

theTARcinc Events Calendar

August

- 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

October

- Cardwell Gathering – Meunga Creek Caravan Park
Friday Oct 3rd to Monday Oct 6th
- NQORA Offroad Racing Comms Support Millchester
Sat Oct 4 to Sun Oct 5
- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday Oct 7 starts 7-30pm
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday Oct 14 starts 7-30pm
- Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The internet
Guides & Scouts - Fri Oct 17 to Sun Oct 19
- TARC Social Meeting
Tuesday Oct 21 starts 7-30pm
- Ann Renton Memorial Ladies Net VK4RAT UHF & Nodes
Tuesday Oct 28 starts 7-30pm
- IICA Technology Expo – Venue T.B.A
Tuesday Oct 29 starts 2pm

November

- Townsville City Council Cyclone Sunday
Sunday Nov 2 9am to 12pm at Riverway
- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday Nov 4 starts 7-30pm
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday Nov 11 starts 7-30pm

more details inside ! - also check out

<https://thetarcinc.weebly.com>

and listen into the news nets for updates

GLOBAL RADIO EVENTS

- 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
150 CENT stamp
here

SURFACE
MAIL



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

BACKSCATTER

August 2025



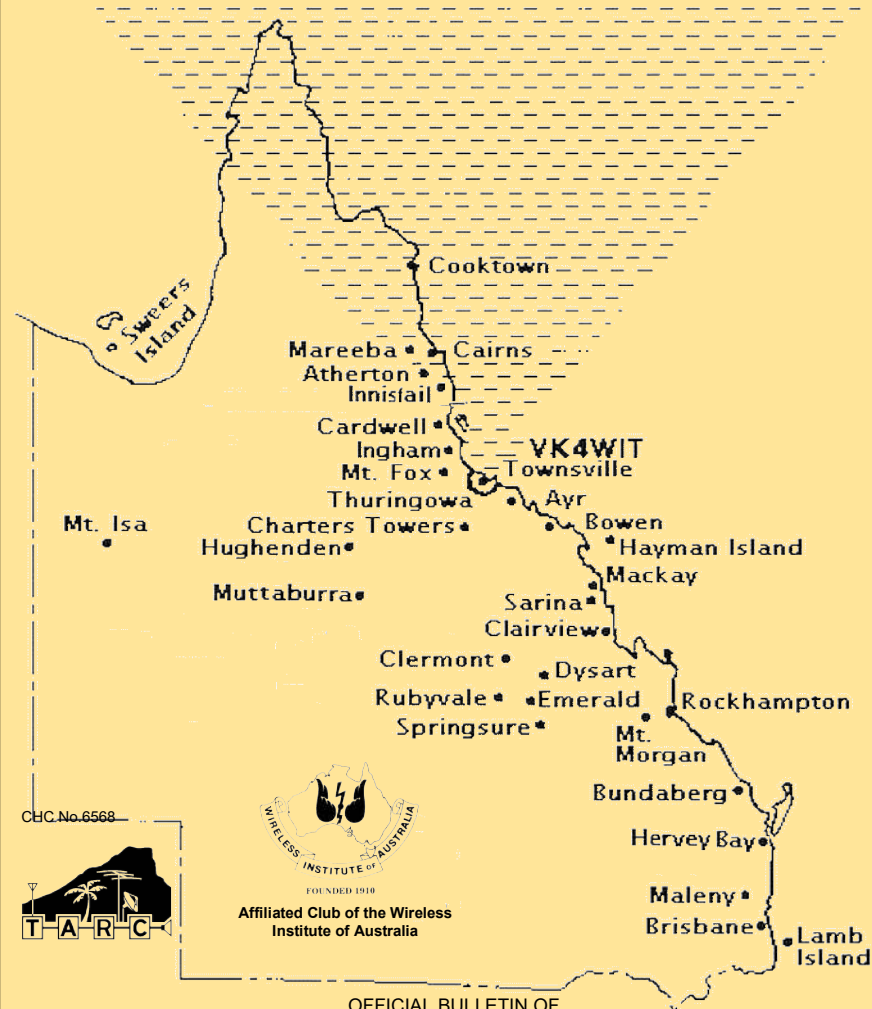
SISTER CLUB
BY4RSA NANJING

WICEN
The Amateur Radio
Communications group for
EMERGENCIES



BACK – SCATTER

THE MAGAZINE OF RENOWN – SINCE JANUARY 1969



CHC No. 6568



Affiliated Club of the Wireless
Institute of Australia

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF

THE TOWNSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

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

V K 4 W I T - V K 4 A T V - V K 4 R A T - V K 4 R T L



ATTENDING: At the Club Rooms
VK4's. HSV, WJ, ZZ, KEE, WSG, FUDO,
ME, FUU, ZMB, PE.

ATTENDING: via Zoom Session ID – 734 8554 6887
VK4's AAH, OIL, ZM, YT, PQ, GED, PQV
PQ, OIL, ZM,

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, PJH, AFW, ZWC, DJC, BDE, YWG, GUN, BVM, TUB, GDN, GFR, CMW, TSV, TEW, JBY, JPA, XA, 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, Vallerie 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: Col Christiansen VK4FVIK/VK4VIK 1934-2025
Sad news to impart that Col Christiansen VK4VIK lost his battle with cancer in Townsville University Hospital on Wednesday 23rd July 2025. Col hailed from the Charters Towers City suburb of Broughton and had been under treatment in Charters Towers and Townsville for 14 months, often shuttling from medical treatment in the big smoke back to his beloved workshop and radio shack.

Born in the era of thermionic devices, he experienced the introduction of TV, development of semi-conductors, humans on the moon, digital electronics and communications, Col put his hand to the lot. Growing up in Western Queensland and having a good mind in working things out, at one time he ran a Television Repair Service in Western Queensland amongst the many other handy things he did to make a living. Having had a heap of experience with land station and CB radio comms he decided to get into Amateur Radio, being one of the first successful remote candidates in Queensland under the AMC Assessment system and attaining Foundation callsign in March 2020. Col joined the Townsville Amateur Radio Club in April 2020 and had already built some experimental antennas for HF and VHF, enjoying being a regular on the HF and VHF nets and the occasional DX.

Col saw the benefits of a portable VOIP node for when propagation conditions were poor so, with a little bit of help from Glen/VK4GDN in Charters Towers and Peter/VK4PQ in Townsville, built up and programmed a portable AllStarLink node which he used regularly until his longer hospital stays kept him away from Broughton.

While good health prevailed Col was involved with the local church, the local Men's Shed organisation and kept up his firearms skills with participation in local Pistol Club tournaments.

