

theTARcinc Events Calendar

April

- 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
- MARA 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
- NQORA Millchester Challenge Off Road Racing -
Sat 27 June to Sun 28 June - Millchester MSRC
- MARA Valley Riders Dee Jay Arabians Denison Creek
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
Tuesday 7th July starts 7-30pm
- TARC Project Night
Tuesday 14th July starts 7-30pm
- B2B Paluma Push Horsie Rides Comms Support
Sat 18 to Sun 19 July - Bluewater Park Equestrian Centre
- TARC Social Evening
Tuesday 21st July starts 7-30pm
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet
Tuesday July 28th starts 7-30pm

more details inside ! - also check out
<https://thetarcinc.weebly.com>
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
MARA 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

April 2026



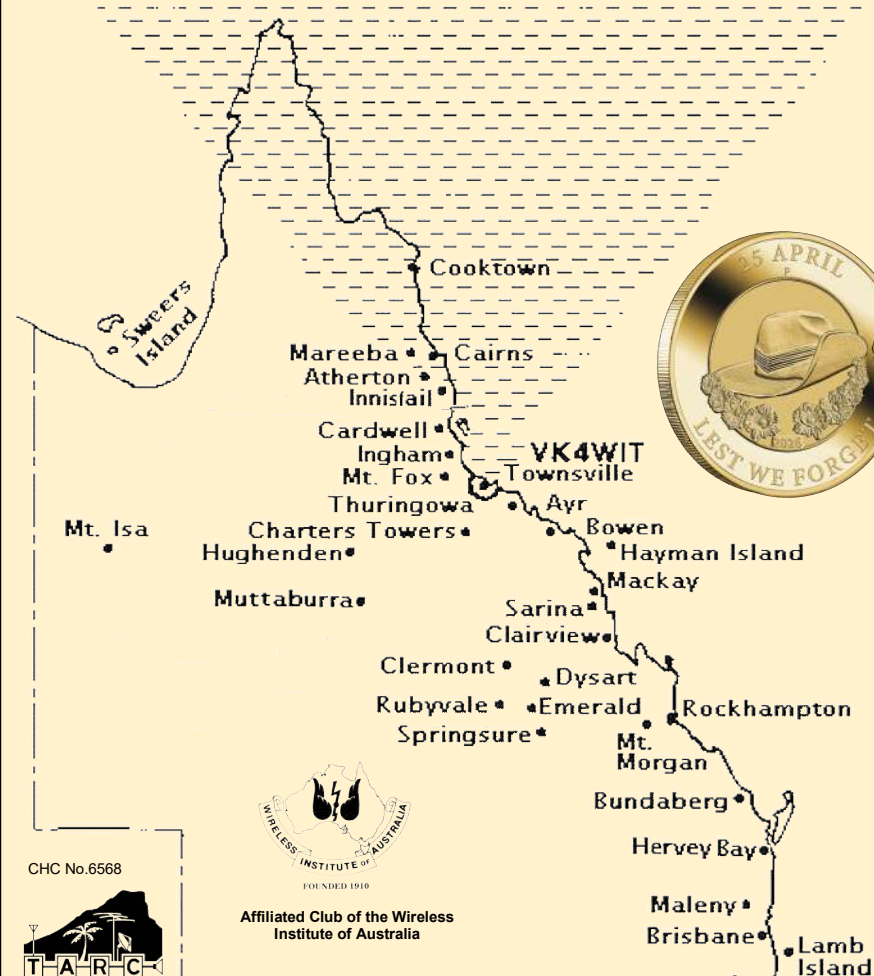
SISTER CLUB
BY4RSA NANJING

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 TOWNVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

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

VK4WIT-VK4ATV-VK4RAT-VK4RTL

AMATEUR RADIO - commemorating ANZAC Day with ops on CW and AM - April 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 !

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**
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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 Ann Renton Memorial 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 **unun**
 This month's secret word is **■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■**

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

This months' fortune cookie:- " Others will look to you for stability, so hide when you bite your nails. "

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

Regional Voice Repeaters and Gateways (all frequencies in MHz)

Locale	Callsign	Input	Output
Hann Tableland	VK4RHT	146.075	146.675 123Hz Tone
Cairns (Mt Haren)	VK4RCA	145.4125	147.0125 123Hz Tone
Cairns (AllStarLink 599730)	VK4RSB	145.625	147.225 110.9Hz Tone
(Trinity Beach)	VK4RSB	431.100	438.100 131.8Hz Tone
Cairns Rydges City Centre	VK4RCA	434.850	439.850 91.5Hz Tone
Tolga (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	VK4OO	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. ZZ, PQV, YT, WSG, ZMB, ME,
TSV, IGM, FUU, AEX

ATTENDING: via Zoom Session ID – 773 6412 6134
VK4's XC, XA

VISITORS: Robert Ellershaw.

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, GDN, ZM, FUDO, JBY, AAH, BDE, HSV, PQ, GFR, OIL, ALS, CHG, BRM, 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 1930h 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 Nil.

SHOW AND TELL:

Richard/VK4PQV – passed around large insulation displacement connectors used for high current mains power distribution connections. Use once and then throw away – or bound for Show and Tell 😊.

Wayne/VK4WSG – revealed a HF radio propagation prediction application for IOS he has been working on which sources real time propagation reports from online sources including WSPR, FT8 and POTA reports, applies some artificial intelligence and algorithms to provide a current display of propagation prediction between your location and any other station on the planet. Currently at Phase 4 development stage with 100 code builds, once Phase 5 is completed beta testing will be underway (beta testers wanted) with an aim to eventually being hosted on the Apple App Store.

