

# B.A.R.G. News



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



**VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1 January 2006**



President: David Tilson VK3UR  
Secretary: John Kennedy VK3AIG  
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 27, 2006**  
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: [vk3aig@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3aig@barg.org.au)

## BARG Inc. Life members

Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Jim Wright	VK3CFB
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Phil Seddon	
Stan Widgery	dec.

## CLUB INFORMATION

### REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750 Mhz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100 Mhz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750 Mhz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475 Mhz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(Beacon)	435.535 Mhz	Mt Buninyong

**IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RRWA

**CLUB e-mail** [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au).

**CLUB NET** VK3BML 3.610+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

**WIA Broadcast and Club Call Back.** Sunday's 11.00 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

**NEWS ITEMS** Send to Harry VK3KGL

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail [vk3kgl@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3kgl@barg.org.au)

### Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 10.30 am, WIA National News, followed by VICLINK

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

Every Wednesday night at 9.30 pm, Spectrum Tasmania News

## MOWING ROSTER



It is that time again when we publish the mowing roster for the Club rooms. The mower and fuel are at the rooms, but when the fuel is getting low please contact the committee to get a refill. Any new "mowers" will be fitted in.



Jan VK3CMC & VK3IDL  
Feb VK3DMK & VK3FGC  
March VK3AXH & VK3TJW



## **Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc**

Minutes of General Meeting November 25 2005

Meeting opened by President David @ 1940 hrs.

Apologies Vk3cfh. Vk3ash. Vk3pal. Vk3idl. Vk3caz. Vk3hrz..Vk3det.

Welcome to Daryl. Jim. Ben. Ken Bilston.

Minutes of October meeting as circulated. Moved Vk3hhk/Vk3cmc. Carried.  
Business Arising. Special Fee Structure Foundation License in Committee Report.

Correspondence. In Com Bank, City of Ballarat, Paul Karlstrand. Mags.  
Out. Thanks you to Greg Andrew. Alan Devlin. Paul Karlstrand.  
Claureen Wilson, for prize donation Hamvention.  
Moved that correspondence be accepted, Vk3bnc/ Vk3vba. Carried.

Financial Statement and a/cs passed. Moved Vk3fgc/Vk3kgl. Carried.

Reports. Ballarat Airport Open Day. Special thanks to all concerned ,Very well attended, Two City of Ballarat Councilor in attendance. Displays of HF,VHF.Satellite Tracking, Videos and Foundation License.

New Hamvention Venue. Bob Vk3bnc with Ian Vk3axh and Doug Vk3vba reported visiting Woolshed as possible venue for next years Hamvention, Ample space and parking, Waive GST for early booking. Trestles and catering supplied.\$500.00 Cost  
Moved Bob Vk3nbv and seconded Harry Vk3kgl that BARG relocate to Woolshed for next years 2006 Hamvention, Carried.

Hamvention. Thanks to Ian Vk3axh and all involved. 65 Traders and 300 visitors.  
Well received door prizes. Thanks to Greg Andrew, Paul Karlstrand. Alan Devlin,  
And Claureen Wilson. Home Brew winner John Vk3tjw. Venue next year Woolshed.

Committee Report, Foundation License Classes, Committee decided that Candidates taking part in classes at BARG would be charged a fee of \$70.00 which in real terms has a value of \$100.00. 1xset of examinations (\$25) Foundation License Training Manual (\$20.00) Training Classes (\$25) One years membership.(\$30.00).

Foundation License Examinations. Examination Kit (\$25.00) Club Fee to be decided.  
Club to purchase 5 x examination kits and 5 x foundation license training manuals approximate cost \$250.00.

Craig Vk3cmc WIA Nominated Assessor.

Merv Vk3adx suggested that Barg mug be given to first pass in Foun License Agreed

Thanks to Robert Vk3zrf for donation of computers.

Thanks to Doug Vk3vba for procuring panel for workshop. Working Bee to take place tomorrow morning .  
Computer to be installed in Library.