Regional hams will miss the regular reports from Col and will mourn the loss of someone who, despite age, made good use of technology from heritage to the bleeding edge.

Col's funeral was held at the Catholic Church, Charters Towers from 11-30am on Tuesday 5th August. Kerry/VK4TUB and Teddy attended the service and reported that all went well, although they were the only Amateur Radio related people there. Glen/VK4GDN attended the graveside internment and reports that the event was suitably solemn.

**Minutes of
Management
Meeting
Held on
the 5th of August
2025 at the Club
Rooms SES HQ,
Green Street,
West End**

The TOWNSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

Vale Col Christiansen VK4FVIK/VK4VIK - Silent Key

NEW MEMBERS: Nil.

SHOW AND TELL:

Wallaby Bob/VK4WJ passed around an article (in colour) that was featured in the 5th July 2003 edition of the Townsville Bulletin featuring Lyndall/VK4ZM plus a lot of other TARCadians at the Green Street Club Rooms. He also sent around the latest article from the newspaper regarding the Historic Oonoonba Bomb Site featury Ray/VK4OIL.

Wayne/VK4WSG showed a radio his dad had made for him a number of decades ago but has now been fitted with 3 Raspberry Pi RISC microcomputers supporting portable AllStarLink, P25, DMR and DSTAR hotspots.

Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB was fed up having bleary eyes when examining circuit boards with surface mount devices so has acquired a X100 microscope designed for close up component work. The microscope features enough room between the sample plate and barrel to accommodate electronic boards and features a X-Y graticule. Hairy let us all have a go at it.

Bob/VK4AAH displayed a 1966 edition of Electronics Australia which he had unearthed during a clean up and which has proven a real trip down memory lane, full of valve circuits and apparatus plus some very classic adverts.

Gareth/VK4GED showed the latest batch of hearing aids he is getting used to. Sourced from Hearing Australia they feature filtering (he is not sure if it is software driven or done with components) which increases speech clarity.

Snow/VK4ME recounted his eyewitness account of the first Gilmore Aerospace rocket launch from the Abbot Point Spaceport near Bowen. Snow commented that, despite the lack of altitude achieved, the launch was still a fantastic sight.

ACCEPTING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Motion 202508001 Accept the minutes for the July 2025 Management Meeting as printed in Back-scatter.

Moved by Phil/VK4HSV, Seconded by Wayne/VK4WSG
– CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- Nil

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Inwards. 13 articles, Outwards. 6 articles, as detailed in the Correspondence Log with the most noteworthy being:

- Commonwealth Bank – final statement and confirm closure of Cash Investment Account.
- Commonwealth Bank – final statement and confirm closure of Society Cheque Account.
- QLD Government Dept of Natural Resources – Yearly Land Rent for Mount Stuart Repeater Site.
- Lock It Up Townsville (via Phil/VK4HSV) invoice for Mount Stuart lock and key upgrade project.
- RSGB – Radcom Magazine July 2025 and August 2025.
- WIA – Amateur Radio Magazine Vol.93 Nr4 2025.
- WIA Secretary – Presidents Online Meeting Sun 14th September 2025.
- Ergon Energy – Mount Stuart Electricity Accounts 2 June to 2 July and 2 July to 2 August 2025.
- Brisbane VHF Group – Q-Tech 2025 – Kedron-Wavell RSL Club Chermiside Sat 1 & Sun 2 November 2025.
- Richard Goodhew VK4PQV – Reports for August Management meeting
- Lyndall Reibelt VK4ZM – Report for August Management meeting
- Peter Harrex VK4PQ – Report and Motion for August Management meeting.
- Ray Schinkel VK4OIL – Report for August Management Meeting.
- Kerry McKenzie VK4TUB & Glen Nielsen VK4GDN – Col Christiansen VK4FVIK/VK4VIK Silent Key Notices.
- TARC Financial Members – Notifications for Management Meeting, Project Night and Social Evening.

- TARC Financial & Honorary Members & Complementaries – Back-scatter July 2025.
- TARC Financial Members – Silent Key notice Col Christiansen VK4FVIK/VK4VIK.
- TARC Financial Members – Management Meeting Agenda so far.

Motion 202508002 Accept the Secretary's Report.

Moved by Gavin/VK4ZZ, Seconded by Wayne/VK4WSG
– CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM SECRETARY REPORT:

- Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Peter/VK4PQ Peter raised the following motion regarding the handling of cash amounts from committee members up to a value of no more than \$200.

Motion 202508003 When monies are received by any of Club Management Committee for the payment of annual subscription fees, donations or for goods purchased from the Club by a Club member and is not above \$200, have the option of either:

- Passing the cash amount along with the Payer's Callsign and purpose for the cash payment to the treasurer for deposit into the club bank account, or
 - Direct depositing the money into the club account from their personal account and retain the cash.
- NOTE: Direct deposit reference must include the Payer's Callsign and purpose of the deposit. (example - VK4XX for TARC subs 2025-2026)

Note: The treasurer is still responsible for writing out receipts for either of the above options.

Values above \$200, along with the appropriate details are to be given to the treasurer for processing.

Moved by Peter/VK4PQ, Seconded by Gareth/VK4AGD
– CARRIED unanimously.

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

Motion 202508004 Accept the Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Peter/VK4PQ, Seconded by Richard/VK4PQV
– CARRIED unanimously.

Peter then advised the meeting that the closure of the Club's Commonwealth Bank accounts have been confirmed to have been closed and the funds from those accounts have successfully transferred to the Club's Bendigo Bank account.

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 – 3 events.

Sat 26 to Sun 27 July - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Paluma Passion Horse Endurance Rides - NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park. Operators VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, B2B Gary, B2B Wayne.

There had been some drizzly weather earlier in the week however by Friday the weather was really nice for glamping and horrie riding, with Lyndall and Gavin setting up their Ride Base camp in the afternoon and catching up with the B2B organisers. With only Radio Amateurs Lyndall and Gavin being available for the event, plans were made to provide some of the B2B members with efficient handheld radios and utilise UHF-CB CH26 for communications. Gary volunteered to be at Checkpoint Grid, Wayne volunteered to activate Checkpoint Robs Gate and Gavin set up late Saturday Morning at Checkpoint Wayne's World – utilising a rotatable Yagi-Uda array to keep in touch with the other radio checkpoints and relay messages if required. Lyndall used an efficient handheld radio up on the mount at Ride Base and also had VHF simplex cross-banded through the Radio Trailer to keep in touch with Checkpoint Wayne's World if the UHF-CB comms were interrupted. Some relay work was required when the occasional inversion blocking or non-optimum operating position caused UHF signals to degrade and there was one or two times when VHF was utilised to pass relay messages back to Ride Base. A little bit more of the drizzly weather on Saturday evening made for some humid riding conditions for the 80km riders and horsies however all the rides went well, the 40km and 80km legs included the newly expanded 40km ride track into Wayne's property and there were no lost people or horsies. Thanks Gary, Wayne and Lyndall for providing the vital link and also to the B2B organisers for having us onboard for the event. The final Bluewater Park ride for this year will be happening on the weekend of 6th and 7th of September and I hope that more Radio Amateurs participate in the event.