ACCEPTING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

Motion 202604001 moved to be accepted by Wayne/VK4WSG and seconded by Richard/VK4PQV
– CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

– Nil

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Inwards. 9 articles, Outwards 9 articles, as detailed in the Correspondence Log with the most noteworthy being:

- Ergon Energy – Electricity Account Mount Stuart Repeater Site for March
- Ergon Energy – Notification of unplanned mains outage Mt Stuart Repeater Site – Friday 27 March 0900-1445K
- GippsInsure – WIA Affiliated Club Public Liability Insurance Scheme, Payment and COC issued
- ACMA – Licence Validation Notice VK4RAT/VK4RTL/TAC08 estimate \$164 payable in June
- WIA JMMFD Contest Manager – help then submission of VK4WIT JMMFD Portable Logs

Minutes of Management Meeting Held on the 7th of April 2026 at the Club Rooms SES HQ, Green Street, West End

- Richard Goodhew VK4PQV – Reports for April Management meeting
- Lyndall Reibelt VK4ZM – Reports for April Management Meeting
- Peter Harrex VK4PQ – Report for April Management Meeting
- TARC Financial Members – Notifications for Management Meeting, Project Night and Social Evening
- TARC Financial & Honorary Members & Complementaries – Back-scatter March 2026
- TARC Financial Members – Mount Isa Amateur Radio Group Inc April Newsletter
- TARC Financial Members – Management Meeting Agenda so far

Motion 202604002 Accept the Secretary's Report.
Moved by Gavin/VK4ZZ, Seconded by Jeff/VK4XA
– CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM SECRETARY REPORT:

– Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT:

With Peter/VK4PQ being an apology for the meeting, Gavin/VK4ZZ presented the Treasurers Report on behalf of Peter to the meeting and asked for questions before asking the meeting to accept the report.

Motion 202604003 Accept the Treasurer's Report.
Moved by Gavin/VK4ZZ, Seconded by Ben/VK4YT
– CARRIED unanimously.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

ASSESSMENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported :
ACMA runs the Amateur Radio Assessors Service.
- Specialist Assessors available for remote or online assessments are
Laurie Pritchard/VK4BLE in Brisbane on 0411413588,
Ron Bertrand/VK2DQ on Gold Coast on 0426771808,
Gail Lidden/VK4ION in Bundaberg on 0410121345,
- General Assessors available for face to face assessments in the regions
Stuart Dunk/VK4SDD in Malanda on 0407700096,
Bob Ronai/VK4BOB in Cairns on 0438323737,
Howard Small/VK4BS in Cairns on 0425825799,
Darrin Archer/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.

One training session was conducted during last month. Lyndall conducted one assessment session during last month. 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 was cancelled due to unsafe conditions caused by heavy rain in March limiting access to Ride Base site and trails for maintenance and expansion, with the next rides happening on the weekend of 16th and 17th May. The NQORA Markwell Gold City 450 QLD Championship Round Off Road Racing event at Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers due to happen on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April has been postponed due to fuel prices and shortages. The next off road racing event at Millchester is scheduled for Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June, the same weekend the Valley Riders Denison Creek Horse Endurance Ride is happening.

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 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 -

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, VK4ME, 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, VK4ME, 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 - A training session for assessments took place early April.
- VK4WIT Operations - A portable operation in conjunction with the WIA John Moyle Memorial Field Day Conest Weekend took place from Mount Fox Camp Grounds from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd March.
- 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.
- An unscheduled mains outage occurred at Mount Stuart on Friday 27th March between 0900 and 1445. All equipment on the essential battery backed up DC supply worked fine. All services returned to full operation after the mains supply returned.

- The recently purchased Yaesu FTM510DR VHF UHF transceiver has had the initial power-up inspection, call sign VK4WIT embedded and default setup saved to a working TF card and an archive TF card. Program setup will happen when spare time permits. Once our wet season weather goes away a working bee at the Club Rooms will swap out the existing VHF quarter wave vertical on the tower for a dual band ground plane independent vertical, the existing RT85A transceiver swapped out for the FTM510DR transceiver and installation completed.

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.

LADIES GROUP CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Lyndall/VK4ZM, reported via Gavin/VK4ZZ :
- The Ann Renton Memorial Net happened on Tuesday 24th March 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 VOIP modes

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

20C cooler weather on the way. Back to standard time next month. Busy playing with QSO-Link android only app which links up a heap of different VOIP systems and incorporating SVX-Link servers into the ANZEL network. The QSL-Lab QRP Transceiver has been hooked up to the Raspberry Pi and has had good results on FT8 on a low antenna, going to try an elevated antenna to improve coverage. The SharkRF M1KE has returned from Estonia with the manufacturers confirming that the USB port was cactus, replaced with a new unit.

Chris/G4NAB, Ashington Parish, Northumberland, England via AllStarLink/G4NAB/VK4TUB

Gave information about the latest version of SVX-Link and the increase in servers in the UK, EU and USA plus updates to efforts on bringing servers online in NZ and OZ during the next month. Information available on YouTube and via Chris's website <https://g4nab.co.uk/>

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

Mobile stationary near a riverside park where it is a little bit misty. Spring time has just started and the park is very green and full of flowers. Just completed a 10km walk in the park and on the net via the Echolink app on the phone. Just started a shift taxi driving (Tim got a fare during the net, we travelled with him while listening into street directions given by the phone either in Mandarin or Cantonese - not sure 😊 - excellent audio!).

John/VK4JT, Canberra, ACT, Australia via AllStarLink/VK1JT/VK4TUB

Checked in and said Hi and listened into the net.

Via the Townsville UHF repeater were

Richard/VK4PQV, Cranbrook, North QLD, Australia

Former Scout Leader of Pioneer Park Group 'Ziggy' has 'gone home' (passed away) - will be attending his funeral on Friday. Did some radio contacts during the John Moyle Field Day Weekend, getting the log ready to send in.

Andrew/VK4CHG, Mount Louisa, North QLD, Australia

Condolences to Ziggy's family. On weather standby with work. The ICOM IC-7300MkII has arrived! Reading the manual and preparing the power cable. On the net tonight trying out the Jellyfish antenna on UHF and alternatively also using a handheld and its built in antenna.

Stephen/VK4AEX, Douglas, North QLD, Australia

The new Yaesu FT-DX10 transceiver has arrived! Have used it so far on low power FT8. It's a sunny day for a change and currently building up a SpiderBeam antenna. Need a testing space to try out the newly built 20metre end-fed half wave antenna (og suggested the parkland near Riverway Community Centre).

Ben/VK4YT, Kelso, North QLD, Australia

(invented a new phonetic for T – he is now the Victor Kilo 4 Yankee Tangie) The new Motor Cycle has arrived! With fuel prices going up it will be a price rise buster for commuting. Note that VKOKS Antarctica is on 20m FT8. Looking forward to the Easter break.

