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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

100 Years of known Amateur Radio Activity in Ballarat

The Ballarat Amateur Radio Group (BARG) is proud to have a long history associated with Ballarat. It is recorded that the inaugural meeting of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Club (as it was at that time) occurred in June 1923.

Amateur Radio (also known as ham radio) is a popular hobby that brings people, electronics and communication together. Amateur radio activity was the first social media, long before twitter, youtube and facebook.

Our modern digital world is reliant on very reliable infrastructure which can be overloaded or fail, Amateur radio however can still get the message through as it does not rely on physical wires. The hobby is for all ages, be it a youngster just starting out on a career in technology or someone looking for new learning opportunities, broadening their horizons or just to making good friends. It is an excellent hobby for those recently retired or wanting to have the possibility of communication for safety whilst caravanning around Australia. Scouting in Australia usually involves Amateur Radio as part of it's experiences and is involved in a global activity called Jamboree On the Air

There are participants who engage in the simplest activities, and those who use their technical ability to push the digital age to its limits using amateur radio. Bouncing a radio signal off the moon, or off an orbiting satellite, having a quick listen or even a chat with astronauts in the space station, establishing a contact with someone on a push bike in the UK whilst you are in a car in the middle of Australia..... it's all exciting and very possible with amateur radio. It's fun, social, educational, and a great foundation for a career in all forms of communications as well as the catalyst for life long friendships.

Amateur radio, the magic of wireless, is alive and well and even more accessible than ever.

All this however, would not have been possible but for the work and efforts of pioneers and experimenters

The centenary of the first known amateur radio club meeting on June 23rd 1923 is significant and BARG hopes to use it as an opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio as a worthwhile hobby within the community and highlight Ballarat as a significant regional town in Victoria.

BARG is sponsoring a month long "ON AIR" event to commemorate 100 years of known Amateur radio activity in Ballarat by offering an electronic certificate to any amateur radio station who makes at least one "ON-AIR" Radio contact with any Ballarat based Amateur Radio station during the month of June. The certificate is also available to Short Wave listeners who make a report.

Full details about this event are available on the BARG website WWW.BARG.ORG.AU, or via Facebook social media: search for Ballarat Amateur Radio Group.

The Ballarat Amateur Radio Group was formed in the late 1970s and is a diverse group of people who are interested in amateur radio. Some members have professional careers in related industries. Some are just interested in the technology. Amateur radio is a multifaceted hobby, members share similar interests. If you are just starting out, BARG will be an invaluable source of knowledge and guidance. If you've been part of the hobby for many decades, there will be members who will benefit from your experience. The club also provides members with access to a technical library, test equipment, metal working and electrical components as well as a range of on air gear. Last, but certainly not least, the club provides a great social environment, with regular technical meetings and social catch ups, such as coffee mornings and regular pub meal.