

# BARG News



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

**VOLUME 31 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2008**



President: Bob Pitcher VK3NBV  
Secretary: Ian McDonald VK3AXH  
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY January 25, 2008**  
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: [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)



## BARG Inc. Life members

Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Jim Wright	SK (VK3CFB)
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Phil Seddon	Formerly VK3AQM
Stan Widgery	SK (VK3SE)
Maurice Batt	SK (VK3XEX)
George Small	SK (VK3DKJ)

## 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
VK3RBU-1	(APRS)	145.175 Mhz	Mt Hollowback

**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

### Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 11.00 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

### **Solutions for connecting you...**

- Ballarat's fastest broadband<sup>1</sup>
- Affordable Chatphone VoIP phone service
- Great value cable television



For commercial subscriptions call Heather James on 0427 007 893. For residential subscriptions call our Customer Service Centre on 1300 366 248.

#### Terms and Conditions

Standard Neighbourhood Cable Terms and Conditions apply.<sup>1</sup> Speeds vary depending on a number of circumstances including network traffic, customer hardware, equipment and operating systems, download site traffic, download site bandwidth and size of file being downloaded.

BA'S AUDIO WORKSHOP PTY. LTD. ABN 59 007 427 778  
trading as

**BALLARAT**  
**AUTO SOUND SPECIALIST**

and  
Radio Communications Systems Specialists  
Supply and Service

**8 EASTWOOD ST., BALLARAT 3350**  
Tel. 5333 4465 Fax. 5331 5851

# BARG 2007 Xmas at Clubrooms

The clubs yearly Christmas Function at the clubrooms.  
31 members attended this years function and good time was had by all.



John, vk3cfh, Peter, vk3fpol, John, vk3aig and Bob, vk3nbv looking after the cooking.....



Merv, vk3adx and Roger, vk3ade



Stewart, vk3ash and Brian, vk3kqb



Members enjoying a Chat with drinks.

**BJS**  
Ballarat Joinery Supplies

contemporary craftsmanship | traditional service

**Rob Knott**  
Director  
0417 389 356

P.O. Box 146N Ballarat VIC 3350  
**Tel** 5333 3008 **Fax** 5331 1411  
**Email** rob@ballaratjoinerysupplies.com.au  
**Web** www.ballaratjoinerysupplies.com.au

**HEWITT & WHITTY** Pty. Ltd.  
Outdoor Power Equipment

Cnr Carrgham Road  
& Wiltshire Lane  
Ballarat VIC 3350

**Damien Hennessy**  
Sales / Spares  
**Mobile:** 0417 313 811  
**Email:** damo\_611@hotmail.com

**Phone:** (03) 5336 1344  
**Fax:** (03) 5336 1027

**Allpower**  
GARDEN  
MACHINERY  
CENTRE

**SupaSwift**

**Ariens** **TIGA**

**ECHO**

**CHOPPER**  
FRONT  
MOUNTED CUTTING SYSTEM

**efg**  
Engineered  
Products Group

**KOHLER** engines



VK3AXH

## The Secretary's Page

### Minutes of BARG General Meeting November 2007

**Welcome:** Meeting opened by President Bob VK3NBV at 7:35pm

**Apologies:** VK3CAZ, VK3HRZ, VK3CIS, VK3FPOL, VK3FSDH, VK3CFH, VK3ZRF, VK3FITM, VK3PAL, VK3ASH, VK3KQB, VK3HHK, VK3HHJ, VK3BNC, VK3FGLD.

Minutes of the October General Meeting as per the Newsletter

Moved VK3VBA/VK3DCS Carried

Secretary Report:

Correspondence: Incoming – Vicstate re Investment, VK3RMB licence, QST & AR Cards and Silent Key List from Norm VK3LBA, Raffle Tickets

Outgoing – Card to Brian (VK3KQB) and wife Beryl

Moved VK3AXH/VK3ADE Carried

Treasurers Report: Finance Statement tabled – for Hamvention and Club Accounts  
Balance: \$9939.53

Moved VK3FGC/VK3KGL Carried

Business arising from correspondence was a suggestion the committee look into subscribing to QEX (quarterly magazine )

Reports:

**Raffle Tickets – Ian VK3AXH reported there are still around 14 books to be returned and the deadline is the January 2008 General Meeting.**

Hamvention – Report on the event as per the November newsletter. A motion was moved by Kevin VK3WN/VK3ADX and carried that Ian VK3AXH be given a vote of thanks for being the coordinator of this year's Hamvention.

