



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*  
*Inc. #6953T*  
*March*  
*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting  
**To Be Advised**

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 1218  
Mail Centre  
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)

We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

## **Presidents Report**

Welcome to the March newsletter. It's certainly a strange time with lots of activity, including our club activity, seriously curtailed due to COVID-19 issues. By now everyone is aware that the all the face to face activities for the next month have been cancelled. The next committee meeting will be a video conference, which will likely be a new adventure for some.

Fortunately using the radio presents zero risk of virus transmission, so there's no excuse to not be on the air.

The club entry into the John Moyle Field Day didn't go ahead, but I think there was a few club members headed out as a stand alone station. I headed down to Inverleigh ran for around five hours and managed 60 odd contacts, including 3 in the US on 20m. They we're all using beams and running a kilowatt, compared to my 100w into a OCF. So they were doing the heavy lifting I reckon.

I'm typing this while joining in on the 2m net. About 9 people joined, which isn't a bad turn out. Sadly the repeater performance is far from ideal, making the net hard work for most. It's a pity, as 3RBA should be a cracker of a repeater on 2m.

Scott, VK3MCL, is leading a 6m FM net on VK3RWU, which is great initiative. I might have to get 6m up and running here so I can join in.

Thanks again to Craig and Ian for their contributions to the news letter. It'd be great to see some other put something forward. It doesn't have to be serious, or fancy.

2020 Meeting Planner – At this stage there are no face to face meetings planned.

Thanks again to Ian, VK3AXH and Craig, VK3KG, for their submissions to the newsletter every month

### **Malcolm - VK3OAK**

Friday, 31 January 2020	Done
Friday, 28 February 2020	2020 Planning
Friday, 27 March 2020	Ian AXH and Bob BNC present on LF and HF bands
Friday, 24 April 2020	Radio Quiz Night – Bob BNC
Saturday, 30 May 2020	BBQ Meeting with other local clubs invited.
Friday, 26 June 2020	Craig KG and Ben NRD present on their experiences setting up community broadcast stations
Friday, 31 July 2020	Tour / overview of BA Airport operations (Gordon), or Presentation on modern model train controllers (Roger ADE)
Friday, 28 August 2020	AGM
Friday, 25 September 2020	Wind-farm visit or presentation (Maybe Saturday)
Friday, 30 October 2020	Hamfest prep
Friday, 27 November 2020	To be determined
Thursday, 12 December 2019	Christmas Break-up

### **VK3MCL's Ballarat and Western District Chin Wag Net**

8:30pm, every Tuesday. (Might be 9pm if the group decide to move it.)

6m FM net on VK3RWU

53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX

FM with a 91.5 tone

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

DATE	NAME	CALL	NAME	CALL
26-Mar-20	Mick	VK3GGG	CHRIS	VK3QY
2-Apr-20	Chris	VK3QY	PAUL	VK3TXR
9-Apr-20	Paul	VK3TXR	SCOTT	VK3MCL
16-Apr-20	Scott	VK3MCL	CRAIG	VK3KG
23-Apr-20	Craig	VK3KG	DOUG	VK3DRE
30-Apr-20	Doug	VK3DRE	DAVID	VK3KQT
7-May-20	David	VK3KQT	IAN	VK3AXH
14-May-20	Ian	VK3AXH	MICK	VK3GGG
21-May-20	Mick	VK3GGG	CHRIS	VK3QY
28-May-20	Chris	VK3QY	Paul	VK3TXR
4-Jun-20	Paul	VK3TXR	SCOTT	VK3MCL
11-Jun-20	Scott	VK3MCL	Craig	VK3KG
18-Jun-20	Craig	VK3KG	Doug	VK3DRE
25-Jun-20	Doug	VK3DRE	David	VK3KQT
2-Jul-20	David	VK3KQT	Ian	VK3AXH

Hi Members,

I'm sorry to report that there's been two Silent Keys occur in the last or week or so.

**Ray Magilton** ex **VK3DRC** Ballarat and Cape Clear passed away Monday. His wife Margaret predeceased him some time after shifting from Cape to Ballarat. I think Ray may have joined the club when he first came to district but let it drop. We discussed his daughter contacting us about his gear disposal at the committee meet on Monday night.

**Bob Whalley** **VK3BWZ** 96 yrs of Blackburn passed away on Saturday last. Bob used to come up on VK3RBA on Tue night net and talk to members. He worked for the PMG and was involved telegraphy and associated things RTTY.

I knew Bob from membership of the EMDRC club and also as a WICEN member and we lived just around the corner from one another in Melbourne. His wife Peg passed away a few years back now.

Bob was originally licenced as VK3ZWZ and his father was originally VK3WZ and an early member of the WIA in its infancy. Bob's son Bruce also a amateur holds the call 3WZ now

Bob VK3BNC and Ian VK3AXH knew him as they were employed by the same system.

73 Craig

## **VHF and Above for Match 2020**

Well it's been a mixed bag of activity during the past month. The weather has resulted in a wide range of propagation conditions ranging from very poor to quite good. The main observation seen on the 2mx band has been the wide range of rapid qsb from one day to the next over distances around 150k and beyond when signals would start out at say S9+10 and very quickly fall away to signals at times that were inaudible.

However over the past few days there was a good lift with beacons on 2mx being heard in the Ballarat area from Adelaide, Mt Gambier and Devonport NW Tasmania.

