

theTARCinc Events Calendar

July

- Ann Renton Memorial Ladies Net
Tuesday July 22 starts 7-30pm VK4RAT UHF & Nodes
- TOWSA Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim Comms
Support – Sat July 26 from 5-30am Strand Beach
- B2B Bluewater Park Horse Endurance Rides Comms
Support – Sat 26 to Sun 27 July
- Bombing of Townsville Anniversary HF Activation of
Oonoonba Bomb Site – Tue July 29 from 2pm
- Tech On The Air Net
Tuesday July 29 starts 7-30pm VK4RAT VHF & Nodes

August

- WRERA Euri Gold Winter Harvest Endurance Ride
Comms Support Friday Aug 1 to Sunday Aug 3
- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday August 5 starts 7-30pm
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday August 12 starts 7-30pm
- NQORA QLD Championship Offroad Racing Comms
Support Sat 16 to Sun 17 Aug Millchester
- TARC Social Meeting
Tuesday August 19 starts 7-30pm
- MARA Dee Jay Arabians Horse Endurance Rides Comms
Support Denison Creek Fri 22 to Sun 24 Aug
- Ann Renton Memorial Ladies Net VK4RAT UHF & Nodes
Tuesday August 26 starts 7-30pm

September

- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday Sept 2 starts 7-30pm
- B2B Bluewater Park Horse Endurance Rides Comms
Support Sat Sept 6 to Sun Sept 7
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday Sept 9 starts 7-30pm
- TARC Social Meeting
Tuesday Sept 16 starts 7-30pm
- Kennedy Region Nighthawk Comms Support
Sat Sept 20 1pm to Sun Sept 21 9am Kelso Area
- Ann Renton Memorial Ladies Net VK4RAT UHF & Nodes
Tuesday Sept 23 starts 7-30pm
- Tech On The Air Net
Tuesday Sept 30 starts 7-30pm VK4RAT VHF & Nodes

more details inside ! - also check out

<https://thetarcinc.weebly.com/>

and listen into the news nets for updates

GLOBAL RADIO EVENTS

Remembrance Day Contest – 16 to 17 August
Lighthouse Weekend – 16 to 17 August
ALARA Contest – 30 Aug 0600Z to 31 Aug 0559Z
CHARC AGM Weekend Emerald – 26 to 28 Sept
Cardwell Gathering – Fri 3 to Mon 6 Oct
Jamboree On The Air – 18 to 19 October

place
CENT stamp
here

SURFACE
MAIL



Member Subs
to be paid by 30 June 2025.
If you have paid yours, thanks!

The Townsville
Amateur Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 333,
Garbutt East, QLD 4814.

BACKSCATTER

July 2025



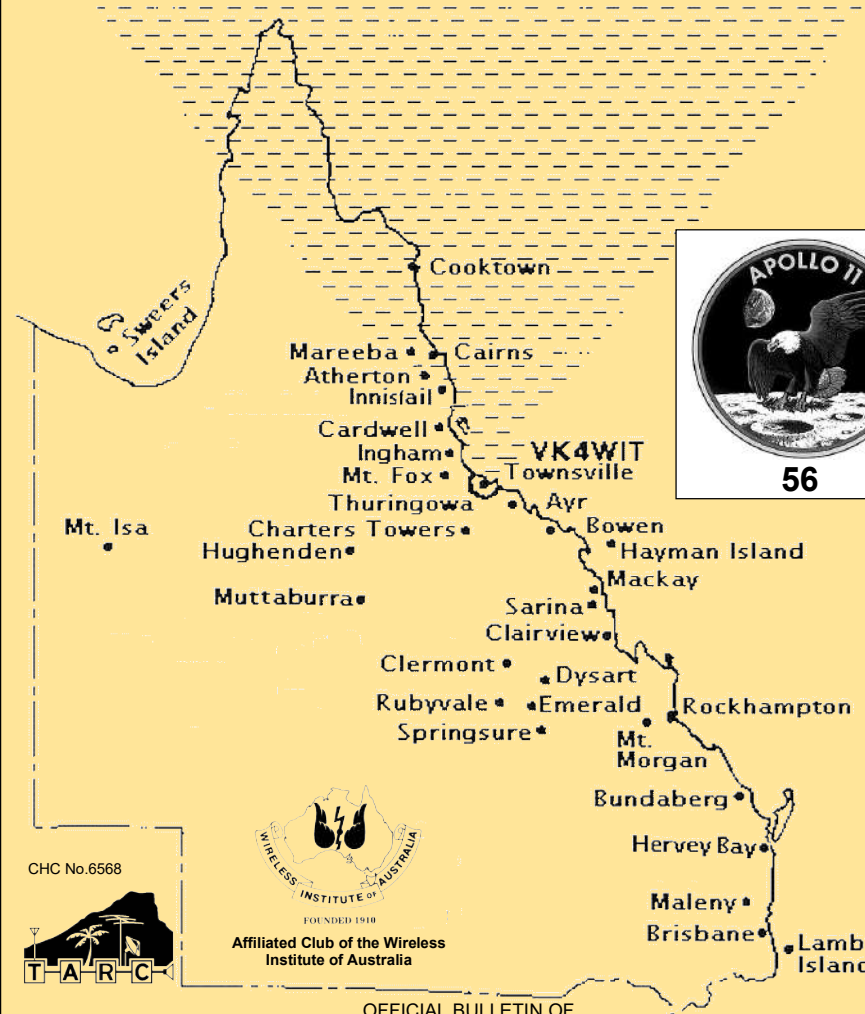
SISTER CLUB
BY4RSA NANJING

WICEN
The Amateur Radio
Communications group for
EMERGENCIES



BACK – SCATTER

THE MAGAZINE OF RENOWN – SINCE JANUARY 1969



CHC No.6568



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF

THE TOWNSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

P.O. Box 333, Garbutt East, QLD. 4814.

VK4WIT-VK4ATV-VK4RAT-VK4RTL

AMATEUR RADIO – Versatile, Innovative, Educational, Helpful, FUN ! – July 2025



BACK-SCATTER is the official bulletin of The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc. with QTH upstairs at S.E.S. Headquarters, Green St., West End, Townsville.
 POSTAL address is: **P.O. Box 333 Garbutt East, QLD 4814.**
 Voice Contact Phone: **0427 182469**

Full membership \$45 p.a., Seniors, Student, Pension & Remote Member (more than 200km from Townsville) \$25 p.a.
 Subs were due at 30th June and can be paid in person, via mail with cheque or via Internet Direct Transfer. Details for direct transfer - Account Name - The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc Bank - Bendigo
 BSB 633000 Account Number 230033540 Reference (your surname or callsign)
 - email Treasurer with details as well, otherwise your payment might be missed !

Note that except where stated, the opinions expressed herein may not be the official opinion of the TARCinc.

homepage = <https://thetarcinc.weebly.com>
 e-mail = thetarcinc@gmail.com
 Facebook search = [tarc townsville amateur radio club](#)

President **Snow Herodes VK4ME**
 phone - 0439 159403 pk4me@bigpond.com
Vice President **Richard Goodhew VK4PQV**
 phone - 0400 339543 richardgoodhew@bigpond.com
Treasurer **Peter Harrex VK4PQ**
 phone - 0407 177841 peter.harrex@bigpond.com
Secretary & Editor **Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ**
 phone - 0427 182469 vk4zz@outlook.com.au

Local Nets - some TARCadians participate in these nets

WIA News Net - each Sunday morning on VK4RAT 2m repeater at 9am to transmit WIA National and QNEWS followed by a callback session.

North Queensland Net - Sunday evenings at 7-30pm on 3605.4 kHz and relayed on the VK4RAT 2m repeater from 8pm. VK4WIT net control.

Ann Renton Memorial Ladies Net - Fourth Tuesday of the Month from 7-30pm VK4RAT UHF repeater. XYL's and YL's especially welcome.

Tech On The Air Net - Fifth Tuesday of the Month from 7-30pm VK4RAT VHF repeater. NZART-News TX plus Techtalk.

GNARLY Net - All the Morse and Talk you can eat before breakfast - on 3600kHz, Morse starts 5-30am-ish, Voice starts about 6-30am

Ron's YSF Net - Get your Fusion on - every Thursday from 7-30pm on the VK4OO YSF West End Repeater - listen 438.75, send 431.75MHz.