Beacons – Roger VK3ADE reported both the 70cm and 23cm beacons are running and expect to be finalized in the not too distant future.

IRLP – Roger VK3ADE reports the new Vertex radio and ncable link are now working well after the offending tree limbs were removed by Neil VK3GND and Bob VK3BNC.

Mast and Radio Mod Project – Jeff VK3PAP reports the new yagi is installed but has some SWR which may be managed by the HF radio. The rotatable dipole is still yet to be installed. A motion was put by Ian VK3AXH/Craig VK3CMC and carried that Jeff and others who assisted with this project receive special thanks for their efforts.

Construction Group – Ian VK3AXH reported the RF milliwatt meter's were almost finished and some calibration been completed. The next project will commence in Feb 2008 with the low powered microwave SWR bridge. It was also suggested that a range of projects was required to keep the construction group active into 2008 and beyond.

Ammenities – Doug VK3VBA – Doug organized a few prizes for some lucky members sitting in the right seat at the meeting. Doug also organized a sandwich tea/coffee supper to be enjoyed after the guest speakers presentation. It was also suggested that members using cups for tea/coffee kindly wash them when finished.

### **General Business:**

Applications for membership were received from VK3NLY and VK3FNLY and approved. A warm welcome was given to Shaun and Lawrence (Laurie) McInerney

A motion to purchase a suitable ladder for use at the club rooms for any maintenance and mast/antenna work...Moved VK3PAP/VK3CMC and Carried. Gordon VK3FGC and Ian VK3AXH to investigate and purchase. In addition it was suggested a 20 metre extension power cord be purchased for works being performed within the club grounds.

President Bob VK3NBV reminded members of the BBQ on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December to be held at the Rooms from 6:30pm. Members and Partners were asked to bring either a salad or sweet. The Club will supply meat and its BYO drinks.

The Club received an invitation to attend a meeting at the Town Hall regarding the Strategic Development Plan for the Ballarat Airport and Surrounding area. No one attended however Ian VK3AXH indicated there is a comprehensive paper available on the Website explaining the proposed changes and likely effect on existing tenants within the Airport grounds.

A motion was put that membership application forms be made available at any club activity to enable visitors to become members of BARG. Events such as the Hamvention and field days being examples. Moved Bob VK3WB/VK3BVI Carried

Ian VK3FHUT asked how the club disposed of old equipment. As there are a few items that fit this category a list will be put together and included in the newsletter where tenders will be called for. The successful bidder will be responsible for equipment removal and the price and successful bidder details will appear in a subsequent newsletter.

Expressions of interest were called for those wanting to participate in the John Moyle Field Day next year. Approx 10 showed interest in this event. Some planning will get under way in the early part of 2008

**Meeting Closed 8:27pm**



**QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC**  
**Content review of current QST in library**



**HINTS & KINKS for the RADIO AMATEUR. Published by the ARRL.**

First published in 1974 the book has Ten chapters with different ideas written up in each chapter. Well worth a look at especially for some of the very simple things that an individual can do without too much effort. Although the ideas come from the era when we were still using vacuum valves there are also many ideas that feature the transistor and even the IC's. There are also mechanical things for the constructor as well.

Chapter 1. starts with the Shack & Shop.

- Ch2. For the receiver.
- Ch3 for the Antenna System.
- Ch4 for Test Equipment.
- Ch5 for the Power Supply.
- Ch6 for The Builder.
- Ch7 for CW Operation.
- Ch8 for VHF Gear.
- Ch9 for Mobile and Portable Gear.
- Ch10 for the Rig.

