

theTARcinc Events Calendar

March

- TARC John Moyle Field Day Weekend – Mount Fox
Fri March 20 to Sun March 22 Weather permitting
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet
Tuesday March 24 starts 7-30pm
- TARC Tech On The Air Net – Tsvl VHF Repeater & PQNet
Tuesday March 31 starts 7-30pm

April

- B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Endurance Rides Bluewater Park
Thursday 2 to Monday 6 April - Cancelled
- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday April 7 starts 7-30pm
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday April 14 starts 7-30pm
- NQORA Gold City 450 Off Road Racing - Millchester
Saturday 18 to Sunday 19 April
- TARC Social Meeting
Tuesday April 21 starts 7-30pm
- AM and CW on ANZAC Day at the Bunker & the Crater
Friday April 25 from 9am
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet
Tuesday April 28 starts 7-30pm

May

- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday May 5 starts 7-30pm
- MARS – RADAR Clairview Gathering at the BarraCrab
Friday 8 to Sunday 12 May
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday May 12 starts 7-30pm
- B2B Autumn Escalade Horse Endurance Rides Bluewater Park
Saturday May 16 to Sunday May 17
- TARC Social Meeting
Tuesday May 19 starts 7-30pm
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet
Tuesday May 26 starts 7-30pm
- WRERA Euri Gold Tropical Winter Horse Endurance Rides
Saturday May 30 to Sunday May 31

June

- TARC Management Meeting
Tuesday 2nd June starts 7-30pm
- Snow 4's Famous Foxhunt - Sat 6th Townsville area
- Queensland Day - Sat 6th June - QUEENSLANDER!
- TARC Project Night –
Tuesday 9th June starts 7-30pm
- TARC Social Evening
Tuesday 16th June starts 7-30pm
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet
Tuesday 23rd June starts 7-30pm

more details inside ! - also check out

<http://www.tarc.org.au/>

and listen into the news nets for updates

GLOBAL RADIO EVENTS

AM & CW on ANZAC Day – Sat 25 April
WIA AGM & Albury VK Summit – 2 to 3 May
RADAR-MARS Clairview Gathering – 8 to 11 May
CHARC AGM Weekend - Emerald 25 to 27 Sept
JOTA/JOTI – across the world Fri 16 to Sun 18 Oct

place
170 CENT stamp
here

SURFACE
MAIL



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

BACKSCATTER

March 2026



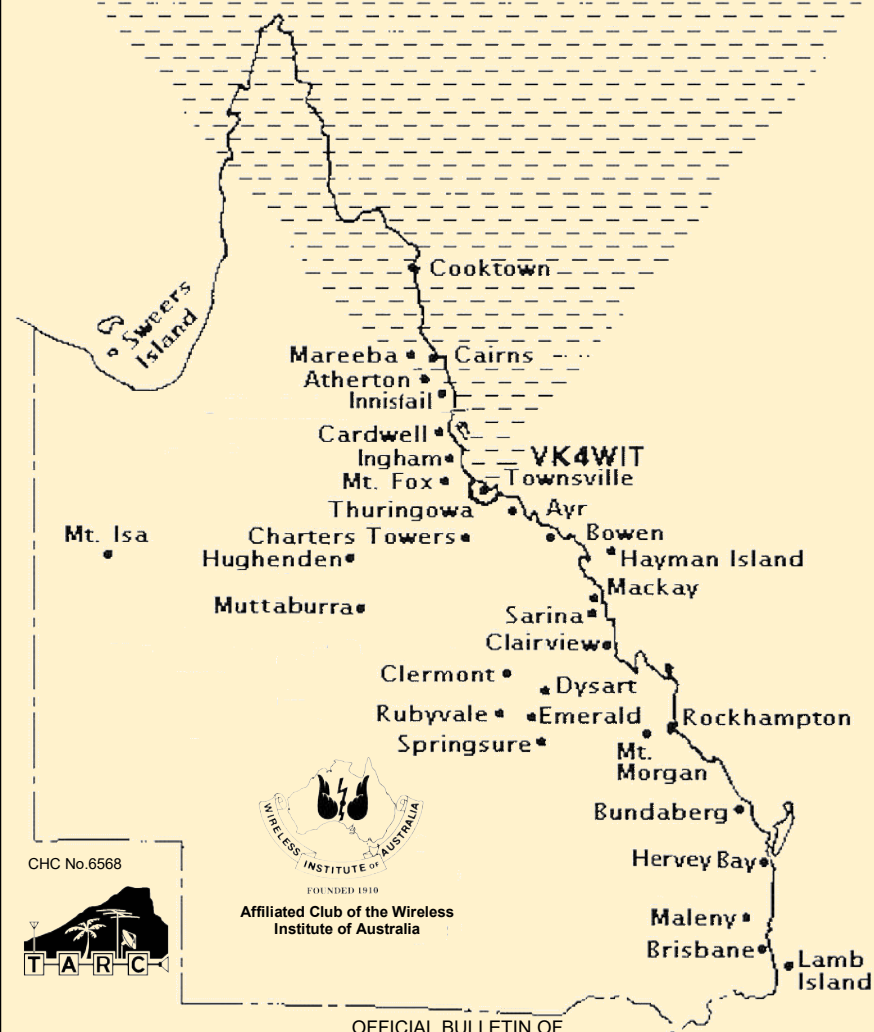
SISTER CLUB
BY4RSA NANJING

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.

VK4WIT-VK4ATV-VK4RAT-VK4RTL

AMATEUR RADIO – a service adding to community technical expertise – March 2026



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 are due at 30th **June** and can be paid in person 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 !

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](https://www.facebook.com/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
Australian 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 **stuf**
 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 months' fortune cookie:-

" How do I set my phaser to ">> tickle <<?" "

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 Rydge's City Centre	VK4RCA	434.850	439.850 91.5Hz Tone
Tolga (Bones Knob)	VK4RBK	434.900	439.900
Malanda FM/C4FM/WIRES-X	VK4RSD	146.250	146.850
Millaa Millaa (McHugh Lookout)	VK4RPH	145.4625	147.0625 123Hz Tone
Townsville Region	VK4RAT	146.100	146.700
(Mt Stuart)	VK4RAT	433.225	438.225 91.5Hz Tone
West End FM/C4FM/WIRES-X	VK400	431.750	438.750 91.5Hz Tone
Bowen Region	VK4RAB	431.375	438.375 91.5Hz Tone
(Reservoir Hill)	VK4RAB	146.125	146.725 91.5Hz Tone
Collinsville (Town Site)	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 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RBY	146.050	146.650 Multimode
(Black Mountain) 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RBY	433.600	438.600 Multimode
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
St Lawrence (Mt Edward)	VK4RDL	147.775	147.175 91.5Hz Tone
Nebo 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RBM	146.175	146.775 IRLP 6741
(Blue Mountain) 91.5Hz Tone	VK4RBM	434.300	439.300 Multimode
(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, Cairns, Mount Isa, Townsville, Midge Point, Sarina, St Lawrence, 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	VK4TAZ	439.325MHz HH Interface
Charters Towers AllStarLink VHF	VK4GDN	145.145MHz 91.5Hz Tone
Charters Towers AllStarLink UHF	VK4GDN	439.150MHz 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.ddns.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. WSG, ZZ, AEX, TEW, TSV, ME,
PQV, ALS, ZMB, CHG, FUU, BRM, IGM

ATTENDING: via Zoom Session ID – 715 4830 1571
VK4's PQ, GFR, GEO, YT, XA, OIL

VISITORS: Sophia Camilos.

