



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group
Inc. #6953T
May
Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
Friday 26th May 2017 @ 7.30pm

At the B.A.R.G. Club House, Ballarat Airport

All Welcome



Contacting us

You can write to the club at the address below, or e-mail the secretary

The Secretary : B.A.R.G. Inc.
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We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the June newsletter. It's quite an early meeting this month and the newsletter time has snuck up on me. I've not had much time to play radio over the last couple of months. Hopefully that's a situation that'll correct itself over the next few months. All that means this one's a bit slimmer than usual.

Don't forget the George Fowler Auction this coming Sunday. Soup to start and then a bit of fun working through all the pre-loved pieces of gold.

The short month must have caught everyone out, as we're a bit light on for articles.

As always I'm keen to see input from members for the news letter. Makes it more interesting for everyone.

Doubt I'll get to the meeting tomorrow night, at best I'll be late, so please put in an apology for me. Should be good for Sunday though. Hope to see you there too!

Malcolm - VK3OAK

VHF and Above for JUNE 2017

As reported last month the propagation on these bands has been variable but still with the occasional lift enabling contacts within Victoria as well as Tasmania and South Australia on both 2 metres and 70 cm.

Some of the regular stations are VK3BNC, VK3AIG, VK3AXH, VK3GGG, VK3LTA, VK3DAI, VK3VBI, VK3AUU, VK3EJ, VK3VG, VK3II, VK5JR, VK5DK, VK5PJ, VK7JG and others.

I've had a call from Gavin VK3HY regarding a microwave test day activity. This again gives us the opportunity to test again the 3.4G panels many of us have and some of the other microwave bands which of course will be subject to weather which we know is unpredictable this time of year. If you are interested let me know so when the date has been arranged info can be passed on.

Damascus College

The Ballarat Amateur Radio Club has again participated in this 2 day activity where some of our club members go along and have informal discussions about what amateur radio is about and the changes and challenges that have occurred over the many years. Given that we are now allocated a new classroom with better access to the outdoors it's hoped we can get some HF gear set up to enable the students to talk with other amateurs. Previously we have been using the local repeater VK3RBA which has been a great success. We hope to get some satellite contacts going so some of us will be busy building antenna's for this activity.

Till next time 73, VK3AXH

- *I just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year - not wishing to cause any trouble and all that, but shouldn't it be an even number?
- * Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.
- * I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather.. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
- * If I had a dollar for every girl that found me unattractive, I guess they would eventually find me attractive.
- * I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom - until they are flashing behind you.
- * When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90 % of their body..... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.
- * A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight, live longer than the men who mention it.
- * Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
- * America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.
- * You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.
- * Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?
- * My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.
- * I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.
- * Strong people don't put others down. They lift them up and slam them on the ground for maximum damage.
- * Money talks ...but all mine ever says is good-bye.
- * You're not fat, you're just..... easier to see.
- * If you think nobody cares whether or not you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

Salgoud



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George Fowler Auction

Sunday the 28th of May Lunch at 12-00 noon auction stars at 1-00 pm.



Last meeting past member Paul Black, VK3TXR, came along and gave a talk on his recent visit to the Arecibo Observatory.

Afterwards president Doug presented a small gesture of appreciation.

We've also had the light out the front of the club fixed up. Here's the proof.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arecibo_Observatory



Round the Web

Last month I wrote a little about about Blogs which are a good way to keep up with a bit of what's going on around the place. But what about if your not in a position to read for some reason. Maybe your driving, or maybe the eyesights not what it used to be. Then perhaps Podcasts are for you. These are audio programs, and like blogs, there's Podcasts about everything.

I listen to them on the train. You will need a Podcast manager. I use the rather inventively named "Padcasts" app, was top of the app list search on my phone. But there lots of others.

Most of these can be easily found and downloaded as a mp3 if you want to try them with out setting anything up. Google is your friend.

Foundations of Amateur Radio

If you've listened to the WIA broadcast then you've likely heard this podcast. It's a short, weekly report with Onno, VK3FLAB, talking for a few minutes about various aspects of the hobby from the point of view of the entry level operator. An simple example of what a Podcast might be.

ARRL, The Doctor is In

Published by the ARRL, features a couple of what I'll call professional amateurs. Joel Hallas, W1ZR, who has been answering questions about Amateur Radio in QST's "The Doctor is In" column since 2006, answers questions posed by QST Editor In Chief Steve Ford, WB8IM. They cover a broad range of topics, going from very basic explanation of the topic, and working through to a much deeper level of technical review over the course of a few minutes.

Each episode runs about 30 minutes once a fortnight. With a few stories of experiences good and bad related to the topic, it's an interesting listen.

Solder Smoke

Another US based podcast hosted by a couple of long time HAM's. This one's focused on home brew projects and QRP. A bit of topical discussion and banter about what has and hasn't worked over for the two over the years. They are particular fans of VK3YE and his projects. Each episode is abput 90 minutes, about once a month. I find one of the two has a very high pitched voice, which bugs me, but otherwise it's okay.

ICQ Podcast

UK based podcast with a varying panel of amateurs. This one's a bit like joining in on a long running net, with the panel talking about a range of topical items. Like most nets, all seem to have a range of experiences with some clearly having industry backgrounds. However I often wonder how much they actually know about the topics at hand. Occasionally there'll be a snippet of Australian news and it's clear they know little about what's really going on.

Each episode has some technical look at some topic or other for the last 15 minutes or so.

Varies in length, from 60 to 90 minutes, about once a fortnight. Easy to listen too, but I find goes on a bit long.

Linux in the Hamshack

US based podcast with a panel of 3. Like the show name says, really focus on Linux related radio applications rather than straight radio. The also play a song, taste a whisky and run through a food recipe each show. Usually about an hour once a fortnight. Easily my favourite

There other's I've not mentioned, some because I ran out of room, and some because I didn't enjoy listening to them. Check it out and let me know what you think!