General Business. Thanks to Newsletter editor Harry Vk3kgl  
Construction Group. Ian Vk3axh reported that ant analysers nearly complete.

Technical Ian Vk3axh reported that problems with new repeater Vk3rwa nearly sorted out. Problems with internal power supply.

Club Nets Clem reported going well , Looking for new callers.

Ian Vk3cis reported Western Zone usual number,

Dining Night, David Vk3ur reported on Pancake Kitchen and reminded members of BBQ to be held on December 16 at Clubrooms Barg to supply drinks, meat and bread BYO salad.

Short Wave Radio Patrick Miners Rest requires help Bob Vk3bnc to assist.

Clem Vk3bvi reported white noise on 70cm repeater Hollowback Ian vk3axh to attend.

Doug Vk3vba reported 27 people on call back this month.

President David wished all a happy Christmas and advised no General Meeting for December. Next General Meeting 27 Jan 2006.

### **Propagation Report for January 2006**

Well here we go with the beginning of a new year and there has been plenty happening on the higher frequency bands.

Steve VK3SE reports good DX to be had on 40 metres into Europe and that VK0 has been active on 20 metres into VK.

With the improvement in weather there has been a significant upturn in propagation on 6 metres and above. Almost daily openings on 6 metres within VK and ZL have occurred with local stations heard including VK3YNB, VK3KLM, VK3IDL, VK3WN and VK3AXH. Most contacts have been into VK4 with some into VK2 and ZL.

2 metres is also alive and well. Plenty of contacts to be made into VK2/3/4/5/7. An interesting short opening on 3<sup>rd</sup> January when VK3WN and VK3AXH worked Ray VK4BLK in Yeppoon. The opening only lasted for around 20 minutes and was mainly in the western part of the state. VK7AC has been quite active from near Launceston and putting good signals into VK2/3/5.

70cm has also been active with contacts into VK1/2/5/7. The Western Australian Mt Barker 70cm beacon on 432.563 was heard in Ballarat on 2<sup>nd</sup> January for most of the morning and finally faded out around 2pm. Unfortunately no stations around at the time.

1296Mhz has been good towards Mt Gambier with regular contacts at good signal strength.

In addition to the above the VHF Field Day was held on the weekend of 14/15 January with many stations participating both from home and portable. Ballarat Stations heard giving reports were VK3WN, VK3KQB, VK3AIG and VK3AXH.

Brian VK3KQB is now operational on 2 metres SSB and hopes to get his temporary antenna setup on the new mast in the next few weeks – Well done Brian.

I can only report it if I'm told. What contacts are you having in the shack. How about letting the rest of us know what you are doing. Are there any of you actually on the air? If not what are you all doing?

73's till next time....Ian VK3AXH

## President's Report:

Welcome to members, families and friends of BARG for another year. Hopefully each of you were on Santa's nice list and received a new radio. I can only assume that Santa ran out of room on the sleigh for mine... maybe next Christmas...

There has been quite a lot of activity at the club over the Christmas season. Stewart, **VK3ASH**, and Craig, **VK3CMC**, built some new shelves for our library and Craig has been busy ever since sorting through the collection of journals and books. Craig reported at last night's Committee Meeting that we have a number of double ups and triple ups of various magazines, some of which will be available at the next General Meeting on a first come, first serve basis. Thanks guys for all of your efforts. Craig advised that there are a number of magazines, particularly QST, that are missing from our library. If you have borrowed some please return them as soon as possible.

Harry, **VK3KGL**, and Bob, **VK3BNC**, have purchased a rack mount cabinet which is currently being installed in the club rooms. It will house the network switch cables, IRLP computer and other ancillary equipment.

There was good discussion at the January Construction Night about possible projects for 2006. Throughout this newsletter you will see a list of projects discussed. If any of them tempt you, please advise Ian, **VK3AXH**. It was agreed that the first activities for the new year will be to complete the computer cabling and workshop walls and to establish training facilities so that the Foundation Licence examinations can be conducted.

