



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

April

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 31st March 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

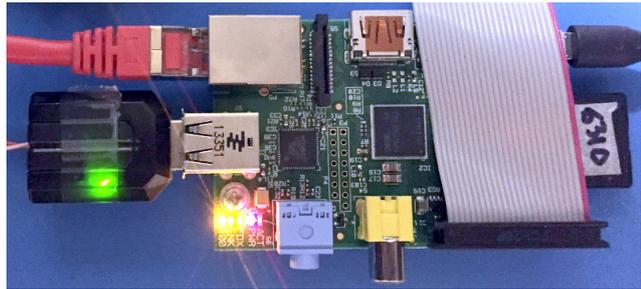
The Secretary : B.A.R.G. Inc.
Box 1261
Mail Centre
Ballarat. Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : vk3bml@barg.org.au

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the April newsletter. As I think all members would know, the club broadcasts the WIA news via IRLP node 6310, which transmits on repeater VK3RWA. I was out in the shack on Sunday 26th Feb and thought I would listen in, turned the radio on, only to hear silence. Checking on the IRLP site I could see that the node had actually been off line for 10 days, so a trip out to the club to push reset.



At the club house our neighbour popped in to let me know that the water was off due a to a rather large leak over the back fence. Sure enough there was a steam of water bubbling out of the ground. I guess that with the age of the infrastructure out there it's not surprising. Happily it seems to have been fixed now.

Since then the clubs NBN connection has gone off the air, as I write this we're still waiting to hear back from our ISP. It looks like it's just us, and sadly we're not high on anyone's priority list. It also seems that IRLP node has some other issues, so that might be off air a while longer too.

We're falling apart! Hopefully your shack is in better shape.

Malcolm - VK3MEL

VHF and Above for March 2017

Again this month we have not seen a great deal of good propagation on these challenging bands. The regulars are on the bottom end of the 2m band most mornings using SSB with the occasional opening into Adelaide and Tassie on 2m.

Some of the group have also had good contacts on 70cm, 23cm and 13cm on a few occasions. This has been a bit frustrating for operators but like most enthusiastic amateurs we live for another good opening.

The John Moyle Field Day has now come and gone with several members including VK3BNC, VK3AIG and VK3AXH being heard either calling CQ or having contacts.

It's a pity we can't generate more enthusiasm amongst our members to take part in these events. It's not that hard and a lot of fun can be had for those taking part either as a participant or just as an observer.

Ian VK3AXH visited VK3KQ and VK3LL at the old NDB (aircraft beacon) site in the Enfield Forest. They are part of the EMDRC group and have operated from this location for the past few years for Field Day activities. Ian will give an overview of their set up at the next BARG General Meeting in March which covers from 6 metres through to 24GHz. Their installation is very impressive.

It's hoped that in the near future a field test day will be organised for the higher band group to blow the cobwebs out of their gear that's been gathering dust. When a date has been set why not come along and see what happens !!!

Please note if you have anything to contribute to this section of the magazine please drop a line to Ian VK3AXH or simply write your own story for inclusion in this magazine.

73 de VK3AXH

Guest Speaker - Lorayne Branch

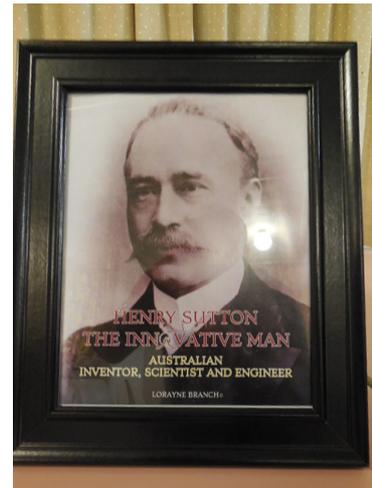
Lorayne Branch was our speaker at the February meeting, talking about her great grandfather Henry Sutton and his involvement in early wireless days in Ballarat. He held an amateur licence and was closely involved when VIM Melbourne radio was set up in the Domain. He designed and built his own portable radio long before they became available to the public. Lorayne has written a book about Henry and his multi faceted interest in things mechanical and electrical.

He registered a number of patents and was also involved in the manufacture of the Sutton motor cars.

