



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

January

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 26th January 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

Its a nice feeling to be pampered in your own home this was the feeling I obtained at our Christmas break up, nice to walk in and immediately be confronted with table cloths bearing a Christmas message.

Doctor John in his old work clothes insisting that you partake in his up (or is it down) market wines , done well John.

Then their is our two wonderful ladies in the kitchen preparing our meal, my opinion of the meal was in one word EXCELLENT, but that is only my opinion Jenni (that's the way to spell it) our caterer some may remember from the Grey Hound track.

Nice to see our guests for the night Norm and Val D,angri who enjoyed the evening and meeting people that they had not seen for long long time.

For any one not knowing Norm and Val our logo was designed by Norm and many certificates over the years, also on the wall of our club rooms there is a painting of the club rooms painted by Val she is also well known for her restoring work on the Eureka flag.

Our raffles were well received with the exception of Ian 3yfd who has been barred from raffles in the future after winning not one but both raffles, well done Ian.

This year was different to our normal Christmas break up its been a time of great concern to me as to how it would go hopefully everyone on the night were satisfied with the result.

So in ending to all at BARG have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and all the best in the new year.

Drive safe and keep safe.



Doug Raper - From the desk of President Doug vk3vba



A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the January newsletter. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. The Christmas break event was a resounding success at the club house. Every single seat was taken and nobody had to stand. Lots of social interaction by members new and old. Really great effort by the organisers. Doug in particular needs to be thanked for driving the evening.

Have you been following the chatter in social media about with WIA board. Some WIA members feel that the management of the WIA has been less than optimal. Of course it's common knowledge that the WIA has been losing money for a number of years now. Over the last few weeks of 2016 two directors resigned along with both the treasurer and assistant treasurer. All the remaining board have agreed to vacate their positions at the next general election, meaning all positions will be up for election. So the next election will be a crucial one for the future of the WIA. You can influence the outcome by voting in the election, as long as you are a member. As the peak body representing our hobby, the WIA serves a vital function, it needs strong effective leadership, decided by the members. If you are not currently a member, now's the time to sign up.

Lastly, Craig, VK3KG, reported that he'd recently ran an assessment at the club rooms which resulted in a new Standard licence being issued for Lisa, VK3LVT, who lives up Grampians way. Hope to hear her on air shortly. She currently has an SDR receiver to listen with. Congratulations Lisa.

Malcolm - VK3MEL

VHF and Above for January 2017

It has been a fairly slow start to the DX season this year some of which is related to the weather pattern but will hopefully change soon allowing the higher frequency enthusiasts to get amongst that elusive DX.

The VHF Spring field Day has come and gone with only a few taking part. Those active in the field were VK3KG Craig who setup near Colac at Warion Hill and John VK3AIG and Ian VK3AXH at Mt Buninyong. We are not quite sure at this stage why we had a number of equipment failures occurring on 6 metres, 5.7G and 10G bands.

However we did manage to contact Craig from Mt Buninyong on 3.4G using his modified panel and quite a few other stations operating from both in the field and at home.

The thing we did miss out on was the fantastic 2m opening from VK1/VK2/VK3 and VK5 at least to FK8CP in New Caledonia. The only local station to enjoy a contact was Kevin VK3WN which is a great achievement.

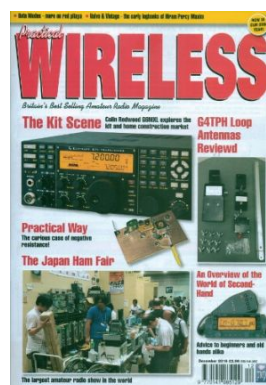
A number of our club members are active on 6 metres with contacts into most Australian States and New Zealand. Those stations being VK3WN, VK3AIG, VK3BNC, VK3KQT, VK3AXH and VK3AQM. I believe that Davo VK3GND also has this band available but we've not heard him yet. No doubt there will be others that I've missed as well.

This group is presently trying to sort out some of their radio problems and hope to take part in the Summer Field Day that occurs in mid January.

If you have a report then please send it to our magazine editor Malcolm VK3MEL or to Ian VK3AXH.

Till next time 73 de VK3AXH

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And that is the year that was 2016.



Post Office - Christmas story (yes, it's this time of the year again)

There was a guy who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read:

Dear God,

I am an 86 year old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment.

Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope.

Can you please help me?

Sincerely, *Edna*

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter came from the same old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read:

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift to me.

By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it might have been those bastards at the Post Office.

Sincerely,

Edna

Thanks to Craig, VK3KG

Salgoud sent in this email, which when I first opened it thought it seemed a bit sexist. I might have to have a word with him about what's appropriate for the news letter. Having read it all the way through I think it might be okay. What do you reckon?