Lyndall/VK4ZM, Vincent, North QLD, Australia

Lots of fun at Mount Fox for the John Moyle Field Day weekend – visited by the Mayor of Mount Fox at least 3 times. Found where the elusive platypus had been sighted in the lagoon and its feeding spot. Good to see the end of Daylight Saving soon in the southern states, will be able to ring Dad without having to figure the time difference. Hi to Nikki who might be listening in tonight!

Peter/VK4PQ, Kelso, North QLD, Australia

On a different radio tonight and making it through the rocks to the repeater ok. Trying to train ASL3 to work properly – got some good tips from a US based AllStarLink guru and inspired to continue taming the beast. FT8 6metre opening around lunchtime today, 12 stations at once and then things dropped out.

Snow/VK4ME, Kirwan, North QLD, Australia

Back from Mount Fox on Monday afternoon after a slow pickup Went and visited the Volcano but didn't climb the crater. Noticed the increase in humidity and temperature when back on the coast. Equipment worked well and all ready for next year, including a beefy 2metre yagi.

The net concluded at 1056UTC after the ta ta round was completed and the Net Controller wished everyone a safe return for the April Net.

The next ARMN will be happening on Tuesday 28th April and then on Tuesday 26th May at 0930UTC on the Townsville UHF Voice Repeater incorporating the VK4TUB AllStarLink 46740 and Echolink 837219 nodes.
73's Lyndall/VK4ZM

JOTA CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Richard/VK4PQV reported:
Jamboree On The Air and Jamboree On The internet will be happening this year 17/18 October.
Scouts this year should be having a Regional JOTA/JOTI camp at Camp Tamaroo Bluewater. Operators needed.
Flinders Region Guides will be holding their event at the Guides QLD Camp and Training Site in Toolakea Beach Rd Bluewater and will need operators.

QSL CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Ashley/VK4FUU reported :
- No QSL cards received for this month.

EDITOR BACKSCATTER REPORT:

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported :
The April issue will close for articles on Friday afternoon 17th, then with the security clamp down currently in place be sent to the Senator's Office electronically on Monday 20th for the limited print run publishing. 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 March the WIA and Q-news transmission and call-backs, North Queensland Net news retransmissions and call-backs were done by Richard VK4PQV.

For the Month of April the WIA and Q-news transmission and call-backs will be done by Peter VK4PQ. North Queensland Net news retransmissions and call-backs will be by Richard VK4PQV

PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

- Iain/VK4IGM reported:

The limited print run of Back-scatter magazine continues. Publishing activity has changed due to a security clamp down at the Senator's office. Many thanks to Hon Susan McDonald, Senator for Queensland and the team at the Townsville Office for enabling the continuing of the limited print run of the magazine for our members who lack the means to receive the publication electronically.

WIA CONTACT REPORT

Gavin/VK4ZZ reported:

- The WIA Election of Directors for the 2026 year has finished and the results have been notified. Incoming Directors are Justin Giles-Clark VK7TW with 946 votes, Lee Moyle VK3GK with 859 votes and Chris Dimitrijevic VK3FY with 728 votes. The remaining candidate, Klaus Illhardt VK3IU received 514 votes.
- The WIA John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest log submissions closed on Sunday April 5th with good participation from stations and a bit of help from the Contest Co-ordinators in getting used to and successfully submitting logs under the new rules and systems. Results will be published on the WIA Website shortly and the 2027 spreadsheet and rules are ready for download.
- 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. The official notice for the AGM has been published on the WIA Website.

FACEBOOK MASTER REPORT:

- Paul/VK4ICA had no report for this month.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT:

- Bob/VK4AHH and Phil/VK4HSV will report at the 2026 AGM.

Motion 202604004 moved by Richard/VK4PQV to accept tabled Ex-Officio Reports and Seconded by Jeff/VK4XA. - CARRIED unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS:**Attending the WIA AGM?**

Jeff/VK4XA asked if anyone is going to the WIA AGM in Albury NSW? He is considering going. Ben/VK4YT advised the meeting that the AGM will be live streamed.

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

Gavin/VK4ZZ : Following favourable response from members at the February meeting organising of the participation of the Club with the Tropical Coast Wanderers chapter of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia with a TARCinc display of Amateur Radio on Saturday 4th July at the 2026 Dam Fine Rally will now proceed. Hopefully with the uncertainty and rising costs of fuel will not get in the way of the Rally.

WIA John Moyle Memorial Field Day 2026 Operations at Mount Fox Camp Grounds QH21VE53KT04

Gavin/VK4ZZ: Thanks to everyone who contacted VK4WIT Portable during the contest on 21st-22nd March and also heaps of thanks to Lyndall/VK4ZM, Snow/VK4ME & Andrew/VK4CHG. Thanks too to the Mayor of Mount Fox, Rob/VK4ARQ for his special visits and the inspection visit from Clyde/VK4FCRH and Chub/VK4FIBW. Despite the drizzly and occasionally rainy weather brought on by the transit of Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle across Cape York it was delightfully cool in great surroundings with a good crew and we made some great contacts over the weekend. Most contacts were made on 40metres with 174 contacts, then 20metres with 56 contacts, then 80metres with 26 contacts. Some solar storms complete with Aurora Australia visible in VK7 and VK3 knocked the HF

propagation around. Snow experimented with a V-Dipole array for 40metres with good success however found the water cooled trap in the 80-40metre vertical absorbed lots of RF. Andrew was out in the field contesting for the very first time with some of his equipment loaned by Wayne/VK4WSG and made his first contest contacts on 80metres. Gavin proved that having the flu in the field only meant that you needed a bit more sleep than normal to contest. Lyndall practiced silent cursing on Gavin sharing his flu 😊 but was very happy to spot where the platypus feeds in the lagoon. We were also visited by the resident plovers, ducks and emus during the event. Despite the weather being wet on Friday and Saturday, there was sun on Thursday to set up camp and Sunday during the pack-up. Snow stayed until Monday afternoon, visiting the Mayor's residence and getting in line for the run down the hill (Mt Fox Road is currently closed for most of the day for roadworks and rebuild). Andrew stayed way later than he expected – having heaps of radio fun and returned to the home QTH late on Saturday Night.

Doing a review of the logs before submission, it was noted that a lot of TARC members made the effort not only to contact VK4WIT portable plus a lot of the other portable club stations during the contest. It was also great to catch up with the regular club stations out in the field again this year and the very keen single suffix contest stations. With the change to the rules and scoring we will have to wait until the results are published for the score, due to multipliers for contacting interstate and single suffix stations during the contest.