WICEN North Queensland Group

- Co-ordinator 2025 Gavin "og" Reibelt VK4ZZ
 0427 182469 or email vk4zz@outlook.com.au
 Emergency listening frequencies during activation
 7110 kHz and 3600 kHz

VK4RWI Portable Repeater (when active)

70cm 438.625 MHz OUT, 433.625 MHz IN

Frequencies to use when Repeaters are down - 146.5 and 439MHz

WICEN QLD State-wide nets Sunday morning

at 0800K on 14125 or 10122kHz & 0830K on 7105 kHz.



AMCA Amateur Radio Assessment Service

At least 3 weeks notice required to stage an assessment, longer notice preferred.

Specialist Level in - Brisbane - Laurie/VK4BLE 0411 413588

General Level in - Townsville - Lyndall/VK4ZM 0427 688014

Malanda - Stu/VK4SDD 0407 700096 Sarina - Roy/VK4RM 0409 597410

Rockhampton - Clive/VK4ACC 0429 632815

Mt Isa - Darrin/VK4GEO 0418 981353



TARC News Transmission Operators

AM - Denis VK4AE, Lyndall VK4ZM, Richard VK4PQV, Peter VK4PQ, Gavin VK4ZZ.

PM - Gavin VK4ZZ, Lyndall VK4ZM, Richard VK4PQV, Peter VK4PQ.



TARC Ladies Group

an informal gathering of YLs and XYLs interested in Amateur Radio and allied activities. Established January 1989 by Ann Renton VK4MUM (sk). The group have a natter during the Ladies Net on the Townsville UHF Voice Repeater and VK4TUB 46740 AllStarLink or VK4TUB 837230 Echolink Nodes 4th Tuesday of the month.

Co-ordinator Lyndall Reibelt 0427 688014



TARC Meetings :

Management Meeting - First Tuesday of the month,

Project Nights - Second Tuesday of the month,

Social / Backscatter Meeting - Third Tuesday of the month,

all start from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms, 27 Green Street West End.

For meeting dates please consult the events calendar on the cover of this magazine .

Last month's secret word was **COARSE**

This month's secret word is ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Electronic Back-scatter is best read in Adobe Acrobat Reader available for your ops on <https://get.adobe.com/reader/> remember to untick the optional offers before downloading.

This month's fortune cookie:-

" DCE seeks DTE for mutual exchange of data. "

Regional Voice Repeaters and Gateways (all frequencies in MHz)

Locale	Callsign	Input	Output
Hann Tableland	VK4RHT	146.075	146.675 123Hz Tone
Cairns (Mt Haren)	VK4RCA	145.4125	147.0125 123Hz Tone
Cairns (AllStarLink 599730)	VK4RSB	145.625	147.225 110.9Hz Tone
(Trinity Beach)	VK4RSB	431.100	438.100 131.8Hz Tone
Cairns Rydges City Centre	VK4RCA	434.850	439.850 91.5Hz Tone
Tolga	VK4RBK	434.900	439.900
Malanda FM/C4FM/WIRES-X	VK4RSD	146.250	146.850
Millaa Millaa	VK4RPH	145.4625	147.0625
Townsville Region	VK4RAT	146.100	146.700
(Mt Stuart)	VK4RAT	433.225	438.225 91.5Hz Tone
West End FM/C4FM/WIRES-X	VK4OO	431.750	438.750 91.5Hz Tone
Bowen	VK4RAB	431.375	438.375 91.5Hz Tone
	VK4RAB	146.125	146.725 91.5Hz Tone
Collinsville (on test)	VK4RAC	147.125	147.725 91.5Hz Tone
Mt Isa (Four Mile Hill)	VK4RMI	146.100	146.700 91.5Hz Tone
Midge Point (Conder Hills)	VK4RMP	146.200	146.800 IRLP 6037
Mackay	VK4RBY	146.050	146.650
(Black Mountain)	VK4RBY	433.600	438.600
Sarina 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RSA	146.075	146.675 12.5kHz BW
(Jordan Creek)	VK4RSA	434.625	439.625 IRLP 6037
	VK4RSA	52.800	53.800
Clairview	VK4RDL	147.775	147.175 91.5Hz Tone
Nebo 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RBM	146.175	146.775 IRLP 6741
(Blue Mountain)	VK4RWS	433.675	438.675 91.5Hz Tone
(Mount Seaview)	VK4RRR	146.375	146.975 91.5Hz Tone
Moranbah	VK4RAS	146.275	146.875 91.5Hz Tone
(Carborough Range)	VK4RAS	434.950	439.950 91.5Hz Tone
Clermont	VK4RHR	146.325	146.925 IRLP 6037
(Hodgson Range)	VK4RHR	433.500	438.500
Emerald	VK4CWL	146.550	146.550 91.5Hz Tone
Rockhampton Region	VK4RAR	146.100	146.700 IRLP 6973
(Mt Archer) 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RAR	433.225	438.225 IRLP 6037
Blackdown Tableland	VK4RBD	146.350	146.950 IRLP 6037
Springsure (Roddas Lookout)	VK4RSP	146.225	146.825 IRLP 6037

Regional APRS Digipeaters and Gateways on 145.175MHz

located near Atherton, Mount Isa, Townsville, Midge Point, Sarina, Clairview, Nebo, Moranbah, Clermont, Emerald, Middlemount, Blackwater, Springsure, Rockhampton.

Regional and Portable All Access Analogue Gateways

Cairns Echolink/IRLP	VK4JKL	146.550MHz 123Hz Tone
Kirwan AllStarLink/Echolink	VK4TUB	VK4RAT UHF Repeater
Kelso AllStarLink/Echolink	VK4PQ	VK4RAT VHF Repeater
Condon AllStarLink	VK4BDE	145.145MHz 91.5Hz Tone
Heatley AllStarLink	VK4OT	439.325MHz HH Interface
Charters Towers AllStarLink VHF	VK4GDN	145.145MHz 91.5Hz Tone
Charters Towers AllStarLink UHF	VK4GDN	439.125MHz 91.5Hz Tone
Portable AllStarLink ShariPi	VK4HSV	439.125MHz 91.5Hz Tone
Mount Isa Echolink/IRLP	VK4MIC	VK4RMI VHF Repeater
Mackay AllStarLink/Echolink	VK4DW	145.350MHz 91.5Hz Tone

Regional and Portable Digital Gateways

Rangewood WIRES-X Fusion	VK4JPA	145.350MHz
Rasmussen MultiMode	VK4BDE	145.145MHz

Regional Packet FBBS :

	Callsign	
Townsville Region	VK4OT-3	145.175MHz 1200bd

(Telnet with p/w access also available vk4ot.dnns.net port 6300)

Regional Beacons

		Output
10m Mt Stuart (Townsville)	VK4RTL	28.270 CW id
6m Hann Tableland (Atherton Tlands)	VK4RHT	50.281 CW id
Mt Stuart (Townsville)	VK4RTL	50.282 CW id
2m Hann Tableland (Atherton Tlands)	VK4RHT	144.446 CW id
Mt Stuart (Townsville)	VK4RTL	144.445
70cm Mt Stuart (Townsville)	VK4RTL	432.445 CW id
23cm Mt Stuart (Townsville)	VK4RTL	1296.444 CW id

Weather Information on HF

VMC Charleville 2201, 4426, 6507, 8176kHz USB

NT, QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, SA areas

VMW Wiluna 2056, 4149, 6230, 8113kHz USB

NT, WA, SA areas

Stations transmit Marine Weather Warnings on the hour



ATTENDING: At the Club Rooms
VK4's. ZZ, ME, YT, PQV, TEW, FUDO,
FUU, ZMB, VK3UR.
JBY, HSV, PE, ALS

ATTENDING: via Zoom Session ID – 734 8554 6887
VK4's PQ, CMW, OIL, ZM, XA

VISITORS: Nil

APOLOGIES: VK4's. AEX, VIK, ALS, UCM, JPA, ICA, KMA, EMF, DNF, JWC, LKG, FCRH, FIBW, FBNP, CK, BLE, EI, PAL, IGM, TJS, HCZ, RO, TTW, WDM, KGH, KN, MIK, PA, OT, ZON, ZT, KMD, FNQ, FRYL, OO, MSS, AE, BRM, LU, GWA, KDF, CD, FVC, WJ, PJH, AFW, ZWC, DJC, KEE, BDE, YWG, OIL, GUN, BVM, TUB, GDN, GFR, AAH, HSV, TSV, PE, JPA, GED, WSG, VK1ZZ, ZL1PLG, Joan McDonnell, Roslyn Bryant, Rhonda Wilks, Peter Renton, Wendy Schinkel, Derek Goodhew, Toni Goodhew, Susan Hinks, Jeanette Mann, Noelene Melrose, Nell Crabb, Kerry Wright, Cate Gooda, Bill Walker, Kev Chillout, Valerie Payn, Brad Payn.