APOLOGIES: VK4's. UCM, JPA, ICA, KMA, EMF, DNF, JWC, LKG, FCRH, FIBW, FBNP, CK, CD, PAL, TJS, HCZ, RO, TTW, WDM, KGH, KN, MIK, PA, OT, ZON, ZT, KMD, YMD, FNQ, FRYL, OO, MSS, AE, GWA, KDF, FVC, PJH, AFW, ZWC, DJC, WJ, KEE, YWG, GUN, TUB, CMW, PE, GED, MRG, GDN, ZM, FUDO, JBY, AAH, BDE, HSV, VK1ZZ, Joan McDonnell, Roslyn Bryant, Rhonda Wilks, Peter Renton, Wendy Schinkel, Derek Goodhew, Toni Goodhew, Jeanette Mann, Noelene Melrose, Nell Crabb, Kerry Wright, Cate Gooda, Bill Walker, Kev Chillout, Brad Payn, Vallerie 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 Darrin Archer VK4GEO/VK4XC
Darrin hails from Mount Isa (he is currently Secretary of the Mount Isa and District Amateur Radio Group Inc.) and earns a crust as an electrician running Archer Electrical Services servicing the region with general and industrial electrical services, data cabling, networking and security equipment, back-up generators and project management. A clue from his callsign shows that Darrin enjoys the art of geocaching and his main interest in Amateur Radio is running and commissioning AllStarLink nodes and participation in the Amateur Radio Automated Position Reporting System (APRS) plus other radio data modes. Darrin is one of the ACMA Accredited Assessors in the region and is also a member of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

Motion 202603001 Moved by Snow Herodes/VK4ME and seconded by Gavin Reibelt/VK4ZZ that Darrin Archer/VK4GEO/VK4XC becomes a member of the Club.
- CARRIED unanimously with applause.

SHOW AND TELL:

Gavin/VK4ZZ – handed out micro-servo motors as give-aways from a recent donation of equipment to the Club – many more available.

Gavin/VK4ZZ – showed some recently donated to the Club model aircraft 7.2V lithium battery packs which were available as give-aways. Snow/VK4ME took one to adapt to a handheld radio battery pack.

Steve/VK4GFR – advised the meeting that during a recent lightning storm the antenna for the Kelso Kiwi-SDR suffered a direct strike and was destroyed. Steve always disconnects the equipment from the antenna when there are storms in the area so no equipment was destroyed. Steve has just replaced the antenna and the Kelso Kiwi-SDR is back online.

Snow/VK4ME – passed around a commercially available high power 1:1 HF Balun he recently had to rebuild. Original construction was poorly done, leading to failure of the balun. All fixed now with a much better build.

Les/VK4ALS - displayed a donated Kenwood TKM-707 Marine HF Transceiver which can be modified for amateur radio use. It was a give-away and Gavin/VK4ZZ snaffled it to make a good one out of this and another one he had in the compendium.

The TOWNSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

**Minutes of
Management
Meeting
Held on
the 3rd of March
2026 at the Club
Rooms SES HQ,
Green Street,
West End**

Iain/VK4IGM – had give-away copies of IEEE Spectrum magazines which were eagerly snaffled up

Iain/VK4IGM – passed around a copy of the RSL Queensland magazine featuring an article on Amateur Radio by members of the Redcliffe Amateur Radio Club Inc.

ACCEPTING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Accept the minutes for the February 2026 Management Meeting as printed in Back-scatter.

Motion 202603002 moved to be accepted by Richard/VK4PQV and seconded by Les/VK4ALS
- CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- Nil

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Inwards. 10 articles, Outwards 6 articles, as detailed in the Correspondence Log with the most noteworthy being:

- Ergon Energy – Electricity Account Mount Stuart Repeater Site for February
- Townsville City Council – 6 monthly Rates Notice for Mt Stuart Repeater Site
- Australia Post – Post Office Box annual renewal
- GippsInsure – WIA Affiliated Club Public Liability Insurance Scheme, Preliminary Information 2026
- WIA, Amateur Radio Magazine Volume 94 Number 1 2026
- RSGB, Radcom Magazine February 2026 & March 2026
- Richard Goodhew VK4PQV – Reports for March Management meeting
- Lyndall Reibelt VK4ZM – Reports for March Management Meeting
- Peter Harrex VK4PQ – Report for March Management Meeting
- TARC Financial Members – Notifications for Management Meeting, Project Night and Social Evening
- TARC Financial Members – Sale of Transceiver Equipment
- TARC Financial & Honorary Members & Complementaries – Back-scatter February 2026
- TARC Financial Members – Mount Isa Amateur Radio Group Inc March Newsletter
- TARC Financial Members – Management Meeting Agenda so far
- Darrin Archer VK4GEO/VK4XC – Application for membership of the Club

Motion 202603003 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 presented the Treasurers Report to the meeting and asked for questions before asking the meeting to accept the report.

Motion 202603004 Accept the Treasurer's Report.
Moved by Peter/VK4PQ, Seconded by Steve/VK4GFR
- 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/VK4XC 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 – nil events.

2026 Comms Support – Notes on events –

The B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Horse Endurance Rides have been
cancelled. The organisers cannot access the properties and trails to
prepare for the rides and there is no access to the NQ Equestrian
Centre at Bluewater Park where Ride Base was planned to be. With the
forecast for more monsoonal weather the Organisers have firmly
considered safety for volunteers, riders and especially horsies and made
the decision to cancel the rides. B2B hope that heaps of operators
volunteer to help run the next rides happening on the weekend of 16th
and 17th May.

There is a clash of events on Saturday 15th August with a Euri Gold
Horsie Ride and the Maggie Island Swim happening on the same day.
Please have a look at the events list and see if you can help out with
one of the events. The rides that the Mackay Amateur Radio Association
handle with the Valley Riders Endurance Riding Association at Denison
Creek have had date changes – shown in the events list. The only event
to be notified in our regular events is Kennedy Region Scout Nighthawk
2026. Thanks to everyone who have already nominated to help with
events however we need more operators and support people to sign
up!

2026 Comms Support Events so far -

Thu 2 April to Mon 6 April - B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Horse Endurance
Rides 5/20/40/80km with possible 120 and 160km rides
– cancelled.

Sat 18 to Sun 19 April - NQORA Markwell Gold City 450 QLD
Championship Round Off Road Racing Millchester MSRC near Charters
Towers. Camping open from Friday 17th April with radio volunteer
briefing Friday evening. Operators so far - VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM &
VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG, more operators needed.

Sat 16 to Sun 17 May - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Autumn
Escalade Horse Endurance Rides 5/20/4/80 - NQ Equestrian Centre
Bluewater Park. Operators so far VK4ZZ, VK4ZM,
many more operators needed.

Fri 29 May to Sun 31 May - Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riding
Assoc. 5/10/20/30/40/80km/Harness Tropical Winter Horse Endurance
Rides - Euri Gold Farms near Bowen. Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM,
VK4CUZ,

many more ops muchly needed.

Sat 27 to Sun 28 June - NQORA Millchester Challenge Off Road Racing
Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers. Operators so far - VK1ZZ,
VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG,
more operators needed.

Sat 27 to Sun 28 June - Valley Riders Endurance Riding Assoc.
2x20/2x40/1x80k (Ops by MARA Inc.) Dee Jay Arabians Horse
Endurance Rides - Denison Creek near Nebo. Operators so far
VK4CUZ, VK4HAN, Bruce, VK4JLK,
many more operators needed.

Sat 18 to Sun 19 July - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Paluma
Passion 5/10/20/40/80km Horse Endurance Rides 5/10/20/40/80
- NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park. Operators so far VK4ZZ,
VK4ZM, Doris & VK4WSG,
many more operators needed.

Sat 1 to Sun 2 August - Valley Riders Endurance Riding Assoc.
2x20/2x40/100E (Ops by MARA Inc.) Greg Willoughby Memorial Horse
Endurance Rides - Denison Creek near Nebo. Operators so far
VK4CUZ, VK4HAN, VK4ZZ & VK4ZM, Bruce, Doris & VK4WSG,
more operators needed.