Sat 26 July - Townsville Open Water Swimming Assoc. 71st Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water Swim - Strand Park, Picnic Bay, Cleveland Bay. Operators VK4FUU, VK4HSV, VK4ZZ.

As usual it was a oh-dark-hundred start with operators gathering at Strand Beach a bit before 5-30am to get a bit of a final briefing from JB, check equipment and get into position. For this event Phil/VK4HSV was accompanying JB onboard the Officials Boat, Ashley/VK4FUU was going to be stationed at the Finish Line with the Timing Marshall and Gavin/VK4ZZ was going overseas onboard the mighty barge Hercules to monitor the start and keep the barge skipper in contact with the organisers. Change of plan happened when a scheduling error meant that the Hercules would not be available for the event, a quick Plan B from the organisers meant that Ashley/VK4FUU changed location to be with Spruiker George to feed him swimmer progress from Phil/VK4HSV onboard the Officials Boat while Gavin/VK4ZZ changed location to be with the Timing Marshall at the Finish Line. Many more paddlers than expected started across the bay while some larger IRBs ferried the smallest of the paddler craft across to the Start Line. Start time was delayed from the expected 8am, with Phil/VK4HSV transmitting the live blast of the starters foghorn for the Solo Swim and Gavin/VK4ZZ supplying the exact time of 08:38:55 direct to the Timing Marshall, then Phil again transmitted the live blast of the starters foghorn for the Relay/Duo Swim and Gavin/VK4ZZ supplying the exact time of 08:41:01 to the Timing Marshall. A total of 127 swimmers (74 solos) swam their way across the 8km course from Picnic Bay, Magnetic Island to Strand Beach, Townsville accompanied by an armada of paddlers in kayaks, boats, Surf Lifesaving Club Inflatable Rubber Boats, two Queensland Police Service Inflatable Rubber Boats and a flotilla of spectator craft. As the leaders were getting close to the finish line the Officials Boat, laden to the gunwales with swimmers bags and towels, called for the Human Chain to be formed. Ashley/VK4FUU relayed this call to George the Spruiker who then made the announcement over the beachside public address system.

The Human Chain made of volunteers of the Townsville Open Water Swimming Association formed up just as the Officials Boat made shore and Phil/VK4HSV guided the bags and towels from the boat volunteers into the hands of the Human Chain volunteers. Riding lighter in the water the Officials Boat headed back out to keep track of swimmers while those at the Finish Line prepared for the arrival of swimmers. The first male across the line, number 63, crossed at 10:24:49 while the first female across the line, number 19, crossed at 10:27:49. We marvelled how quick the leaders had swum across the 8km of Cleveland Bay. It was time then for Gavin/VK4ZZ to head to the next Comms Support Event with Ashley/VK4FUU taking over comms at the Finish Line with the Timing Marshall.

Ashley reported that he maintained operations at the Finish Line until around 12:30pm before he and Phil departed the event. Many Thanks to Phil and Ashley in making the logistics and safety communications work for the event. The 2026 Swim already has a date claim for Saturday 27th June and I am hoping that there will be many Radio Amateurs supporting the event.

Fri 1 to Sun 3 August - Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riding Assoc. Euri Gold Winter Harvest Horse Endurance Rides - near Bowen. Operators VK4ZM, VK4ZZ, WRERA Sonia.

Rain was forecast for Friday so Lyndall and Gavin set up Ride Base Comms camp on Thursday afternoon July 31st gearing both for damp and the cold conditions forecast for the weekend. Met up with WRERA officials Sonia and Popeye to catch up and deliver the sad news that the only Radio Amateurs available for the event were Lyndall and Gavin. Gavin proposed to man Checkpoint Daria which had the dreaded wide wire gate with the plastic poles and set up there on Saturday. It was decided to do main safety comms initially on UHF-CB 27 however a nearby farm was using that channel so UHF-CB 26 was used throughout the event. 146.55MHz was used as a backup frequency if UHF communications were disrupted. The rain did come on Friday with showers throughout the day, however that didn't stop Lyndall and Gavin doing a bit of op-shopping in Bowen plus doing the good deed for the day in gathering provisions for WRERA to deploy at Ride Base. The showers let up for a bit on Friday evening so, once Popeye did a mighty job and stoked up the Outback TV and some arrivals of riders and horsies some socialising took place at Ride Base before some late evening showers sent everyone to beddy byes.

Saturday saw the rain clouds evaporate and the blowin Bowen winds to start up from the land, heralding a very cool night in the offing. Gavin went and established Checkpoint Daria, establishing comms both on UHF and VHF with Lyndall at Ride Base, vetting, TPR and the Ride Briefing took place and the first part of the 80km/40km ride started at 12:30pm with 6 80km and 1 40km riders heading around the Blue Leg. 20km riders then headed out on the Purple Leg with all the riders arranging their arrivals at Checkpoint Daria at a comfortable rate. Many happy snaps were taken, WRERA President Sonia was able to cover some of the communications at Ride Base when Lyndall was doing some securing of the comms camp, all riders and horsies made it back to Ride Base then after a while the leading 80km riders started out on the Red Leg, again arriving at a comfortable rate at Checkpoint Daria. The temperature dropped a lot as soon as the sun set making for brisk riding conditions. Last 80km riders and horsies were back at Ride Base around 11:30pm.

Sunday – the morning was snappy, only held at bay by donning the sleeping bag onesies. Lowest temp at both Ride Base and Checkpoint Daria was 2 Celsius just before sunrise with the 40km riders heading out at 6am and 20k riders and Harness Drivers at 6:30am. The 40k riders and horsies were back at Ride Base a bit after 9am, the 20k riders and horsies made it back at Ride Base a bit before 9am and the Harness Drivers made it back to Ride Base just before 10am. Lyndall attended the Presentations while Gavin packed up Ride Base comms camp then a steady drive back to the Borg Cube capped off a really good weekend. Although the weekend went well, the regular Radio Amateurs who weren't there were missed, not only in the safety coverage they provide but also the occasional on-air comments about propagation conditions, sporting results, gastronomic hints and in the field experimentation. It is hoped that many more Radio Amateurs can attend the next WRERA event at Euri Gold – the Easter Carnival of Horse Endurance Riding from 2ND TO 6TH April 2026. Many Thanks to Lyndall and Sonia for keeping me and the riders safe in the field, looking forward to the next ride event.