Business commenced at 1934h with the meeting chaired by the President Snow/VK4ME. Snow welcomed all attending, greeting members and called for any apologies.

SILENT KEYS: Nil.

NEW MEMBERS: Dean Lawson.

Dean dabbled with Amateur Radio many years ago then he made electrotechnology an occupation, leading up to being one of the most experienced event and broadcast staging engineers in the country. Retired now (but occasionally dragged back temporarily into the hectic events arena) Dean has found time to keep his hand in with technology while enjoying the benefits that getting an amateur radio station on-air can bring. Dean hopes to re-establish his licence and grab a call sign to get on-air and has already attended a number of the TARCinc Project Nights and Social Meetings. Being exceptionally encouraged by Mark/VK4TSV, Dean would like to become a member of the Club.

Motion 202507001 Accept Dean Lawson as a member of the Club. Moved by Gavin Reibelt/VK4ZZ, Seconded by Snow Herodes/VK4ME – CARRIED unanimously with applause.

SHOW AND TELL:

Richard/VK4PQV demonstrated a handy device used in assisting the deployment of pop tops in caravans. The Pop Top Assist Lifter is available online for around \$160..

Mick/VK4CMW showed through the magic of Zoom live and direct from Collinsville the current thing that keeps him radio shack-bound, The Moon Boot.

ACCEPTING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Motion 202507002 Accept the minutes for the June 2025 Management Meeting as printed in Back-scatter.
Moved by Snow/VK4ME, Seconded by Peter/VK4PQ
– CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- Nil

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary, Gavin/VK4ZZ detailed the following correspondence...

Inwards. 12 articles, Outwards. 5 articles, as detailed in the Correspondence Log with the most noteworthy being:

- Ergon Energy – Scheduled Mains Outage at Mount Stuart – Wed 18th June from 8 -30am to 3pm
- RSGB – Radcom Magazine June 2025
- Richard Goodhew VK4PQV – Reports for July Management meeting

**Minutes of
Management
Meeting
Held on
the 1st of July
2025 at the Club
Rooms SES HQ,
Green Street,
West End**

- Lyndall Reibelt VK4ZM – Report for July Management meeting
- Peter Harrex VK4PQ – Report and Note for July Management meeting
- Phil Strom VK4HSV – Update report on Mt Stuart Maintenance Project
- Phil Strom VK4HSV – Further update report on Mt Stuart Maintenance Project and lock quotes
- Dean Lawson – Membership Application
- Ray Schinkel VK4OIL – Notice of Steve Beddow VK4VCO, Blackwater, Silent Key
- TARC Financial Members – Notifications for Management Meeting, Project Night and Social Evening
- TARC Financial & Honorary Members & Complementaries – Back-scatter June 2025
- TARC Financial Members – Management Meeting Agenda so far

Motion 202507003 Accept the Secretary's Report.

Moved by Gavin/VK4ZZ, Seconded by Richard/VK4PQV
– CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM SECRETARY REPORT:

- Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Peter/VK4PQ advised the meeting that, after doing some research on the ATO website and after talking to Karen at our local Bendigo Bank branch, the TARCinc Bendigo Bank Easysaver account is now TAX exempt dated from the 13-06-2025.

Peter then presented the Treasurers Report to the meeting and asked for questions before asking the meeting to accept the report.

Motion 202507004 Accept the Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Peter/VK4PQ, Seconded by Ben/VK4YT
– CARRIED unanimously.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS;

ASSESSMENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported:

ACMA runs the Amateur Radio Assessors Service.

- Specialist Assessors available for remote or online assessments are

Laurie Pritchard/VK4BLE in Brisbane on 0411413588,
Ron Bertrand/VK2DQ on Gold Coast on 0426771808,
Gail Lidden/VK4ION in Bundaberg on 0410121345,

- General Assessors available for face to face assessments in the regions

Stuart Dunk/VK4SDD in Malanda on 0407700096,
Bob Ronai/VK4BOB in Cairns on 0438323737,
Howard Small/VK4BS in Cairns on 0425825799,
Darrin Archer/VK4GEO in Mount Isa on 0418981353,
Eric Baker/VK2TRD in Mount Isa on 0427703693,
Lyndall Reibelt/VK4ZM in Townsville on 0427688014,
Roy Moore/VK4RM in Sarina on 0409597410,
Clive Sait/VK4ACC in Rockhampton on 0429632815,
Ray Dobinson/VK4XXX in Rockhampton on 07 49281219
Lawrie Ellis/VK4LE in Gladstone on 0477166712

If you do not get an answer on these numbers, be sure to leave a message otherwise, you will be treated as a bogus caller and possibly blocked.

For a full list of assessors, information on the Exam Service and the Amateur Radio service in Australia, surf to the ACMA website and search for Amateur Radio Accredited Assessors.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Gavin VK4ZZ reported :

Callouts – Nil

Communications Support – 2 events.

Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc, Autumn Escalade Horse Endurance Rides

NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park. 14th & 15th June.

Thanks to Operators – Lyndall/VK4ZM Ride Base, Iain/VK4IGM Checkpoint Grid, Snow/VK4ME & Peter/VK4PJH Checkpoint Waynes World, Jo & Ben/VK4YT Checkpoint Robs Gate on Saturday, Gavin/VK4ZZ Checkpoint Robs Gate Sunday.

The weather treated us well, radio comms went well except some VHF inversion blocking on Saturday afternoon which was circumvented with relays between checkpoints, all horses and riders made it back well, there was some in-flight catering to checkpoints on Saturday evening with much thanks to the organisers, some new trails were blazed and a new checkpoint established by Snow and Peter plus there was the usual traffic on Forestry Road which behaved itself. Many thanks to the Coffee Lady for being on-site all weekend at Ride Base (the operators were shouted coffees by the organisers) and we had a fun time trying new things in the field – with the award for the best thing going to Snow and Peter at Waynes World with the comfy and well contained campfire on Saturday Night. Many thanks to B2B for having us onboard and see you all towards the end of July.

North Queensland Offroad Racing Association Pato's 7 Hour Enduro Millchester Motor Sports Facility, 28th June.

Thanks to Operators – Merv & Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB Check 1 Crossroads, Gary/VK1ZZ Check 2 Turnaround, Lyndall/VK4ZM & Gavin/VK4ZZ Check 3 Creek.

Lyndall and Gavin were able to break away from the big smoke early and set up camp at Millchester on Thursday afternoon, meet up with the Ones on the Hill for a Thursday Pizza Night and arrange some maintenance and town touring on Friday. The 10km Prologue Course was used for the Enduro with 3 teams of 2 competing, with the only attrition being a recurring electrical issue in one of the vehicles which was solved during the day. The look lap happened around 8am, all checkpoints were manned and reporting for the Prologue Lap which started around 9am and competition started at 9-30am and completed around 4-45pm. The rain held off for the event, main comms was on UHF CB CH10 plus a backup liaison frequency of 146.550MHz. The showers happened during Saturday Night which washed most of the dust off the cars and the spots of rain on Sunday morning stopped long enough to pack away soggy pergolas. Thanks to NQORA for a well run event and see you all again at Millchester in the middle of August for the next one.

2025 Comms Support -

Here is the calendar and the known list of clashes and changes. This will give you a chance to choose which events you would like to support in the coming year, and boy do we need a lot of support for the calendar full of variety and events!

26 July - Bush to Beach Bluewater Horsie Ride – Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim

Note that due to the small amount of radio volunteers the involvement with the Ingham Forest Rally has been cancelled

18 October – Jamboree On The Air – NQORA Short and Dirty Offroad Racing

Events:

Sat 26 to Sun 27 July - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Autumn Escalade Horse Endurance Rides 5/20/40 - NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park. Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ME & VK4PJH many more operators needed.