I did hear Steve VK3ZAZ in contact with Peter VK5PJ on 2mx where good reports were given. Signals at my location were quite audible but not much in the way of signal strength.

Also heard reports from Andrew now VK3TOT formerly VK3LTL advising he was also hearing good beacon signals from within VK3 and interstate.

A couple of weeks back I received a message that an impromptu microwave day was being held on the last Sunday in February at 2pm. I quickly put some gear in my car and headed up to Mt Buninyong and setup 2.4G, 3.4G and 5.7G. Without using any liaising frequency I soon heard signals.

There were 8 stations involved of which 3 were operating from home and the others from Mt Dandenong, Mt Martha, Portarlington and YouYangs and Mt Buninyong.

In all I had 19 qso's utilising all 3 bands in one hour. Unfortunately there was not enough time to advise others of this activity.

## **Antenna Building Project**

The club antenna building project is going along slowly with component parts arriving as they become available. At present we are still waiting on the arrival of bolts to secure the element insulators to the boom and the aluminium element material which will allow us to get underway.

A jig has been made to enable drilling of the boom for the element insulators which will be most useful.

However given the present health crisis it's not possible to say when construction will begin. Advice will be given when the situation becomes clearer..

A spread sheet will be generated so those involved in this project will know the costs for each of the antenna's being made.

Till next time 73 de VK3AXH

### 3 QST Review Mar 2020

- 4/5 Index.
- 9 Graphical colour page display of US Amateur Radio Bands. 2200 Metres to 23 cm. Shows licence entitlement to bands.
- 13 Member Spotlight on John Finnegan K9ECF.
- 24 Letters.
- 30 Feature article “Build your own Open Wire Line” This could be done as a club project if any members were interested. Very easy and novel way
- 34 Using IC’s to add Propagation Delay into digital experiments
- 36 “Leaky”Antenna switches. Isolate and ground antennas.
- 38 Batteries for Elecraft KX3 & other low power radios.
- 42 REVIEW: Xiegu G90 Transceiver. All HF 20W radio. See [www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth](http://www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth)
- 47 SOTABEAMS Wolfwave Audio Processor
- 51 Inexpensive Antenna System Tuning Indicators.
- 55 The Doctor: discusses simple satellite antennas
- 57 Hints: LED tester, Microphones, Cleaning DP9 connectors etc.
- 59 Cheap remote operation with Raspberry Pi and use.
- 60 Organising an DX expedition or simple Field day activity.
- 64 How the Ionosphere was Confirmed. Remember the D, E, F1 and F2 layers Good history of discovery and usage.
- 67 Interested in an Amateur Pod Cast ? Try [blubrri.com/eclectictech](http://blubrri.com/eclectictech)
- 68 The saga of Clipperton Island. It has an interesting history.
- 75 China Telecoms regulator proposes delete some Amateur Allocations including 2200 meter, 146-148, 1260-1300, 3400-3500, 5650-5725 MHz and all other bands above 10GHz. That doesn’t leave much for microwave experimentors?
- 76 In Brief: JOTA activity for 2019 was up although individual scout numbers dropped. George Laurer K4HZE the inventor of the universally used UPC. This is more commonly known as the Bar Code and is probably on every product being made now. He was 94 and the Bar Code first used commercially in 1974 in retail.
- 77 Public service: Amateurs Deploy for Wildfire threats in California
- 84 50Mhz and above: VHF Antennas & Geminids activity. Try some sites. [www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf](http://www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf)  
Or how about the Quagi which was popular back in the 70’s. [www.overbeck.com/quagi.htm](http://www.overbeck.com/quagi.htm)  
It is possible to use a scaling calculation to modify for other bands.
- 86 How’s DX: V63AR. The Pacific Pohnpei Is in Federated States of Micronesia.
- 93 A Look Back at QST May 1970. “ Not that far back really” but we look at a construct for Beginners & Novice of a Solid state Selectoroid. Uses two 88mH toroids and a single transistor which could be switched in or out to counter act the QRM .



# Review Old Timers Club Australia.

**Number 65 March 2020.**

Full Membership of the RAOTC is open to any person who has held or been qualified to hold an amateur licence for a minimum of 25 years.

Associate membership is available for anyone who is so qualified for a minimum of 10 years.

Subscription is \$18 for one year and a joining fee of \$5 for issue of certificate and mailing matters. A two year sub is available at \$32. A RAOTC member reaching 90yrs old and having been a member for at least ten years will be awarded free life membership. Life membership is available also for \$375. The OTN Journal is published twice each year in March and Sept and consists of varied articles from members and some look back on their historic involvement of the way radio, TV and electronics has devolved. There is also an annual luncheon each year in Melbourne at the Benteleigh club and there is always an interesting speake to entertain and jog omes memory from days gone by.

Contact the secretary at RAOTC, PO Box 107, MENTONE VIC 3195 or Email [raotc@raotc.org.au](mailto:raotc@raotc.org.au)

Don't let anyone accuse you of being old , Join now and enjoy the writings of other amateurs as they relate their early experiences in the industry and also let some of your experiences be shared with others. The journal is of good quality and the stories are awe inspiring, so get a copy today.

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Well worth the reading time if you can get a copy so why not join and get your own magazine. Better still why not write a storey from your memory on something relative .