Next Events -

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, VK4IGM, many more operators needed.

Sat 20 to Sun 21 September - Kennedy Region Scouts Nighthawk activity, Kelso area.

Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ZMB, VK4IGM, VK4WSG, VK4HSV, many more operators needed.

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 2026 - 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 2026 - 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, VK4AAH, VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4IGM, VK4HSV, more operators would be good.

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. VK4WIT gave support for the Anniversary Activation of the Oonoonba Bomb Crater event on Tuesday 29th July 2025.

- VK4ATV WSPR Beacons - Reduced propagation on the higher bands, again thanks to Lloyd spotting 6m with VK4TVL – also noticing continued lack of spots in Europe and only the occasional spot on 21MHz from the Canary Islands. 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 !

- Occasional interference on the VHF Repeater. Part of the Tech on the Air Net on Tuesday 29th July had to be abandoned due to very loud and repetitive interference on the VHF Repeater that had started but less frequent the day before and still continues at a reduced rate and amplitude at this time. Sharing thoughts with Club Technician Kerry/VK4TUB the source could either be the interference at Mount Stuart that has come down from the UHF band into the VHF band, tropospheric ducting of an interfering source from some distance away, or the mixing product on the input of the repeater we occasionally get when there is a big increase of military resources in the area. Monitoring and investigation continues.

- VK4WI – obtaining permission for the use of callsign for WICEN Sunday Morning Net. There are moves afoot and research underway to obtain permission from the WIA for theTARCinc to administer use of VK4WI for the Sunday Morning WICEN Net. There will be a need for the Net Controller on the Day to send a summary of contacts and timings and home call of the net controller (similar to what VK4ZZ does for the North Queensland Net and WIA News Nets when VK4WIT is utilised) so that the summary can be published and filed.

- Component Library – Thanks to a big donation from a well known broadcaster (who are very happy for the Club to have the items rather than putting them into landfill) the Club Rooms now hosts a Component Library in the back storeroom, all in storage drawers. A handy resource for Project Nights and other fixit situations.

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 UHF repeater incorporating the VK4TUB AllStarLink 46740 and Echolink 837219 nodes.

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

Ben/VK4YT noted that while the VK4TUB Node was active, the RF Port was not transmitting or receiving.

Peter/VK4PQ noted that the VK4TUB Node RF Port was not transmitting or receiving and the Echolink port was not responding to connection requests.

Via VOIP modes

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

Checked in on the VK4PQ Echolink Port/VK4RAT VHF Repeater combo and would try to connect via VK4TUB during the August Net.

Via the Townsville UHF repeater were

Ben/VK4YT, Kelso, QLD, Australia

Operating from the patio tonight on the portable mobile rig. Jo is attempting to tire the doggies out before beddy byes time throwing the ball for them. Doggie day out at Oak Valley during the weekend went very well, the doggies had a ball. Uncovered a swag of rechargeable batteries the other day, yet to find the charger for them.

Considering getting the portable AllStarLink node with high power radio working again, could have come in handy tonight.

Peter/VK4PQ, Kelso, QLD, Australia

No rain out here today – but it rained lightly in other parts. Trying out AllStarLink3 on the test node, there are some bugs however the interface looks good. 1 question with notice so far for this months Tech On The Air Net (thanks Snow) and open to many more. Flashed the RaspberryPi4-400 keyboard with the latest version of Raspbian OS and got FT8 working on it with no effort at all.

Lyndall/VK4ZM, Vincent, North QLD, Australia

Adapting to retired life. Keeping up to date with online things. Trying out the new mini chain saw with some horticultural slaughter.

Snow/VK4ME, Kirwan, North QLD, Australia

Preparing to travel to Abbot Point to see the next rocket launch attempt. Auxiliary battery in the Bambino went belly up just before the warranty ended – have a replacement on the way. Some bits and toys arriving soon to improve glamping field trips. Close to completing the new portable HF linear amp. Doing Doggie Day Care for a couple of days here and getting over yet another rigorous Pilates session.

The net concluded at 1013UTC after the ta ta round was completed and Net Controller wished everyone a a safe Month and to return for the August Net.

The next ARMN will be happening on Tuesday 26th August 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. We need more operators. 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 August 2025 issue will close for articles on Thursday afternoon 14th, be with Iain/VK4IGM by Monday 18th for limited print run publishing. Thanks for those who have submitted items – there will be a series of special articles in the next issues !

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 July 2025 the WIA and Q-news transmissions and call-backs and the NQ news retransmissions and call-backs were by done by Richard VK4PQV however Callbacks for WIA news Sunday 6th July was done by Gavin VK4ZZ due to

equipment failure at Richard's QTH. For August 2025 the WIA and Q-news transmissions and call-backs will be done by Peter VK4PQ and the NQ news retransmissions and call-backs will be done by Richard VK4PQV.

PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Iain/VK4IGM was an apology for the meeting.

WIA CONTACT REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported:
- 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 towards the end of 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. Time is running out.
- The 2026 WIA AGM Weekend will be happening in conjunction with the Albury-Wodonga Radio Club VK-SUMMIT on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May.
- New educational and publicity materials have been published by the WIA Education Committee onto the WIA Education website – have a look at education.wia.org.au to see what's new.

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 202508005 moved by Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB to accept tabled Ex-Officio Reports and Seconded by Wallaby Bob/VK4WJ.

- CARRIED unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 83rd Anniversary Activation of the Ooonoonba Bomb Crater – Ray/VK4NET

Once again, Hi to all TARCadians, Families and Friends. I am certainly 'over the moon' due to the amount of help and support given by Club Members and Friends on the 83rd anniversary of the bombing by a Japanese attack at Ooonoonba, Townsville.

On the ground at the Site on Tuesday 29th July 2025 we had six portable stations operating, some on 40metres and others on 20metres. The portable stations were:-
Chub/VK4FIBW, Mal/VK4MSS, Kerry/VK4TUB, Wayne/VK4WSG, Phil/VK4HSV and Ray/VK4OIL.

Helpers attending were Wendy, John/VK4JWC, Wallaby Bob/VK4WJ and the roaming photographer (at both the Crater and Bunker sites) Mark/VK4TSV.

At the Green Street Bunker (TARC Clubrooms) managing the VK4WIT Spotter Station were Lyndall/VK4ZM, Rowan/VK4TEW and Gavin/VK4ZZ.

Activation commenced around 2-00pm (0400UTC) and terminated around 5-30pm (0730UTC), although Kerry/VK4TUB and Phil/VK4HSV stayed on until well after dark. Well done fellows.