Sat 26 July - Townsville Open Water Swimming Assoc. Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water Swim. Assemble from 5-30am Strand Park, Picnic Bay, Cleveland Bay. Operators so far - VK4FUU, VK4ZZ, VK4HSV more ops needed.

Fri 1 to Sun 3 August - Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riding Assoc. 5/20/30/40/60E/80 Winter Harvest Horse Endurance Rides - Euri Gold Farms near Bowen. Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ME, heaps more ops needed.

Sat 16 to Sun 17 August - NQORA QLD Championship Round Off Road Racing Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers. Operators so far - VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZZ & VK4ZM, many more operators needed.

Sat 6 to Sun 7 September - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Spring Push Horse Endurance Rides 5/20/40 - NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park. Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ME & VK4PJH many more operators needed.

Sat 20 to Sun 21 September - Kennedy Region Scouts Nighthawk activity, Kelso area. Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ZMB, VK4IGM, VK4ME & VK4PJH, VK4HSV, more ops would be good.

Sat 18 October - NQORA Short and Dirty 14km Off Road Racing Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers. Operators so far - VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, more operators needed.

Thu 2 April to Mon 6 April - Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riding Assoc. 5/10/20/40/80/Harness & Mini Marathon Easter Carnival of Horse Endurance Rides - Euri Gold Farms near Bowen Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4CUZ, VK4ME, VK4HSV, VK4IGM, many more operators needed.

Sat 27 June - Townsville Open Water Swimming Assoc. 2026 Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water Swim. Assemble from 5-30am Strand Park, Picnic Bay, Cleveland Bay. Operators so far - VK4FUU, VK4AAH, VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4IGM, more operators needed.

We are starting to lose many our long-time comms support volunteers!

If you can help out with any of these events please contact Gavin/VK4ZZ on 0427182469 or on the wireless

TECHNICIAN REPORT:

- Kerry/VK4TUB was an apology for the meeting.

STATION MANAGERS REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported :

- Club Station gear - functioning well.

- Club Mt Stuart gear - functioning well. 2m voice repeater good, 70cm voice repeater online, UHF CB repeater online, APRS digipeater good. 23cm Beacon good.

- Training for Assessments - No training sessions this month.

- VK4WIT Operations - No portable operations this month.

- VK4ATV WSPR Beacons – Reduced propagation on the higher bands, thanks to Lloyd spotting 6m with VK4TVL – also noticing continued lack of spots in Europe. Some good 21MHz propagation about and some exceptional 7MHz spots to Canada.

- North Queensland Net - All nets going good, participation good.

Some fading events still being experienced.

- Some more treasure has been donated – Much Thanks to all !

- Loss of Repeater Services at Mount Stuart – on Wednesday 18th June Ergon Energy conducted a planned mains outage at Mount Stuart to continue fixing damage from the March Lightning Storms and some preventative maintenance. The crew inspected the Repeater Site and found some installations with the main meter box made in 2019 did not comply with recent changes, pulled the pole fuse and told no one about it.

The VHF, UHF and UHF CB repeaters ran until Friday morning 20th June when the DC low voltage relay disconnected the essential service supply. Club Technician Kerry/VK4TUB managed to get out of his sick bed and be on-site Saturday morning 21st June and with the help from Snow/VK4ME started to get charge back into the batteries using the Club's portable generator. Snow concentrated on charging the battery banks (the co-siter's batteries were down to 6V – Snow also cleaned out the co-siters external battery housing drain holes and released all the water that was inside the enclosure from the March rains). Meantime Kerry had found the note from Ergon inside the meter box – then engaged help from fellow TARCadian and sparky Mr Split to get Ergon back to Mt Stuart to replace the pole fuse. Ergon team arrived, discussed the situation with Kerry and Mr Split, replaced the pole fuse and all repeater and beacon services were restored to normal. Many thanks to Kerry, Snow and Mr Split in managing the situation under arduous conditions.

LIBRARIAN REPORT:

Ashley/VK4FUU reported: All going well. More magazines to view and share.

LADIES GROUP CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- on behalf of Lyndall/VK4ZM, Gavin/VK4ZZ presented the following report:

The Ann Renton Memorial Net happened on Tuesday 24th June at 0930UTC on the Townsville VHF repeater incorporating the VK4PQ AllStarLink 49806 and Echolink 956580 nodes along with the VK4GDN AllStarLink 54043 145.145MHz Node (next month we are switching back to the UHF Voice Repeater and the TubbyNet).

The net consisted of 2 rounds followed by a Ta Ta round.

Via VOIP modes

Robert/VK2DY, Kellyville Ridge, NSW, Australia via Echolink/VK2DY/VK4PQ

15C tonight (was 1C during the week). RF Hack Portapak device, totally unlocked on Rx and TX (got to be careful) and can monitor all sorts of RF services and has a built in waterfall display. Frequency range 1MHz to 6GHz. Lots of user-supported software solutions. Also playing with the Dwarf2 Telescope. Has an autolocate feature that needs a near clear sky to work. Once it has a location fix you can direct it to find a particular celestial feature. Works well when there is less light pollution. Still thoroughly enjoying the M1KE All-In-One Portable Node Device.

Tim/B14PPJ, Zhuhai Residential District, Huangdao, Qingdao, Shandong, China via Echolink B14PPJ/VK4PQ

27C, a sunny summer. Growing some different plants in the flowerbed – Turmeric, Pumpkin, Eggplant & Bok Choi. Had a

FT8 contact with a station in the Philippines today and continuing the CW practice.

A source in Russia has forecast a very large tsunami to visit the coast near me on July 5th, so preparing an escape plan to head to high ground and avoid mudslides before the forecast date. Hope to be back in a month. Note that the ARRL DX Contest is happening soon, hope to participate if no tsunami.

John/VK1JT (the juicy tomato), Canberra, ACT, Australia via Echolink/VK1JT/VK4PQ

Have 3 Portapak Mayhem Hack RFs, a RF Swiss Family Knife. Very useful for RF research. Very into SDR – using SDR#, SDR Angel and the easy to use SDR++ Brown Edition plus all the add-on modules for analog and digital modes. Moderates the DR SDR facebook site – try it out for the latest in SDR things.

Via the Townsville VHF repeater were

Ben/VK4YT, Kelso, QLD, Australia

House hunting still continues, lots with high prices for what they offer. Interesting to hear about the Hack RF devices. Have some SDR modules but no spare time to play at the moment. Will try SDR++ Brown Edition when I get the chance.

Lyndall/VK4ZM, Vincent, North QLD, Australia

Back from the Denison Creek Horsie Rides that happened last weekend. 8C on Saturday, 18C on Sunday and a bit wet. Warmer though than the previous weekend at Bluewater Park where the minimum was 5C. Heading out to Charters Towers for Pato's 7 Hour Off Road Racing Enduro this weekend then might have a weekend at home after that.

Snow/VK4ME, Kirwan, North QLD, Australia

A quiet day today after Pilates. Got to see Tubby's SDR Transceiver – thinking about getting one sometime, maybe the Wolf 918 or 7500, still thinking about it though. Getting around to processing some QSL Cards. Vern rang today, slowly on the mend.

The net concluded at 1020UTC after the ta ta round was completed and Net Controller wished everyone a safe Month and to return for the July Net. It was also advised that the July Net would be going back to the Townsville UHF Voice Repeater and the VK4TUB Echolink and AllStarLink.

The next ARMN will be happening on Tuesday 22nd July at 0930UTC on the Townsville UHF Voice Repeater incorporating the VK4TUB AllStarLink 46740 and Echolink 837219 nodes. Remember too that the Tech on the Air net will be happening on Tuesday 29th July, then on Tuesday 30th September from 0930UTC on the Townsville VHF repeater incorporating the VK4PQ AllStarLink 49806 and Echolink 956580 nodes along with the VK4GDN AllStarLink 54043 145.145MHz Node. 73's Lyndall/VK4ZM

JOTA CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Richard/VK4FRJG reported:

JOTA 2025 will be held on Saturday 18th to Sunday 19th October – which is the third full weekend.

Flinders Region Guides have booked for operators of their JOTA at the Bluewater Girl Guides Training Centre.

