Hardly used, but owner didn't realise it was SDR based, so off to the auction. Of course there's the usual collection of antenna's. Rumour has it there's a Step IR. Purchaser didn't realise it would need to be assembled. Doh.

It that's not enough to attract you, I'd guess there'll be the usual collection of AM CB's, rolls of wire that might have once been an antenna, fax machines and collections of used components which once had more magic smoke inside them.

Even if you come away empty handed it's sure to be fun day out at the club rooms.

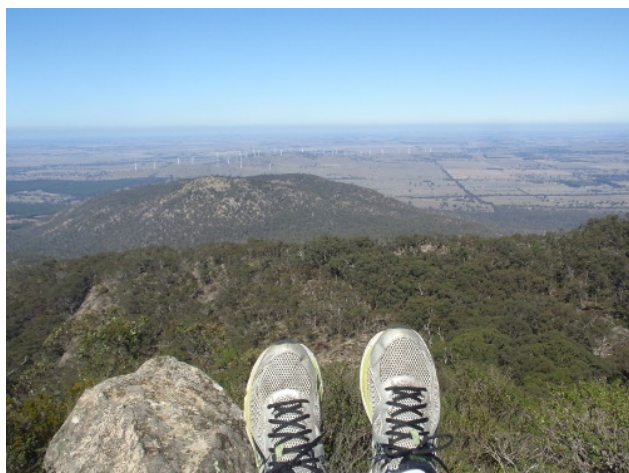
All welcome.



### **A Word From The Editor**

Welcome to the May newsletter. There's not many submissions this month, so a slimmer newsletter than usual. I guess the weather has been so good that everyone is out of the shack ahead of the winter months.

I've made the most of the long weekend by heading up to Mt Langri Ghrin for a SOTA activation. About 45 minute drive from Ballarat the summit has some fantastic views across the countryside. While it is a bit of a climb up to the top, it's well worth the effort.



I've also been doing some testing of the remote base to assist Roger, VK3ADE. I've only had RX ability, but working in a different environment and with a different set of eyes I was able to find a couple of 'show stopper' bugs, and a range minor things.. Roger has been crook for a couple of weeks, which has slowed his progress a little. Hopefully he's back to full health and got time to do some more work shortly. We'll get a full write up when it's ready to be opened up to the members.

I've also been doing some work to update the website. If you spot something that's not right or you think needs improving please let me know. I'd particularly like to update the pictures pages, but at the moment I'm editing it all manually, so some edits can be quite tricky. Something to work on in the future I guess, when the rains and the cold come. Which no doubt they will all too soon.

Until next month.

*Malcolm*

VK3MEL



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## **Training Report**

The club will shortly be running a weekend assessment for the FOUNDATION radio license. Could ALL members please pass this intent around their contacts or in ON AIR contacts for any interested people.

I already have two who will be sitting and looking to maybe make a group of five or six to complete the session in that weekend. The date has not been decided but will be early JUNE at this stage.

Anyone interested for details to make a firm booking to contact me via the club or on [bombard170@gmail.com](mailto:bombard170@gmail.com) or [VK3KG@WIA.ORG.AU](mailto:VK3KG@WIA.ORG.AU)

Interested candidates should get a copy of the Foundation licence manual from the WIA and get reading. I believe that there is now a 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the manual available. Further details are on the WIA web site.

73 Craig  
VK3KG

## **Equipment For Sale**

Bob Pitcher has a couple of radios for sale by tender, please note there are reserves on the radios so the highest bidder may not be successful if it is below the reserve, the reserves are very reasonable and reflect the radios current value.

Bob will accept offers up to May 27 after which he will advise by this list the results, you can email offers to [pitch@ncable.net.au](mailto:pitch@ncable.net.au)

The radios are:

- 1: Kenwood 440S HF with desk mike and hand mike.  
<http://www.universal-radio> or reviewed on eham.
- 2: Codan HF 6525 HF radio



According to Bob both radios are in good working order.

If you have any questions please direct them to Bob, he may be away for a few days in the near future but will get back to you.

On behalf of the BARG committee

*Roger* VK3ADE.

## **ACMA Submission For Future Amateur Licence Conditions**

The WIA has presented a submission to the ACMA requesting changes to amateur licences as the current arrangements come up for review. In particular the submission seeks increased power limits for all classes including access to 1kw for advanced licences. Access to digital modes for foundation class as well as access to additional bands. The submission also asks that foundation licenses drop back to 3 letters in order to be more consistent with world wide standards. In particular if access to digital modes is allowed.

The sorts of changes being proposed will never be implemented quickly, but it all needs to start somewhere. The news release and full submission is here:

<http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2016/20160413-4/>

New Senior's Exam, you only need four correct out of ten questions to pass.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial air plane?

Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass.

Check your answers below ...

### ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?                        | 116 years          |
| 2) Which country makes Panama hats?                                | Ecuador            |
| 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?                            | Sheep and Horses   |
| 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?    | November           |
| 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?                           | Squirrel fur       |
| 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal? | Dogs               |
| 7) What was King George VI's first name?                           | Albert             |
| 8) What colour is a purple finch?                                  | Crimson            |
| 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?                            | New Zealand        |
| 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial air-plane? | Orange (of course) |

What do you mean, you failed?

