

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2005

PRESIDENT: David Tilson VK3UR SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Bob Terrill VK3BNC
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NEXT MEETING - **FRIDAY 24 June 2005**

At 7.30 pm

EDITOR'S COMMENT

First, my thanks to Bob, **VK3BNC**, for acting as Newsletter compiler and editor for May, although his editorial was rather brief. Bob has commented that he did not realize how much work is required to put together the product. I, together with all editors who read this newsletter will accept the comment. It makes the job easier when articles and news (and gossip) are fed to the editor. So thanks.

Fact or Fiction from KH2D.net:

IF YOU ARE A HAM, SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO BECOME YOUR BEST FRIENDS IN LIFE WILL ALSO BE HAMS - TRUE. At least it's been true in my case. Maybe that's because I'm a weirdo and I spend a lot of time in the basement, I dunno.....

DATES

Club meetings the last Friday each month starting at 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Construction Nights. Construction nights are held on the second Monday each month at 7.30 .

WICEN Net : Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm on 3.60 MHz + QRM etc. (Some times below 3.60) and after the net closes, a short check in on 40M at an agreed freq.

Quotable Quote

Grow angry slowly – there is plenty of time

From the President's Shack:

Late May and the first few weeks of June are proving to be action packed with club activities. As you will read throughout this newsletter:

- we had a very interesting presentation on the new Emergency Alerting System (EAS) by Rural Ambulance Victoria;
- we had our most successful George Fowler Memorial Auction Day ever;
- we prepared a submission to the ACA on their Discussion Paper on Broadband over Power Lines;
- a group of our members went on a tour of the Ballarat Gold Fields; and
- construction continues on the 160m antenna project.

Honestly, if you didn't find an activity or two listed above that justified being a club member, then you could not have been trying.

To top it off we still have our regular Dining Night, the BARG Family Day at Cobden and a guest speaker at our forthcoming General Meeting to finish off the month.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, **VK3UR**
BARG President

Minutes of May General Meeting

Ballarat Amateur Radio Club Inc

Minutes of General Meeting May 27 2005

Meeting opened by President David Vk3ur @1935 hrs

Apologies. Vk3fgc, Vk3det, Vk3hrz, Vk3dcs, Vk3pal, Vk3bvi.

Visitors: Robert Vk3zrf

Welcome to new members Merv Vk3adx.

Congratulations to Ted Vk3hbk on new call.

Minutes of April meeting as circulated. Moved Vk3se/ Vk3hbk. Passed.

Items from minutes for discussion. I.R.L.P. Later in reports.

Foxhunts Later in reports.

Gordon Vk3fgc unable to produce newsletter Bob Vk3bnc Stepped in and maintained the high standard.

Financial statement and a/cs for payment. Vk3ash/Vk3cis Carried.

Correspondence. In WIA. ACA. BPL Discussion paper. QST.

Out. Three letters of thanks. Moved Vk3tjw/Vk3pap, Carried.

Committee Report. IRLP. Neighborhood Cable installed radio link to Clubrooms, Thanks To John Vk3tjw, Ian Vk3idl. Bob Vk3nbv, and Doug Vk3vba for their assistance in setting up the I.R.L.P. Web site voice announcements now up and running. WIA news broadcast now to start at 1100 hrs.

Doug Vk3vba to arrange news broadcasts outside busy hours on Vk3rwa.

Cabling for data to be installed by Construction Group.

Network switch donated to Club to allow wider use of the internet link.

All members to bring photo to next meeting for gallery.

Members asked to give serious consideration to forthcoming elections.

*Vk3rwa Upgrade. Ian Vk3axh reported of receiving Rx and Tx spares and mods going well. Received control box from Bob Vk3bnc. New crystals ordered.
Club now in position to have spare equipment for both repeaters.*

Secretary reported on food handling course. No members in possession of Food Handling Certificate. John Vk3cfh to be asked to attend coming course June 19 at a cost of \$60.00 .

Amenities. Doug Vk3vba reported that Presidents Board needs updating and has received a price of \$60.00 +gst to update. Merv Vk3adx offered to have a look at updating. Moved Doug Vk3vba and seconded Ian Vk3cis that the \$60.00 +gst quote be accepted for board updating. 5 members for. Remainder of floor abstained. Carried.

Construction Group. Ian Vk3axh 160 mx vertical antenna going well, Final cost \$27.00 per member, Next project. Antenna analyzer to be considered.