Scouts this year will be groups JOTA stations nil heard from them so far. Will need operators for the Groups doing JOTA

QSL CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Ashley/VK4FUU reported:

- No cards received from the inwards bureau for this month.

EDITOR BACKSCATTER REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported :

The July 2025 issue will close for articles on Friday afternoon 11th, be with Iain/VK4IGM by Monday 14th for limited print run publishing. Thanks for those who have submitted items - keep those items rolling in !

TRANSMISSION OFFICER & CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

(our transmission officers are Richard/VK4PQV, Lyndall/VK4ZM, Denis/VK4AE, Peter/VK4PQ, Gavin/VK4ZZ)

- Richard/VK4PQV reported:

For the month of June 2025 the WIA and Q-news transmissions and call-backs were done by Peter VK4PQ and the NQ news retransmissions and call-backs were done by Richard VK4PQV. For July 2025 the WIA n Q-news transmission and call-backs and the NQ news retransmissions and call-backs will be one by Richard VK4PQV.

PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Iain/VK4IGM was an apology for the meeting.

WIA CONTACT REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported:

- WIA Common Licence to retransmit WIA National News came into effect from Tuesday 1st July 2025 and gives permission to retransmit the programme provided certain conditions are met. Details are available on the WIA Website.

- A reminder that the next WIA Affiliated Club Online briefing will be happening on Sunday 14th September at 0600UTC (4pm) and an invitation to register and attend will be sent by email to all WIA affiliated Club Presidents during August 2025. Meantime any items for inclusion in the briefing need to be sent in time for the Draft Agenda being issued in August to the WIA Secretary via email.

- A reminder that the ACMA is going to do some minor changes and renew the Citizens Radio Service Class Licence, including allowing VOIP interface and expanding the number of telemetry only channels available. Details available on the ACMA Website and consultation closes on the 25th July. The updated Class Licence will come into force on 1st October 2025.

FACEBOOK MASTER REPORT:

- Paul/VK4ICA had no report for this month.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT:

- Bob/VK4AAH and Phil/VK4HSV will report at the 2025 AGM.

Motion 202507005 moved by Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB to accept tabled Ex-Officio Reports and Seconded by Jeff/VK4XA.
- CARRIED unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Tony 4 Radio Direction Finding event report

Gavin/VK4ZZ provided the following report –

Tony/VK4TJS supervised the 2025 event which happened at Apex Park Kelso/Rasmussen on Saturday 7th June from 1pm. Helping Tony was Snow/VK4ME who was in hyper-deviousness mode when hiding the radioactive bananas and coconut for the hounds to find, placing them in places no decent human would want to grope or leap. So devious was the hiding that none of the bananas were found and only two hounds found the coconut homing beacon to show them the way home. Out hounding were Stephen/VK4AEX trying out his new tape measure beam then getting out his portable cross Yagi satellite antenna, Ben/VK4YT with a tape measure beam, Peter/VK4PQ with his newly constructed double quad, Ron/VK4JBY with a resurrected tape measure beam and sniffer, Lyndall/VK4ZM with a Swiss beam and sniffer, Mr & Mrs Split with a Swiss beam and Gavin/VK4ZZ trying out a portable log-periodic beam for the first time. Keeping the real hounds at base plus occasional walkies was Jo while Tony was kept company by Richard/VK4PQV and an ever-worried Snow/VK4ME – using the binoculars from time to time to see if the hounds had found any beacons. Gavin/VK4ZZ kept the beverages and munchies served in between sorties and by 4pm all the hounds were back with a zero result (Snow was way too tricky and will have to make some hides a bit easier next year). Tony announced that he was hanging up the DF hat for the last time and Snow agreed to keep the event running in the future. Some departed, some stayed by the banks of Ross River in ideal northern winter weather conditions with the sun going down by 6pm forcing them to leave for home. Thanks to Tony and Snow for a great afternoon!

- Anniversary 40metre activation of Ooononba Bomb Site Reminder

Ray/VK4OIL has received permission to run a multiple HF field station at the WW2 Heritage Ooononba Bomb Site on Tuesday 29th July 2025. The operation will commemorate the early morning explosion of a 250 pound bomb at the Ooononba site which left a crater and the destruction of a palm tree. Ray plans for the operation to start at 2pm local (0400UTC) and start completing around 4pm local (0600UTC) and invites as many local hams that can come along and set up their portable 40metre stations on the site with working centred around 7100kHz LSB, with net co-ordination and spotting performed by VK4WIT at the TARCinc Club Station at West End. Ray also asks that DX stations in Australia and overseas actively operate to contact the commemorative stations operating from the WW2 Heritage Ooononba Bomb Site to help support maintaining the site as an important community resource. If you wish to find out more, please contact Ray/VK4OIL on mobile 0409 888 875

- Mount Stuart Maintenance Projects Update

Snow/VK4ME briefed the meeting on these updates provided by Phil/VK4HSV.

Groundworks

Snow has cleared the site of all long grass and overhanging trees around fence line and power wires – looks bare now!

Storm door

Welded two locking plates onto the storm door and attached angle brackets to the blockwork to accommodate padlocks. Steelwork has been painted with cold gal and undercoat. Weather seal has been reattached.

Padlocks

Phil had a spare padlock at home with the required 50mm extended shackle which he had rekeyed to suit the Mt Stuart repeater site key – this padlock is on one of the locking points on the storm door.

On the second locking point on the storm door, we have used the padlock from the battery tube. On the door to the battery tube, I have placed a second padlock from home with the key to this padlock (not keyed to repeater site) hanging from the steel rack just as you walk into the repeater hut – tag on key says it is for the battery tube.

Dustproofing

When we do the main door, Phil expects that some grinding of the concrete blocks will be needed where the mortar has been installed behind the steel door frame – Phil has strung some steel clothesline wire from wall to wall at ceiling height to allow suspension of painters drop sheets to partition off the hut from the worksite around the door.

Air conditioner

The existing air conditioner was removed as there was no weatherproofing around the unit – there was a 60mm gap on top of the unit and 10 mm gaps one each side which were open to the elements. There was evidence of water running down the internal walls of the repeater hut and ponding on the floor. We have packed out the existing opening with timber to suit the air conditioner cabinet, installed cabinet with fall to outside, placed a marine ply “cover” on the outside wall to seal the opening and installed architraves around unit on inside wall. All timberwork has been primed and undercoated and copious amounts of silicone sealant applied. Should not leak now. We have installed the new cabinet from the new replacement air conditioner that was stored on site as the existing cabinet was rusted out. We have reinstalled the existing old air conditioner unit as it was still operational but it is severely rusted as well. When this unit fails (probably within a few months), the new AC unit just needs to be slid into the cabinet. Note:- probably need to keep an eye on the new AC cabinet for possible future rusting and may need to treat/paint with rust preventative as the other cabinet has rusted out in a couple of years.

Main door frame

Phil has purchased the required timber for the replacement door frame and pre-cut to approximate size, primed and

undercoated timber ready for install. The timber has been transported to site and is stored in the repeater hut awaiting commencement of the job. I have also left a couple of saw horses in the battery tube. Just now waiting to coordinate a time to change the door frame over. Phil anticipates that it may take all day...

Drain holes

We have drilled 4 holes at floor level around the hut to aid water drainage

Other issues

Metal clad main door

We noticed that the flat metal sheeting is coming off the main door – this looks like flat metal sheeting that has been glued over the front face of an existing exterior door and has probably caught on the bottom corner (hinges have bent and door is jamming on bottom corner) – will need to refix with liquid nails etc

Pressure cleaning Repeater Hut

Phil calculates that we may need between 800-900 litres of water to pressure clean the blockwork of the Repeater Hut prior to external painting (based on Phil's K7 Karcher pressure cleaner using 14 litres of water from a bucket to clean about 2m2 of concrete pathway). There is no domestic water supply on Mt Stuart so water will need to be transported to site. Phil has been to Coates Hire to see what they have:-

Option A: 1000 Litre Fire Fighting trailer with petrol water pump for fire hose – not high pressure. - \$195 for 24 hours.

Option B: 1000 Litre pressure washer trailer – 3000 psi pressure pump with 30m hose. - \$260 for 24 hours.

Option C: 1000 Litre Hot and Cold pressure washer on trailer – gas hot water and 3000 psi pressure pump with 30m hose. – (didn't get a quote for this one as it looked like it would need a truck to tow).