The number of contacts worked by the 6 portable stations and the VK4WIT spotter station accrued to 64. What a tremendous effort by all concerned.

A couple of operators attending the event came up with ideas and thoughts that could possibly improve what we do at the Bomb Site, i.e. during ANZAC Day and the Bombing Anniversary to value add to the efforts. It was also noted by all that the Bomb Site is a wonderful place to test and experiment with antennas etc. and as the site is located in town no lengthy travel is required.

Once again I am very thankful for the help, assistance and support that I have received from theTARCinc and our Members to 'keep the dream alive', that is, to ensure that the Ooonoonba World War 2 Bomb Site is kept before the eyes of the public,

Local Council, State and Federal Governments and the respective polities and policy management so that we do not lose this historic location to development. Protect and Preserve for the Future.

Many Thanks, Ray Schinkel/VK4OIL, Co-ordinator of the Save the WW2 Bomb Site Oonoonba Townsville. LEST WE FORGET

- Mount Stuart Maintenance Projects Update

Phil/VK4HSV briefed the meeting on the following items:

Padlocks

Phil/VK4HSV has completed the re-keying and lock/padlock replacement part of the project which was approved at the July 2025 Management Meeting. A secure key register has been established with the club locksmiths and a new key issued to Snow, Kerry, Phil and co-sitters VASTCOM, Authorisation is required from the Secretary before each additional key is issued.

Dustproofing

When we do the main door, Phil/VK4HSV 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.

Main door frame

Phil/VK4HSV 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/VK4HSV anticipates that it may take all day...

Metal clad main door

The main door will be repaired while the main door frame is being fixed – will need to refix the metal cladding with liquid nails etc

Pressure cleaning Repeater Hut

July 2025 Management Meeting approved the hiring from Coates Hire of:-

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

hired on Friday Afternoon and returned Monday Morning.

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

Painting

July 2025 Management Meeting approved the repainting of the repeater hut as a Club Project with materials to be purchased by the Club and the grunt supplied by Club Members. All members to be involved regardless of mobility – each little bit will help.

Repeater Site rekey/replace over budget:

Phil/VK4HSV advised the meeting that the Repeater Site rekey/replace part of the project had gone over budget by \$60 and asked for approval for re-imburement.

Motion 202508006 that the Club approve the \$60 over-run of the Repeater Site Maintenance Project.

Moved by Ashley/VK4FUU and Seconded by Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB. - CARRIED unanimously.

- VP80 Special Event Proposal

Mike/VK4MIK submitted a proposal for members to consider running a Special Event Station to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific – the end of World War 2, and to consider running the station from the Green Street Bunker (our clubrooms) a significant historic war site in the garrison city of Townsville.

Gavin/VK4ZZ noted that public exposure of a special event station at the Clubrooms would be restricted at best and that a more worthy location which would have good public exposure and also promote the cause of preservation of a historic war site would be to locate any proposed Special Event Station at the Oonoonba Bomb Crater. The meeting discussed the merits of the proposals, had a good look at the calendar and came up with the consensus to hold a Special Radio Event for VP80 on Sunday 17th August from 8am to 5pm at the Historic Oonoonba World War 2 Bombing Site. Ray/VK4OIL was asked to arrange for permission to have access to the site for the special event.

- Club Facilities Co-ordinator – Creation of a new Ex Officio Position

Gavin/VK4ZZ brought notice to the meeting that there is a need for the Club to have someone who can keep an eye on the maintenance of structures the Club owns at the Mount Stuart Repeater Site and any other facilities the Club might use now or into the future. The Ex Officio position would need to be filled by a Club Member who has had experience in the building trade and has the knack to involve the club membership in any projects involving facilities. After discussion the following motion was raised:

Motion 202508007 that the Club create the Ex Officio position of Facilities Co-ordinator, responsible for monitoring and co-ordinating the maintenance of structures at the Club's facilities and that Phil Strom/VK4HSV be nominated for this position. Phil accepted the nomination for the position.

Moved by Snow/VK4ME and Seconded by Peter/VK4PQ.

- CARRIED unanimously.

FURTHER GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil.

There being no further business, the President Snow/VK4ME closed the meeting at 2134h local time and wished everyone goodnight and a safe return to the next Monthly Management Meeting on the 2nd of September 2025.

Minutes Transcribed 15th August 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 & ECOM 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 m² = 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 on HF, FM on VHF. 7061.5kHz, 10146.5kHz, 14112.5kHz 28101.5kHz 144675kHz



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 effort saving device – the Clockwork Saw, no more flat batteries.

PERSONAL CELEBRATIONS BIRTHDAYS

- 12 Aug 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 Aug Alex, harmonic of Lucia and Barry 4XPR

- 1 Sept Ron 4JBY, OM of Mandy
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
30 Sept Charlotte & Gillian, twin harmonics of Steve 4SGW & Heather
1 Oct Markus 4TMZ, OM of Rosemary
3 Lynda, board of control of Rob 4RB
3 Jenny 2JMP, board of control of Bob 2YQ
5 Ken 4KF, OM of Pat
6 Lorne 4TLB, OM of Debbie
7 Mark 4FMAR
10 Bev, board of control of Rossco 4AQ
18 Rob 4CRM/1RM the master of Extreme Loafing
21 Lincoln, harmonic of Wendy & Leigh 4HLW
21 Shorty 4FABT, OM of Mary
23 Katrina 4KMA, board of control of Paul 4ICA
26 Amelia, board of control of John 4DFZ
27 Lyndall 4ZM, board of control of Gavin 4ZZ
27 Carole, board of control of Trevor 4WTC
29 Gary 4OO, OM of Beth



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Aug Mandy & Ron 4JBY
30 Aug Shinako 4YMD & Ian 4KMD
30 Aug Lyndall 4ZM & Gavin 4ZZ
2 Sept Jeanette & Wallaby Bob 4WJ
22 Oct Luiz & Geoff 4JDW
8 Nov Sharon & Jeff 4XA

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

August 1972 - Mackay Amateur Radio Club formed as announced by then Mackay Club Secretary Bernard Johnston VK4ZJH

SILICON ANNIVERSARY

- 12 Sept Invention of the Integrated Circuit in 1958

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AGM WEEKEND



A sunset view of Lake Maraboon from the venue

The nittie gritties -

Venue : Maraboon Power & Ski Club 86 Fairbairn Dam Road Gindie

Date : From 2pm Friday 26th September to 10am Sunday 28th September

Food : Meal Package \$25 per head.

Member Fees: \$20 single \$25 family

Digs : Powered Site at venue \$30 per night no booking necessary. Self Contained Sites at Model Flying Club through Bob/VK4CWL

Happenings : Saturday 27th Sept AGM, Raffles, Money Board, Mega Auction, Feast.

