

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1 **JANUARY 2005**

PRESIDENT: David Tilson VK3UR SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Bob Terrill VK3BNC
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NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 28 JANUARY 2005

At 8.00 pm

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Well, Christmas and the New Year are over, many of us have had our holidays and some are about to start (me included). We start a new year with the hope that Club members will become more involved in club events. There are many opportunities for members to be very active in the Club, so don't be bashful by putting you hand up or offering suggestions.

Editors Apology: I regret that I may have lead people astray with last months article on railway gauges. It was published with tongue in cheek and to those who took it too seriously I apologise.

DATES

Club meetings the last Friday each month starting at 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Construction Nights. Construction nights are held on the second Monday each month at 7.30

WICEN Net : Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm on 3.60 MHz + QRM etc. (Some times below 3.60) and after the net closes, a short check in on 40M at an agreed freq.

From the President's Shack:

Welcome to 2005 and what promises to keep our members active with a number of different events planned throughout the year.

We had a very successful Eureka event, co-ordinated by Vice President Ian, VK3IDL, which you will read about later in the newsletter.

To finish the year we had a Christmas BBQ held out at the clubrooms under the tongs of Ian, VK3AXH, and some willing assistants. A special thanks to all of the ladies who prepared salads and deserts that were very quickly gobbled down by those who were present.

The next few months look exciting with a number of guest speakers already booked and several social activities including participation in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR
BARG President

Examination Results:

Congratulations to one of our members, Stephen Dick, who has recently passed his morse code and can regularly be heard on air using the familiar callsign of VK3SE. Well done Stephen.

General Meetings:

Our final General Meeting for 2004 had as its guest speaker Val D'angri who spoke about the history of the Eureka uprising and her involvement in the restoration of the Eureka flag. This was our largest attendance in a number of years. Everyone was enthralled with Val's presentation and it was the perfect lead in to our Eureka 150 celebrations.

Next Meeting (January):

Michael Owen, **VK3KI**, WIA National President, and Robert Broomhead, **VK3KRB**, WIA Director are to be in attendance to give us an update on the National WIA.

February: Tom, **VK3DMK**, is to give a talk on "programming PIC (programmable IC) chips. This should be very interesting as one of the proposed construction projects is the building of the "hardware" for such tasks.

March: Drew Diamond, **VK3XU**, is to speak on his own choice of subjects. Drew will be well known for the many articles he has published in AR and for the books he has also published. That meeting is to be held on **18 March** (third Friday) as the last Friday id Good Friday.

Committee News:

The Committee met on Wednesday, 19th January, and the following items were among a wide range of topics discussed.

It was agreed to allocate a budget of \$1,500 for the refurbishment of the VK3RWA repeater. This will include the replacement of the very aged radio equipment, a new control system that will better support IRLP and voice operations into the future, and a number of sites works that need to be undertaken.

A sub-committee, comprising Treasurer Bob, Secretary John and President David, will review the club's existing public liability insurance policy and compare it with a new insurance policy that has been developed for clubs by the Wireless Institute of Australia.

	<u>Construction Night</u>	<u>Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Dining Night</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>
<u>January 2005</u>	No Construction Night	Wed 19 th 8:00 pm	Fri 21 st 6:30 pm Midlands Golf Club	Fri 28 th Wireless Institute of Australia 8:00 pm	
<u>February</u>	Mon 14th 7:30 pm	Wed 16th 8:00 pm	Fri 18th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 25 th PIC Controllers Tom VK3DMK 8:00 pm	Sat 26th Feb Exams Contact Charlie, VK3DCS
<u>March</u>	Mon 7 th 7:30PM (14 th Labour Day)	Wed 16th 8:00 pm	Fri 11th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 18 th Construction Techniques Drew VK3XU 8:00 pm (25 th Good Friday)	19th – 20th Mar John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest

CONSTRUCTION GROUP

As you will be aware there was no construction night in January but they will resume in February (second Monday at 19:30) Note the night as there will be discussion on projects for the year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club Rooms:

\$300.00 has been approved by the committee to continue repairs to the Club rooms which will be for modification of the back room (store) with new doors to enable a trailer etc to have access and storage and the removal of the blocks of cement. Some electrical work needs to be done before work the major work can commence.

Repeater VK3RWA:

As many members and non members are aware RWA has been giving us a lot of problems over the last twelve months. The problem has intermittent which as we know are the hardest to solve, the aerial has been replace, the old one checked out to find no problems and has been used again as an alternate. The technical committee and helpers have made a number of trips to the site, but still the problem remains. The committee has authorized the expenditure of amounts up to \$1500 to bring the repeater up to standard, which may mean replacing the controller and/or radios. This may some inconvenience to user when RWA my be turned off for some time as repairs are carried out. In the mean time the committee has decided that RWA should stay on as a repeater working most of the time (despite faults) is better than no repeater at all.

FUTURE EVENTS

Australia Day: The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) have advised that Australian amateur radio operators may use the prefix "AX" on Australia Day (26th January) between the hours of 0001 and 2359 local time. An example of this is where the callsign VK3BML can operate as AX3BML during this time.

John Moyle Weekend: This is to be held on the week end 19-20 March. As a Club we intend to take part as we did last year. There will be more about it at the Club meeting January.

Friday Nights Dinners: Unfortunately when tis news letter goes "to press" the place of the dinners has not been fixed. The "diner's group" meet for dinner at different venues on the third Friday of each month at approx. 6.30. If you would like to join them please let them know at the Club meetings.