When Phil enquired if there was any special requirements for towing, he was advised that any vehicle that towed a medium sized caravan would be able to tow any one of the 1000 litre water trailers. Phil also said that we may undertake the work over a weekend – they said if the trailer was picked up late Friday afternoon and returned it first thing Monday morning then it was still just the single one daily rate (i.e. we would get two days use for the price of one). Trailers come bare – supply your own water/petrol etc.

Perimeter fence

Some of the fence posts are beginning to rust out at ground level – we may be able to extend their longevity by installing a smaller diameter galvanized pipe within the rusted section to provide support. Digging new holes for new posts will be a real pain....

ABC radio site contact

When on site, there was someone working at the BSA radio site – he came over to the TARC boundary fence and we spoke to him re access to the BSA site in order to carry out maintenance to the TARC repeater hut. He advised that we would need to email siteaccess@baicomcommunications.com or phone 1800051115 to arrange access to the BSA radio site – a few hoops to jump through so may take some time.

Painting

Looking at the site again, Phil thinks that 2 or 3 coats of acrylic paint applied by airless sprayer may be the easiest method for those involved. It will be difficult getting scaffold/ladders etc on the high sides to allow ease of roller application of the rubberised paint product and Phil suspects BSA may not be in favour of removing their boundary fence for roller access to the side wall. Spray painting (including the chain wire) may be the only option. Blockwork should be first coated with a block filler to seal surface. Redundant metal (rusty) fixings will need to be removed/treated prior to painting. Phil is not sure that the roof is actually leaking, but if it is, we could put the rubberised compound on the roof only at a later stage (Phil thinks most of the water has been coming in through the AC opening).

Padlocks

Ruswin have sent the quote for 2 only padlocks with extended shackles keyed to Mt Stuart Repeater site key – it is a bit cheaper than what they advised over the counter (previously advised \$310 for both padlocks). Norm Hyatt has previously quoted \$157 for one padlock.

We only really need 1 more padlock to have everything on the same key system (Phil had one of his padlocks rekeyed to Mt Stuart Repeater site key and another spare padlock has been put on the battery tube, with the existing padlock from the battery tube used on the repeater hut storm door).

For the meeting –

Option 1 - do we purchase one more padlock keyed to Mt Stuart Repeater site key (approx. \$150) OR

Option 2 - If there is some concern as to who may have been issued with keys over the last 40 years or so, do we ditch current key system and start again with a Key Register and reissue new keys to only those that need them. This would require rekeying of existing padlocks and repeater hut door locks and supplying new access keys. I have been quoted \$45 to rekey each padlock/door cylinder. New keys are approx. \$5 each.

- 1 padlock to main gate	\$ 45
- 1 padlock to battery tube	\$ 45
- 2 padlocks to repeater hut	\$ 90
- 1 main door cylinder	\$ 45
- 1 extra main door lockset	\$100
- 10 new keys	\$ 50
TOTAL	\$375

Phil will be away until the latter half of July and will do the repeater hut door jams when he is back (and can persuade someone to go up the hill and assist in holding the door). Happy to lend a hand pressure cleaning and painting the repeater hut if that is the way we go. If the consensus is to tender the work out, should we be looking to secure some sort of grant funding to cover costs?

The meeting discussed the two major items raised in Phil's report, namely does the Club put the painting out to tender or do the job as a club project involving all local members and also does the Club keep the current keying system for the site or go with a new keying system and re-establish the Key Register? After discussion the following motions were raised –

REPEATER HUT EXTERIOR PRESSURE CLEAN AND PAINT:

Motion 202507006 that the Pressure Cleaning and Painting of the Repeater Hut be treated as a Club Project involving as many members as possible, and that the Club go with Option 2 and hire the 1000 Litre pressure washer trailer – 3000 psi pressure pump with 30m hose. - \$260 for 24 hours. Moved by Ashley/VK4FUU and Seconded by Mick/VK4CMW. - CARRIED unanimously.

REPEATER SITE KEYING SYSTEM:

Motion 202507007 that the Club adopt Option 2 – New Keying System – accept the Russwin quote and re-establish the Key Register.

Moved by Ben/VK4YT and Seconded by Richard/VK4PQV. - CARRIED unanimously.

Snow/VK4ME then stated that he expected ALL local members to be involved in the Mount Stuart Maintenance Projects, everyone can help regardless of age and mobility as we will need as many members on deck that we can muster, not just for the heavy jobs but also support.

- A mighty antenna erection about to happen in FNQ

Jeff/VK4XA announced that his antenna farm at South Innisfail is about to have the addition of a GAP Titan HF All Band DX Vertical Antenna which will become the main antenna used to chase DX. The manufacturers state that no counterpoise radials are need, however Jeff will experiment to see if this is true.

FURTHER GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil.

There being no further business, the President Snow/VK4ME closed the meeting at 2132h local time and wished everyone goodnight and a safe return to the next Monthly Management Meeting on the 5th of August 2025.

Minutes Transcribed 12th July 2025 by Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ - Secretary 2025, The Townsville Amateur Radio Club (Inc).



JOIN THE WIA TODAY !

SUPPORT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LOBBYING FOR THE HOBBY.

SUPPORT ASSESSOR, QSL & EMCOM SERVICES.

RECEIVE AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE HOBBY !

<http://www.wia.org.au> FOR MORE INFO



**Remember !
Membership Subs
Needed to be Paid
By 30th June 2025.**

Not sure if you paid ahead when you were going away ?

Think you missed a year or three ? Want to just say hi to one of the original good guys ? Check your membership status with Treasurer Peter/VK4PQ soonest !

phone - 0407 177841 email - peter.harrex@bigpond.com

Subs can be paid in person, via mail with cheque or via Internet Direct Transfer. Details for direct transfer -

Account Name – The Townsville Amateur Radio Club In Bank - Bendigo BSB 633000 Account Number 230033540

Reference (your surname or callsign).

- email Treasurer with details as well, otherwise your payment might be missed !

Done the deed and paid already? Thank You!

Solar Panels !

Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB has these gorgeous Solar Panels ready to fly into your shack power system.

Local pickup in Townsville only.

12 by 1650 x 994 x 36 Pmax 250W Trini

TSM-250PC05A bare aluminium

1.6401 m^2 = 15% Voc 38.0V Vmpp 30.3V

Isc 8.8 A Imp 8.3 A

All \$20 each. Contact Hairy on

[qrm] rnsstone [at] gmail [dot] com [qrm]

[making sure to decode the countermeasures first]

Packet Radio Lives!

Longed for the AX25 modulation sounds in your radio shack? Need a fix of a bulletin list? Well you can still have a Packet fix either by radio or via telnet.

The VK4OT-3 FBBS Heatley NQLD is accessible 24 hours a day either via the radio port on 145.175MHz or via Telnet on vk4ot.ddns.net port 6300.

You can connect in the Townsville area via the radio port and set up access with password, or email the sysop

Jason on [qrm] vk4ot [at] outlook [dot] com [dot] au [qrm]

to set up Telnet access or find out more,

[ensuring to disengage and translate the countermeasures first].

VK4DJC Winlink Radio Message Server Operational

Located in Mount Morgan in Central Queensland operating 24 hours per day 7 days a week using VARA mode and Public Access enabled on the following spot frequencies (subtract 1.5kHz for the dial frequency), using USB.

7061.5kHz, 10146.5kHz, 14112.5kHz 28101.5kHz



Make an offer for this Tower and Antenna combo

The following is offered from a deceased estate and is being administered by John/VK4FNQ.

Approx 40foot 4 post tower with rotator and the following antennas -

- 5 element 6metre yagi
- 10 element 2metre yagi
- 17 element 70centimetre yagi
- 5 element 2metre vertical yagi
- 80metre inverted V dipole

The successful purchaser will remove the tower and equipment which is located in the Charters Towers area.

The combination will not be split - it is a package deal.

A very good local Franna crane operator is available and is reasonably priced.

Contact John/VK4FNQ on 0409 631624 to make the deal or find out more.

VISUAL BACKSLATTER



This month's featured product, for those nailing jobs where you do not want to bother the neighbourhood with loud noises.

