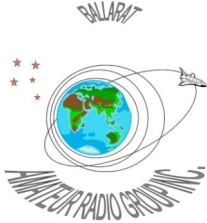


# BARG News



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

**VOLUME 34 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2011**



President: Craig Cook      VK3CMC  
Secretary: Doug Ellery      VK3FDRE  
Treasurer: Bill Wells      VK3PAL

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY August 25, 2011**  
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

Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

## CLUB INFORMATION

### REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) ( Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback
	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Temp. Repeater)	146.925 MHz	Green Hill

\* IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

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

**CLUB NET** VK3BML 3.608+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

**WIA Broadcast** Sunday 11.00 am via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

**NEWS ITEMS** Send to Harry VK3KGL

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

#### **Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater**

Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News.

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat



## QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

**QST Review 2011-2 Jan.**



What to find in this months edition.

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P9 Editorial on the National Broadband Plan in the US.
- P24 Correspondence
- P30 Construct a very simple Inductance measuring box.
- P32 How to Reflow Solder at home.
- P36 How to Moonbounce on a budget.
- P39 Build own Directional Power and SWR meter.
- P44 How to bring Coax cable into a building.
- P46 Review: Yaesu FTM-350R Dual band FM transceiver.
- P51 Review: Begali CW Machine.
- P53 Tech Correspondence. Bonding of Grounding conductors and using a Dummy load as part of a Q –Section line.
- P56 The Doctor is In: Today answering Q about Lightning protection for rotators. Yagi interacting spacing, Antenna and grounding systems on a small boat, Stacking the Moxon antennas.
- P58 Short Takes. The MFJ-1703 Transmitter Antenna crossover box.
- P59 Hands on Radio Exp #96. Open Wire Transmission Lines.
- P61 Getting on Air: Feeding a Balanced Antenna with Coax Cable.
- P63 Hints & Kinks: Flexible mobile mountings, checking Infrared LED's, molex pin removals and Power pole tools.
- P65 Tools for Doing it yourself.
- P66 Dxpedition to 3W6C Con Co Island, Vietnam.
- P70 The last CQ. A serious discussion on disposing of a SK's radio estate.  
Well worth us all reading and doing something about it now. !!
- P72 Historical Perspective: The National HRO Receiver
- P74 ARRL Happenings. On p77 WIA and ARRL link up with VK100WIA
- P79 Emergency Communication. Foxhunting wearers of the Lifesaving braceletts.
- P82 OP-ED. Put the Mad Scientist back into Ham Radio. \*\*\*
- P90 World above 50Mhz. Magic days on Long Path. Part1.
- P94 Eclectic Technology: The WSJT Evolution continues.
- P95 Vintage Radio: The Airship America" story from 1911
- P97 Microwavelengths. Homebrewing.
- P99 Exam info. American style.
- P102 Index in Jan 1936, 1961 and 1986.
- P156 Index list og Advertisers this edition.

There is no Hamspeak this months edition.

73 Craig  
VK3CMC



Doug, VK3FRDE

# The Secretary's Page

## **Minutes of the BARG General Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Meeting opened at 1930 by President Craig VK3CMC

### **Attendance**

Craig VK3CMC, Doug VK3FDRE, Bill VK3PAL and approximately 15 other members.

### **Apologies**

VK3HHK, VK3CAZ, VK3BVI, VK3GND, VK3GND, VK3FIVE.

Moved John VK3CFH, Harry VK3KGL that apologies be accepted. - carried

### **Minutes of the Previous**

(November) general meeting had been distributed previously, they were passed as being correct.

Moved John VK3CFH, Doug VK3VBA

### **Secretary's Report (Correspondence)**

**In:** From Council – Usage survey and development plans for airport, Heritage Weekend, Airport open day.

Wiltronics – account.

QST magazine.

**Out:** To Netlor Computers – thanks for Data Racks, to Jeff Arnold – Thanks for Radio Parts, to Wendy Barrett – Thanks for Christmas Cake, to Council – Invoice to accounts payable for Grant money.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill VK3PAL had prepared a report for the meeting.

Moved Bill VK3PAL, John VK3CFH report be accepted, agreed.

### **General Business**

Ian VK3AXH is making a box to house the cavities for the Green Hill repeater, a working bee to set the repeater up on site is planned for the near future.

Craig VK3CMC and some other members had met with a council officer at the club regarding the future use of the airport and many other matters, including our leaking roof, and the presence of asbestos. One of the things that came out of this was that many groups are paying council rates, this may affect us in the future.

There was some discussion about declining membership, and how to reverse the trend. A reduction in membership numbers means a loss of income, so discussion turned to fundraising, Doug VK3VBA is going to investigate the possibility of doing a Barbecue fundraiser at Trash and Treasure.

It was moved by VK3VBA, Warren VK3FWJW that secretary should write to Colleen at Bunnings to ask to host a Sausage sizzle there.