The first training course for prospective Foundation Licensee's is to be held, with registrations and initial homework being set, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The training course and examinations being conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> of February. We already have 5 candidates wishing to undertake the course and it was agreed that we would limit the first course to 5 candidates so that we can identify and manage any problems that might arise. The instructors will comprise Ian, **VK3AXH**, Bob, **VK3BNC**, John, **VK3AIG** and David, **VK3UR** with examinations being conducted by Craig, **VK3CMC** and one of our current invigilators. Equipment for the practical component of the examination is currently being prepared in readiness for the weekend.

The John Moyle Memorial Field Day is nearing once again. It is set for the 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> March and the Committee agreed that we should once again compete. The venue has not been decided yet, but we would love to see as many members and prospective amateurs come along and join in the fun. This is a great opportunity to practise and develop skills in establishing a portable radio station as well as dealing with the elements, whether they be rain, hail, snow, or sunshine.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, **VK3UR**

## February Dining Night:

The next Dining Night will be held at the Midlands Golf Club on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, commencing at 6:30PM. If you'd like to come along then please call David, **VK3UR**, on 5334-1888 AH or send an email to [vk3ur@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3ur@barg.org.au)



## FROM THE B.A.R.G. CLUB LIBRARY.

At last we have some new bookshelves and I am in the process of sorting out the large pile of magazines that have been recently donated to the club and have been laying on the floor. Currently we have completed sets of the WIA's Amateur Radio magazine dating from 1958 up to 2005 on the shelves. Unfortunately we are missing some months from the recent years and I am keen to see if any one has borrowed them, or maybe has any unwanted ones to help fill the gap. I will publish the missing dates in the next newsletter We also have some duplication in copies of AR so I intend to resort and select the best sets for our shelves and then decide the future of the other copies.

**The ARRL's QST** magazine is also a subscribed magazine and we do have a large whole in some of these for the past few years. If anyone has an excess copy they could give to the library it would allow us to fill up the past few years editions. We also have some older editions of QST, 73 and CQ magazines that I have to yet catalogue .but as soon as they are done I will advertise them in the newsletter. Missing QST are as follows:

**2005.** July and August.

**2004.** Jan, Mar, May July, Aug, Sept and Dec.

**2003.** Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug and Oct.

**2001.** Feb, May, Aug, Sep, Oct and Nov.

**2000.** Mar, Apr, May, Jun, July, Aug, Sept, Oct and Dec.

I want to maintain complete sets from the start of the millenium and just keep a register of the individual copies dating back to the 1960's.

I am sure members will still find useful readings there.

Not all copies of magazines have yet been stamped with the clubs ID so if you wish to borrow something and its not yet been stamped could you please let me know before you take it and I will fix it up.

In case people do not realise we are no longer using the loan books that were kept in the table in the meeting room. There is a separate Loan book in the Library [an exercise book] that has been ruled up into columns.

Please write accurately with book/magazine description as it helps me to ascertain where something may be from a set of items later on.

Although loan periods are not fixed it would be fairer to members if current magazines or exclusive books could only be borrowed for a month and returned at the next meeting or construction night.. Please feel free to make suggestions or donations to the running of the club library.

## **Review QST November '05**

The November edition of QST caught my eye with its article on page 36 of the Stub directed 80M beam. Upon reading, and the need for an 80' pole it was given a miss this time around although tempting to try with the area I have available. Ah well, it was a good read.

The articles of interest were:

1. Page 28 Not another touch Key
  2. " " 31 Surprising results with a low hidden wire antenna.
  3. " " 36 A Stub directed 80 Meter beam.
  4. " " 39 New products-ORION 11 HF Transceiver from Ten Tec. Clamp on RF Current meter from MFJ.
  5. " " 40 A low cost DDS function generator.
  6. " " 43 The Katrina Chronicles 1.
  7. " " 49 ARRL President Haynie's testimony on Hams Katrina Response.
  8. " " 60 The Doctor is in.
  9. " " 62 Short takes Electronic Genius- a CD.
  10. " " 66 The FoxFinder Antenna.
  11. " " 73 Product review: ICOM ID-800H dual-band FM and digital transceiver; LDG Electronics TW-1 talking watt meter.
  12. " " 92 Old Radio
- The advertisements are ALWAYS interesting.