Lorayne is seeking donations to get the manuscript published in a hard cover edition.

The talk was enjoyed by all who were able to attend

Thank you Lorayne.



Report by Craig, VK3KG

QST REVIEW Feb 2017.

- P4/5 Index
- P13 Spotlight Dr Jim Halfpenny K9YNP. Explorer, ecologist, photographer, teacher.
www.tracksceneinvestigations.com
- P24 Letters. Amateur radio rescue, QSL stats, learning “is the internet best way to learn?” and portable contesting .
- P30 Build a 6M Halo antenna for DXing. A simple project for horizontal Omni propagation.
- P34 A Panadaptor for your receiver or transceiver.
- P39 A WSPR Receiver for 30 Metres. Monitor the beacon.
- P43 Build own resonant speaker for CW reception using 100mm PVC piping.
- P46 Considerations for Audio Oscillators.
- P48 Solar Minimum returning. Are you ready? www.voacap.com/coverage.html
- P52 Eclectic Technology: Digital modes. OHDEN and OLIVIA /500 www.ohden.org
- P53 REVIEW: FLEX radio FLEX 6500 SDR transceiver and SmartSDR for zWindows.
- P59 REVIEW: SDR play RSP1 Radio Spectrum Processor. \$149 USD.
- P63 REVIEW: Pacific Antenna Easy TR Switch kit. www.qrpkits.com
- P64 Review: Hamcrafters K16 Keyer unit.
- P66 The Doctor is in. How NOT to operate outside the bands. Is your Sideband In?
- P68 Hands On. Experiment #169 Gas Discharge Tubes.- Putting the lid on Lightning. See QST 2002 articles by Ron KB2UYT. www.arrl.org/radio-technology-topics
- P70 Hints&Kinks: Water proof a coaxial switch, build a DC low R load.
- P73 Intro to Twitter What’s in it for Amateurs?
- P76 To the Edge of space and Back with Amateur Radio. Ballons, GPS and radios.
- P79 Rebuilding the West Point Cadet Amateur Radio Club. W2KGY
- P82 Solar Eclipse QSO Party on August 21st.
www.eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov
- P95 Public Service SKYWARN Recognition Day 2016.
- P100 Hows DX? Central African DX Adventure. TL8AO
- P102 World above 50Mhz. MSK-144 The Meteor Scatter King.
- P106 Classic Radio: Collins KWM-1 SSB-CW Transceiver. Ty
www.collinsradio.org and www.collinsra.org
- P110 Index for Feb 1917, Feb 1967 and Feb 1992.
- P156/7 QST list of Advertisers.



And that’s all for Feb 2017.

Craig, VK3KG

Round the Web

International Crystal Manufacturing Going Out Of Business

Another indication of the changing nature of electronics. One of the last US based crystal suppliers is calling it a day. The volume must be so far down on what they would have been selling years ago, and limited to a much smaller range of frequencies.



They've been around for 66 years, which isn't a bad run.

<http://swling.com/blog/2017/03/international-crystal-manufacturing-closing-shop/#comments>

Arduino SWR Bridge

More home brew tools for the shack, this site is really a sketch for the Arduino display, which then needs to be coupled with the SWR hardware, of which there are links to a few different sites. Might be fun to try if your interested in mixing HAM and Arduino, which is happening a fair bit.



http://www.qsl.net/on7eq/projects/arduino_pwr_sw.htm

Vic Ham Plates

Keen to let other road users know your an amateur and what your call sign is? VicRoads can help with custom HAM plates. At just under \$400 for to get them, I think I'll skip them for now, but I can see how they'd be a nice bit of bling for the Lamborghini.



<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/number-plates/number-plate-fees>



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IMMUTABLE LAWS*

1. Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

2. Law of Gravity

Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

3. Law of Probability

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

4. Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

5. Variation Law

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

6. Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

7. Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

8. Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

9. Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

10. Law of the Theatres and Sports Arenas_–

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

11. The Coffee Law

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

12. Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

13. Law of Physical Surfaces

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

14. Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

15. Law of Physical Appearance

If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

16. Law of Public Speaking

A CLOSED MOUTH GATHERS NO FEET!

17. Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy-

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

18. Doctors' Law

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

Salgoud