



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

January

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Saturday 30th January @ 11:30am

Face to Face! Out at the clubhouse at the 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 1218
Mail Centre
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : vk3bml@barg.org.au

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

Presidents November Report

Welcome to 2021. Not sure what happened there. A moment ago it was 2020 and I was due to write and send out the December newsletter. But here we are, almost at the end of the first month of 2021. I guess that means that 2020 only got 11 newsletters. I've been a bit behind on a few other things, so if you're waiting on something from me, I apologise in advance.

Our Christmas break up went extremely well, perfect weather and we set up in the shade of the large tree out the front of the club. There was no shortage of food, drink or good company.



Doug and Peter did most of the cooking and by a stroke of just good luck, there was more than enough supervision of the proceedings to make sure everything was done just right.

Though at the end they declared that the meal should be considered a send off for the BBQ as it had long seen it's best days.



Something that's since been addressed, as the club is the proud owners of a brand new BBQ waiting to be assembled and tested out at the next meeting.



I'm not sure what the discussion was there. It seems pretty serious. Perhaps someone might help with some captions for the next newsletter.

They moved from WA to Vic and kept their VK6 call!? What's the hobby coming too?!



We're all hoping that 2021 won't have the sort of pandemic restrictions that 2020 put up with. To that end, the next meeting will be face to face out at the club. To help with distancing we'll be meeting on Saturday, kicking off at 11:30, with a BBQ at some point in the proceedings.

We've tried to line up a speaker, but not sure if that will work or not, so that'll be confirmed on the day.

It'll be pretty casual and played by ear, so come along and feel free to bring along anyone who might be interested in the hobby or the club.

Peter, VK3PWG has proposed a 40m SSB transceiver for a construction project for 2021. Sounds like a great idea, which I'm certainly keen on. Next construction night is this coming Monday. We'll discuss if this is to be virtual or face to face on Saturday.

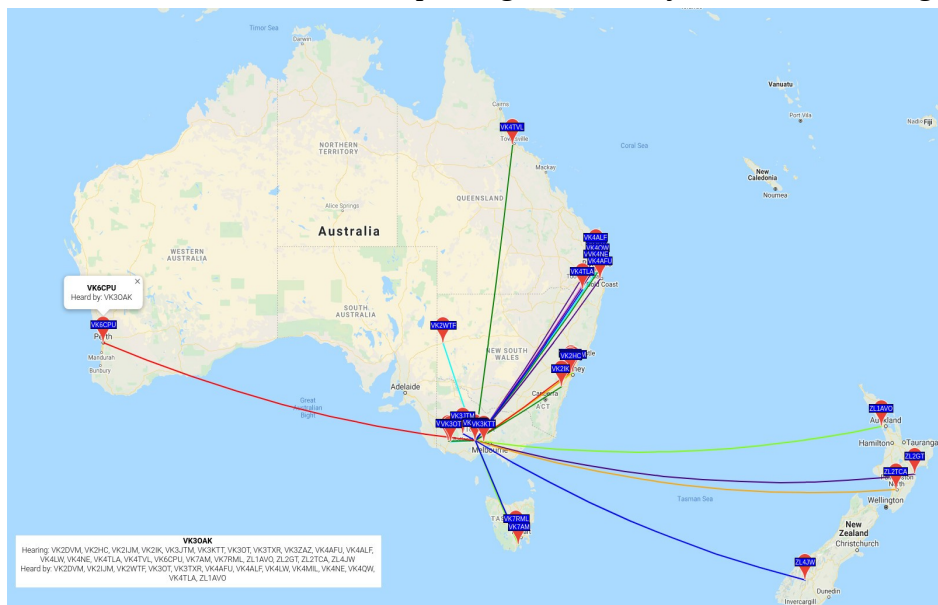


At the last committee meeting we discussed the format of our general meetings. The consensus was that we spend too much time on general business, and not enough on the topic of the evening. To address the chair of the meeting (which is usually me) has been asked to limit the time spent on general business. The ask was to limit general business to 15 minutes, which I suspect is optimistic. 20 is more likely.

Many topics that needs more discussion will be pushed to the committee, for discussion in the committee meetings.

We are always looking for interesting topics and speakers for our general meetings. The topic doesn't need to be radio related, though it obviously helps. We would usually look for technical topics, but again, doesn't have to be. Let me or any of the committee know if you have any ideas.

On air conditions seem to be improving. I've left my 6m WSPR running for a bit. I run ½ a



watt, and managed some good good reports. 8th of Jan the map looked like this, and other days also got reception out as far as Fiji!.

That's enough for now. Look forward to seeing you on Saturday or Monday, or perhaps catching you on air.

Malcolm. VK3OAK.

