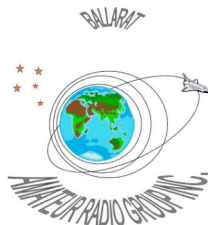


# BARG News

CHRISTMAS EDITION



Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. # 6953T  
ABN 44 247 200 143

**VOLUME 33 ISSUE 12 December 2010**



President: Craig Cook      VK3CMC  
Secretary: Doug Ellery      VK3FDRE  
Treasurer: Bill Wells      VK3PAL

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY January 28, 2011**  
At 7.30 pm

## 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)

## BARG INC. LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

**CLUB INFORMATION**

**REPEATERS and BEACON**

VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) ( Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RWP	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Temp. Repeater)	146.925 MHz	Green Hill

\* IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

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

**CLUB NET** VK3BML 3.608+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

**WIA Broadcast** Sunday 11.00 am via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

**NEWS ITEMS Send to Harry VK3KGL**

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail **member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au**

**Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater**

**Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News.**

**Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News**

**Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat**

## Solutions for connecting you...

- Ballarat's fastest broadband<sup>1</sup>
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Fax: (03) 5336 1027

**Damien Hennessy**

Sales / Spares

Mobile: 0417 313 811

Email: damo\_611@hotmail.com



## Down to the Wire

What's faster?? Morse code or text messaging?

It was a mad dash – with dots – recently at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum when veteran telegraph

operators Gordon Hill and Jack Gibson took on a couple of kids and their mobile phones in a race to send the quickest message. The rules were simple: 93-year-old Hill had to translate a message into morse code and send it to 82-year-old Gibson to decode the transmission and print it out using a manual typewriter. Meanwhile, 13-year-old Brittany Devlin punched the same transmission into her mobile phone using text messaging and send it to nine-year-old Ben Hutchinson's phone nearby. And the winner? Morse code romped home. It took 90 seconds for Gibson to have the message down on paper. The text message appeared 18 seconds later. Victory to the tried-and true 19<sup>th</sup> century invention.

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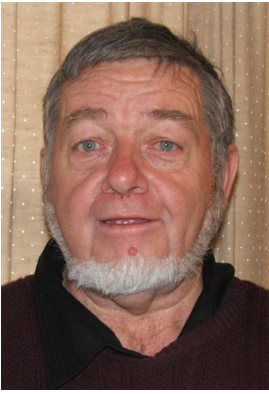
# Qual-Trim

**AUTO & MARINE UPHOLSTERY**

**Rod & Wendy Palmer**

513 Dowling Street, Wendouree. PO Box 315, Wendouree, 3355.  
Telephone: 03 5339 1478 Facsimile: 03 5338 1427  
email: sales@qual-trim.com.au web: www.qual-trim.com.au

# Articles for next Newsletter DEAD LINE January 22, 2011



**Craig - VK3CMC**

# *Presidents Report*

Here we are at the end of another year with the holiday season rapidly upon us. We have had a mixed year in 2010 with some new challenges presented to the club to face and hopefully 2011 will see us back on line again. The replacement 2M repeater has nearly come full circle. We have selected a suitable callsign and are just waiting confirmation from the WIA of the callsign and frequency allocation for our Greenhill site. At this stage VK3RBA is unlikely to be back. We look forward to the new unit coming on line shortly. There has been some work carried out on the new site recently and a new tower should be in place shortly.

In the meantime we still have the WICEN repeater VK3RWP operating on 146.925 neg offset.

There has been work on a replacement tower at the club rooms for the Internet linking antenna and control to Ben Nevis as we have experienced some down time due to antenna movements due to windage. The old triangular one has suffered with time and the new one should be ready very soon.

Inside the rooms we have an upgrade of cabinets housing the Ben Nevis system with a new control system. The unused packet gear has been removed also. Our thanks to NETLOR Computers for the new racks and to those members who were involved in the working bee's both at the rooms and on the hill site.

This Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> Dec will see the clubs last official function for 2010. That's the Christmas BBQ and social activities. Please bring a plate of salad or a sweet and your drinks while the club will supply the meat. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can have a great night. I hear that that fellow in a red suit may make an appearance if we behave so catch you then.

Our first meeting in 2011 is the Construction group on 10<sup>th</sup> at 10AM followed by Coffee on Club on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Beechworth the 21<sup>st</sup>.

We should have a Dining night on the 21<sup>st</sup> with the General meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Mark the diary up now.

Finally a reminder that The Annual Murray canoe Marathon runs from Boxing day to New Years day from Tocumwal to Swan Hill and they are still looking for operators to maintain radio safety check points during this event. If you are interested then get in touch with me and I will give you further details.

On behalf of the BARG Committee I wish you all a happy and Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year.

**73 Craig VK3CMC**

## **EDITORS NOTE:**

**At this stage the INTERNET problem has still not been resolved.**

**Since N/Cable antenna change at their end, there is not enough signal at clubrooms...**

**It's all in hands, so hopefully fixed soon.**

**Harry de vk3kgf**



## QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2010-12 NOV



What to find in this months edition.

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P30 Weak Signals Propagation Reporter
- P33 Build a Tape Measure Vertical for 10-40Metres.
- P36 Infrared Radio Control of a HF Transceiver.
- P40 Antenna Gain specs, what they really mean.
- P41 Make your own center dipole insulator.
- P43 An Expanded scale Voltmeter for 240/12V AC.
- P45 Revisiting a 10 & 6 Meter mobile antenna.
- P47 Homebrew challenge for a 10 and 6M CW/SSB Tcwr.
- P48 REVIEW: ICOM IC\_R6 Port Wideband Receiver
- P50 Hamtronics R303-137 Wx Satellite Rx board.
- P52 Wouxun KG-UV2D & KG-UVD1P Dual band HTT's
- P55 Tech Correspondence Low Pass Filters.
- P57 New Product: Upgrade Bird wattmeter to digital display  
MFJ 80/160 M matching coils for 43' Vertical.
- P58 The Doctor answers various letters
- P60 Short Takes looks at the S9V Multiband Vertical.
- P61 Getting on Air. Receiver Noise Figure
- P62 New Product: Solid state 9cm Power amp by KUNE.
- P63 Hands on Radio. Ex 94. SWR & Transmission Line Loss.
- P65 Hints & Kinks. Worth reading for ideas
- P67 Story: DX contact makes a life time friendship.
- P69 Long Path from Kurgystan using 6 Meter on the Moon.
- P75 Band openings using the HF Beacons.
- P84 Eclectec Technology looks at SDR industry.
- P88 ZL8 Kermadec Island Nov – Dec.
- P93 Vintage Radio; CQD and the rescue continues.
- P97 Index for 75, 50 and 25 Years ago.
- P100 Hamspeak. Terminology used in this edition.

73 Craig  
VK3CMC



## QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2010-12 Dec.



What to find in this month's edition.

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P24 Correspondence
- P30 Constructing a Flagpole Antenna
- P33 A Switchable Sense HF Receiving antenna.
- P40 Selecting your first VHF Handheld transceiver.
- P42 Preview: Yaesu FT DX5000D HF & 6 Meter transceiver
- P48 The Doctor responds to your questions.
- P50 Short Takes. Novel 2Meter Porta Quad.
- P51 Hands on Radio Ex #95 Watt's in a Waveform.
- P53 Hints & Kinks. Good Ideas for practice.
- P58. Four new Entities on the DXCC list.
- P90 World above 50Mhz
- P95 Eclectic Technology. WebSDR. Listen to your own signal from the other side of the world.
- P96 Vintage Radio looks at Radio club museums.
- P99 Index from QST 75, 50 and 25years ago.
- P101 Hamspeak.

73 Craig, VK3CMC

### The VK3CIS ANTENNA ISSUE CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.

#### Mystery Antenna

We still don't know the technical name for the antenna (Reg CAZ may have clues).