Me, too!

(And if you try to tell me you passed, you LIED!)

# SALGOUD



## Round The Web

### **Kick Starter - KiwiSDR: BeagleBone Software-defined Radio (SDR) with GPS**

Another kick starter project, this time a software defined radio:

*KiwiSDR is a software-defined radio (SDR) covering shortwave, the longwave & AM broadcast bands, various utility stations, and amateur radio transmissions, world-wide, in the spectrum from 10 kHz to 30 MHz. The KiwiSDR is a custom circuit board you connect to an inexpensive BeagleBone Black or Green computer.*



The site has links to a number of working prototypes that you can listen too already.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1575992013/kiwisdr-beaglebone-software-defined-radio-sdr-with-description>

### **Chinese HF Transceiver**

Spotted on ebay, this Chinese HF transceiver. Selling for just under \$600

Model: FX-9A

Model: LSB / USB / CW

Frequency range:

160M / 80M / 60M / 40M / 30M / 20M / 17M /  
15M / 12M / 10M - 10 amateur bands

Output Power: SSB about 15W about 10W CW  
low power profile around 5W.



Will we see more HF gear come out of China?

<http://www.ebay.com.au/itm/FX-9A-HF-10-Band-10W-15W-HF-TRANSCEIVER-LSB-USB-CW-/181943715088?rmvSB=true>

### **New LNR QRP Transceiver**

LNR has been popular in the US for portable operation.

*One of the hottest new QRP Transceivers on the market. This powerful unit packs in a ton of features at an incredible value. This rig has a sleek design with a simple interface that you will want with you at all times.*

Frequency Range: 7000 kHz – 22 MHz 40, 30, 20, 17  
and 15 meter operation

Modes: USB, LSB, CW, CW-R, DIGITAL DATA: CAT –  
USB jack : CW, PSK, RTTY, SSTV



<http://www.lnrprecision.com/store/#!/LD-5/p/39885476>

### Club Antenna Installation

Jeff, VK3PAP, has been busy getting the mast for the UHF / VHF antenna's set up. Looks great. Now to get them all connected.



**Child:** Dad, I got suspended from school.

**Dad:** That's terrible, what did you do this time?

**Child:** The teacher pointed a ruler at me and said "At the end of this ruler there's an idiot".  
I asked "Which end?"

The following article was submitted by Bob VK3BNC. It's really a commercial plug for "The Detector Inspector Service", but the message is important, so we've added it here.

### **Smoke detectors**

Two types of smoke alarms are commonly found in Australian homes; Photoelectric and Ionisation. It is important to note that currently both types can be legally purchased and used as both meet the required Australian Standard AS3786. However, for a number of years now photoelectric smoke alarms have been the only type recommended by Australian Fire Authorities and Fire Brigades, as well as the International Association of Fire Fighters. In fact, a global campaign is now calling for a total ban of ionisation alarms. Within Australia, the Northern Territory is ahead of the curve with the Northern Territory Fire Service already legislating against the use of ionisation alarms in the region.

But what's the difference and why are photoelectric detectors so highly recommended? For the most part, it's all about how they detect fires and importantly, how quickly they respond.

### **Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**

These alarms detect visible particles of combustion so it is often said that they 'see' smoke. They work by aiming a light source into a sensing chamber so that when smoke particles enter the chamber, light is reflected onto the sensor, triggering the alarm.

The fact is that in both the real world and controlled instance of smoke alarm testing, they have been proven to be more effective and respond significantly faster to smouldering fires. These are fires which are slower burning and produce a lot of smoke, the most common type in the home environment. The faster you can be alerted, the more precious time you have to get yourself and your family to safety. They are also less likely to emit false alarms from cooking or steam in the bathroom.

### **Ionisation Smoke Alarms**

These alarms are said to 'smell' the smoke that comes from flames in that they detect invisible particles of combustion. As opposed to photoelectric alarms these work through a small amount of radioactive material that exists between two electrically charged plates. This material ionises the air causing a current between the plates. When smoke enters the chamber the flow is disrupted, activating the alarm.

While they are not generally recommended over photoelectric detectors, they do activate more quickly for fast flaming fires. The disadvantages however are significant. They are slower to respond to smouldering fires, which can lead to visibility and breathing difficulties when occupants are attempting to escape a house fire. They are also prone to more false alarms, resulting in people removing the battery and thereby losing all protection.

### **How can you tell what's in your home?**

It should be clearly stated on each smoke detectors label whether it is an ionisation or photoelectric smoke alarm. However, if it is not clearly stated you will see a bright yellow 'radiation' symbol inside or on the back of an ionisation alarm.

### **The Detector Inspector Service**

In accordance with the recommendations of Australian Fire Authorities and in the interest of ensuring maximum occupancy safety, Detector Inspector technicians only install and replace smoke alarms with photoelectric smoke detectors as part of our annual smoke detector maintenance service. Now until November 30, 2014, we are offering our clients a heavily subsidised 'change-over' service to change their existing ionisation alarm for a photoelectric alarm for complete peace of mind. For more information, download our [Position Statement](#).

If you have any questions in relation to smoke alarms, home fire safety or the change-over offer please don't hesitate to contact us. <http://www.detectorinspector.com.au/contact-us>