73's Clem VK3BVI

## **Christmas Dinner!**

By Bob, vk3bnc

Our annual Christmas Bar-b-que was held at the clubrooms. A large group enjoyed our social finale for the year 2005.

A sumptuous concoction of bar-b-qued sausages and hamburgers, salads and sweets topped off a great social occasion.

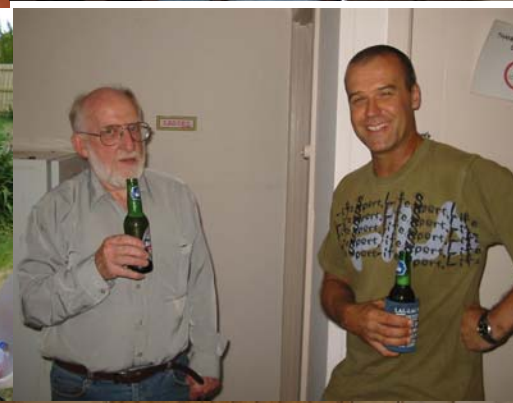
Special thanks to the ladies for their delicious sweets and salads and “ of course” to the “bar-b-quer extraordinaire” Ian, axh. Along with the “snap happy chappies” Bob NBV and Harry KGL whose masterpieces will appear here or in the club gallery so be watching.

Thanks to our committee who provided the meat and drinks.

Some photo's next page.

# BARG Xmas break up party 2005

Some of us that made it to the breakup.





## Some IRLP Functions

DTMF Code:	Announcement / Function:
# 0	Check node status
# 1	Announce what the menu options are (Does not list all #2x options)
# 73 and 73	End any connected link
# 2	Weather menu (List's what the #2x options are)
# 20	Weather for Ballarat
# 21	Weather for Bendigo
# 22	Weather for Stawell
# 23	Weather for Ararat
# 24	Weather for Hamilton
# 25	Weather for Maryborough
# 26	Weather for Horsham
# 27	Weather for Castlemaine
# 3	Say the time
# 4	Call a random node
# 5	Watch a busy node and try to connect when it's free
# 10	Announce BARG General Meeting information
# 11	Announce BARG HF Net information
# 12	Announce BARG Hamvention information
#1 3	Announce BARG Monthly information

IRLP stands for "Internet Radio Linking Project". The aim of this project is to link radio systems separated by long distance without the use of expensive leased lines, satellites, or controllers.



From the 'Cook', vk3cmc

### **A Great Chicken Recipe**

**TRY THIS TO SEE IF IT WORKS!**

Here is a chicken recipe that also includes the use of popcorn as a stuffing, imagine that. When I found this recipe, I thought it was perfect for people like me, who just are not sure how to tell when poultry is thoroughly cooked, but not dried out. Give this a try.

#### **BAKED STUFFED CHICKEN**

6-7 lb. Chicken  
1 cup melted butter  
1 cup stuffing (Pepperidge Farm is good.)  
1 cup uncooked popcorn (ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S LOW FAT.) Salt/pepper to taste

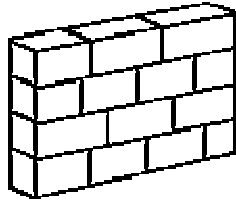
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush chicken well with melted butter salt, and pepper.  
Fill cavity with stuffing and popcorn. Place in baking pan with the neck end toward the back of the oven.  
Listen for the popping sounds.

When the chicken's ass blows the oven door open and the chicken flies across the room, it's done.

And, you thought I couldn't cook...