It's use is for BBC Radio Wiltshire, 1332kHz, 300W at Lacock. (Grid reference ST928674).

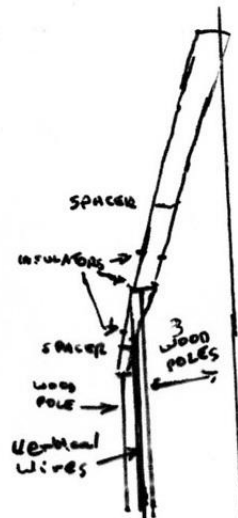
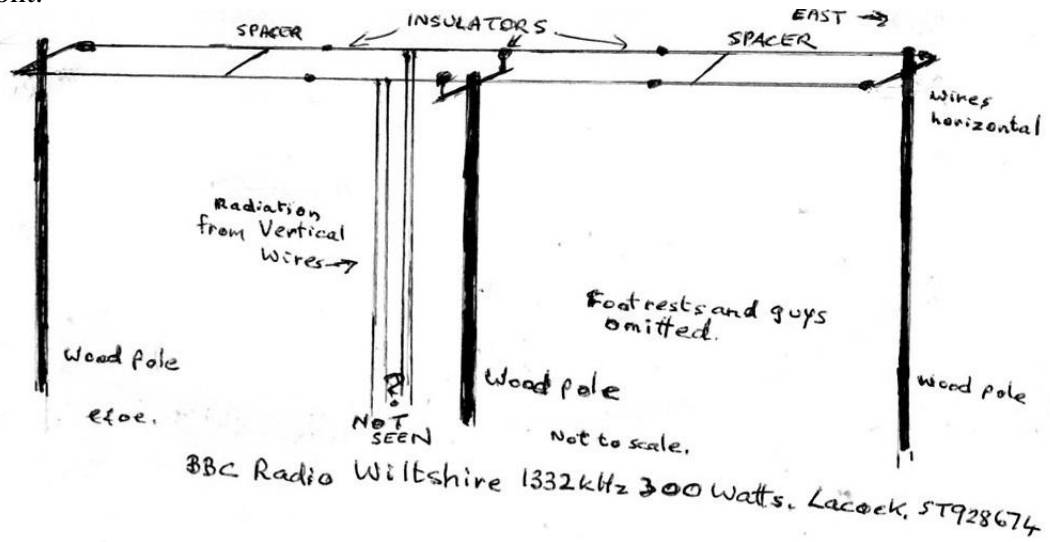
Further details can be found by going to [www.bdx.org.uk](http://www.bdx.org.uk) then click on "selected links", then click on "UK transmitter mast gallery" (near the bottom of the listing) then click on "alphabetical list of sites" then find Lacock in list. (There is no direct link to this page.)

One of the photos shows the vertical section of the antenna system. Perhaps it can be used in the BARG magazine suitably credited to the photographer.

Perhaps one of our 160m operators could put up such a rig!

Ian Stanley, vk3cis

Mystery Antenna Cont.



Drawn from photo.

BBC Radio Wiltshire 1332kHz 300 Watts. Lacock ST928 674

10 Reasons why we know Santa is a man

- 1... No dress sense
- 2... Never replies to your letters
- 3... The chances of getting what you ask for are nil.
- 4... Beer belly
5. Will only commit to one day a year.
- 6... Obsessed with stockings.
- 7... He never stops to ask for directions
- 8... Too lazy to shave
- 9... He always wears the same clothes
- 10... Only willing to do a job where people leave food and booze out for him...  
And he doesn't wash the plate up afterwards.



## **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

**Don't forget the morning coffee on  
Thursday (December 9) at our  
clubrooms.**

### **FRIDAY DECEMBER 10**

**Our annual BBQ dinner at our clubrooms.**

**Please bring a plate of salad or a sweet and your drinks while  
the club will supply the meat.**

**This is our last function for 2010.....**