Look : RSVP Deadline to Helen/VK4FHEL

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025

via CHARC Facebook Page or SMS to 0412038033.

Pay : Direct Deposit Details - BSB 064 704

Account Number 000904743 Reference Callsign or Surname
Send notification via email vk4wch@wia.org.au

The full Monty -

The famous and popular Central Highlands Amateur Radio Club AGM weekend will be happening from 2pm Friday 26th to 10am Sunday 28th September 2025 at the Maraboon Powerboat & Ski Club near Emerald Central Queensland. Not only will the Annual General Meeting be held on Saturday afternoon, there will also be the famous Mega Auction of Treasure, a Multi Draw Raffle, a Radio Equipment Raffle, the Money Board, a sumptuous Meal Package gathered by CHARC volunteers and cooked up by the Iron Faraday Cage Chefs plus a chance to catch up with fellow hams and support crews at one of the best spots in Central Queensland. CHARC Inc. Events Co-ordinator Helen/VK4FHEL needs your catering numbers NO LATER than **FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER!** You can advise Helen either on the CHARC Facebook Page or by SMS on 0412038033.

Camping and Caravan Site accommodation at the venue is available on powered and watered sites for \$30 per night, paid on site via card to the caretaker, around the corner at the Lake Maraboon Holiday Resort with options ranging from camping to luxury villa (at a bigger price) or if you are self contained you can contact Bob/VK4CWL to arrange a campsite at the Central Highlands Model Flying Club facility at nearby Mosquito Creek. There is also the option to travel out from Emerald to partake in a variety of motel, hotel, caravan or camping services.

Membership Fees are Due! Fees must be paid prior to the General Meeting/Annual General Meeting - Single \$20 PA Family \$25 PA

MEAL PACKAGE: \$25 per head (for attendees over 16years of age) will get you Lunch, Dinner, Dessert, Sunday Breakfast and a free Soft Drink.- and what a menu !

Saturday Sizzling Lunch Sausage - a snag and onion with sauce cooked to perfection by the Iron Faraday Cage Chefs served on fresh bread.

Saturday Night Feast - a sumptuous selection of Rib Fillet Steak, Gluten Free Sausages, Onion, Lettuce, Beetroot, Tomato, Pineapple, Cheese plus Coleslaw, Pasta Salad & Potato Bake. Dessert either Homemade lemon Cheesecake, Homemade Caramel Tart, Pavlova, Apple Pie with Custard.

Sunday Morning Recovery Breakfast - Bacon and/or Egg cooked to perfection by the Iron Faraday Cage Chefs on bread or toast or plate.

If there are any special dietary needs please let Helen know.

MONEY BOARD: It's \$2 per number - winning number gets \$100 Prize.

RAFFLES: There is a Multi-Draw Prize Bonanza and also a Radio Equipment Raffle. It would be very appreciated if you can support the Multi-Draw Raffle by kindly donate a prize or two.

MEGA AUCTION:

Clear your radio shack or homewares treasure trove out now and put it all in the Mega Auction - you will need to make room for all the treasure you will score and take back home ! \$5 items mysteriously wrapped would also be appreciated.

PROGRAMME

Friday Sept 26th from 2pm - Arrivals and set up - walkies, check out the venue. Take in the wonderful sunset views across Lake Maraboon. Meet and Greet.

Saturday Sept 27th

9am - 12pm - More Arrivals and Meet and Greet.

- Start putting your treasure and mystery items into the Mega Auction. Start putting in any Raffle Prizes you are donating.

12pm - Sizzling Sausage Lunch at the Club House.

2.30 - 3.50pm - If you haven't already paid by internet transfer see the Treasurer to pay your membership fees and catering costs. (This will be the last time you will be able to pay and this will allow the Treasurer to finalise the moneys before AGM & Meeting).

2.30 - 4pm - Raffle Tickets & Money Board sales.

4 - 5pm - General Meeting & Annual General Meeting at the Air Conditioned Club House.

6pm - Saturday Night Feast

6.30 - 7pm - Last chance to purchase Raffle Tickets & Money Board Numbers. - Raffle Draws.

MEGA AUCTION WILL NOT START UNTIL DINNER IS FINISHED

Sunday Sept 28th

7 - 9am - Recovery Breakfast then Farewells.

Direct Deposit Details -

BSB 064 704 Account Number 000904743

Reference Callsign or Surname

Send notification via email vk4wch@wia.org.au

Hope to see you at the CHARC AGM Weekend in Central Queensland!



Let Bob/VK4CWL sell you some Mega Treasure



how to get there - if you get to the Dam or the Department of Education Camp you have gone too far.

23.663851385259612 S, 148.08683571163638 E

NOTES: all transactions at the AGM Site will be in CASH no ATM onsite and no card services - nearest cash outlet is multiple sites in Emerald. If you are staying at the venue campsites payment to the Caretaker will be via card on the Square system. Remember, if you are self-contained contact Bob/VK4CWL to find out about the accommodation option at the Model Flying Club venue at nearby Mosquito Creek.

Cardwell Gathering

October Long Weekend



Meunga Creek – see if you can spot the croc!

The Cardwell Gathering will be taking place from Friday afternoon October 3rd to Monday morning October 6th at the Meunga Creek Caravan Park near Cardwell FNQ.

This is a call to all Hams and support crews and anyone interested in taking up the hobby of Amateur Radio to spend a long weekend (or longer) in paradise.

Meunga Creek Caravan Park is located 4km north of Cardwell along the Bruce Highway at 12 Ellerbeck Road, Ellerbeck, Far North Queensland. The Park is nestled between the banks of Meunga Creek, the Great Northern Railway Line and luscious rainforest, offers a laid back retreat for bush camping with spacious sites that are great for self sufficient campers, or with power and water if you want to seriously glamp. The park is pet friendly and has a modern ablutions block with 4 hot showers complete with laundry with 2 washing machines and a dryer.

Campfires are welcome (with fire pots supplied – BYO wood) and each site features nice tall trees with varying degrees of sun and shade. It is only a 10 minute drive back into the Cardwell CBD, 5 minutes drive to the famous Cardwell Spa Pools and Forest Drive Creek Circuit. You get a choice of camp spot and required facilities upon arrival. Since the Rainforest is very close it is recommended that you bring a good supply of insect repellent, however that close proximity means there are great opportunities for bird & possum watching, native reptile spotting and if you are lucky you might get to spot the local croc in the creek.

Mobile phone service is excellent from both Telstra and Optus Sites on nearby Mulleys Hill and TV services also transmit out of Mulleys Hill.