AM & CW on ANZAC Day – Saturday 25th April

Gavin/VK4ZZ : The Historic WW2 Oonoonba Bomb Crater site will be activated from around 9am to 5-30pm-ish with Ray/VK4OIL receiving approval for access by operators to the site and a Safety Officer being in attendance. Ray hopes heaps of portable stations will be set up plus lots of visitors attending during the day to show support for the historic site to be maintained as a community asset rather than being bulldozed by the Queensland Government for housing sites. Club station AX4ATV will operate from Project 81 - the Club Rooms at West End from 9am to 5pm, but will (as prophesised by the Mt Isa club newsletter) occasionally work as AX4MIK second operator 😊 AX4ATV will assist Mike/AX4MIK in Cairns and the portable operators at the Historic WW2 Oonoonba Bomb Crater site in establishing contacts and, if time permits, do a special transmission to commemorate the use of the famous Winnie the War Winner radio by Z-Force in Timor during World War 2.

Your chance to work AM & CW on the day and please use the special suffix AX on your callsign to commemorate ANZAC Day.

FURTHER GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil.

There being no further business, President Snow/VK4ME closed the meeting at 2039h local time and wished everyone goodnight and a safe return to the next Monthly Management Meeting on the 5th May 2026.

Minutes Transcribed 17th April 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 m² = 15% Voc 38.0V Vmpp 30.3V

Isc 8.8 A Imp 8.3 A

All \$20 each. Contact Hairy on rnstone@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 <qrms> rowan [dot] tew [at] Bigpond [dot] com <qrms> (ensuring to remove or modify the qrms) 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.

Another 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.barracrabcpc.com.au/> or on 07 49560190
 MARA Secretary Gary/VK4CUZ wants to know if you are partaking in the fabulous Saturday Night feedup – contact him on 0410 462892 soonest with your catering numbers!



QUALITY!

PERSONAL CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

15 Apr Gavin, 4ZZ (og!), YM of Lyndall 4ZM
 18 Apr Joan, board of control of Colin 4UCM
 18 Apr Colin 4MCC
 19 Apr Renee, harmonic of Richard 4PQV
 23 Apr Natasha, flight crew of Lyndall 4ZM & Og 4ZZ
 23 Apr Mark 3TCD, YM of Angela
 25 Apr Dave 4WR, YM of Karen
 26 Apr Tony 4TTW
 27 Apr Trent 4LKG, YM of Janie
 28 Apr Bill, 4WGU
 28 Apr Neil, 4NB
 1 May Kevin, 4MKB
 3 May Leslie, Board of Control of Les (Rusty) 4ALS
 5 May Rossco VK4AQ, YM of Bev
 6 May Simon, Harmonic of Peter 4PVH
 7 May Ellen, Harmonic of Heather & Steve 4SGW
 9 May Helen 4FHEL, Board of Control of Steve 4SM
 10 May Reece, harmonic of Leigh 4HLW and Wendy
 15 May Phil 2JOK, OM of Leslie
 17 May Mark 4YM
 19 May Kooka VK4PQV
 20 May Tina, Harmonic of Peter 4PVH
 21 May John 4FNQ, OM of Cheryl 4FRYL
 23 May Gary 8AW
 29 May Adrian 4TCA
 2 June Bradley, Harmonic of Jeanette & Bob 4WJ
 2 June Jason 4OT, OM of Jennyvi
 4 June Ewan 4ERM, OM of Margaret
 5 June Kaye, Board of Control of Bob 4AAH
 5 June Jessica, flight crew of Lyndall 4ZM & Og 4ZZ
 6 June Queenslander! Queensland Day
 6 June Leslie, Board of Control of Phil 2JOK
 8 June Les 4ALS, OM of Leslie
 8 June Janet, Board of Control of Cedric 7CL
 9 June Udo 4FUDO, OM of Gina
 9 June Dave 4FD, OM of Carolyn
 13 June Clyde 4FCRH, OM of Veen
 17 June John 4VT, OM of Ellen
 30 June Colin 4EX
 30 June Dallas 4BWN



Wedding Anniversaries

10 Apr Jennyvi & Jason 4OT
 24 Apr Mary & Mark 4TSV
 17 May Kim & Rob ZL1DRT
 19 May Cheryl & Bill 4FW
 31 May Sheila 4PAL & Iain 4IGM
 3 June Laura and Gregg 4ZON
 29 June Jan and Phil 4HSV
 6 Aug Katrina 4KMA and Paul 4ICA
 9 Aug Leslie and Les 4ALS
 30 Aug Lyndall 4ZM and Gavin 4ZZ

Club Anniversaries

19 April 2011 The Adventures of The Stink first published.
 13 May 1993 VK4RAT ATV Repeater licensed
 23 May 1989 VK4RAT Digipeater licenced

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

VISUAL BACKSPLATTER



Here are those Insulation Displacement Connectors for Mains Reticulation Wiring that Richard/VK4PQV passed around during the April Management Meeting.

VISUAL BACKSPLATTER



Viewing the Lunar Eclipse during the March Management Meeting
L to R Stephen/VK4AEX, Kooka/VK4PQV, Snow/VK4ME, Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB, Sophia, Gavin/VK4ZZ, Ashley/VK4FUU, Andrew/VK4CHG, Mark/VK4TSV - pix by Iain/VK4IGM



John Moyle Field Day 2026 - Andrew/VK4CHG doing his first portable contest operating at Mount Fox



John Moyle Field Day 2026 - Snow/VK4ME on-air with the v-dipole array on 40metres



John Moyle Field Day 2026 - Lyndall/VK4ZM on-air and waiting for your call!



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 AX4MIK - Mike served in the RAN for 21years. 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. will help Mike out with 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 will be involved 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.

The Tablelands Radio and Electronics Club will be operating from the QTH of Stu/AX4SDD on the outskirts of Mudlanda using a vintage Halicrafters Thermionic Valve Communications Receiver and the John/AX4TL Amplitude Modulation High Powered Special Transmitter which will ensure all across our part of the world will truly hear the goodness of AM Transmissions.

Australian Military Radio Operators (AMRO) and their converted Military Radios will be on the air during the day and also operating on Sunday and Monday with the AMRO yearly event.