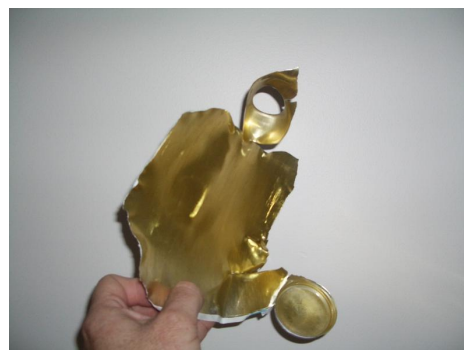
Many ideas for the experienced and the newer amateur in here.

Copy is held in the BARG club library.

73 Craig, vk3cmc

**For the group on safety...**

As some of you know, the Magna I drive is a lemon which has an intermittent starting problem that Mitsubishi can't fix. I bought two cans of electronic freeze spray from Jaycar so that when the problem occurs I can attempt to debug the problem myself. I left both cans on the back seat of the car in a plastic shopping bag for several hours. The day was relatively cool – about 22 degrees outside and partially cloudy. Later, when I opened the driver's side door I noticed a plastic lid on the floor. I looked behind me to put it back on the can and this is what I saw...



73, Dave, VK3DRB

# Centre Victoria RadioFest - 10 February, 2008

The program of this major event to be held at the Kyneton Racecourse on Sunday 10 February has been expanded to include more interest group displays and a show n' tell opportunity for home-brewers.

The latest to recognize the benefits of participation in the event are the Australian Veteran Radio Society, Bendigo Astronomical Society and the Historical Radio Society of Australia.

They join the Wireless Institute of Australia, WICEN (Vic), ALARA, FAMPARC, Scout Radio and Electronics Service Unit and the Royal Australian Corp of Signals Museum.

The program also features an Antenna Measurement Range with Peter Cossins VK3BFG and Phil Gardener VK3GMZ for 2m, 70cm and 23cm using the DX centre of activity frequencies on those bands. Bring your own antenna and you could win a prize. Antenna guru Phil Grimshaw VK4KVK is to talk about the G5RV and antennas for small space QTH's - his popular books will be on sale.

Sure to be popular are Terry Murphy's VK3UP Dipole Factory, Jack Braham's VK3WWW Come n' Try Sniffer Hunts, and the F-Troop photo call of 2008.

The national launch of D-STAR by Icom (Australia) will be presented by Richard Hoskins VK3JFK and Peter Willmott VK3TQ showing the attributes of this revolution in amateur radio.

To debunk the myth that home-brewing and kit-building is not alive and well, a Constructors' Cavalcade will give those engaged in this traditional aspect of amateur radio an opportunity to show how it's done.

There will be an informal RadioFest Dinner on Saturday 9 February at the Kyneton Bowling Club, 61-79 Mollison Street Kyneton, from 7pm. If you would like to make a booking phone the restaurant on 5422 1902.

More details about the RadioFest program - [radiofest.amateurradio.com.au](http://radiofest.amateurradio.com.au)

Hello to you all,

I trust you all had a merry xmas and new year. Well its reminder time to those members that haven't yet returned your raffle ticket books to me. The cut off date will be the next BARG General Meeting which will be on Friday 25th January. Even if you haven't sold any tickets I need the books returned by the date stated above.

Ian, vk3axh



Bob, vk3bnc and Merv, vk3adx having a practice run for John Moyle Field day

---

### **Message from NSW Ambulance Service**

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than if we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