Meunga Creek Caravan Park Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Meunga-Creek-Caravan-Park/100057476648585/>

Meunga Creek Caravan Park WikiCamps Page

<https://wikicamps.com.au/site/Queensland/Caravan+Park/Meunga+Creek+Caravan+Park/77654>



[in the electronic version, click here for Google directions from Cardwell CBD to Meunga Creek Caravan Park](#)

Make sure you bring your own Comfy Chairs, standing whilst watching others engage in the lost art of Extreme Loafing could be very uncomfortable for you.

The proprietors of the Caravan Park value that same laid back lifestyle they offer during your stay, so for direct contact on the phone please call at the optimal time between 4pm and 5pm daily. Otherwise text the contact number with a message with these details – Your Name, Your best Contact Number, Number of People you are booking in with, Date and Time you are arriving, Date and Time you are leaving, Site Requirements (unpowered, powered, powered and water).

The contact number is – **0429 728913**

If you require more sumptuous accommodation there is plenty available nearby –



in the electronic edition – [click here](#) to see an expanded view.

Cardwell Beachcomber Motel and Tourist Park –

43A Marine Parade Cardwell. Bookings phone – 07 40668550

Website – <https://www.cardwellbeachcomber.com.au/>

Cardwell @ The Beach (Lyndoch Motel and Bottle Shop) –

215 Victoria Street (Bruce Highway) Cardwell. Bookings

phone – 07 40668500 Website – <https://cardwellatthebeach.com.au/>

Kookaburra Holiday Park –

175 Victoria Street (Bruce Highway) Cardwell, Bookings phone –

07 40668648 Website – <https://kookaburraholidaypark.com.au/>

Cardwell Beachfront Motel –

1 Scott Street Cardwell. Bookings phone – 07 40668776

Website – <https://cardwellbeachfrontmotel.com.au/>



onboard Cardwell Jetty heading into the Seafest

Things to do – Lots of nice tall trees at the park to put your antennas into, a chance to make more. Some HF nets participated in over the weekend plus the North Queensland Net live from Meunga Creek, plus heaps of techie stuff happening, some cookups and of course some extreme loafing.

Around the area though are some great attractions, such as the Cardwell Seafest happening over the weekend, with Saturday morning Hot Rod Classic Car and Bike Show with live music and food displays on the Foreshore, plus tropical plant and flower Expo at the Coastguard, Saturday Night Country Club rock and roll with live entertainment, The Saturday Night Foreshore Fireworks Display, Sunday Markets and Fishing & Boating Expo with food stalls and kiddies activities plus the acclaimed RSL BBQ Lunch.

There is also the famous Cardwell Op-Shop in Richards Street open 9am to 12pm Fri and Sat. Og regularly tidies the cable bin for those who need to grab a superseded cable or two.

The Cardwell Spa Pools is a short drive from the Park and a trip up the Kirrama Range Road to Blencoe Falls is in easy striking distance. Keen to get a sea monster or three? Fishing in Rockingham Bay or off Cardwell Jetty is prolific. Got a yearning for culture – check out the Girringun Art Centre or the crafts stores in town. You can also take in some telecommunications history at the Visitor and Heritage Centre with a tour through the Bush Telegraph Museum.



plenty of walkies tracks near Meunga Creek.

..*.*.*.*.*.*

VISUAL BACKSLATTER

Farewell to Mister WSPR

a few weeks back Ron/VK4JBY attended his last Office session for a while, moving his radio shack to BrisVegas and linking up with the Redcliffe crew.



Wendy, Ray/VK4OIL, Ron/VK4JBY, Mr & Mrs Split



Lyndall/VK4ZM, Tubby/VK4TUB, Wendy, Ray/VK4OIL, Ron/VK4JBY



Teddy, Tubby/VK4TUB, Ron/VK4JBY

Wishing Ron and Mandy good times at their new digs.
Note: if you are free on a Friday afternoon in Townsville, come along around 12:30pm to the Kirwan Sports Club and join in the Office session, founded by Ian/VK4IMR (SK) in 2016.

VISUAL BACKSLATTER

A great face for Radio

You've listened to him on the radio for years, not only on the WIA National News but before he retired also on Ipswich Commercial Radio 4IP and Radio TAB – but you probably have never known what he looks like.... well here is Baker Baker...



GraHam/VK4BB in the home studio at Jimboomba putting another WIA National News and QNEWS programme together.

VISUAL BACKSLATTER

Improved Zoom visual thanks to Wayne/VK4WSG

Since 2020 theTARCinc Management, Project and Social Meetings have all included a Zoom videoconference option but relied on a wonky GoPro knockoff and a low-res webcam. Wayne/VK4WSG recently become a TARCadian and since he is now retired, no longer needed the up-market Logitech PTZ2 Pro webcam he used for training sessions. We tried it out during the August Project Night with fantastic results.



a close-up capture from the PTZ2 Pro webcam showing Brett/VK4BDE's recently completed portable duplex AllStarLink node. The camera was located on the other side of the room. Wayne has kindly donated the webcam to the Club and it will be used at meetings that have a Zoom option. It is planned to hand someone in the meeting the pan and zoom remote control so that the clubroom video feed can highlight the meeting action.

VISUAL BACKSLATTER

Mt Stuart Repeater Site Maintenance update



Phil/VK4HSV fabricates the new doorframes



Ergon have replaced all the mains supply cabling around the site



an old battery box and door frame ready for disposal

VISUAL BACKSLATTER

Anniversary activation of Historic Oonoonba Bomb Site



Operators at the Bomb Site – Chub/VK4FIBW, Ray/VK4OIL, Mal/VK4MSS, Phil/VK4HSV, Wallaby Bob/VK4WJ, Tubby/VK4TUB, Wayne/VK4WSG



Ray/VK4OIL, Wendy and the radio mutt



Tubby/VK4TUB, Mal/VK4MSS, John/VK4JWC



Wayne/VK4WSG – first ever portable operation

This anniversary activation happened on Tuesday 29th July 2025 with a number of operators trying out things in the field for the very first time. Radio operations took place on 7100kHz LSB and around 14215kHz USB with most contacts made on the 40metre band. Some station spotting assistance was provided from the TARCinc Club Station operating from the Green Street Bunker. Many thanks to Ray/VK4OIL and Wendy for organizing this anniversary activation.



the historic Oonoonba Bombing Site with lots of portable stations activated – ooh, hi to Wendy there in mid-field



Phil/VK4HSV, Bob/VK4WJ & the mighty Clark Mast



Mal/VK4MSS & Chub/VK4FIBW prepare an antenna for operation



at the Green Street Bunker spotting station – Rowan/VK4TEW, Lyndall/VK4ZM, Gavin/VK4ZZ