*Property. Geoff Vk3pap reported on upgrade of property list.
Raffle organized to support Club funds .To be drawn June meeting.*

General Business. George Fowler auction day this coming Sunday. 6 members to bring soup. 10% commission for Club on all sales.

Mine Tour . Steve reported on date of June 4 for mine tour The following members indicated they would attend. Vk3vba. Vk3nbv. V3kqq, Vk3bmy, Vk3kgl, Vvk3axh. Vk3pap, Vk3adx, Vk3idl, Vk3bnc, Vk3ur, Vk3se.

Social Night Good attendance at Bunch of Grapes. Next Nerrina Tavern.

Cobden Family Day . Ian Vk3idl reported that June 19 is date arranged for family day, Bring food, To attend, Vk3idl. Vk3ash, Vk3cis Vk3hrz. Vvk3bnc, Vk3axh, Vk3Kgl. Vk3ur.

Fox Hunts Steve Vk3se with to arrange a members only event for a date in August.

Ian Vk3axh reported on the importance of making the submission on Broadband over Power Line discussion paper have impact. Sub Committee formed Ian Vk3axh. Vk3ur, Vk3bnc, Vk3kgl, Vk3idl. First meeting next Wednesday.

Bob Vk3bnc reported on the possibility of Computers being available for Community use from the City of Ballarat, Secretary to write to Council.

Meeting Closed 2035 hrs.

Guest speaker Neil Blanchard welcomed.

NEWS ITEMS

New Members:

Welcome to Robert, **VK3ZRF**, who has now joined our growing membership. Robert has recently moved up from Geelong to live and work in Ballarat.

ACA Discussion Paper on Broadband over Power Lines:

A group of members comprising Ian – **VK3AXH**, Bob – **VK3BNC**, Ian – **VK3IDL** and David – **VK3UR** prepared a 5 page submission on behalf of the Club to the Australian Communications Authority on their Discussion Paper, titled “*The Management of Interference from Broadband over Power Line Applications*”. A copy of BARG’s submission can be downloaded from the BARG Web Site, www.barg.org.au

BARG Raffle:

Don’t forget that we will be raffling off an Azden PCS4000 2m FM radio transceiver at our General Meeting on June 24th. Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. This event has even attracted overseas interest with Murray, **VK3AAI**, entering the raffle from England. It is great to see our international member taking part, wherever possible, even if he can’t come to our regular club meetings.

Education Visit – Damascus College

Gordon, **VK3FGC**, and John, **VK3AIG**, were invited to talk and demonstrate the art of Amateur Radio. A small but very enthusiastic group of year 10 students took part in discussion and “hands on” using 2 m radios. Thanks to Len, **VK3BMY**, for answering our call. Len did not have any warning about the exercise but gladly gave of his time to talk to all of the kids in turn thus demonstrating that age has no barriers in amateur radio. We have been invited back in October for a similar exercise.

IRLP / Web Site Update:

Harry, **VK3KGL**, has updated elements of the club web site over the last few weeks. John, **VK3TJW**, has altered the VK1WIA National News Broadcast to commence at 11:00am on Sunday mornings. We are having some ongoing problems with our barg.org.au e-mail addresses (eg: vk3bml@barg.org.au), but the team are busy working on the problem, which they hope will be resolved shortly.

VK3RWA Repeater Update:

Ian, **VK3AXH**, has taken delivery of the receiver and transmitter and new crystals have just arrived. Macca is in the process of integrating the radio equipment to the new PIC controller.

GEORGE FOWLER MEMORIAL AUCTION

George Fowler Memorial Auction:

The George Fowler Memorial Auction was the most successful ever held. The afternoon started with rolls and cups of soup, made by members and their partners, which warmed the tummies on the cold Autumn day. Therese and Betty (XYL’s of KGL and BNC) did the honours in the kitchen, although it is believed that they were really there to make sure Harry and Bob didn’t buy too many items... Ian, **VK3AXH**, gave a brief overview of the late George Fowler and expressed the hope that the members and visitors present were reminded of George’s tinkering and love of the hobby.

The hammer was then handed to Bob, **VK3BNC**, who explained the rules and to commence the auction. It was agreed that as Gordon, **VK3FGC**, was absent that a special selection of unsold items would be delivered to Gordon’s house at the conclusion of the auction. Bidding was fierce and no mercy was offered to the bidders who often found that they had also taken possession of a few unexpected goodies.



