

BARG News



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

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 8 August 2010



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

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY August 27, 2010
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

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

D—STAR

CALLSIGN:	MODE:	FREQUENCY:	TX OFFSET:	USER SETTINGS
VK3RBA A	Digital Data	1298.700 MHz	Nil (half duplex)	URCALL: VK3RBA RPT1: VK3RBA A RPT2: not in use
VK3RBA B	Digital Voice	439.9875 MHz	-5.0 MHz	URCALL: CQCQCQ RPT1: VK3RBA B RPT2: not in use

VK3RBA (UHF)	(70 cm Voice Repeater (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access))	439.275 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBA (VHF)	(2 m Voice Repeater)	146.750 MHz	Mt Buninyong
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

* **IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail 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

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



VK3BML



the BARG Internet Remote Base.

To be able to use the Remote Base, you must have an **User ID** and **Password**.

The Password can be obtained from Bob, VK3BNC, Harry, VK3KGL and Bob, VK3NBV

Note: ID and Password are NOT case sensitive and may be entered in either upper or lower case.
Do not share your account details with anyone else.

RULES FOR OPERATING THE BARG INTERNET REMOTE BASE:

All amateur radio operators using the VK3BML transmitter must abide by the following.

1. Voice: Identify in the following manner "Using the VK3BML Remote Base, this is VK3???".
2. You are only authorised to transmit in band segments that overlap your own licence privileges.
3. This system is limited to use by financial members of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group (BARG).

Breaches from the above procedures will result in access to the system being immediately cancelled.
Please make sure you tune the antenna on HF, by pressing the "ANT Tuner" button before transmitting.

INSTALLING / CONFIGURING THE SOFTWARE:

Download and install the latest version of "Web Transceiver" from www.w4mq.com/download.html

Start the program and select "Setup" / "Enter Logon Info"

Click on a blank label under "Your Label" and enter "VK3BML" and click on this entry.

On the right hand side it should prompt "Data for label = VK3BML"

Enter in the following boxes:

IRB Station: VK3BML

IP/URL: barg.org.au

USERCALL: VK3????

PASSWD:*****

Press "SAVE" and "CLOSE"

From the "Setup" menu select "Select Sound Type"

Select Skype. You may need to experiment here to get the best audio for your system.

If you are using Skype (www.skype.com) for audio, the Skype Name to enter is: vk3bml_remotibase.

You should (hopefully) now be ready to select VK3BML from the drop down menu. If things have been configured then the box could be in one of a few states: Yellow – VK3BML is Available

Red – In use by callsign on XXXXX kHz

If Web Transceiver has not been configured correctly, or if the system is offline, then you may see the following message: **Red - VK3BML in not On-line**

If you have any problems with the system e-mail or the BARG Radio Modernisation Project.

Contact : barg_committee@barg.org.au



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2010- 8 August.



What to find in this months edition.

Yes someone did respond, they do read these !

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P9 Editorial: Looks at the bands and their changes in openings with otherwise unpredicted ductings.
- P30 The STATIONPRO Master station Controller.
- P35 A Multiband 50W Linear Amp.
- P39 Build a simple attenuator for use in Transceiver to Linear Amp.
- P 41 Build a Two Finger Paddle key.
- P44 Earning 160Metres WAS in 117 days.
- P46 Dummy loads, some facts.
- P47 Review: Elecraft Accesories for the K3 HF/VHF Modular Transceiver.
- P52 Review: MIRAGE 2 Meter Amps. B-310G and B-251-G.
- P54 "The Doctor" answers many questions sent in. Usefull reading about the G5RV antenna.
- P56 Short takes looks at APRSPoint 4.5.4.
- P57 Hands on Radio. Ex 91. Common Mode Choke. {Balun}
- P59 Hints & Kinks.
 - Accurate Zero Beat with Three oscillators.
 - Simple cure for a slipping rotator mast.
 - Interface cable management.
 - Homebrew microphones with Electrets.
 - Make your own mobile tray.

- P62 MOONBOUNCE from Arecibo Observatory.
- P66 Amateur radio emergency call out in June 11 Flash floodings.
- P71 Public Service Emergency Communications.
- P81 Hows DX.. 4J1FS Maly Vysotski Island.
- P83 World above 50Mhz. Meteor Communications.
- P87 Contents of QEX for Jul/Aug 2010.
- P93 Eclectic Technology. Making iPod, iPhone and iPad Connections.
- P95 Vintage Radio. Jack Irwin, A Marconi man.
- P96 Microwave System Test.
- P101 QST Index for August, 1935, 1960 and 1985.
- P103 Hamspeak, a Glossary of terms used in this edition.
- P125 Special Photographs in ARRL 2010 Contest.