A quiet moment at the Green Street Bunker spotting station – Gavin/VK4ZZ & Mark/VK4TSV

..*.*.*.*.*.*

Radio happenings ... so far**August**

- 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
 - NQORA Short and Dusty 14km Offroad Racing - Millchester - Sat 4 to Sun 5 October
 - 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
 - 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

- Townsville City Council Cyclone Sunday - Sunday 2nd November at Riverway 9am to 12pm
 - 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 June 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
 - Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 28th July from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

August

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 4th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
 - TARC Project Night - Tue 11th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
 - TARC Social Evening - Tue 18th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

Townsville Bulletin – August 2nd 2025.**Townsville man won't give up the fight for historical bomb site**

Fears are growing that the site of a World War II bombing could be lost to housing developments. Here's why



Josh Mercer –
Townsville Bulletin,
August 2, 2025 –
5:00AM

*Ray Schinkel has been fighting to get a site where a bomb was dropped during World War Two recognised as a memorial site.
Picture: Josh Mercer*

Fears are growing that the site of a World War II bombing could be lost to housing developments. Kirwan man Ray Schinkel has been fighting for years to turn the Oonoonba land into a memorial site.

Mr Schinkel has had a long fascination with military memorabilia and activities, and took a keen interest when he heard about the bomb site.

The Japanese dropped a total of 26 bombs during 3 air raids on Townsville during WWII.

The only casualty in the air raids was a coconut palm, which stood near the site, which was damaged at 2.27am on July 29, 1942.

After he joined the Townsville Amateur Radio Club, Mr Schinkel took it upon himself to transmit from the site on Anzac Day in 2010.

"People from around Australia that contacted me and others, they referred to me (transmitting) from a historical site, and that sort of put it on the map," Mr Schinkel said.



*Ray Schinkel ready to broadcast on the anniversary of the bomb dropped during World War Two for the Amateur Radio Club.
Picture Supplied*

"And I thought from then on, this should be a historical site."

Over the years since that first Anzac Day transmission, Mr Schinkel noticed housing development happening around the area. He wasn't sure if anything had happened to the bomb site, so he went to have a look.



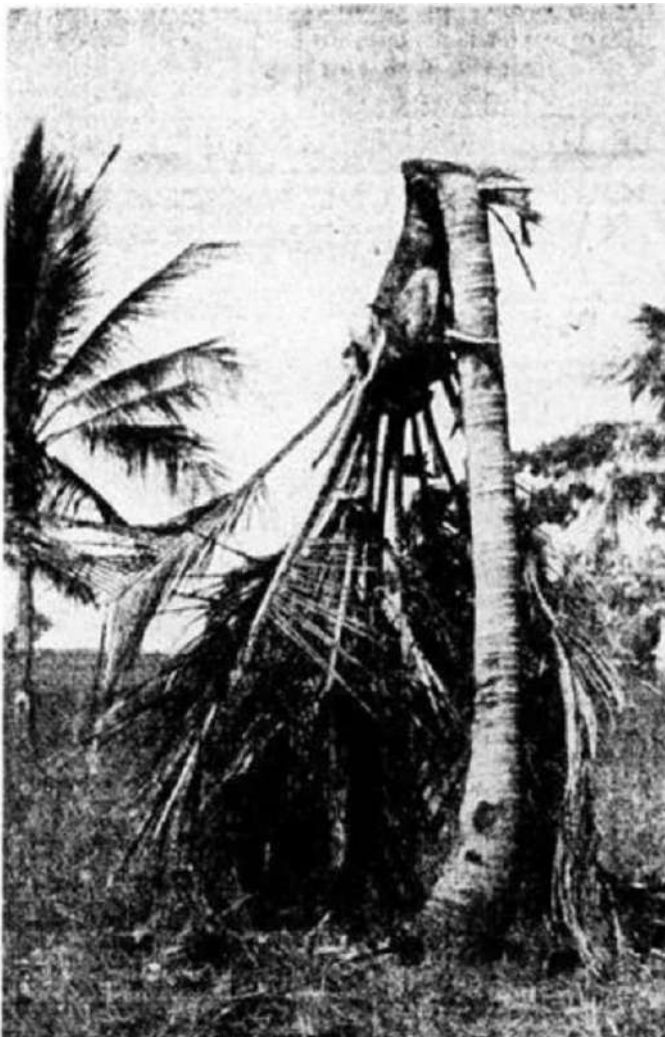
February 1942. The first Japanese raid on Darwin. The end of SS Neptuna. The water is spatted with flying metal and a naval vessel, HMAS Deloraine heels over from the blast as the ammunition ship explodes. Bombing. WWII – World War II – Australia – Air raids – 1942-1943.

"All these signs were up and no admittance, it was all overgrown, it was six-foot high and I thought this can't happen," he said.

"I found out who the caretakers of the land were, and it's environmental development people, state government, and so I got in touch with those people and they weren't keen for me to delve into it, but I wasn't going away and I told them that."

Mr Schinkel said that there were plaques at the site originally, including one which was placed near the crater during VP 50, which have since gone.

"One plaque had been relocated, moved to Abbott Street, which is quite a distance away, and you can't even see the bomb site from where it's placed," he said.



The palm tree that was damaged during the raid.

"And it's placed on a corner, you can't just stop and view it, someone has just moved it, and the others, who knows, they're gone."

Mr Schinkel has had support in the past from Herbert MP Phillip Thompson and the amateur radio club that he is a part of. There was also a pledge from a former Labor government of \$500,000 for a significant monument at the site.

Mr Schinkel said what was needed at the site wouldn't cost that amount of money.

"Lit and 24-hour access, and that's all I want to see," he said.



Ray Schinkel has been fighting to get a site where a bomb was dropped during World War Two recognised as a memorial site. Picture: Josh Mercer

"I want to see it preserved as a WWII event that occurred in our city here in Townsville."

Mr Schinkel said it was important for people to know the history of what happened in Townsville during WWII.

"It's (Townsville) a garrison city, and that's part of our WWII activity," Mr Schinkel said.

"It's just got to be preserved as part of our military history, it's in our genes and I think it would be a very, very bad misdemeanour if we lost it."

..*.*.*

The next planned activations of the Oonoonba Historic Bomb Site in 2026 will be on ANZAC Day Saturday 25th April and on the Bombing Anniversary Wednesday 29th July. There might be other activations in the meantime, keep an eye out on the news feeds for the latest news on efforts to save the site and preserve the heritage.



Ray/VK4OIL at the VP80 activation of the Historic Oonoonba Bomb Site – pix by Wendy Schinkel

LEST WE FORGET.

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

..*.*.*