Several outings have been organised for the education and / or enjoyment of members – Army signals museum at Watsonia Barracks on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Antique radio display at Geelong Gaol, Some members of GRES will be coming to our meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Several ideas for construction activities had been published in the last newsletter. Other ideas were for demonstrations and talks on some computer programs of use to Hams -SPECTRAN was one suggestion.

Club still has a quantity of call books for sale – cost of \$20.00  
Kyneton Hamfest is on 13<sup>th</sup> February, insufficient numbers attending to make running a bus viable.

John Moyle field day on 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Council Grant applications close on 28<sup>th</sup> February – Committee will discuss, and apply if we think we can meet criteria.

Dining night at the Red Lion had been really good, next to be at Little Hard Hills Hotel.

There being no more business, meeting closed at around 2115.

**Next Meeting - 1930, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**

*Usual Disclaimer: While I have endeavoured to make these minutes an accurate record of the meeting, I may not necessarily have succeeded. If I have upset anyone by error or omission I apologise.*

*Doug Ellery*

*VK3FDRE*

*Secretary BARG*

## A photo of a "repair" man



Couple of photo's of two guys doing some work getting our repeater back in operation.



## BUS TRIP TO WATSONIA

Bus is leaving 1315 Gregory st West on the 7 Mar at 0815hrs. NOTE: This isn't the normal departure point as in the past. Be there at 0800 as there may be some distance from parking adue to street works in progress. We will be picking up three people at BALLAN around 0945/1000hrs. Cost is \$10 each for the bus hire and fuel and you may care to bring a lunch with you. Museum closes at 1530hrs but we may depart earlier. back to Gregory st.

Those on the bus are VBA, FGC,CMC,CAZ,DCS & Shirly,FWJW, BVI, HHK, AXH and Meeting down there is CIS and HRZ and maybe others travelling by car.

Remember you need some form of photographic ID to enter the security area of the army base. ie: Drivers/shooters licence, passport, Over eighteen" pass card?? or other photographic card system.

## *Australian Army Signals Museum*

The Signals museum collects, preserves and exhibits the history of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. It began its life shortly after WWII when staff of the School of Signals at Balcombe collected and displayed equipment that was going out of service, or had gone out of service. The displays enabled the students to understand the history and evolution of Signals equipment and the changes in technology.

Today much of this equipment looks basic and sometimes crude, but it was the most sophisticated and advanced technology there was. Military equipment in the WWII years used the latest techniques and concepts and they were incorporated into commercial and domestic equipment after the war. The knowledge gained from designing and constructing military equipment together with the development of solid state electronic components and mass production has resulted in the current availability of inexpensive, reliable, highly complex products.



*Museum building and entrance*

The Signals museum moved to Watsonia in 1970 with the School of Signals and was housed in a building close to the Greensborough Road entrance to the barracks.

A small group of volunteers worked at the museum for many years and various Signals unit associations set up displays dedicated to their former units and in memory of key members of those units.

In 1995 the museum moved to its current location, building 147, which was formerly a satellite terminal, built in the Cold War days. It had a bright white 18 metre diameter satellite dish that attracted a lot of attention and protests as it could be seen from the surrounding suburbs. The facility was closed in 1991 and the dish was moved to Western Australia.



*Main display hall*

The satellite terminal building was purpose built to house the associated equipment and plant and to provide office accommodation for the staff. It has been refurbished and

has disabled access, a toilet for the disabled visitors and an entrance foyer where visitors are welcomed and given a short talk about the museum and its history.

Displays are progressively developed as time and workers permit. They are changed regularly so that visitors who return will find new things to look at.

The museum has a very good reference library and an excellent collection of operator and maintenance manuals for a very large range of military and test equipment.



*External communications shelter displays*

The museum is always looking for military Signals items for its collection. It is looking for equipment, bits of equipment, books, photographs and documents. If in doubt, let the museum decide if an item is significant. Rare and historic items have been thrown out or destroyed, because their significance was not appreciated by their owners. No item is too new; today's equipment is tomorrow's history. The museum is constantly looking for new volunteers.



*Main display hall looking in the other direction*

The museum is currently open on Tuesdays between 10:00 am and 3:30 pm.

It is located in Simpson Barracks (formerly called Watsonia Army Camp), Melway map 20 G7.

Entrance is from Greensborough Road, just south of Yallambie Road. Photo identification such as a driver's licence is required to enter the barracks.

The closest railway stations are:

**WATSONIA.** 1.2 km from the barracks entrance (but it's downhill) and the museum is approximately 1.2 km from the barracks entrance gate.

**MACLEOD.** 1.6 km from the barracks (uphill) plus 1.2 km from the barracks entrance to the museum.

The Glenroy to Eltham bus, route 515, stops outside the barracks. (There is a 1.2 km walk to the museum from the Greensborough Road entrance).

*For further information contact the Museum Manager Major Jim Gordon on Tuesdays on 8481 7874, other times on 0407 264 961, or by e-mail at [jim.gordon@viccig.net](mailto:jim.gordon@viccig.net)*