PERSONAL CELEBRATIONS BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 22 July | Cheryl 4FRYL, board of control of John 4FNQ |
| 25 | Don 4BY, OM of Rosemary |
| 30 | Marion, board of control of Joe 4AM |
| 31 | Sheila 4PAL board of control of Iain 4IGM |
| 1st Aug | Kimberley, harmonic of Peter 4PVH |
| 1 | Wendy, board of control of Leigh 4HLW |
| 6 | Paul 4ICA, OM of Katrina 4KMA |
| 7 | Aleisha, harmonic of Phil 4HSV & Jan |
| 8 | Russell 4BEG, OM of Deidre |
| 8 | David 4OF, OM of Vicki |
| 10 | Gina, board of control of Udo 4FUDO |
| 10 | Carolyn, board of control of Dave 4FD |
| 10 | Cedric 7CL, OM of Janet |
| 12 | John 4DFZ, the Distinguished Flying Zebra |
| 20 | Lyn 4SWE/4EI, board of control of Tex |
| 23 | Noel 4AF – the Sinker Man of El-Arish |
| 28 | Catherine, harmonic of Lucia and Barry 4XPR |
| 31 | Shinako 4YMD, board of control of Ian 4KMD |
| 31 | Janie, board of control of Trent 4LKG |
| 31 | Alex, harmonic of Lucia and Barry 4XPR |
| 1 Sept | Ron 4JBY |
| 5 | Daryl 4MIC |
| 6 | John 4KN |
| 9 | Joel, Harmonic of Lynda & Rob 4RB |
| 9 | Laura, board of control of Gregg 4ZON |
| 18 | MATMAN himself 4GUN |
| 24 | Denis 4AE your friendly JMMFD National Manager |
| 24 | Ron 2DQ radioelectronicschool master |
| 25 | Paul 'Jimmy' 4CK |
| 27 | Teri 4HYL, board of control of Don 4MC |
| 27 | Rob 4RB, OM of Lynda |
| 29 | Wayne 4YWG, OM of Cate |
| 28 | Bob 4CWL, OM of Cherie |
| 30 Sept | Charlotte & Gillian,
Twin Harmonics of Steve 4SGW & Heather |

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 6 Aug | Katrina 4KMA and Paul 4ICA |
| 6 Aug | Joan and Colin 4UCM |
| 9 Aug | Leslie and Les 4ALS |
| 15 Aug | Deidre and Russell 4BEG |
| 28 Aug | Mandy and Ron 4JBY |
| 30 Aug | Shinako 4YMD and Ian 4KMD |
| 30 Aug | Lyndall 4ZM and Gavin 4ZZ |
| 2 Sept | Bob 4WJ & Jeanette |
| 22 Oct | Luz & Jeff 4JDW |

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 July 2002 – UHF CB Repeater TAC08 licenced.
 2 Aug 1989 – VK4RTL 10m Beacon licenced.
 August 1972 - Mackay Amateur Radio Club formed as
 announced by then Mackay Club Secretary
 Bernard Johnston VK4ZJH

VISUAL BACKSLATTER



What every TARDIS should look like inside – comfy!
 Part of the VK4IGM setup at the B2B June Horsie Ride

Operational Information

WICEN VK4 Net

Operators interested in maintaining reliable contact in case of infrastructure failures in Queensland hold a net every Sunday. The net happens on

14125kHz from 8-00am (2200UTC)

10122kHz from 8-00am (2200UTC)

7105kHz +/- QRM from 8-30am (2230UTC)

The net control station calls in regular stations and then invites new stations to call in.

If conditions are poor other relay stations will attempt to assist contacts. If conditions are very poor Net Control might move the net another frequency (including 3600kHz) depending on how responsive the net participants are.

Mix it with other operators, be ready to assist and call in on the net !!

Emergency Frequencies per IARU region - active during disasters

IARU Region 1 3760 7110 14300 18160 21360 kHz

IARU Region 2 3750 3985 7060 7240 7275 14300

18160 21360 kHz

IARU Region 3 3600 7110 14300 18160 21360

(VK is in Region 3).

Frequencies noted are centre of emergency activity which could extend +/- 5kHz.

Other frequencies could be activated on a per country basis - stay tuned to the WIA News for activations.

- ANZA DX Net

Australia, New Zealand and Africa DX Net

20m, 14.183 MHz, 0515 UTC, daily

15m, 21.205 MHz, 0415 UTC, Saturday

The net works on a list operation, say your sign, stand by

The net runs for about 1 hour, all operators are welcome

A QSO is brief exchange of call sign and signal report

Please do not spot the net on clusters or skimmers !

Net Leader - Col/VK4CC

The ANZA Net needs your skill as net controller.

We offer an opportunity to put something back into ham radio

Give it a try. Message Col on [qrm] seahawk55 [at] optusnet

[dot] com [dot] au [qrm]

(making sure to release the countermeasures first)

- Townsville source News Nets

- North Queensland Net

Throughout Queensland, PNG and South West Pacific

from 7-30pm (0930UTC) Sundays on - HF: 3605.4kHz

and in Townsville Region

from 8-00pm (1000UTC) Sundays on - 146.100 / 146.700 MHz

(the VK4RAT 2m repeater) and accessible internationally

from 1000UTC on -

AllStarLink VK4PQ 49806 & VK4GDN 54043

Echolink VK4PQ-R 956580

- WIA News Retransmission & Callbacks

Townsville Region

from 9-00am (2300UTC) Sundays on 146.100 / 146.700 MHz

(the VK4RAT 2m repeater) and accessible internationally

from 2300UTC on -

AllStarLink VK4PQ 49806 & VK4GDN 54043

Echolink VK4PQ-R 956580

- Regional Comms Support Contacts

Involvement in Comms Support helps you prepare for field radio activities and counter-disaster operating.

Tablelands Radio and Electronics Club Inc. (TREC)

for events based in the Atherton and Evelyn Tablelands

in FNQLD - David Falls VK4DNF 0419206498

Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc. (theTARCinc)

for events based from Ingham to Bowen to Charters Towers

in NQLD - Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ 0427182469

Mackay Amateur Radio Association Inc. (MARA)

for events based from the Whitsundays to St Lawrence to

Nebo in CQLD - Gary Crothers VK4CUZ 0410462892

- Regional Nets to try...

Monday Afternoon - YL 222 DX Net - 14222kHz from 0530Z

Monday Evening - Mackay Club Net - VK4WIM Net Control - 3597kHz from 0930Z

Monday Evening - 160Metre Net - Gary/VK4BE Net Control from Beachmere QLD - 1848kHz from 0930Z

Monday Evening - BARC 10m Net - Les/VK4SO Net Control - 29220kHz FM from 1000Z

Monday Evening - Gympie CEG 80m Net - VK4GYM Net Control - 3647kHz from 1000Z

Tuesday Evening - RADAR Net - VK4WIR Net Control - 3613kHz from 0930Z

Tuesday Evening - Bayside Fusion Digital UHF Net - 438.450 MHz (VK4RDB Repeater Mt Cotton Room 69002) from 0930Z

Wednesday Evening - Gold Coast Net - VK4WIG Net Control - 3605kHz from 0930Z

Wednesday Evening - Cairns ARC Net - VK4RCA Cairns City UHF Repeater output 439.850 input 434.850 with 91.5Hz input tone from 0930Z also on AllStarLink CairnsHub node 533335

Wednesday Evening - 160Metre Net - 1848kHz from 0930Z

Wednesday Evening - Central Queensland ARA Net - VK4CQR Net Control - 3612kHz from 0945Z

Thursday Evening - Hervey Bay Net - VK4CHB Net Control - 3615kHz from 0730Z

Thursday Evening - The TREC Memorial Net - VK4WAT Net Control - 3605kHz from 0930Z

Thursday Evening - Sunshine Coast Net - VK4WIS Net Control - 3660kHz from 0930Z

Thursday Evening - Ron's Fusion C4FM/Wires-X Net 438.750MHz VK4OO Repeater & Room 24160 AUS-REPEATER-NET from 0930Z

Thursday Evening - Redcliffe Net - VK4RC or VK4IZ Net Control - 3636kHz from 0930Z

Friday Evening - Sunshine Coast ARC 6m Net - VK4WIS Net Control - 53700kHz FM from 0930Z

Friday Evening - Caboolture ARC Net - VK4QD Net Control - 3610kHz from 0930Z

Friday Evening - Central Highlands Club Net - VK4WCH Net Control - 3618kHz from 0930Z

Saturday Evening - Darling Downs Net - VK4WID Net Control - 3650kHz from 0930Z

Sunday Morning - WICEN VK4 Net 20metres - 14125kHz from 2200Z

Sunday Morning - WICEN VK4 Net 30metres - 10122kHz from 2200Z

Sunday Morning - WICEN VK4 Net 40metres - 7105kHz from 2230Z

Sunday Morning - Border Ranges ARC - local VHF repeaters, IRLP9558, echolink VK3JED, from 2230Z

Sunday Morning - Central Queensland ARA - VK4RLM VHF repeater & Echolink VK4RLM-R, from 0001Z

Sunday Evening - North Queensland Net - VK4WIT Net Control - 3605.4kHz from 0930Z

Sunday Evening - Bunya Mountains and Districts Net - VK4BAD Net Control - 3650kHz from 1000Z

Sunday Evening - BARC 6m Net - 53525kHz from 1000Z

Daily - **WIA Australian Travelers Net**

14116kHz Check In 0200Z to 0300Z with

control callback at 0300Z. Supporting all land mobile and maritime mobile Amateur Stations - info on WIA Website.