Fri 14 to Sun 16 August - Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riding Assoc.
5/10/20/30/40/80km/Harness Winter Harvest Horse Endurance Rides
- Euri Gold Farms near Bowen. Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, Doris
& VK4WSG,

many more operators needed.

Sat 15 August - 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, VK4IGM,

more operators needed.

Sat 22 to Sun 23 August - NQORA Pato's 7 Hour Enduro Off Road
Racing Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers. Operators so far -
VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG,
more operators needed.

Sat 5 to Sun 6 September - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc.
Spring Shore 5/10/20/40/80km Horse Endurance Rides 5/10/20/40/80
- NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park. Operators so far VK4ZZ,
VK4ZM, Doris & VK4WSG,
many more operators needed.

Sat 10 to Sun 11 October - NQORA Charters Towers Short Course Off
Road Racing Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers. Operators so far -
VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG,
more operators needed.

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

TECHNICIAN REPORT:

- Kerry/VK4TUB had no report for this month.

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 - Some training for assessments with help
from Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB took place during February.

- VK4WIT Operations - No portable operations this month.

- VK4ATV Operations - No portable operations this month.

- VK4ATV WSPR Beacons - currently revising the antennas for 10m and
6m - changing from loaded vertical multi-band to co-fed dipoles.

- North Queensland Net - All nets going good, participation is good with
participants operating through fade-outs and storm static.

- Much more treasure has been donated, much thanks to all.

- The club sold a Simplex Auto Keyer to a collector in NSW.

- The club also sold a Yaesu FT2000 HF Transceiver, a Yaesu FT991A
all band all mode Transceiver and another Yaesu FT2000 HF
Transceiver to three local hams in the Townsville area. Much thanks to
Snow/VK4ME for his assistance in finding this treasure new homes.

- Once the wet season weather improves Kerry/VK4TUB intends to
complete the rack replacement and DC/RF rewire project, with some
interruption to repeater, beacon and digipeater services that could last
up to a week. Kerry is formulating a plan to minimise service
disruption.

LIBRARIAN REPORT:

- Ashley/VK4FUU reported all going well with many magazines
available for members to peruse or lend.

FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Phil/VK4HSV was an apology for the meeting however
provided a summary through Gavin/VK4ZZ via telephone prior
to the meeting:

All works at the Repeater Site are currently on hold until the
Wet Season weather clears to better conditions. Materials have
been gathered for all current projects and volunteer work will
resume as soon as the weather allows.

LADIES GROUP CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Lyndall/VK4ZM, reported via Gavin/VK4ZZ :

The Ann Renton Memorial Net happened on Tuesday 24th
February at 0930UTC. The net was held 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 with
Gavin/VK4ZZ as net control.

Via the Townsville UHF repeater were

Snow/VK4ME, Kirwan, North QLD, Australia

Estonia Independence Day today and flying the flag. Playing with antenna tripods in the field, ready for the John Moyle Field Day weekend at Mount Fox. Pilates session went well followed by milk bar visit with a friend. Mozzies are getting very active after the rains. Radio testing going well, got a couple left to do.

Ben/VK4YT, Kelso, North QLD, Australia

Want the yard to dry out! Soggy conditions delaying yard and antenna works. Tried out the Clark Mast and it needs some lubrication to work properly. Looking forward to the John Moyle Field Day weekend at Mount Fox.

Stephen/VK4AEX, Douglas, North QLD, Australia

Had to take the car to the car doctors for some fixits, decided to walk home from the garage – was a bit of distance but was able to stop at Stockies on the way. Acquired a MiniKits 4:1 UnUn kit and have had some fun doing the toroid winding. Found some more toroid cores and some enamelled copper wire (1mm dia) and also wound a 9:1 UnUn and a 2:1 UnUn.

Lyndall/VK4ZM, Vincent, North QLD, Australia

Lots of LED Bottle Lights completed, each powered with a 18650 Lithium cell. Want to get the rest of the rain out of the way. Had a great time at the Rotary Club of Port of Townsville International Night with Scottish theme on Monday Night, was upstairs at the Metropole with some wonderful entertainment and meals, including Haggis.

Peter/VK4PQ, Kelso, North QLD, Australia

Well, that's that month gone already! Playing with Ham Radio Deluxe, initially with a trial version then shelled out for the full package. Only took 3 weeks to tame it and now making some good contacts using the FT8 module. Recent contacts include on 10, 17, 15 and 10metres including contacts with Ron/VK4JBY on 20 and 15metres.

Kerry/VK4TUB, Kirwan, North QLD, Australia

Had a power outage earlier today and the node radio didn't come back on – now fixed and online stations should be able to be worked.

Via VOIP modes

Robert/VK2DY, Kellyville Ridge, NSW, Australia via Echolink/VK2DY/VK4TUB

28C today and cloudy. Busy with the Scanning Project – scanning slides taken during travels in yesteryear and conversion to digital files. Using an online ai assisted website to cleanup some of the scratches and blotches scanned into the files with great results. Another project, just finished building up a QRP Transceiver kit and tested firstly on the RF-Hack device, then a short range first on-air contact to a station in Dural. Going to try the device next on FT8.

Tim/B14PPG, 临沂市 Linyi, Shandong, China via Echolink/B14PPJ/VK4TUB

It's been a while since the last time on the net, during the last 6 months have moved to a different city for work. Some internet dropouts happening from time to time but seems to be getting a little bit more stable. Linyi is full of Christian Churches! Will send some pictures of the new location to Tubby. Radios and Antennas have been packed away for now, relying on Echolink on the phone at the moment for outside contact. Going to try HF Mobile sometime in the future.

Andrew/VK4CHG, Mount Louisa, North QLD, Australia via Echolink/VK4CHG/VK4TUB

Work radio was interesting today – had to communicate with a ship but HF wasn't working, did a relay on UHF via a helicopter to make the contact. Also messing with some satlink stuff. Trying to do study for the Advanced Licence level amongst everything else. Finding this VOIP stuff very interesting.

Rudie/VE3FOA, Toronto, Ontario, Canada via AllStarLink/VE3FOA/VK4TUB

Checked in but did not participate.

The net concluded at 1102UTC after the ta ta round was completed and the Net Controller wished everyone a safe return for the March Net.

The next ARMN will be happening on Tuesday 24th March and then on Tuesday 28th April 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 31st March from 0930UTC then on Tuesday 30th June 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/VK4PQV reported:

JOTA will be happening on 17th and 18th October.

Kennedy Region Scouts this year should be having a Regional Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet camp at Camp Tamaroo Bluewater, operators needed.

Flinders Region Guides will be having their event at the Guides QLD Camp and Training site on Toolakea Beach Road Bluewater, need operators.

QSL CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Ashley/VK4FUU reported :

- No QSL cards received for this month.

EDITOR BACKSCATTER REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported :

The March issue will close for articles on Friday afternoon 13th, be with Iain/VK4IGM by Monday 16th for the limited print run publishing at the Senator's office. Thanks for those who have submitted items – please keep them rolling in!

TRANSMISSION OFFICER & CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

(our transmission officers are Richard/VK4FRJG, Lyndall/VK4ZM, Denis/VK4AE, Peter/VK4PQ, Gavin/VK4ZZ)

- Richard/VK4PQV reported:

For the month of February the WIA and Q-News transmission and call-backs were done by Peter VK4PQ. NQ net retransmissions and call-backs were done by Richard VK4PQV. For the month of March the WIA and Q-News transmission & call-backs and NQ net retransmissions and call-backs will be done by Richard VK4PQV.

PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Iain/VK4IGM reported:

The limited print run of Back-scatter magazine continues. Many thanks to Hon Susan McDonald, Senator for Queensland and the team at the Townsville Office. Without the Senator's and Staff's support the production of the limited run printed version of Back-scatter would be up in the air.

WIA CONTACT REPORT

Gavin/VK4ZZ reported:

- The WIA Election of Directors for the 2026 year finished on 28th February, with the results to be notified closer to the WIA AGM.

- The WIA Technical Advisory Committee have finalised the review of the Australian Amateur Radio Bandplan and have published the new bandplan on the WIA Website. The committee thanked everyone who did put in a submission. The revised bandplan includes '6m (SSB segment widened), 80m and 160m AM Centres of Activity chosen (1870kHz and 3686 kHz), 40m Emergency Communications Channel revised to align with IARU Region 3 (7110 kHz), clarification of Amateur Television allocations, making it clear how FM Analogue ATV still fit within the band plans from 23cm to 3 cm and revamped further the 9cm band plan taking into account feedback received.'

The full list of changes as well as revised bandplan diagrams are available now on the WIA website.

- The 2026 WIA John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest most recent rules have been published in February Back-scatter. The latest rules, N1MM custom configuration file and upgraded Excel spreadsheet available for download from the WIA Website.
- 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.

FACEBOOK MASTER REPORT:

- Paul/VK4ICA had no report for this month.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT:

- Bob/VK4AAH and Phil/VK4HSV will report at the 2026 AGM.

Motion 202603005 moved by Les/VK4ALS to accept tabled Ex-Officio Reports and Seconded by Wayne/VK4WSG. - CARRIED unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Senate Enquiry into Communications Failures during the 2025 Floods

Iain/VK4IGM: Attended a recent meeting with Julian Tomlinson, media advisor for Hon Senator Susan McDonald at the Senator's offices in Townsville City, accompanied by Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB and Gavin Reibelt/VK4ZZ. Iain and Hairy Richard had supplied written submissions regarding the failures plus some activities that might encroach on amateur radio band access. For failures of communications networks, primarily the mobile phone network during the 2025 floods, submissions concentrated on – what you need in materials and personnel to restore services during an emergency, the need to have cash to pay for local supply of materials and provisions when electronic payment systems don't work, improve the electrical design of base stations to accept emergency power sources, the possibility of time rationing for connections on capacity reduced networks during disasters. Julian indicated that a call might be sent to Iain, Hairy Richard and Gavin to participate remotely if the enquiry happens and that feedback about the failures is still wanted. Send submissions by email to Julian at <qr> Julian [dot] Tomlinson [at] aph [dot] gov [dot] au <qr> (making sure to release or modify the countermeasures first).

Proposal to equip theTARCinc Radio Shack with a digital/analogue capable VHF/UHF Transceiver

Peter/VK4PQ: Identified the need for the Club Radio Shack to have a C4FM capable transceiver that could be used to demonstrate Yaesu Fusion communications via the VK400 Yaesu Fusion 2 West End Repeater and on simplex frequencies. Gavin/VK4ZZ suggested that should the acquisition go ahead the transceiver could replace the AWA RT85 VHF transceiver in the Club Radio Shack that is currently assigned analogue/APRS operations, with the replaced transceiver be stored as a spare for the RT85 transceivers currently located in the SES Townsville Comms Room and at the Mount Stuart Repeater Site as the APRS Digipeater.

Motion 202603006 moved by Peter/VK4PQ that the Club purchase a Yaesu FTM510DR transceiver for \$AU950 within Australia. Seconded by Ben/VK4YT. - CARRIED unanimously.

Amateur Radio Display in the field with the 2026 Dam Fine Rally

Gavin/VK4ZZ : One of the organisers of the Tropical Coast Wanderers chapter of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, our very own Bob/VK4AAH, has proposed a TARCinc display of Amateur Radio on Saturday 4th July at the 2026 Dam Fine Rally, Ross Park Kelso (right near the Ross River Dam). It is envisioned that the display would be like the one put on at the Defence Welcome to Townsville Expo but out in the field and expanded with portable HF operators deploying their equipment and redi-deploy antennas to make live radio

contacts during the day. Further requirements on deployment of the display will be refined once Bob is back from a long trip in April. The date is the Public Open Day of the Rally so public exposure to our activity will be high. Consensus from the meeting was agreeable to be part of the activity.

(During the second scheduled meeting break between Zoom sessions attendees at the meeting venue stepped outside to observe part of the lunar eclipse which was happening on the night)

FURTHER GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil.

There being no further business, President Snow/VK4ME closed the meeting at 2121h local time and wished everyone goodnight and a safe return to the next Monthly Management Meeting on the 7th April 2026.

Minutes Transcribed 13th March 2026 by Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ - Secretary 2026, The Townsville Amateur Radio Club (Inc).



JOIN THE WIA TODAY !

SUPPORT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LOBBYING FOR THE HOBBY.

SUPPORT EMCOM SERVICES. RECEIVE

AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE. UTILISE THE QSL BUREAU.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE HOBBY !

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

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 Impp 8.3 A

All \$20 each. Contact Hairy on rsstone@gmail.com

HF Station for Sale

Ken/VK4HAI is reluctantly selling his seldom used HF Station which consists of - ICOM IC-718 HF Transceiver with Microphone & DC Lead plus Regulated Linear 13.8V 30A Power Supply and Extension Speaker, Everything is in near new order - as stated seldom used and kept well packed. Ken is asking \$2000 with pick-up available at the home QTH in Atherton Far North Queensland.

Ring Ken now on 0407 502838 to seal the deal.

Need an entry level rig - For Sale

Rowan/VK4TEW is making some room in the radio shack, here is what he has for sale...

Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver 100 Watt SSB, AM, CW Runs well, comes with User manual, Icom mic (HM-36) and power cable. \$450-00 (super cheap)

For a extra \$100-00, the buyer of the IC-718 above can also purchase the Tigertronics Signallink Integrated USB Sound Card for all those Digital Modes, Runs well, comes with User manual, interface cable for IC-718, USB cable.

Contact Rowan/VK4TEW either on the email

<qr> rowan [dot] tew [at] Bigpond [dot] com <qr> (ensuring to remove or modify the qr)

or leave a message / Text to mobile 0429 208 332



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.

More good gear for sale

Ray/VK4OIL is making room in the radio shack as well and has a Yaesu FT-897 HF/6metre/VHF/UHF Transceiver for sale. He has owned this radio since new and purchased it from premier equipment dealer Navcom Electronics based in Townsville. It comes with the FP30 onboard power supply, FC30 onboard Antenna Tuner, original operating manual plus the additional 'Nifty Manual' with all the shortcuts to get you operating the gear quickly along with the original manuals for the FP30 Power Supply and FC30 Automatic Antenna Tuner.

This Transceiver, for its age, has done little work (it has outlasted 2 x Kenwood Radios) but a check up and a clean out could be beneficial. The radio is just lately showing signs of vertical lines appearing on the screen. Ray has been told that the "fix" apparently costs somewhere around \$50 - \$70.



Buyers are welcome to call in and try it out if they wish. Priced to sell quickly at \$525.

Contact Ray, VK4OIL on 0409 888 875 to find out more.

A tower and bits need a good home

...and all you need to do is dismantle the tower and take it away. Yes, long time Far North Queensland hams Pat/VK4MP and Larry/VK4WWW want to give away their 75foot (25metre) wind up tower to someone who wants to rock up to their QTH in Cairns and remove it. It winds down to 50feet (17metres).