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.

LEST WE FORGET

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

Australian Military Radio Operators weekend 2026

The 9th Year of AMRO. The 3 Day plan for vintage radios..... AM & Morse Code...CW.....

Saturday 25th April : AM & CW on ANZAC Day (not AMRO)
[remember your AX prefix on this special day]

Sunday 26th April : AMRO - DAY 1 of 2

Monday 27th April : AMRO - DAY 2 of 2

[public holiday 27th for NSW, ACT and WA]

The Theme for AMRO this year is :

THE VOLUNTEER INTERCEPTORS - and their great contributions. In recognition of all the long hours volunteers put in trying to intercept enemy transmissions. This effort is rarely rewarded if at all.

DO YOU OWN A WW2 RECEIVER? CAN YOU RECEIVE MORSE CODE?

Would you like to participate as a volunteer interceptor?

Civilians did in World War 2 to help win the war.

"VOLUNTEER INTERCEPTOR during AMRO"

If you would like to Participate in AMRO from an "Interceptor" standpoint, then fire up your Valve Military Receiver, preferably of World War 2 vintage and listen just like the Volunteer Interceptors did during the dark days of World War 2.

"Walk a mile in their boots" capturing AM & CW signals on any short wave receiver or vintage and other Valve Military Receivers in your Radio "Secret Location", in the attic, inside a disused water tank, or down in the cellar!

This year, we are linking up with a few other organizations within topic.....

NZART: New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters

SPAM: Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation

Musickpoint Radio in New Zealand

FDU: Fists Down Under

SWLING.COM: with special attention to Volunteer Interceptors.

Suggested frequencies for AMRO

Check first before calling CQ on the following frequencies for the best chance to receive a reply as many operators will monitor these frequencies with an additional dedicated receiver or scanner.

630m: Frequency at your choice within the band

160m: 1818kHz, C.W. Radiotelegraphy

80m: 3530kHz, C.W. Radiotelegraphy

80m: 3686kHz, A.M. Radiotelephony

80m: 3696kHz, LSB Radiotelephony

40m: 7006kHz, C.W. Radiotelegraphy

40m: 7028kHz, to 7030kHz C.W. Radiotelegraphy -
[7028kHz is a crystal frequency used by many]

40m: 7060kHz, A.M. Radiotelephony

40m: 7085kHz, LSB Radiotelephony

[SPECIAL CASE, Please stay clear of 7075 Digital]

40m: 7125kHz, A.M. Radiotelephony

[NET - PRIMARY LIASON FREQUENCY and may be busy]

40m: 7135kHz, LSB Radiotelephony

30m: 10102kHz, C.W. Radiotelegraphy

30m: 10125kHz, A.M. Radiotelephony

[SSB phone zone, with respect to the ANZAC AM for event]

20m: 14030kHz, C.W. Radiotelegraphy

20m: 14125kHz, A.M. Radiotelephony

20m: 14145kHz, USB Radiotelephony

15m: 21030kHz, C.W. Radiotelegraphy

15m: 21125kHz, A.M. Radiotelephony

15m: 21135kHz, USB Radiotelephony

10m: Refer to Bandplan for CW & AM with USB + 10kHz AM frequency

11m: NON AMATEUR: CB HF 27MHz band:

Channel 11, 27.085MHz AM only

for Liaison and Primary calling

then move to Channel 14, 27.125MHz AM Only.

More information is available on the AMRO Website at

<http://110.232.143.96/~ww2army/AMRO/amro.htm>

Andrew/VK5WT hopes that you can participate in this event and keep the memory of military radio operations alive.

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

- AM & CW on ANZAC Day - Sat 25th April
- Australian Military Radio Operators Weekend - Day 1 - Sun 26th April
- Australian Military Radio Operators Weekend - Day 2 - Mon 27th 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 4's Famous 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 - Venue TBA
- 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

- 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

- 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
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 23rd February - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

March

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 2nd March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 9th March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 16th March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC does the John Moyle Memorial Field Day March 19 20 21 - Mount Fox Camp Ground
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 23rd March from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 30th March from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

ANZAC ACTIVATION OF THE HISTORIC OONOOONBA 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.

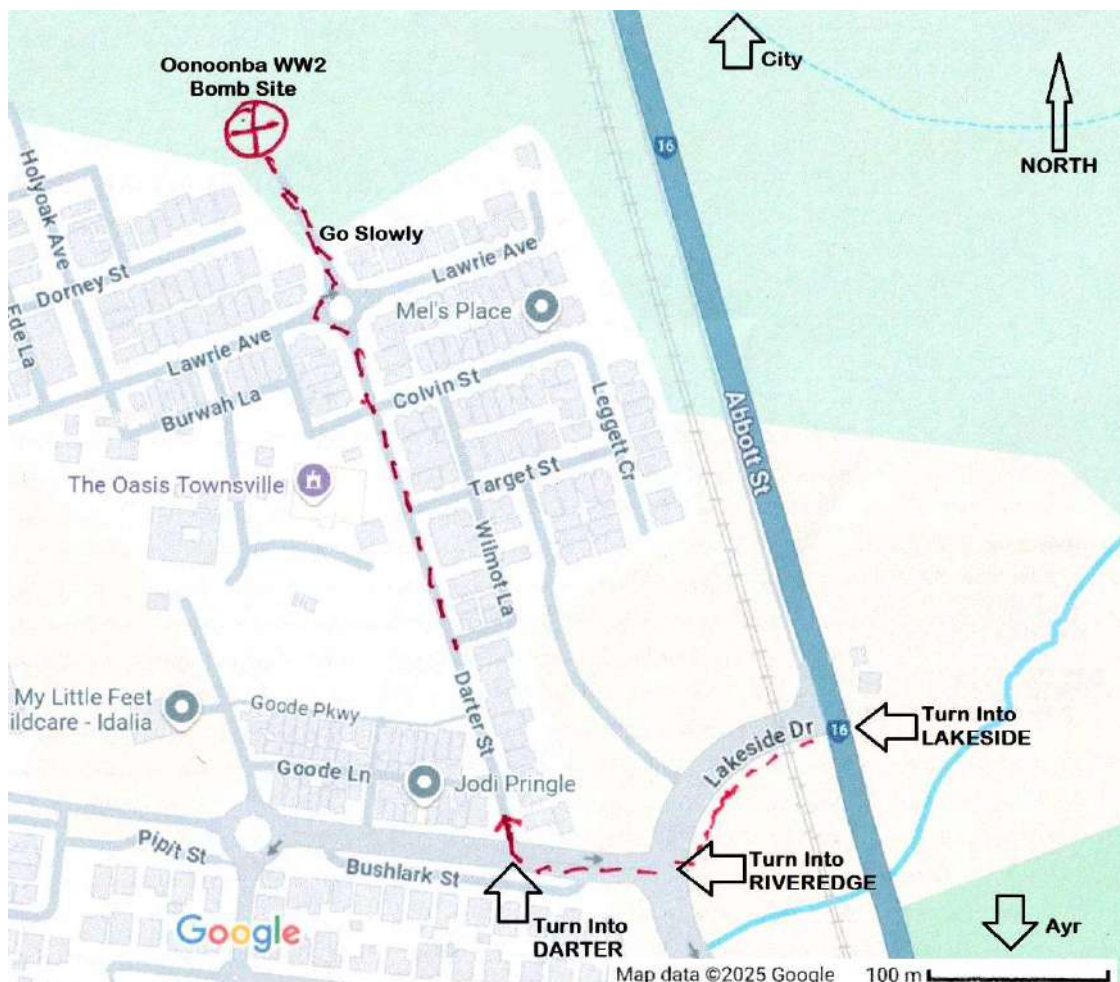
AX in lieu of VK. Ie; AX40IL instead of VK40IL Helping with the event and spotting contacts will be AX4ATV - from the Green Street Bunker a.k.a Project 81, theTARCinc Club Radio Station at 27 Green Street, West End.

