



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

March

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 31st March 2017 @ 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

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Two months gone time flies when having fun.

Congratulations to Mel (vk3mel) and Doug (vk3fdre) both members have updated to a full call, sorry I cant give you their new calls but listen around and I am sure you will most certainly hear them.

Many thanks to Craig 3kg for bringing in his Ride-Mower and doing a great job of the backyard it no longer looks like a jungle, great work Craig.

Our last coffee morning was spread out with the official venue at the Special School in Norman st with a good roll up of nine members with two members who will remain anonymous at the Beechworth Bakery instead but a good time was had by all.

We have a guest speaker for February meeting who is a relative of a famous early Ballarat pioneer, being famous for his electrical inventions

But enough said we will hear it from our speaker on the night.

Sorry for the short report see you on the 24th of this month.

From the desk of *President Doug* VK3VBA

P.S. note that we now have no Rabbits at the Airport (the furry kind)

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the March newsletter. Despite my best intentions to get this out on time this month I'm again finally getting this done a week late and after the February meeting. I blame the short month of February.

A big thank-you to Craig, VK3KG who consistently provides a wealth of material for the news letter. This month he's very kindly contributed photo's of both the meeting on Friday and BBQ a few weeks ago, as well as magazine reviews and other material. Please thank him next time you talk to him.

The club has added the ability to stream the meetings via Skype, enabling some remote members to be able to join in without travelling. It might even enable us to record some meetings for playback later.

Hopefully everyone is making the most of the closing days of summer. Autumn is shaping up as a great time for some portable work too. If you do get out, please take a photo and drop a line for the news letter too.

Malcolm - VK3MEL

VHF and Above notes for February 2017

This lot of news is a real mixed bag for enthusiasts of the higher frequency bands.

The Summer Field Day has come and gone with only a few club members taking part.

Stations heard operating from home were Mick VK3GGG on 2m only and Ian VK3AXH also from home on 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 2.4G

There has been limited propagation opportunities for long distance activity from around the Ballarat area with some openings up to 2.4GHz where Ian had a 2-way qso with VK5DK at 274km at S9++ and the same on 2m, 70cm and 23cm. There have been some spasmodic openings to VK5 and VK7.

Some activity on 6m has also been noted with local stations VK3WN, VK3BNC, VK3AIG and VK3AXH. Craig has recently replaced his rotator so expect to hear from him down the track.

You will recall the Nally mast belonging to silent key member Clem VK3BVI was transported to Brisbane area by Ron VK4BVI also and ex Ballarat member who has now installed it and mounted a 6 metre antenna. Kevin VK3WN reports having a contact with Ron so those of us that can operate on 6m will be hoping to do the same in the near future.

Ian VK3AXH was invited to attend with Alan VK3XPD at Mt Buninyong for some tests back to Mt Dandenong on 10G, 47G and 78G. Most impressive contacts were had on 10G and 47G however due to conditions no contacts were made on 78G.

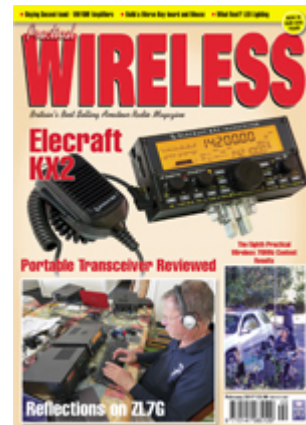
Alan moved to Mt William the next day and with the MtDandenong stations in the Otways were able to extend the Australian distance recod on 47G for both SSB and digital so well done Alan.

Photo of Alan's setup below.

73's all till next time – VK3AXH



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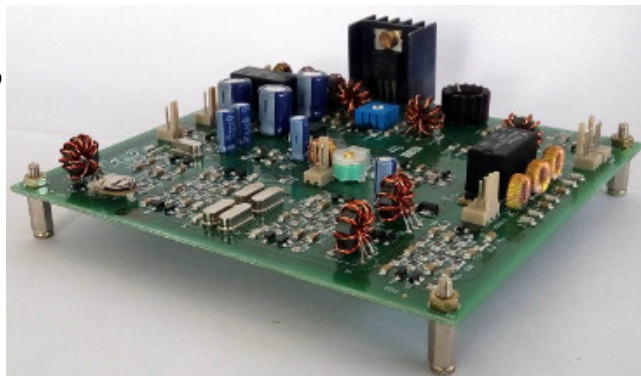


Round the Web

Bitx-40

The Bitx-40 seems to be undergoing somewhat of a revival as a simple but effective kit at the moment. There's lots of builders and reviewers who are having a go and getting it up on air. For example, checkout Paul. VK5PAS's blog, which includes a recent youtube review by Peter VK3YE. If your keen, you can get the kit from HF Signals, who are based in India. You should be able to get the who thing up and running for less \$100. Sounds like a great kit.

The new BITX40's Raduino is an Arduino Nano powered, small, hackable board based on the rock steady Si5351 synthesizer with a clean 16x2 frequency display, free and open source code, 6 analog ports, three oscillators and six digital lines.



<http://www.vk5pas.com/bitx40.html>

<http://www.hfsigs.com/>

BBQ

On Saturday 4th of February VK3FHCT organised a BBQ for members and friends of BARG, particularly those in and around Stawell.

In the back are Anne Mrs 3GGG, Lynne Mrs 3KG and Nola Mrs 3AXH.

L-R Lindsay 3CML [3WM]
Ron 3VBI, Craig 3KG,
Shaun 3 VLY, Chris 3FCHT,
Ray 3ARK [friend or 3ARM,
Lisa 3LVT, Robert 3ARM,
Mick 3GGG and Ian 3AXH.

Chris's wife Judy took this photo for us.



It was a great opportunity for some of the Ballarat members to mix with members and friends of the club who are a bit further out. Happily the weather was ideallic and a great day was had by all.

Thank you Chris for putting it all together!

Craig, VK3KG



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BARG

Fax

To: All BARG members.

From: Craig VK3KG

Fax: 001

Pages: 1.

Phone: Bombard170@gmail.com

Date: 11 Feb 2017

Re: New Call signs

cc: All

[Urgent](#)

[For Review](#)

[Please Comment](#)

[Please Reply](#)

[Please Recycle](#)

BARG members are advised that at a recent examination held at the club rooms I conducted an assessment for two members seeking to upgrade to ADVANCED level.

I am pleased to advise that there will shortly be two new call signs to be heard on the bands around town. Please listen out for a familiar voice attached to a strange callsign.

At this stage I am unable to advise their call signs but I am sure you will be able to tell once you hear them on air. All the best and congratulations to them both.

Any one else seeking to sit an upgrade should make contact with me or if you are aware of a potentially new amateur who wants to sit for the FOUNDATION, the STANDARD or the ADVANCED licence then let me know,

The club will conduct a weekend course for FOUNDATION if we have three or more candidates. Coaching for upgrades can be discussed also.

73 Craig VK3KG