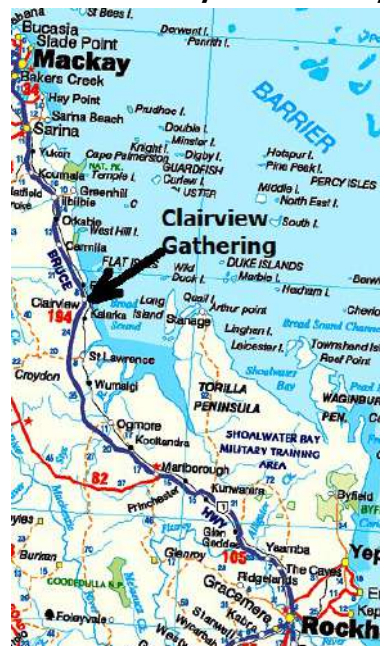
There are items for sale as well at a reasonable price -

- a Log Periodic antenna with 28ft (9metre) boom
- a near new Heavy duty Emotator rotator and controller.

Contact Pat or Larry by phone on 07 4054 4157 to find out more.

Clairview Gathering

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May 2026



The Clairview Gathering is a yearly event where Radio Amateurs meet at a spot on the coast between Rockhampton and Mackay to relax, talk radio, re-establish acquaintances and participate in the world renown Saturday Night Mega-Auction. There will definitely be RAFFLES and the famous Lucky Numbers Board!

There is a rumour going about that George VK4HAN might be getting a hair-cut yet again.

The Gathering is one of the main revenue raisers

for the Mackay Amateur Radio Association Inc. and the Rockhampton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc.

It happens in 2026 on the weekend following the Long Weekend from Friday afternoon 8th to Monday morn 11th May, with most events happening on Saturday 9th May. Those who are keen to chill out completely in one of the most relaxing and laid back venues in the cosmos arrive earlier and stay later. The Clairview Gathering is so popular that on-site accommodation is close to being booked out already, so if you want to go you will have to very quick. Likewise the nice camp, caravan or motor-home sites will book out quickly.

To book your camping spot contact the BarraCrab Caravan Park Clairview <http://www.barracrabc.com.au/> or on 07 49560190

PERSONAL CELEBRATIONS : Birthdays :

15 Mar Ray 4OIL, YM of Wendy
 18 Ian 4ZT
 19 John 4OB
 20 Anthony, harmonic of Peter 4PVH
 22 Pat 4MUY
 23 Don 4MC, YM of Teri 4HYL
 26 Roger 4CD
 26 David 4DJC
 27 Ken 4HAI, YM of Kristyl
 27 Roslyn, board of control of MATMAN 4GUN
 28 Mike 4BFO
 28 Tony 4TJS
 28 Mar Willy 4HB, YM of Rosalind
 1 Apr Nell, board of control of Vern 4FVC
 2 Greg, harmonic of Vern 4FVC and Nell
 3 Derek, harmonic of Richard 4PQV
 4 Sharon, board of control of Jeff 4XA
 5 Zane, harmonic of Leigh 4HLW and Wendy
 9 Andrew, harmonic of Vern 4FVC and Nell
 10 Kimberley – harmonic of Teri 4HYL & Don 4MC
 15 Gavin, 4ZZ (og!), YM of Lyndall 4ZM
 18 Joan, board of control of Colin 4UCM
 18 Colin 4MCC
 19 Renee, harmonic of Richard 4PQV
 23 Natasha, flight crew of Lyndall 4ZM & Og 4ZZ
 23 Mark 3TCD, YM of Angela
 25 Dave 4WR, YM of Karen
 26 Tony 4TTW
 27 Trent 4LKG, YM of Janie
 28 Bill, 4WGU
 28 Apr Neil, 4NB
 1 May Kevin, 4MKB
 3 Leslie, Board of Control of Les (Rusty) 4ALS
 5 Rossco VK4AQ, YM of Bev
 6 Simon, Harmonic of Peter 4PVH
 7 Ellen, Harmonic of Heather & Steve 4SGW
 9 Helen 4FHEL, Board of Control of Steve 4SM
 10 Reece, harmonic of Leigh 4HLW and Wendy
 15 Phil 2JOK, OM of Leslie
 17 Mark 4YM
 19 Kooka VK4PQV
 20 Tina, Harmonic of Peter 4PVH
 21 John 4FNQ, OM of Cheryl 4FRYL
 23 Gary 8AW
 29 May Adrian 4TCA



: Wedding Anniversaries :

30 Mar Nell & Vernon 4FVC.
 5 Apr Kerry & Mick 4CMW
 6 Apr Bev & Rossco 4AQ.
 10 Apr Jennyvi & Jason 4OT.

Club Anniversaries :

19 April 2011 The Adventures of The Stink
 first published.
 13 May 1993 VK4RAT ATV Repeater licensed

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].

Winlink Radio Message Servers Operational

VK4DJC - 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.

7052kHz, 10146.5kHz, 14112.5kHz 28101.5kHz 144675kHz

VK4GED – Located at Laguna Quays in Central Queensland operating 24 hours per day 7 days a week using VARA mode and Public Access enabled on 7052kHz (subtract 1.5kHz for the dial frequency) using USB.

VK4UI – Located at Rockhampton in Central Queensland operating 24 hours per day 7 days a week using VARA and VARA2750 Hybrid modes and Public Access enabled on 7058.5kHz, 10146.8kHz, 14111.0kHz (subtract 1.5kHz for the dial frequency) using USB.

VK2HL – Located at Yeppoon in Central Queensland operating 24 hours per day 7 days a week using VARA and VARA270 Hybrid modes and Public Access enabled on 3625.0kHz, 7040.0kHz, 10132.0kHz, 14090.0kHz, 18098.0kHz (subtract 1.5kHz for the dial frequency) using USB.

WinLink RMS also feature online login through the WinLink application

Snow's Radio-Active Direction Finding Fun happening soon



If you are in the vicinity of Townsville on Saturday June 6th from 1pm and want to get involved in a Foxhunt then Snow VK4ME wants to hear from you. You have until Thursday 4th June to get your attendance numbers in for the Foxhunt.

There will be activities for all family members to participate in during the Foxhunt and things will end up with some in flight catering. To cater for the event Snow needs to know your attendance numbers and you need to quiz Snow further regarding details about the Foxhunt. Who do you have to call ?

Snow VK4ME at the Ice Cube, on 0439 159403



Tech On The Air Net happens SOON

Peter/VK4PQ would like you to send him technical conundrums that can be discussed with notice over the air during the next **Tech On The Air** Net happening on Tuesday Night 31st March from 7-30pm (0930UTC) on the Townsville VHF Repeater and the VK4PQ AllStarLink Node 49806 and Echolink Node 956560. Send your Questions with Notice to Peter on email [qrm] peter [dot] Harrex [at] Bigpond [dot] com [qrm] [making sure to translate the countermeasures first]



The BONUS Tech on The Air net January 2026 report

Hi everyone, here is a quick rundown of the latest Tech on The Air net January 2026, by Peter VK4PQ in Kelso.

The night started out at 7:30pm local Townsville time with the running of the latest AR Newsline news from the US, it was quite an informative news cast, with a great roundup of Amateur Radio International news.

After the news I called for stations wishing to check in and these stations called in, VK4DAT(A), VK4JBY(E), VK4KWS(E), VK4OIL, VK4WSG, VK4YT, VK4ZZ, VK4NQL, VK4HSV, VK4GDN and VK4ME. Great rollup and thanks to all that came along on the night. – (E) Echolink, (A) AllStarLink

We had one question with notice, and one other from Wayne VK4WSG, unfortunately Wayne sent this question to my email address but I never received it, sorry Wayne, but I feel sure that your question was well answered on the night and with follow up information from Kent VK4KWS. We started out with Waynes question;

Waynes's VK4WSG question was, what is the best way or a good way of winding toroid baluns and how to test them with a VNA. Wayne is building an EFHW (End Fed Half Wave antenna 20m Long Impedance at feedpoint ~3000 Ohms), so he needs to wind a 49:1 Balun on a Toroid Core FT240-43.