- P130-132 Listing of all ARRL Publications
- P156 Index to all advertisers.

Happy Reading.

**73 Craig
VK3CMC**



Craig, VK3CMC

Presidents Report

Greetings, in this my first presidents page I wish to thank the outgoing members of the previous committee for their hard work and dedication to the club in the past twelve months and wish them well now that they have “plenty” of time on their hands for other pursuits. President Doug is luckily coming back on the committee and will continue to be a source of guidance to us however treasurer Peter has decided to continue his overseas travelling activities and has decided to retire completely from amateur radio activities. I wish you and Kathy well Peter in your travels and on behalf of all BARG members thank you for all the work you have done for the club, both seen and unseen. I would hope that maybe sometime we will see you in the clubrooms again. Best wishes to you and Kathy. To Doug we also owe a generous vote of thanks for taking the chair over the past two years, and hope to hear more regular transmissions on air again.

Readers are aware that VK3RBA repeater on Mt Buninyong has been off the air for many months. Well we have been able to obtain the use of a portable repeater VK3RWP on 146.925 with negative offset. This unit belongs to WICEN and is set up at the clubrooms as a temporary coverage for the Ballarat area. Unfortunately it was switched off recently due to a minor disturbance and should be back on air shortly. Please have a listen on the frequency and try and use it around town a bit. It will be good to hear more activity again. In the meantime the committee is following up and investigating how we can get the normal repeater back into service. It may take a bit of time but it will occur. Its not too early to remind all readers that our annual Hamvention is happening at the greyhound racing track on Sunday 24 Oct. Hopefully the weather will smile on us and have a large attendance so hunt out any pre loved gear and book a table now. Check out the BARG website for more details.

Finally I would like to remind all that during the winter months it was decided to hold our construction activities in the daytime on the second Monday in the month. Come along around 1030 AM and bring any construction project or have a say on what other projects may be suitable to build in future activities. This will also be a good chance for others to attend and open up the shack and try some operating from the rooms. Bring a bite to eat and stay over for lunch while having a good rag chew with others. A couple of members are still adjusting there “squid pole” antenna and our regular traveller Bob VK3BNC also has been using his SP while up in the sunny north regions. Although I haven’t heard him I have been able to work another friend with his VK7JJ design squid pole while travelling up the coast in Northern NSW. There may be another antenna project coming up that will suit mobile/portable operators as well as those who have limited back yards or restrictive covenants on their property. It is capable of resonance on any band from 160 to 10Metres.

And is only about 7 metres tall. Finally I would like to let you know that the committee is considering the reactivating of a club award. It is some years now since BARG was involved in the issue of an award and I believe that by having an award that is synonymous with Ballarat and its heritage we can create an interest in the club and the area by offering an award certificate. Until next month,

73 Craig VK3CMC

Robbie VK3EK was heard last Wednesday evening on 144.150 SSB after a long absence. Although the band noise was up he put a strong signal into Melbourne, Ballarat and Cape Clear. As warmer months approach its hoped to hear some more signals logging into the net at 2030 hrs.

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Fax: (03) 5336 1027

Damien Hennessy

Sales / Spares

Mobile: 0417 313 811

Email: damo_611@hotmail.com



CLUB ROOM DOOR

- Its most important that members actually check the front door has closed and securely fastened as you leave the rooms. The problem occurs when the deadbolt is snipped open to make using the door more conveniently when in the rooms. I remind everyone that by pressing in the small silver button in the end of the deadlock assembly causes it to cease operation and just allows the door knob to be used at will.
- On securing to leave the premises, this button needs to be depressed and allow the door tongue to jump forward. The door is now ready to secure the room on closure.

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Anything FOR SALE or WANTED???

Why not send it to the Editor to be included in the next Newsletter.

Send to: Newsletter, BOX 1261, Mail Centre, Ballarat, 3354.

or

member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au

Next DEADLINE for articles is the 18th of September !!!

New radio museum to be QTH for WIA Centenary special callsign VK100WIA

There's a variety of interesting historical radio, telephone and television on display. There's even a mock-up of commercial radio station 3CV Maryborough.