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

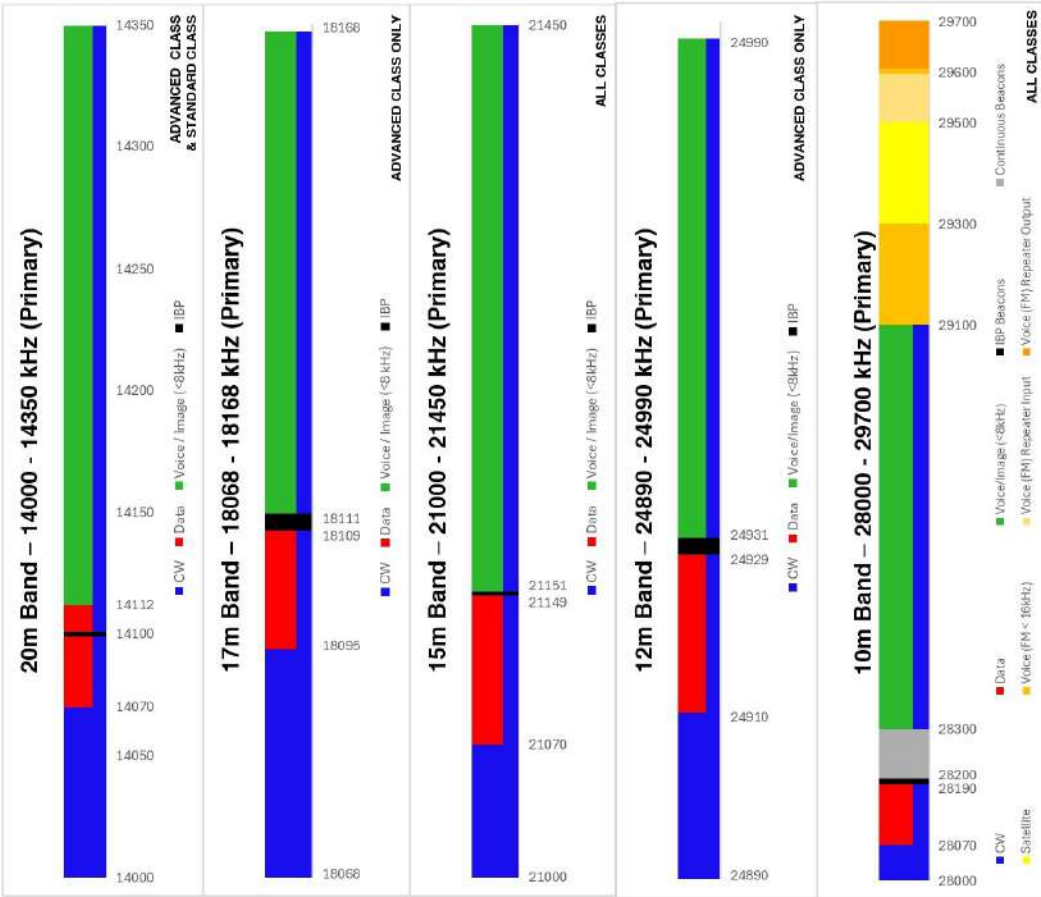
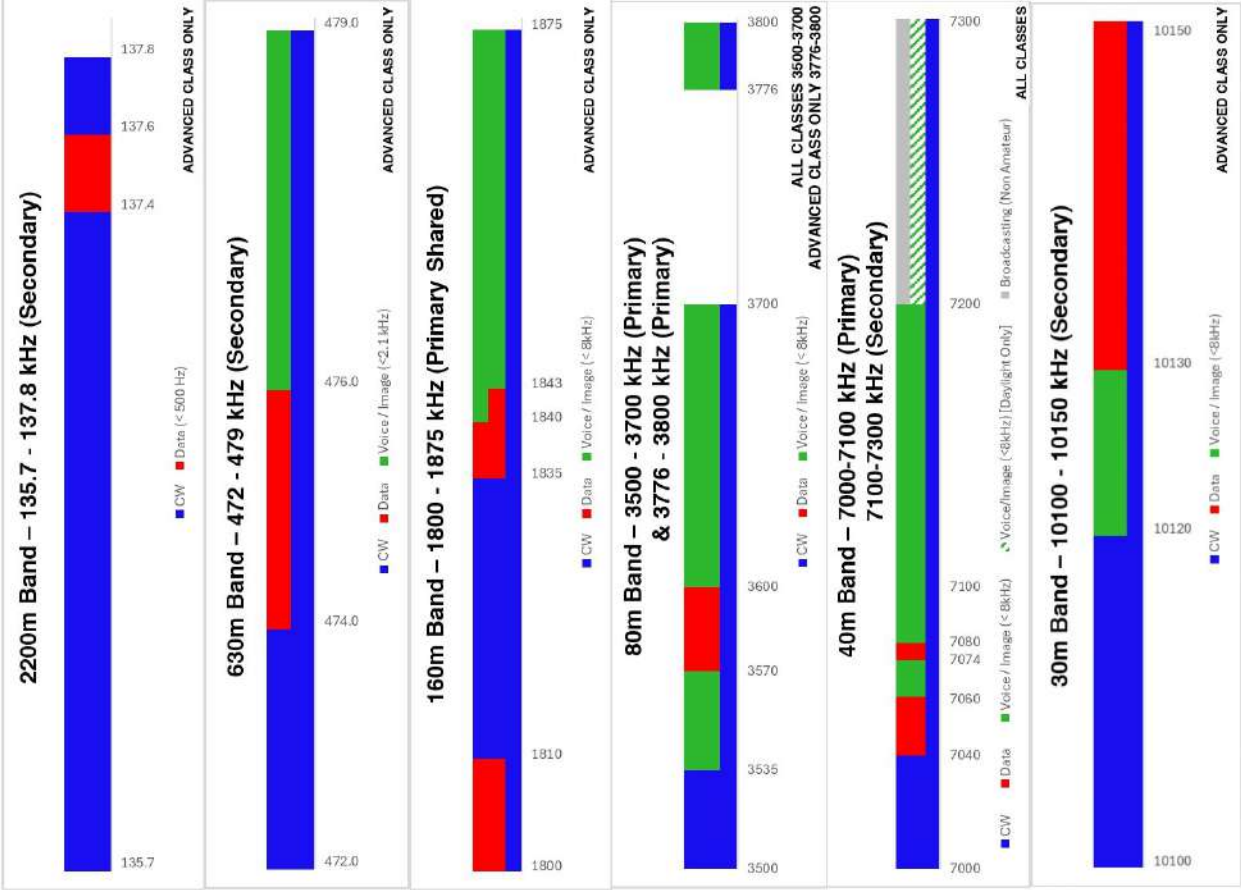
Co-ordinator ' Save our Historic Bomb Site, Oonoonba.'