Great question Wayne, well there were quite a few comments and good advice from the group including:

VK4JBY Mini Kits have a 49:1 Kit with all the parts required and great documentation on construction techniques.
<https://www.minikits.com.au/electronic-kits/balun-transformer>

VK4KWS sent a video link on winding a 49:1 balun.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIBXzInoTjI&t=5s> (not the exact video Kent sent but similar)

There is definitely a couple of variants on how to wind the 49:1 balun, with either split turns or tight wound turns, this video shows tight wound turns, that is it's not split over the toroid and it has good results efficiency wise. The video also shows how to test the balun with a nano vna.

Thanks to everyone who made comments on the night, that's what this net is all about, participation and it's great to hear of other hams experiences.

Gavin VK4ZZ made mention of an item in the AR Newsline news.

Gavin made mention of the item "Financial Traders Renew Plea For Use Of HF Bands", noting that the reason behind this is the propagation delays in overseas telecommunications through medium such a fibre digital networks which is slower than networks via HF. Transmission modes such as Pactor using FSK and other HF modes using spread spectrum have a shorter propagation delay than digital networks.

Great pickup Gavin, look out we best use our bands or we may lose them, get those antennas up in the air and start working some dx.

Snow VK4ME sent in a question with notice, his question is: What are stubs used for and how do they work.

Snow was not one the net until later, but we went with this as there were no other questions, the below is what I read out on the night.

RF stubs are short, dead-end transmission line sections used in high-frequency circuits for impedance matching, filtering, and creating resonant circuits, working by reflecting signals back to cancel or combine with the original wave, creating a frequency-dependent reactive load (like an inductor or capacitor) or short/open circuit, depending on their length and termination. They are essential for maximizing power transfer (matching),

blocking unwanted frequencies (filtering), or setting operating points in amplifiers/oscillators.

How They Work (The Physics)

Transmission Line Behaviour: A stub acts like a transmission line segment connected at one end, with the other end either open-circuited (no connection) or short-circuited (to ground/plane).

Reflection & Reactance: When an RF signal hits the stub, part of it reflects from the open/shorted end.

Electrical Length Matters: The stub's physical length, usually a fraction of the signal's wavelength (like $\lambda/4$ or $\lambda/2$), determines the phase shift and impedance seen at the connection point.

Frequency Dependence:

A $\lambda/4$ open stub acts like a series short circuit (zero impedance) at its resonant frequency, while a $\lambda/4$ shorted stub acts like an open circuit (infinite impedance).

This allows them to selectively present specific impedances (inductive, capacitive, or zero/infinite) at certain frequencies.

Common Uses (The Applications)

Impedance Matching: The most common use; a stub adds an opposite reactance to cancel out a load's unwanted reactance, achieving a perfect match (e.g., 50Ω to 50Ω) for maximum power transfer.

Filters (Bandpass/Bandstop): Multiple stubs can create filters to pass desired frequency bands and reject others, crucial in receivers and transmitters.

Resonant Circuits: Used in oscillators and amplifiers to set resonant frequencies, replacing bulky lumped components.

DC Biasing: Shorted stubs can provide a path for DC bias to an amplifier while blocking RF signals from entering the power supply, isolating RF and DC planes.

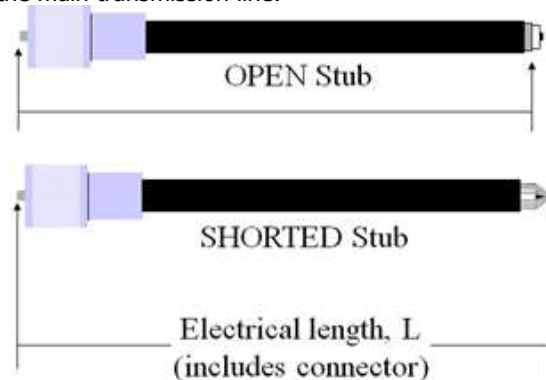
Broadband Matching: Radial stubs (widened ends) offer wider bandwidth compared to simple parallel/series stubs.

Types of Stubs

Open-Circuited: Free end is left open; can radiate slightly.

Shorted: Free end is connected to ground; preferred for better isolation in RF circuits.

Series/Shunt: Connected in parallel (shunt) or in-line (series) with the main transmission line.



Coaxial stubs.

The above transcript on Stubs was written by co-pilot a windows AI assistant and vetted by P Harrex VK4PQ (Copilot reduced my 13 pages of research information to the above transcript), remember any answers given are general in nature and more research should be done by the individual designer of an antenna system.

Well that brought the net to a near conclusion but before closing we threw it around the stations still connected and also asked for any closing comments, it was a great night and thanks to all for coming along.

The next Tech on the Air Net will be the 31st March 2026, if you can make it bring a friend along too it's a great night, 73 Everyone.

DE VK4PQ Peter @ Kelso

A M A N D C W O N
 A N Z A C D A Y



AM and CW on ANZAC Day - Radioamateurs Remember. 25th April 2026

The AM and CW on Anzac Day event come about after a conversation between Lionel Veale ex Sgt Coast-watcher during WW2 and Mike Patterson VK4MIK - Mike served in the RAN for 21 years. Lionel used radios to transmit coded intelligence by CW mode.

Mike thought it would be a good way for Amateurs to salute those who served or are still serving by using the old radio modes of AM and CW on Anzac Day and if possible at ex Defence sites.

This event has operated for well over 18 years and has proved very successful as many discovered AM mode and used it for the first time and others used home brew CW rigs.

In Queensland the Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc. operates as Net Control using callsign AX4ATV from their Club Rooms, an ex WW2 Command Bunker (Project 81). The net operates on 7125 kHz AM all day with many using old radios. It also commences on the Gnarly Net from 0600 on 3599kHz CW then to AM on 3600kHz AM. Stations across Australia operate on this day and it's not a contest but simply make contact using old modes. New Zealand AM radio group have also expressed interest after contacts last year so listen out for our ANZAC partners.

Thanks to the organising and planning by Ray/AX4OIL, some other TARCadians led by Snow/AX4ME will again activating the historic World War 2 Oonoonba Bombing Site running portable stations on Amplitude Modulation from 9am to 5-30pm-ish and highlighting the need for the site to be preserved by the Queensland Government as an important commemoration site for community use.

Many Amateurs joined our Defence forces and took their skills into their service lives in a wide range of activities such as Coastwatchers, Air Force Radio operators, Radar operators and repair, navy radio operators and Army operations.

Over the weekend 25th & 26th April the 9th AMRO event will happen – Australian Military Radio Operators and their converted Military Radios will be on the air. More details will be released closer to the event, including this year's operational theme.

LEST WE FORGET

de VK4MIK Mike ex RAN - vk4mike@yahoo.com.au

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY CONTEST 2026

(sourced from the Contest section of the WIA Website)

V2 rules presented by Dianne Main/VK4DI and Alan Shannon/VK4SN

Contest Introduction

The Field Day is held over the 3rd full weekend in March and run from UTC 0100 on the Saturday to 0059 on the Sunday and is open to all amateurs.

Aim Of the Contest

The aim is to encourage and provide familiarisation with portable and field operation and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are therefore specifically designed and focused to encourage maximum participation.

Objective

All stations are welcome to participate, but DX stations can only claim points for contacts with VK, ZL and P2 stations. All VK, ZL and P2 stations can claim points for all contacts, with any station in the world, if valid serial numbers are exchanged.