An extensive display of historical radio, telephone and television equipment. Come and see radios dating from crystal sets through to elegant Art Deco and modern sets. View Maryborough's original radio station and other communication items.

In 2009 December, the Communication building was opened.



RADAR Club Rockhampton coffee morning gathering.....



Errol, vk4yec/ Bob, vk3bnc/ John, vk4kdn/ Blair



Lyle, vk4lm and Les, vk4qi



Bernie, vk3bwp and Merv, vk4dv



Doug, VK3FDRE

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of the BARG General Meeting – 30th July 2010

Following the AGM, new president Craig VK3CMC took the chair, with his new right hand man Bill VK3PAL taking over the treasurer's seat.

Attendance

Craig VK3CMC, Doug VK3FDRE, Bill VK3PAL outgoing president Doug VK3VBA, outgoing Treasurer Peter VK3FPOL and approximately 17 other members, including Brian VK3KQB briefly, it was great to see Brian out and about.

Apologies

VK3CAZ, VK3HHK, VK3CFH, VK3HRZ, VK3FHUT, VK3FWAL, VK3SE, VK3BVI, VK3FIVE, VK3BNC, VK3KGL.

Minutes of the Previous

(June) general meeting had been distributed previously, they were passed as being correct.
Moved Gordon VK3FGC, Bill VK3PAL - carried.

Business Arising

Nil

Secretary's Report

Correspondence In:

Bendigo Bank, Term deposit expiry and renewal, Peter VK3FPOL had contacted Bank to have renewal rates and terms corrected.

AR magazine.

WICEN confirming that they are holding some repeater equipment belonging to BARG.

WIA receipt for ARRL handbook.

Donation from an anonymous donor to be used for prizes at hamvention.

Application for club membership from David Martin VK3KQT.

Correspondence Out

Application to council for community event grant of \$850.00 to assist with Hamvention running costs.

Moved Doug VK3FDRE, Seconded Charles VK3FCSC that correspondence be confirmed – Carried.

General Business

Ian VK3AXH expressed concern at the lack of any real action, or information on the eventual return of our 2 metre voice repeater to the Mt Buninyong site, and urged the club to press ahead with the proposal to establish our own repeater at Green Hill, consensus was that this is a worthwhile project.

Ian had also heard that there may be some person, or persons deliberately causing interference on the Ben Nevis repeater, and asked members to log any suspicious activity that they heard.

Gordon VK3FGC reported that he attends various emergency communications meetings, he feels that where we share sites with Government agencies we are likely to be charged site access fees in the future. There is no indication as to how much these might be.

The position regarding Public Liability insurance at these sites is unknown, and we will need to check our policy and consult with the WIA.

Doug VK3VBA commented that the Maryborough club had the use of the WIA100 callsign on the 3rd - 5th of August, should any members want to work them.

Access code on door has been changed, financial members should talk to Doug VK3VBA to request the new code.

Ernie VK3DET reported that there is a firewatch tower in the bush near Smythesdale which may be a suitable site for a repeater.

Ernie VK3DET, and Steve VK3SE net on 29.2MHz FM at 1930 on a Tuesday night and most other nights, any new attendees will be welcome.

Ernie VK3DET is looking for a "Stationmaster" antenna, if anyone has an unused one lying around.

There being no more business, meeting closed at a time which your secretary didn't record, this is the sort of thing that happens when members choose not to vote out a Secretary who is only marginally competent.

Next Meeting, - 1930, Friday 27th August 2010 .

***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 confused caller was having troubles printing documents. He told the**
• **technician that the computer had said that it could not find the printer.**
• **The user had even tried turning the computer screen to face the printer**
• **but his computer still could not see the printer.**
• • • • •

B.A.R.G. Inc.

(Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T)
ABN 44 247 200 143

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION & CLUB REGISTER CHECK

DATE:.....

RECEIPT No:.....

NAME:.....

CALL SIGN:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE HOME:.....

SUBURB:.....

MOBILE PHONE:.....

POSTCODE:.....

PHONE WORK:.....

SUBSCRIPTION PAID:..\$.....

E-MAIL:.....

If the Club decides to publish a Club Directory, are you willing to have the above information included?

Y or N

SIGNATURE:.....

B.A.R.G. Inc.

(Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T)
ABN 44 247 200 143

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