Technical Supplement – Revised Australian Band Plans – HF

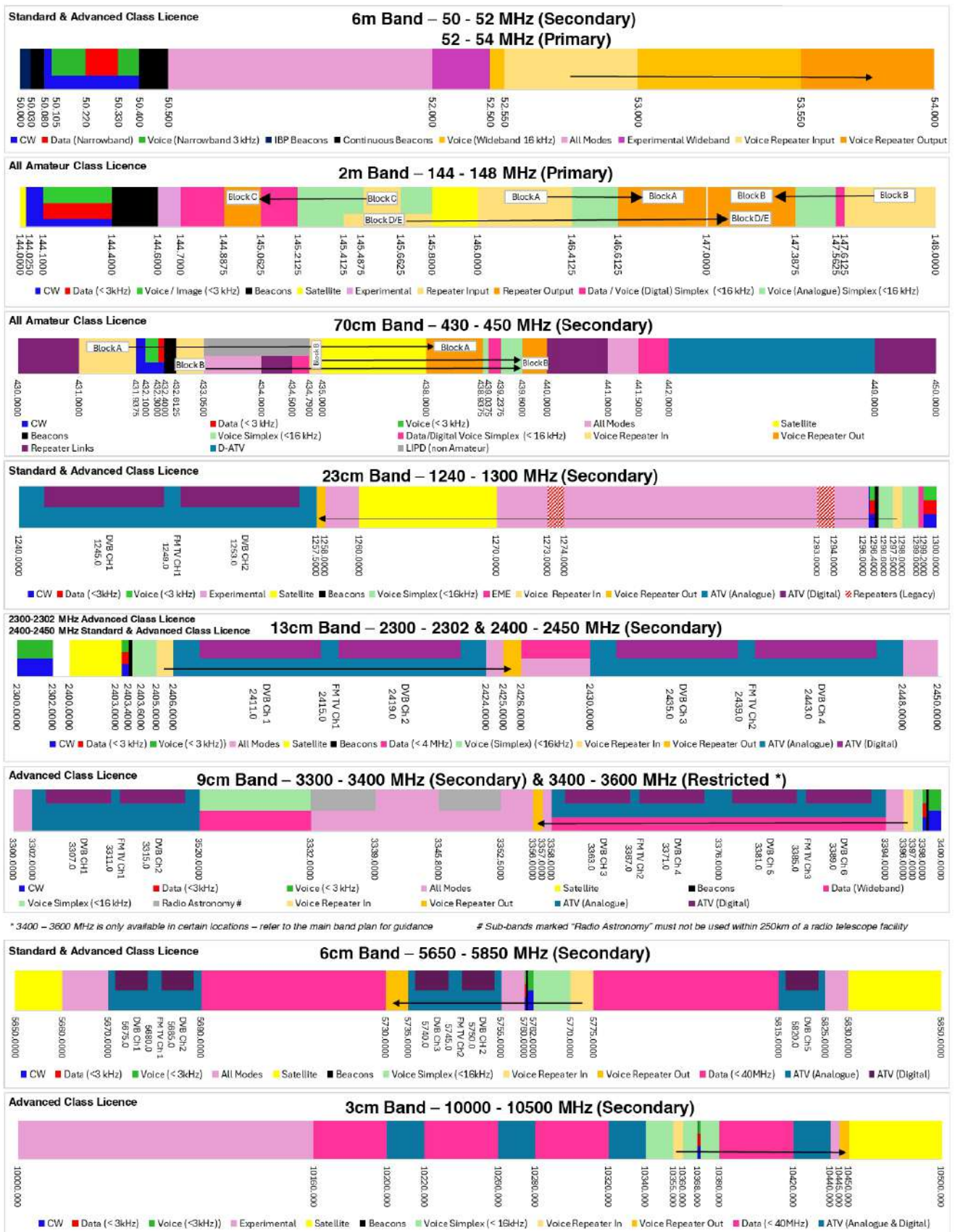


WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO
LF – MF – HF BAND PLANS - 2026