Date and Time

- 3rd full weekend in March
- 0100UTC Saturday to 0059UTC Sunday (24 hours)

Categories

1. Separate HF and VHF and above categories as below.
2. Enter one log with all HF and VHF+ contacts. vklogchecker (log submission site) will pull out the separate categories when the log is submitted and enter you in both HF and VHF and above entries if they exist, as per the categories below.

- a. Single Op portable 6 hour
- b. Single Op portable 24 hour
- c. Multi-One Portable 6 hour
- d. Multi-One portable 24 hour
- e. Multi-Multi Portable 6 hour
- f. Multi-Multi portable 24 hour
- g. Single Op Home 6 hour
- h. Single Op Home 24 hour
- i. Multi-One Home 24 hour
- j. Multi-Multi Home 24 hour

- An overlay of YOUTH (Single Op, 25 years and younger) is accepted for any of the above categories.

Modes

- Phone (SSB AM FM)
- CW
- Mixed (both Phone and CW modes)

Time Blocks: Contest is divided into eight consecutive three-hour blocks starting at 0100UTC.

Re-working: A station can be worked once per band per mode per block.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters on HF and 50MHz to 241Ghz on VHF/UHF/SHF. (no WARC bands in accordance with IARU regulations)

Exchange

- Single OP - Serial Number starting at 001 then consecutively across all bands.
- Multi OP – Serial numbers starting at 001 on each band.

Multiplier

- Each new prefix from VK, P2, and ZL stations count as a multiplier credit once per band per mode per block. VK4, VL4, VJ4, ZL1, and ZM1 are examples of new prefixes when first logged.

Power

- All entrants are to operate with power not to exceed their licence conditions for the mode and band of operation.

Scoring

- Portable and home stations: Phone – 1 point, CW – 2 points.
- Total score: Add up the Multipliers for each block and multiply by the total points.
- DX stations can only claim points for contacts with VK, ZL and P2 stations.

Logging

- N1MM logger+ using User Defined Contest (UDC) WIA-JMMFD.udc
- New Cabrillo Spreadsheet log allows copying and pasting to vklogchecker.com

Log Submission

- Logs must be submitted within 14 days to vklogchecker.com

- Only Cabrillo Ver3 logs or the new Excel Cabrillo spreadsheet format is allowed.
- Upload Cabrillo Ver3 logs or copy and paste the final spreadsheet log to vklogchecker dot com.
- Or send Spreadsheet or Cabrillo log to the manager if all else fails.

Awards

- Certificates will be provided as a downloadable PDF from the WIA website.
- The President's Shield, a perpetual trophy held at Andersson House, will be awarded to the portable Australian Club station, with the highest score. For this contest "Club Station" means a club affiliated with the WIA. The winning club will receive an individually inscribed wall plaque as permanent recognition.

Results

- Results will be released within a fortnight from end of log submission.

Station Definitions

Portable Station - A portable station comprises field equipment operating from a power source, e.g. batteries, portable generator, solar power, wind power, independent of any permanent facilities, and which is not the normal location of any amateur station.

Single Operator - A single operator station is where one person performs all operating, logging, and spotting functions. One signal on air only.

Multi-One Station - One transmitter with two or more operators. One signal on air only.

Multi-Multi Operator Stations (Includes Multi-Two) - A multi-operator station is where two or more transmitters are used and where two or more operators run the station. One signal per band only.

General Rules

- Phone includes SSB, AM, and FM. A station can only be worked in one phone mode per band per block.
- None of the portable field equipment may be erected on the site earlier than 28 hours before the beginning of the contest.
- Mains power operation of a portable station is expressly forbidden. If a station goes portable and uses mains power, then the station becomes a 'fixed' home station.
- All equipment comprising the portable station must be located within an 800m diameter circle.
- Portable logging: DO NOT use the /p after the serial number as done in the past or your entry will be denied. – The Cabrillo header will contain "PORTABLE" when the log is submitted.
- Operators can only use one callsign during the contest.
- Persons who participate in a Multi station cannot submit a log under their personal callsign.
- Scheduling a contact may only be done using radios and frequencies in use with the contest.
- Simplex operation only. Contacts are not valid via repeaters, satellites or the internet.
- Rule violations and/or missing or incorrect information in a log may result in the log being classified as a Checklog and will not be valid for points or awards.
- WIA General rules apply unless varied in this document.
- Contest Champion points are allocated to both HF and VHF and above sections.
 - a. Single Op portable 6 hour
 - b. Single Op portable 24 hour
 - c. Multi-One Portable 6 hour
 - d. Multi-One portable 24 hour
 - e. Multi-Multi Portable 6 hour
 - f. Multi-Multi portable 24 hour
 - g. Single Op Home 6 hour
 - h. Single Op Home 24 hour
 - i. Multi-One Home 24 hour
 - j. Multi-Multi Home 24 hour
- Blocks 0100 to 0400, 0400 to 0700, 0700 to 1000, 1000 to 1300, 1300 to 1600, 1600 to 1900, 1900 to 2200, 2200 to 0100UTC

Sample Cabrillo Log
 START-OF-LOG 3.0:
 LOCATION: DX
 CALLSIGN: VK4Z
 CLUB: VKCC
 CONTEST: WIA-JMMFD
 CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP
 CATEGORY-ASSISTED: NON-ASSISTED
 CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
 CATEGORY-MODE: MIXED
 CATEGORY-POWER: HIGH
 CATEGORY-STATION: FIXED
 CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE
 CATEGORY-OVERLAY: YOUTH
 CLAIMED-SCORE: 14
 OPERATORS: VK4ME
 NAME: ME
 ADDRESS: 123 MYSTREET RD
 ADDRESS-CITY: SOMEWHERE
 ADDRESS-STATE-PROVINCE: QLD
 ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: 4999
 ADDRESS-COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA
 GRID-LOCATOR: QG62aa
 EMAIL: me@email.aa
 CREATED-BY: VK4Z
 SOAPBOX: SAMPLE CABRILLO
 SOAPBOX: Cabrillo is just a text file laid out in a certain way
 X-COMMENT: FREQ MODE DATE TIME MYCALL TX RST
 TXEXCH RXCALL RXRST RXEXCH
 QSO: 7000 CW 2025-11-1 1 VK4Z 59 1 VK4XYZ 59 1
 QSO: 7000 PH 2025-11-1 2 VK4Z 59 2 VK4XYZ 59 2
 QSO: 3500 PH 2025-11-1 100 VK4Z 59 3 VK1ABC 59 1
 QSO: 3500 CW 2025-11-1 1100 VK4Z 59 4 VK2ABC 59 3
 QSO: 3500 CW 2025-11-1 1102 VK4Z 59 5 VK6ABC 59 2
 END-OF-LOG:
 (Note: the X-COMMENT line is not required but is here to show the column headings.)



PUBLIC NOTICE MOUNT FOX ROAD WORKS UPDATE

Hinchinbrook Shire Council advises residents that landslip and remediation works will be undertaken on Mount Fox Road from 23 March 2026 to 30 November 2026, weather permitting.

To safely carry out these works, Mount Fox Road will be closed from 23 March 2026 to 15 June 2026 between 8:00am and 3:00pm, Monday to Friday, weather permitting. The road will remain open outside of these times.

Following the road closure period, the road will remain open; however, the following traffic conditions will apply for the remainder of the construction period: Expect delays of up to 30 minutes. Follow all traffic signage and obey speed limits.

Consider alternative travel times to minimise inconvenience. Council acknowledges the inconvenience these works may cause and sincerely thanks the community for its patience and understanding as we deliver important improvements to this transport corridor. These works include resilience building, remediation activities, and slope stabilisation efforts. The project is being delivered under the joint Commonwealth–State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) in association with Hinchinbrook Shire Council. Council will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses. For more information, contact Council's Customer Service Centre on (07) 4776 4600.