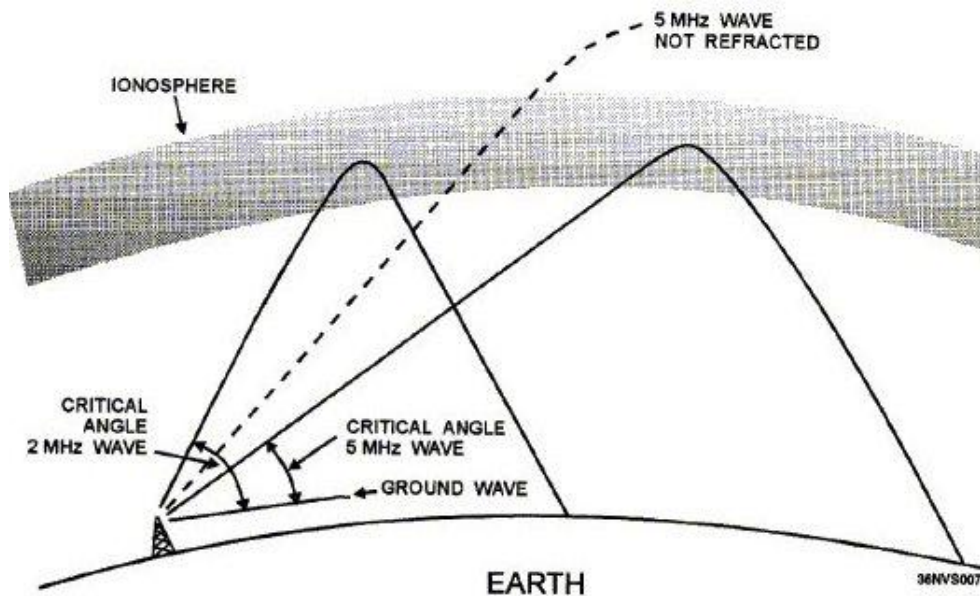
The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE".

Please forward this.

It won't take too many "forwards" before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.





## Propagation Report for January 2008

### HF Bands

I have only received a report from Neil VK3GND and Kevin VK3WN about activity of these bands. Neil is still planning to reconfigure his 160m and 80m antenna's and is in the process of making up support poles to hang the various bits of wire from. Neil has reported hearing many stations within VK and ZL since his latest erection! but feels he can gain even better performance by making some alterations for these two bands. Keep up the good work Neil.

Kevin has reported some good activity on 10m and is planning to make a small beam to get amongst the DX on this band.

### 6 Metres

Lots of contacts to be had on this band. Stations heard include VK, ZL and 3D2 etc. Why not make up a vertical for this band as we know when its open that's all you need to have some great DX contacts. Locals heard on this band include VK3WN, VK3AIG, VK3BNC.

### VHF/UHF

What a fantastic season so far. The sporadic E openings on 2 metres have been the best for many years. Kevin VK3WN is leading the way with over 30 contacts into VK4 up as far as Charters Towers and Yepoon. Other members heard to be quite active include VK3AXH, VK3IDL and VK3AIG. In addition there have been some good openings to ZL on 2 metres. Unfortunately the signals didn't quite make it into the Ballarat. However Bob ZL3TY reports hearing cw from VK3AXH and vice versa but no completed contact. There were 5 - VK5's who worked into ZL including VK5BC/p at Corny Point on the other side of the Gulf from Adelaide. It would have been nice if the signals had traveled a bit further north into our area. Anyhow we keep listening and hoping it will happen. 2 metres to the West has also been good with several club members having contacts into VK6. Stations known to have been part of this activity include VK3WN, VK3AXH, VK3CMC, VK3AIG and VK3IDL.

If you have been burning up the ether in you shack please drop me a line so it can be included in this report.

Till next time 73 de vk3axh

## **A few words from the President.....**



**Bob, VK3NBV**

Hello All,

Hope all your Christmas Presents are still working.

Coming up next we've got a general meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be a working bee at the clubrooms at 9am, another antenna to put up plus grass cutting.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. Centre Victorian Hamfest at Kyenton, We have 8 seats left. Book with Doug 3VBA on 53323565. Bus leaves at 8.30am from MaxiFoods carpark in Creswick Road.

February 11<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7.30 Construction Night.

February 15<sup>th</sup> Dining night 6.30pm.

February 20<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting 7.30pm.

February 29<sup>th</sup> General Meeting 7.30pm.

Coming up in March is the John Moyle field day, we need someone to put their hand up to run this. Weekend of 15/16<sup>th</sup>.

It has been suggested we have a monthly morning coffee get together, suggestions at the general meeting please.

That's it from Bob, see you at some of these functions.

73's Bob Pitcher. VK3NBV.