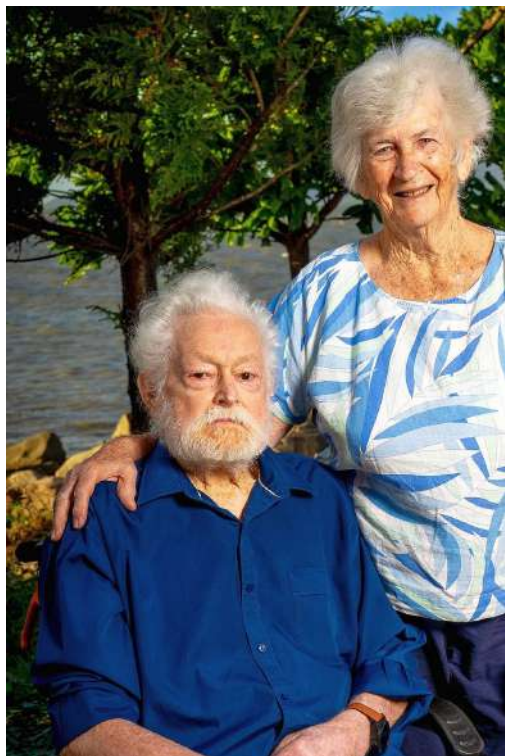


Technical Supplement – Revised Australian Band Plans – VHF/UHF

WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO VHF – UHF – SHF BAND PLANS - 2026



Vernon Crabb VK4FVC - December 1939 - April 2026 – Silent Key



Vern & Nell, December 2025

Vern Crabb VK4FVC has gone Silent Key in Townsville following a long battle with cancer.

Despite doctors saying that he would not make Christmas 2025 Vern proved them wrong making it past that and able to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of marrying Nell before he was taken from us.

Vern was a long time member of the Wireless Institute of Australia until illness forced him to cancel his membership.

Vern was also a long time member of The Townsville Amateur Radio Club, using his morse skills to support the on-air Slow Morse training net for many years before it was disbanded. Vern was also a participant in the 3599kHz Gnarly Net Morse section right up to the final days of his life. Vern was a Morse Man!

Vern grew up on the family farm near Woodstock North Queensland, with the family then moving to Rollingstone to farm pineapples. Vern attended and matriculated at St Teresa's College Abergowrie and eventually took over running the pineapple farm with Nell's help.

Vern was always keen to learn how and why things work, which was a much needed skill in farming life where most repairs were done onsite. He also garnered an interest in Amateur Radio, wanting to experience diverse cultures world wide without having to leave the farm. Eventually erecting a tower and installing a steerable log periodic antenna, Vern chased DX from 20metres to 6 meters and made many friends on-air. The big tower and antenna soon became known as a local landmark to the locals, who still call the quick bend in Balgal Beach Road as 'Crabb's Corner'.

Vern and Nell were deeply involved in the local community both serving on the local Progress Association and P&C committees. Vern was also a volunteer in the local Bush Fire Brigade. Through his interest in languages Vern became proficient in Italian and Spanish, enabling him to have an edge when snaring rare DX.

Vern was a very proficient orator and vocalist, performing for years with choirs during the Ingham Italian Festival, plus for the lucky few the occasional private group performance.

When eventually retiring and selling the farm, Vern and Nell traveled to Mexico, Italy and Spain staying with ham radio friends from years gone by. Vern and Nell also obtained a Rainbow Bus, converted it to a mobile home called 'The Crabbpot' which they used to tour Australia. It was during this time that Frank/VK4CAU (SK) enlisted Vern's help in mobile trials and development of new models of Barrett HF transceivers with the Crabbpot being an ideal testing vehicle for the new models of radio.

Eventually the Crabbpot got long in the tooth and was replaced with a more modern bus, christened 'Crabbpot Mk2'. Again it was fitted out with mobile amateur radio gear and a Barrett HF transceiver. Vern and Nell did more touring in the new rig as well as visiting family members who had moved to various parts of Australia. They also did a tour of New Zealand and came back with some new ideas for Crabbpot Mk3.



Vern & John/VK4JWC 2024 TARC XMAS Party



Nell & Vern on a walk near Meunga Creek during the 2023 Cardwell Gathering

A catastrophic failure in insulation on the lithium powered auxiliary power system caused complete destruction of Crabbpot Mk2 during a tour through the Sunshine Coast hinterland, with Vern and Nell escaping with just the clothes on their backs. Help from locals and nearby family members soon had them back home with the necessity to rebuild their finances and eventually Crabbpot Mk3 was acquired and more little trips to relatives transpired.

Vern and Nell attended Amateur Radio communications support events when they were in the local area, supported local amateur radio clubs in the regions with their attendance at social events and kept traveling as long as they could, until Vern's illness curtailed the travels.

Vern was taken from us on the 11th April 2026, with his passing we lose someone who could really diagnose faults and provide easy fixits as he took the time to truly understand how things worked. We also lose a master in Morse Code operating and someone who always used his multiple skills to help others.

Sincere condolences to Nell and family in Vern's passing.

Vale Vernon Crabb VK4FVC, Silent Key.

Vern's Celebration of Life will be happening on Tuesday 21st April 2026 starting 10am at St. Anthonys Catholic Church Veales Road Deeragun. No Cortège. No Flowers By Request - donations to Rollingstone Rural Fire Brigade.

released by Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ

Secretary, The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc.



Winners! Vern and Nell with the Scratchie XMAS Tree crafted by Kerry Wright at the 2022 TARC XMAS Party



Vern discusses a technical conundrum with Richard/VK4PQV and Iain/VK4IGM at the 2023 Cardwell Gathering

Clairview Gathering 2026

Hamvention Opportunity in Paradise



Invitation from VK4WIM
Mackay Amateur Radio Association

MARA Inc. presents
"CLAIRVIEW WEEKEND 2026"
at BarraCrab Caravan Park, Clairview, QLD
Friday 8 May – Sunday 10 May 2026

Dinner, Auction of "quality gear" and raffle draw Saturday evening 9 May.

For more information, visit www.vk4wim.com/clairview



Multi-Draw, Amateur Radio, CB Radio Raffles
Mega-Auction after the feed-up and draws on Saturday Night.
On site comms 146.5MHz, Cross-Band comms into the Central
Highlands Linked Repeater System on 439MHz
North Queensland Net 3605.4kHz live 0930UTC Sunday.