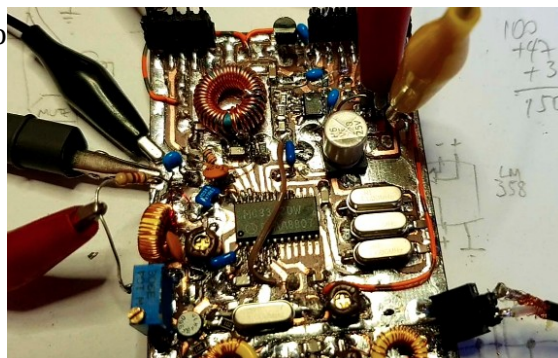
VK3BML HF NET OPERATORS.				
DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	BACK UP	NAME
28-Jan-21	VK3MCL	Scott	VK3KG	Craig
4-Feb-21	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3KG	Craig
11-Feb-21	VK3KG	Craig	VK3TXR	Paul
18-Feb-21	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3QY	Chris
25-Feb-21	VK3QY	Chris	VK3ALM	Lachlan
4-Mar-21	VK3ALM	Lachlan	VK3DRE	Doug
11-Mar-21	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3MCL	Scott
18-Mar-21	VK3MCL	Scott	VK3AXH	Ian
25-Mar-21	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3KG	Craig
1-Apr-21	VK3KG	Craig	VK3TXR	Paul
8-Apr-21	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3QY	Chris
15-Apr-21	VK3QY	Chris	VK3ALM	Lachlan
22-Apr-21	VK3ALM	Lachlan	VK3DRE	Doug
29-Apr-21	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3MCL	Scott
6-May-21	VK3MCL	Scott	VK3AXH	Ian
13-May-21	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3KG	Craig
20-May-21	VK3KG	Craig	VK3TXR	Paul
27-May-21	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3QY	Chris

Expressions of Interest.

For a club project/s - Building a 7MHz DSB Transceiver and/or also building a Z Match Antenna Tuner or similar Antenna Match unit as future club projects.

Club member Peter VK3PWG is going to embark upon these projects as a learning tool for amateur radio and is keen to turn this into a club project with other club members. These are projects that have been undertaken previously with a great deal of success, this can be a very rewarding and fun project as well as providing a useful learning ground for radio amateurs.

If there are any members who would like to embark upon the challenge please show you Expression of Interest to Peter VK3PWG by sending an email to vk3pwg@wia.org.au



(Photo is from a the blog of VK3HN, who's home brew projects constantly impress me. <https://vk3hn.wordpress.com/>)

Any club member interested in a tower?

I have been asked if any of our club members would be interested in a four stage crank p tower. A member of our fire brigade has this device to sell and is asking \$200 but that could be negotiated with him. The tower is currently a triangular guyed four stage tower. The base section measures a 290mm across one face and the next stage is 240mm, then 180 and 130mm. I have some photos which are avail if interested. I will pass on contact name and telephone to members who ask me (Craig) on email or ring 5342 2448.

VHF and Above for December 2020

It's hard to comprehend that the year is almost over as we come into the season when propagation can throw all sorts of conditions at us. The past few weeks hasn't let enthusiasts down with plenty of digital and voice communications being heard on 6mx and 2mx. Over the past weeks there has been plenty of openings on both these bands to all States in VK as well as ZL and FK8.

Perhaps the most interesting thing that has occurred in VK has been the success of so many VK's on 6mx into South America with beams pointing down over the Arctic region. One of our achievers is Steve VK3ZAZ/OT picking up 2 additional countries now making his total over 140 which is a great achievement. These last two qso's was with the digital mode JT65A. To have a look at the diary of one of these stations look at this link to gain an appreciation of how these contacts were made.



[EI7GL....A diary of amateur radio activity Remarkable 13,000 km opening on 6-metres between Australia and South America - 12th Dec 2020.pdf](#)

In addition to these conditions there was also a WSPR communication between a VK2 and a VK6 which created a new distance record within VK. If only the 2 stations had been in attendance perhaps that could have become a new SSB record as well.

There have been some good SSB openings into VK7 on 2mx and also the beacons from NW Tasmania being heard in lots of places in VK3 and some good SSB qso's as well.

I hope you all get plenty of DX over the coming weeks and look forward to hearing what's been heard in you shack early in the new year.

The VHF/UHF Spring Field Day has come and gone with some club members participating namely VK3TOT from home and VK3BNC and VK3AXH from Mt Buninyong. Gear in operation ranged from 2m through to 10G. Although only a few hours of participation was undertaken signals between Mt Tassie and Buninyong were S9 which was great with Ralph VK3WRE at the other end.

Antenna Project

I'm letting those who are participating in this project that all is ready to begin putting bits and pieces together. Over the next few weeks we need to come up with a plan to get this under way. The part yet to be done is the cutting and drilling of the boom to accommodate the elements which have been pre packaged to make things a bit easier.

I look forward to hearing about your DX in the weeks to come. For those that have added to this column please accept my thanks. Have a great xmas and new year.

Till next time de VK3AXH

Editors note: Apologies to Ian, this should have been published last month!. My bad.