Radio happenings March to February ... so far**March**

- TARC does the John Moyle Memorial Field Day March 20 21 22 - Mount Fox Camp Ground
- 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

- B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Horse Endurance Rides - cancelled due to unsafe conditions
- 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
- NQORA Markwell Gold City 450 QLD Championship round Off Road Racing - Sat 18 April to Sun 19 April - Millchester MSRC
- 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
- B2B Autumn Escalade Horsie Rides Comms Support - Sat 16 to Sun 17 May - Bluewater Park Equestrian Centre
- 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
- WRERA Euri Gold Tropical Winter Horsie Rides Comms Support - Fri arvo 29th to Sun 31st May - Euri Gold Farms near Bowen

June

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 2nd June from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Snow Radio-Active Foxhunt - Sat 6th June somewhere in the Townsville area
- Queensland Day - Sat 6th June - QUEENSLANDER!
- 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
- NQORA Millchester Challenge Off Road Racing - Sat 27 June to Sun 28 June - Millchester MSRC
- MARA Valley Riders Dee Jay Arabians Denison Creek Horsie Rides - Sat 27th to Sun 28th June
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 30th June from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

July

- TARC displays Amateur Radio at the Dam Fine Rally, Kelso - Sat 4th 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
- B2B Paluma Push Horsie Rides Comms Support - Sat 18 to Sun 19 July - Bluewater Park Equestrian Centre
- 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

- MARA Valley Riders Greg Willoughby Memorial Denison Creek Horsie Rides - Sat 1 to Sun 2 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
- WRERA Euri Gold Winter Harvest Horsie Rides Comms Support - Fri arvo 14th to Sun 16th August - Euri Gold Farms near Bowen
- TOWSA Maggie Island Swim Comms Support - Sat 15th August from 5-30am Strand Park

- TARC Social Evening - Tue 18th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- NQORA Pato's 7 Hour Enduro Off Road Racing - Sat 22 August to Sun 23 August - Millchester MSRC
- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 25th August from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

September

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 1st September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- B2B Spring Shore Horsie Rides Comms Support - Sat 5 to Sun 6 September at Bluewater Park
- TARC Project Night - Tue 8th September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 15th September from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 22nd September from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- CHARC AGM Weekend - Fri arvo 25 to Sun morn 27 Sept - Emerald Pistol Club and Glamping Facility
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 29th September - from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

October

- Cardwell Gathering - Fri 2nd Oct to Mon 5th Oct at Meunga Creek Caravan Park
- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 6th Oct from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- NQORA Charters Towers Short Circuit Off Road Racing - Sat 10th October to Sun 11th October - Millchester MSRC
- TARC Project Night - Tue 13th October from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet - Fri 16 to Sun 18 Oct
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 20th Oct from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 27th Oct from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

November

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 3rd Nov from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 10th Nov from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 17th Nov from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- theTARCinc Annual General Meeting - Sun 22nd Nov Rossiter Park Aitkenvale - 7am Brekkie - 8-30am AGM
- Ann Renton Memorial Net Tue 24th Nov - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

December

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 1st Dec from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 8th Dec from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Xmas Party - Sun 13th December
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 15th December from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC MXLT - Friday 18th December somewhere in Townsville
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 22nd December - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 29th Dec from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- New Years Day Countdown - Thur 31st December - from 1245UTC for Daylight Saving, from 1345UTC for proper time

January 2027

- Tech On The Air Net Bonus Tue 19th January from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- Australia Day Long Week Family Radio Camp - Sat morn 23rd to Wed lunch 27th Jan - Girl Guides Training Centre Bluewater
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 26th January - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

February 2027

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 2nd February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 9th February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 16th February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

Heritage Article

Louis Olsen VK4NLB – Morse Key Maker, Gordonvale Far North Queensland Australia, circa 1970's
with some information sourced from the morsemad.com website.



#a66 Louis Olsen Key.

Scarce Australian key by Louis Olsen/VK4NLB

Proud owner Lyn/VK4EI sent this picture of her scarce Olsen key, and the following information:

Louis Olsen/VK4NLB, Gordonvale, Far North Queensland, Australia. Worked at South Johnston Sugar Mill near Innisfail as fitter/turner. Described as "machinist of the highest order," "great craftsman", "true perfectionist".

9 keys known with collectors and are noted as being North Queensland's Own morse keys. Louis made these keys around the 1970's and made them in at least 2 different designs.

The key pictured has a base measuring 3 & 1/2" by 2 & 1/4"

(90mm x 55mm). Louis also made fully working miniature steam engines complete with small boilers.

(Overhead rear contacts on this model.)

#a67 On the right is another Louis Olsen key. Note the variations in design, I believe that there were at least two changes in design.

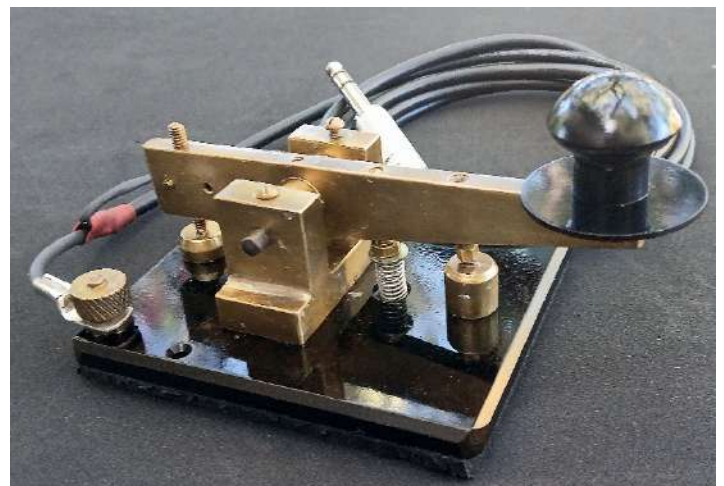
This key has a replacement finger piece.



#a68 Two Louis Olsen Keys.....Mike Patterson/VK4MIK has two Louis Olsen keys. The one in the foreground is similar in design to the #a66 key, however the other is quite unique I think !

#a6x A Louis Olsen Key.... acquired from The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Monster Auction in 2024 with refurbishing finished in 2025 by Gavin Reibelt/VK4ZZ.

The design is very similar to the unique one shown in slide **#a68**.



ANZAC ACTIVATION OF THE HISTORIC OONONBA BOMB CRATER 25TH APRIL 2026



Views from the Oonoonba Bomb Crater activations 2025 – pix by VK4WSG, VK4TVL & Wendy

Hi to all TARCadians, Family and Friends. As previously advised, we will be activating AM on Anzac Day, Saturday the 25th. April 2026, from our treasured WW2 Bomb Site at Oonoonba. Please let us generate great support for this event as the Developers of this land are closing in and by mid year they will be conducting earth works on the land adjacent to the Bomb Site.

This action could result in our planned Activation on the 84th. Anniversary (Wednesday 29th. July 2026) may be denied. For those folk who will be attending for the first time, the attached map in self explanatory.

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

Arrival / Set up time : Arrive at around 8am - set up to be transmitting at around 9am

Finishing time : Around 5-30pm-ish.

Transmission Freq. 7125 kHz on AM Mode only.

Call Sign Prefix. A special Call Sign Prefix will be used for the event.

AX in lieu of VK. Ie; AX40IL instead of VK40IL Helping with the event and spotting contacts will be AX4ATV - from the Green Street Bunker a.k.a Project 81, theTARCinc Club Radio Station at 27 Green Street, West End.

For further enquiries / suggestions please use the following contact details.....

Cheers all, see you at Oonoonba ! LEST WE FORGET!

Ray, VK40IL Mobile 0409 888 875

Co-ordinator ' Save our Historic Bomb Site, Oonoonba.'