## **FIREWALLS. What are they?**

The Internet is a wonderful tool, connecting us instantly to the rest of the world and services like Internet banking, chatrooms and email are an indispensable part of our lives. With some simple precautions we can safely enjoy the Internet and guard against unwanted viruses and other intrusions, much like locking the front door when we leave the house.



world wide web    |    firewall    |    personal computer

A firewall is a barrier which will keep unwanted intruders from ever reaching your computer. Anti-virus software is a must for any Internet user, and will remove viruses which have already made it onto your computer. A firewall is a first line of defense. It works by checking the information coming into your Internet connection and filtering out potentially harmful material before it downloads onto your computer.

A firewall can be a hardware device or a computer program. Big businesses have powerful, expensive firewalls to protect their information and their customers, but there are also many excellent firewalls designed specifically for home use. Many domestic broadband modem/routers come with an inbuilt firewall.

Firewalls for home users may not have the grunt of one used by a Swiss bank, but they have become a low cost way of providing an excellent level of protection for the home computer. In the same way that a burglar will target an unlocked home over one with deadlocks and an alarm, Internet criminals find it easier to infect unprotected home computers than those with firewalls and anti-virus software.

### **Freeware Security Software**

SpamBayes 1.04, (**Spam Filter**)    Web: <http://spambayes.sourceforge.net>

Spybot – Search & Destroy 1.4, (**Antispyware tool**)    Web: [www.safer-networking.org](http://www.safer-networking.org)

Grisoft AVG Free Edition, (**Antivirus program**)    Web: <http://free.grisoft.com>

ZoneAlarm, (**Firewall**)    Web: [www.zonelabs.com](http://www.zonelabs.com)

### **Other Useful Anti-virus links**

- <http://www.symantec.com/index.htm>
- <http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp>
- <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/>
- <http://www.vet.com.au>

# QST January 2006 Review

A versatile audio speech processor for the FT-817/857/897 series combined with an 800Hz-tuning signal to simplify antenna-tuning makes this an interesting home brew project. A worthwhile addition for these rigs. P 31.

Elevation Angle Measurements.

An interesting article on “local propagation” techniques, which will appeal to those “NVIS” pundits and also with application to WICEN members. Conducted by a group of Dutch radio club members it makes interesting reading. P 28.

Collins 75A-4 Receiver.

Well for those who can remember this “Queen of the airwaves” it will warm the cockles of your heart. P 36.

A Short History of Radio Transmitters.

I would consider this a must read. If you think you do it hard and have trouble with the “tune and load” controls then spare a thought for our forefathers and see how our art has evolved. Its great! P40.

Secret Agent- Hams remembering “Camp X” and Ultra!

A man called Intrepid - Sir William Stephenson, Churchill’s right hand man. A tribute to the hams so vital to camp “X” and Ultra. If you have read of Bletchley Park then you will enjoy this article. With technical information on antennas and transmitters, some behind the scenes stuff. P48.

A descendant of Samuel Morse takes a look at some historical keys. P51.

A Sound Card Multimode Controller Switch.

If you built the sound card modem in our construction group then you may well take a look at this one and see how another amateur got round the problem of switching and saving plug swapping! This is another good home workshop project. P59.

Departments;

There are the usual departments including the “doctor’s in”. A review of an Automatic ATU for the FT-817, which covers from 106-6 metres. [www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)

No not an 807!

You have heard this before “Try a Hearty Pint of Ale” Dx hunters and propagationists will stir to this one. A Ham version of a military system “Ale” Automatic Link Establishment. Some stimulating ideas here so turn your search engines to [www.hflink.com](http://www.hflink.com) and do some reading. P 88.

The SoftRock 40.

Tiny all mode receivers that plug into your USB port and in kit form. Drawing their power from the USB port and using the sound card for the receiver signal processing. Just a great project for our construction group so have a look and see what you think. The first run has sold out so they must be good.

The Web page is [www.amqrp.org/kits/softrock40/index.html](http://www.amqrp.org/kits/softrock40/index.html) Companion transmitters are on the way.

And as they say, “Lots more” so good reading. 73’s Bob. VK3BNC.