Geelong Visit: GRES (Geelong Radio and Electronics Society) visited BARG last year and now we hope to organise a visit to them in their Belmont club rooms in the near future (Late February or in March). They meet on a Thursday night. So be prepared to make up a visitors group. More later.

Tsunami & Amateur Radio. Questions have been asked what amateur radio was doing for the disaster. On the Monday (27 Dec) WICEN Vic was contacted by the Police to see if we were able to help if required. When informed, "yes" it was then notified to DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and if there were any requirements we would be notified through EMA (Emergency Management Australia) to VICPOL then to WICEN. We were not taken up as generally communications were OK and WICEN members are not very good at speaking the languages of the affected countries. Most often it is the communications networks which fail in times of disaster but this time it was not the case. This is a brief outline of amateur radio involvement, although we were available we were not needed, which may be considered very lucky.

SICK LIST

Bob. VK3BNC has had a short stay in Hospital but is much better now.

Received to-day Ed.

“Wheely Bin Bobby!”

Well contrary to popular belief and rumours spread by President David my recent hospitalization can't be traced back to my trusty mobile bin. Bet threatened me after the "last time" (relief) I held a paint brush in my hand. I do wish to express my thanks to all those who expressed their best wishes and to those who took the time to visit me in St Johns. I must add my grateful thanks to the medical staff of St Johns for their care. Bob VK3BNC.

Clem VK3BVI has also had a stint in hospital. We send our thoughts to Clem.

Eureka Special Event Station.

Now that the Eureka celebrations are over we can be proud of BARG's part. Thanks go to all those who took part in operating the station.

Ian, **VK3IDL**, did a sterling job co-ordinating the roster which comprised 20 of our members activating the special event callsign of VI3BML around the clock. There were some 533 QSO s during the week and some 110 hours of station operations. The result has been very encouraging considering the bands were in such bad condition. Some times you could turn on your receiver on 80M and not hear any transmissions at all.

We now have to send out the QSL cards to all those contacts both Australia wide and to International station. The cards are being printed at this time as the printers had a break over Christmas and we did not know how many cards we would require. This task should be completed in the near future.

It has been a great success for the Club with the interest shown by "media" and the number of interviews given to the ABC both locally and interstate as well as other interviews, photo sessions etc. done. Although publicity officer Doug VBA did a lot of work in preparation and contact with media, some times Club members did impromptu interviews grabbing all the publicity we could get.

We can be proud of our efforts in promoting our Club, amateur radio, and Ballarat, showing good citizenship for our selves and Ballarat in general.



Ian, **VK3AXH**, operating the Eureka Special Event Station VI3BML at the Club Rooms

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Ballarat Amateur Radio Club Inc

Minutes of General Meeting November 26 2004

Meeting opened by President David 2000 hrs.

Apologies, vk3cfh. Vk3idl. Vk3nbv. Vk3jem. Michael Lomas.

President David welcomed all visitors and congratulated the three members who recently passed examinations. Steve vk3mna. Charlie Vella and Ted Morley.

Minutes of October as circulated. Moved vk3cmc/mna Carried.

Business arising from minutes. Gordon vk3fgc/kqq. Recently purchased roller door up for sale. Trouble with fit and size. \$80.00 ono.

Gordon vk3fgc Mowing roster still under way. Ernie vk3det and Steve vk3mna attended to mowing in recent times.

Financial statement read and accounts presented for payment. Moved vk3bnc/kglcarrried

Correspondence. *In Rural Ambulance Vic. QST. Newsletters.*

Out TTS. Icom. Greg Andrew. Moved vk3hrz/bmy Carried.

Reports. *David vk3ur. One dtmf decoder to be retained by club.*

Vic news at end of Q news now happening.

WICEN link to be established between vk3rba/rwz to be used in times of emergency.

Hamvention. Ian vk3axh reported on successful event and thanked all for their help and cooperation.

Positive feedback but will keep in mind any changes needed.

Eureka 150 . David vk3ur reported rosters and log sheets in place. Roster for next weekend available members. Vk3cmc. Vk3bnc. Vk3ur. Vk3tjw. Vk3vba. Vk3det.

Vk3axh. Vk3aig. Vk3idl. Vk3mna.

Ernie vk3det suggested setting a set frequency on 20 m 14.190 mhz agreed.

Amenities Doug vk3vba reported on fluro lights and suggested action on security light at front door.

Library . Craig vk3cmc Planning still in progress.

Property. Jeff vk3pap outlined the inventory arrangement and will bring up to date any new equipment not listed.

Newsletter. Gordon vk3fgc. Distributed.

Publicity. Doug vk3vba reported on photo shot for Age re Eureka 150, Courier and News with articles on Eureka 150.

Technical Ian vk3axh. Good.

Construction Group. Next gathering in December.

Dining Night. Good gathering at last get together. Next outing BBQ for Christmas breakup on December 17 starting 6.30 pm. Meat supplied by club.

Meeting closed at 2045 hrs and President David welcomed our guest speaker Val D'angri who gave an interesting talk on the history of the Eureka flag.

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	

BEACON

VK3RMB		438.475	Mt Buninyong
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IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail vk3bml@barg.org.au.

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.610+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast and Club Call Back. Sunday's 11.30 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to **Gordon VK3FGC** (e-mail the club) mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354

Weekly BARG HF Net: Thursday's 8:00pm on 3.610MHz +/- QRM

Thought for the month

If you really want the last word in an argument, try saying "I guess you're right"