Subject: Oil Change instructions for Women

Oil Change instructions for Women:

- 1) Drive into Ultra Tune when the odometer reaches 10,000 kilometres since the last oil change.
- 2) Drink a cup of coffee, read free paper.
- 3) 15 minutes later, swipe the credit card and leave with a properly maintained vehicle.

Money spent:

Oil Change:	\$ 40.00
Coffee:	\$ 2.00
Total:	\$ 42.00

Oil Change instructions for Men:

- 1) Wait until Saturday, drive to auto parts store and buy a case of oil, filter, kitty litter, hand cleaner and a scented tree, swipe the Visa for \$50.00.
 - 2) Stop by the Bottle Shop and buy a slab of beer, swipe the Visa for \$40, drive home.
 - 3) Open a beer and drink it.
 - 4) Jack car up. Spend 30 minutes looking for jack stands.
 - 5) Find jack stands under caravan.
 - 6) In frustration, open another beer and drink it.
 - 7) Place drain pan under engine.
 - 8) Look for 19 mm ring spanner.
 - 9) Give up and use crescent wrench.
 - 10) Unscrew drain plug.
 - 11) Drop drain plug in pan of hot oil: splash hot oil on you in process. Curse and swear.
 - 12) Crawl out from under car to wipe hot oil off face and arms. Throw kitty litter on spilled oil.
 - 13) Have another beer while watching oil drain.
 - 14) Spend 30 minutes looking for oil filter wrench.
 - 15) Give up; crawl under car and hammer a screwdriver through oil filter and twist off.
 - 16) Crawl out from under car with dripping oil filter splashing oil everywhere from holes. Cleverly, hide old oil filter among rubbish in rubbish bin to avoid environmental penalties..
- Drink a beer.
- 17) Install new oil filter making sure to apply a thin coat of oil to gasket surface.
 - 18) Dump first litre of fresh oil into engine.
 - 19) Remember drain plug from step 11.
 - 20) Hurry to find drain plug in drain pan.
 - 21) Drink beer.
 - 22) Discover that first litre of fresh oil is now on the floor. Throw kitty litter on oil spill.
 - 23) Get drain plug back in with only a minor spill. Drink beer.
 - 24) Crawl under car getting kitty litter into eyes. Wipe eyes with oily rag used to clean drain plug. Slip with stupid crescent wrench tightening drain plug and bang knuckles on frame removing any excess skin between knuckles and frame.
 - 25) Begin swearing fit.
 - 26) Throw stupid crescent wrench.
 - 27) Swear for additional 5 minutes because wrench hit bowling trophy.
 - 28) Beer.
 - 29) Clean up hands and bandage as required to stop blood flow.
 - 30) Beer.
 - 31) Dump in five fresh liters of oil.
 - 32) Beer.
 - 33) Lower car from jack stands.
 - 34) Move car back to apply more kitty litter to fresh oil spilled during any missed steps.
 - 35) Beer.
 - 36) Test drive car.
 - 37) Get pulled over: arrested for driving under the influence.
 - 38) Car is impounded.
 - 39) Call loving wife, make bail.
 - 40) 12 hours later, get car from impound yard.

Money spent:

Parts:	\$ 50.00
Driving Under Influence fine:	\$ 2500.00
Impound fee:	\$ 75.00
Bail:	\$ 1500.00
Beer:	\$ 40.00
Total:	\$ 4,185.00



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But you know the job was done right!

Salgoud

Round the Web

Work's kept me rather busy in the last few weeks of 2016, which as well as slowing the writing up of the news letter, has also left me little time to browse the web and note down sites I found interesting. So as a last minute thing I've grabbed a few Youtube sites that I find of interest. Youtube is great resource for lots help with of projects, keep it in mind when looking for guidance on your next job round the shack.

Youtube channel : VK3YE – Peter Parker

Peter's well known in VK and international QRP circles and has a number of publications that I've mentioned here. He's also got a very popular Youtube channel with many radio topics covered in informational and well explained videos.

Peter's been a great supporter of Amateur Radio, and his channel is well worth a look.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/vk3ye>



Youtube Channel : EEV Blog – Dave Jones

An Electronics Engineering Video Blog, describes itself as “An off-the-cuff Video Blog for Engineers, Hobbysits, Hackers and Makers.” Run by Dave Jones who's has a background as a professional design engineer. Dave covers lots of product tear downs with commentary on what what's built well and what's not.

None of Dave's videos are short, and his passion for the stuff he's doing really comes through. If your

considering a bit of gear it's worth seeing if Dave has a related review because he'll have good advice on what to look for, even if he's not covered the specific item your interested in.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EEVblog>



Youtube Channel : Click

This isn't a radio site, but it's well made and I thought interesting, so worth a mention. The owner of the site put together a very small workshop behind his house in Townsville and covers the projects being built. The first major project was a clock, the videos step through the making of the various components, and also some tools that were needed along the way.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCworsKCR-Sx6R6-BnIjS2MA>