I'll have that!!! Frank VK3CFF



Macca and Harry recording the details



So Ted, what do you think it is?

The club was very fortunate to receive a number of donations of equipment, for sale, by several club members. As a result of this generosity and the commission of other sales made during the afternoon the club made a profit of just over \$900.

It is only through successful activities such as this and the Hamvention that the club can afford to maintain its membership fees and undertake new projects without additional cost to our members.

Propagation Report May 2005

There is no formal report this month. Ian reports that there has not been any unusual activity on 2m to mention

CLUB AMENITIES

Photo Board:

Bob, **VK3NBV**, with assistance from Doug, **VK3VBA**, have done a great job establishing some new photo boards at the club rooms. The aim is to keep these up to date with pictures of recent club activities. Photo's can either be given direct to Bob, or via e-mail to pitch@ncable.net.au It was also agreed, at the last General Meeting, that we would like all members to send in a photograph and / or QSL card for use in our Rogue's Gallery collection of members.

CONSTRUCTION NIGHTS

Construction Group:

The 3rd part of the 160m vertical antenna construction project went well, at our June construction night. Members spent the evening constructing some of the clips required to attach the loading coil to the aluminium tubing. For the next meeting you will need to bring 2 x 2l and 1 x 1.25l soft drink bottles - Start drinking now... With a bit of luck we should just about have the project completed by the end of the next meeting.

Bob, **VK3BNC**, suggested that the next project that the Construction Group take on is to arrange computer cabling to be installed to a number of locations around the club rooms. This will enable broadband access to internet services into the future from a number of locations. The members present at the Construction Group agreed that this was a good idea and are now in the process of trying to scrounge all of the necessary items.

HAMVENTION

Hamvention Home Brew Competition:

Following on from the success of last year, the Committee have agreed to conduct another Home Brew Competition in conjunction with this year's Hamvention. There will be 3 categories, being Novice, Experienced, and Expert each with prizes to the value of \$50. Conditions of Entry will be published in next month's newsletter and on the BARG Web Site shortly.

INDUSTRY VISIT

Ballarat Gold Fields Surface Mine Tour:

10 people made it along to a very interesting tour of the Ballarat Gold Fields on Saturday the 4th of June, organised by Stephen, **VK3SE**. Alan Vasey, Ballarat Gold Field's Environment and Communications Manager, commenced with a presentation on the history of gold mining in the Ballarat area and covered topics including some of the geology and different mining techniques. The group then went on a surface tour in which Alan led the group around the site explaining different aspects of the mining process. All in all, it was a very educational afternoon and opened the eyes of many members who didn't realise what was happening in their backyard.



FUTURE MEETING SPEAKERS

June General Meeting:

Mark Stephenson, **VK3PI**, from Victoria Police and the Project Director for the new Metropolitan Mobile Radio (MMR) network will be our guest speaker at the June General Meeting. The MMR network is currently being built and commissioned in Melbourne for a number of emergency services in time for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. MMR is a new secure digital radio network that will be the first major change to voice communications for emergency services in a number of years.

July General Meeting:

Doug, **VK3VBA**, has arranged for Mark Schmidt, the Regional Manager for Neighborhood Cable, to be our guest speaker at our July General Meeting.

TOWER(S) UPDATE

If you've been following the exploits of some of our members over the last few newsletters then this next item could almost be considered in the Ripley's Believe It or Not category...

John, **VK3AIG**, has finally managed to get an antenna onto his (hardly) new tower. It is a whopping 18 element 2m yagi and boy is it performing. It is getting out so well that Margaret can hear John on her bedside clock radio when ever he transmits... Whoops...

Also after a long time coming Charlie, **VK3TCV**, has a new slab mounted Nally tower that will shortly be installed in Wendouree.

Bruce, **VK3WL**, is looking at obtaining a galvanised steel light pole about 8m or more high like the ones used in street lighting applications. They are octagonal in shape and made by Riverton Engineering of Bayswater. He doesn't need a new one and if it's taller than 8m he can chop it down. The beauty of one of these is that they can be lowered to ground level, are slim line, and have a small foot print. If anyone knows where Bruce can find a second hand one of these, he would love to hear from you.

NEW AWARD

New Internet Based Radio Award:

The following may be of interest to award chasers, or for those looking for something different to do. The article is from the ARRL web site (www.arrl.org).