Daily - The Gnarly Net - All the Morse and Voice you can have for breakfast.

3599kHz CW 6am or earlier for the Morse (2000Z),

3600kHz LSB Voice happens after the Morse

Daily - Coral Coast Net - 7093kHz starting 7am

(2100Z), right after the Early Birds Net

Daily - Ron's Net - in memory of Ron/VK4BRG SK - 7100kHz from 0700Z

Daily - The Kandos Net - check your gear and let everyone know you are still active !

On 7093kHz from 1630local (0630Z normal, 0530Z DST) -

Tom/VK2KF net control - alternate net controllers

Peter/VK2QF or Tom/VK4ATH

..***.***

VISUAL BACKSLATTER **NQORA Pato's 7 Hour Offroad Enduro 2025**



Sunrise at Millchester – view from the swag



TARCadian Kevvy Screen being supervised on Friday afternoon



Crew of 932 enjoy Outback TV on a Friday evening



Saturday Morning at camp – about to head to the checkpoints



Lyndall/VK4ZM at Checkpoint 3 – keeping the dust off



1063 heads past Checkpoint 3



251 heads past Checkpoint 3



932 heads past Checkpoint 3



67 heads past Checkpoint 3



1062 heads past Checkpoint 3



1064 heads past Checkpoint 3



need to wipe the windscreen before heading back to camp 😊

Radio happenings ... so far**July**

- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 22nd July from 7-30pm on T\Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- B2B Paluma Passion Horse Endurance Ride Comms Support - Sat 26 to Sun 27 July at Bluewater Park
- TOWSA Maggie Island Swim - Sat July 26th from 5-30am Strand Park
- Bombing of Townsville Anniversary HF Activation - Tue July 29th - Historic Wulguru Bombing Site 7100kHz from 0400UTC
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 29th July - from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

August

- WRERA Euri Gold Winter Harvest Horse Endurance Rides Comms Support - Fri 1 to Sun 3 August - Bowen Region
- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 5th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 12th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- NQORA QLD Championship round Off Road Racing - Sat 16 Aug to Sun 17 Aug - Millchester MSRC
- TARC Social Meeting - Tue 19th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- MARA Dee Jay Arabians 2x20/2x40/1x80 Endurance Rides - Sat 23 to Sun 24 Aug at Denison Creek
- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 26th August from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

September

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 2nd September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- B2B Spring Shore Horse Endurance Rides Comms Support - Sat 6 to Sun 7 September at Bluewater Park
- TARC Project Night - Tue 9th September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 16th September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Kennedy Region Scouts Nighthawk activity - Sat 20 to Sun 21 September - Townsville Region
- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 23rd September from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- CHARC AGM Weekend - Fri arvo 26 to Sun morn 28 Sept - Venue Lake Maraboon Ski Club near Emerald
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 30th September - from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

October

- Cardwell Gathering - Fri 3rd Oct to Mon 6th Oct at Meunga Creek Caravan Park
- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 7th Oct from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 14th September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet - Fri 17 to Sun 19 Oct
- NQORA Short and Dusty 14km Offroad Racing - Millchester - Sat 18 October
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 21st Oct from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 28th Oct from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- IICA Technology Expo - Wed 29th Oct from 2pm to 7pm in Townsville Venue T.B.A

November

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 4th Nov from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 11th Nov from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 18th Nov from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- theTARCinc Annual General Meeting - Sun 23rd Nov Rossiter Park Aitkenvale - 7am Brekkie - 8-30am AGM
- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 25th Nov - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

December

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 2nd Dec from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 9th Dec from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Xmas Party - Sun 14th December at the VK4ME Ice Cube
- TARC Does the Xmas Lights Tour - Fri 19th December around Townsville

- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 23rd December - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 30th Dec from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- New Years Day Countdown - Wed 31st December - from 1245UTC for Daylight Saving, from 1345UTC for proper time

January 2026

- Australia Day Long Week Family Radio Camp - Thur 22nd to Mon arvo 26th Jan - Girl Guides Training Centre Bluewater
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 27th January - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

February

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 3rd February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 10th February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 17th February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 24th January - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

March

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 3rd March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 10th March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC does the John Moyle Memorial Field Day March 20 21 22 - Mount Fox Campgrounds
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 17th March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 24th March from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 31st March from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

April

- WRERA Euri Gold Farm Easter Carnival of Horse Endurance Rides - Thur 2 April to Mon 6 April
- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 7th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 14th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 21st April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- AM & CW on ANZAC Day - Sat 25th April
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 28th April from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

May

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 5th May from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- MARA/RADAR Clairview Gathering - Fri 8 May to Mon 11 May - BarraCrab Clairview
- TARC Project Night - Tue 12th May from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 19th May from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 26th May from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

June

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 2nd June from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Snow 4's Famous Foxhunt - somewhere in the Townsville area
- TARC Project Night - Tue 9th June from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 16th June from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 23rd May from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- TOWSA Maggie Island Swim - Sat 27th June from 5-30am Strand Park
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 30th June from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

July

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 7th July from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 14th July from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 21st July from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

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WAR ON TOWNSVILLE 29TH JULY 1942



Views from the Oonoonba Bomb Crater activation on AM & CW on ANZAC Day 2025 – pix by Mark/VK4TVL

Hi all TARCadians and others. I feel sure that most of you by now, have heard about our collective efforts to save one of Townsville's Heritage listed WW2 Bomb Site at Oonoonba.

This is the Site where a Japanese aircraft dropped a 250lb. bomb on our City. Seven other bombs were dropped however they all fell in the water between the Southern end of Magnetic Island and the Strand.

This Historic Site was doomed for destruction - to be covered over by housing and commercial developments - until the actions by various developers and Government Departments were exposed and brought to the attention of several Politicians, State and Local Governments, TV and other news media. Currently I am in receipt of documentation from several previously mentioned Departments that the Bomb Site will be preserved. It has not been detailed as to the level or style of preservation this Site will receive.

So, the pressure must continue to ensure that it is very clear in the minds of all concerned, "that we will not go away".

With the support of theTARCinc. Members we have, over the past few years, maintained consistent visits to the Site, transmitting AM on ANZAC DAY and last year transmitting on the Anniversary date, 29th July.

This year will be no different.

On the 29th July 2025 we will, once again be setting up portable stations at the Site, also we will have a 'Net Control' operating from TARC Headquarters to hold the whole event together. Last year, we collectively, between three portable Stations and WIT Net Control, worked 84 Stations.

I would welcome as many Members as possible to attend this year - either by setting up a portable Station or visiting the Site and possibly enjoying an afternoon tea in the fresh air of Oonoonba. Dress to impress as photos will be taken to record this historic event.

Details of this year's event as follows :-

Where The WW2 Bomb Site at Oonoonba. End of Darter Street Oonoonba. Follow the road map for directions.

When & Timing Tuesday 29th July 2025. Commence at 2.00pm. Finish time around 5.00pm.

Freq. 7.100MHz LSB. +/-

LEST WE FORGET.

Ray/VK4OIL - Co-Ordinator, WW2 Oonoonba Bomb Site - Preservation.