CQ introduces "iDX" Award (May 27, 2005) -- *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine has announced the introduction of the "iDX Award," the final component of its three-part "Waking Up DXing" program designed to encourage more DXing activity. "The iDX Award brings back and updates an old concept of introductory-level awards to help bring newer hams into the sport and mindset of DXing," explained *CQ* Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. The *CQ* iDX Award recognizes confirmed contacts with 25 to 100 different countries--or entities--made using remote bases or repeaters linked with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) networks such as IRLP or *EchoLink*. Because virtually all new hams today come into Amateur Radio as Technicians operating VHF and UHF, Novice awards have been largely discontinued," Moseson noted. "The iDX Award brings the concept of the Novice award to where newer hams are operating today." *CQ* DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF, says the demarcation between wired and wireless communication has been blurred by modern integrated systems employed by public safety agencies and commercial users. "This blurring of the line between wired and wireless has already reached Amateur Radio in several ways--using the Internet to collect and distribute DX spots, propagation data and location information, to link existing VHF and UHF repeaters over great distances and to access an HF remote base station." Williams says the *CQ* iDX Award will focus on the last two activities. "The *CQ* iDX Award recognizes the changing landscape and its inevitable effect on where Amateur Radio will be in 2020." Contacts must use radio on at least one end of the link to count for the award. Computer-to-computer contacts, while possible on such systems as *EchoLink*, will **not** count toward this award. Contacts for the new award may be made starting January 1, 2006. Complete details are in the June 2005 issue of *CQ* and on the *CQ* Web site (www.cq-amateur-radio.com). *CQ* previously introduced the *CQ* DX Field Award and the *CQ* DX Marathon as the first two parts of its "Waking Up DXing" program.

IMPORTANT ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT JUNE GENERAL MEETING

The Committee has been discussing the re-activation of the Club BBS. A motion was moved at the Committee Meeting and this is to be discussed at the June meeting. If the Club decides to re activate the BBS a new Sysop will need to be found. The Committee agreed that if a Sysop cannot be found, then there is little point in going ahead. **So give careful thought and lobby for a Sysop if you want a Packet BBS.**

CLUB WORKSHOP

The Committee has allocated some money to continue to develop the workshop out in the back room. This money may be used to build benches and/or purchase tools.

To keep the expenditure to a minimum the Club is asking members who may have excess tools (or may know of some) to donate them to the project.

WICEN Region 2 Division 3

On the Queen's Birthday Weekend John, **VK3AIG**, and Gordon, **VK3FGC**, took part in the activation of WICEN for the Mallee Rally for off road vehicles. We left Ballarat at 1300 hrs heading for Sea Lake. Half way between St Arnaud and Wycheproof we stopped and had a cup of brew to break the journey. Arriving at Lake Tyrrell at about 1700 hrs, we set up camp and then met the other members, had some light refreshments then went to cook tea. At 2030 there was a briefing and because of the rain, the course had been shortened. Instead of going around the lake 3 times (each lap about 110 Km) it had been decided to send competitors up and back twice on the Wester side. This reduced the number of check points required and allowed us to sleep in till 0700 on Sunday morning. Sunday saw us driving through the mud and slush to our check point, watching the event, and finishing at 1700. Back to the camp, a couple of drinks then home to Ballarat by 2100.. A pleasant week end for the social side and to test our equipment in the field and looking forward to next year.

	<u>Construction Night</u>	<u>Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Dining Night</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>
<u>June</u>	Mon 6 th 7:30 pm (13 th Queen's B'day)	Wed 15 th 7:30 pm	Fri 17 th 6:30 pm (Nerrina Hotel)	Fri 24 th 7:30 pm (Mark VK3PI – MMR Project)	Sun 19th June BARG Family Day at Cobden – Ian, VK3IDL
<u>July</u>	Mon 11th 7:30 pm	Wed 20th 7:30 pm	Fri 15th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 29th 7:30 pm (Mark Schmidt – Neighborhood Cable)	
<u>August</u>	Mon 8th 7:30 pm	Wed 17th 7:30 pm	Fri 19th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 26th 7:30 pm (Annual General Meeting)	Nominations for the 2005/06 Committee close on 13th Aug.

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS

VK3RBU-1	(APRS)	144.900	Mt Hollow Back
VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	Mt Hollow Back

BEACON

VK3RMB		438.475	Mt Buninyong
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IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail 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) and Tuesday's at 21:30 (note the new time) via VK3RWA

NEWS ITEMS Send to Gordon VK3FGC (e-mail the club) mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354