

## theTARCinc Events Calendar

### May

- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet  
Tuesday May 26 starts 7-30pm
- WRERA Euri Gold Tropical Winter Horse Endurance Rides  
Friday 29th to Sunday 31st May near Bowen

### June

- TARC Management Meeting  
Tuesday 2nd June starts 7-30pm
- Snow 4's Famous Foxhunt - Sat 6th 1pm 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 Pato's 7 Hour Enduro 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
- NQORA Charters Towers Short Circuit Off Road Racing -  
Sat 25th to Sun 26th July - Millchester MSRC
- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tsvl UHF Repeater & TubbyNet  
Tuesday July 28th starts 7-30pm
- TARC Anniversary Activation of Oonoonba WW2  
Bomb Crater - Wed July 29 from 2pm 7100kHz

### August

- MARA Valley Riders Greg Willoughby Memorial  
Denison Creek Horsie Rides - Sat 1 to Sun 2 August
- TARC Management Meeting  
Tuesday 4th August starts 7-30pm
- TARC Project Night  
Tuesday 11th August from 7-30pm
- WRERA Euri Gold Winter Harvest Horse Endurance Rides  
Fri arvo 14th to Sun 16th August - near Bowen

more details inside ! - also check out

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

and listen into the news nets for updates

## GLOBAL RADIO EVENTS

- 45th ALARA Contest - 23 Aug 0600Z to 24 Aug 0559Z
- CHARC AGM Weekend Emerald - 25 to 27 Sept
- Cardwell Gathering - 2 Oct to 5 Oct
- Jamboree On The Air - 16 to 18 October

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

BACKSCATTER

May 2026



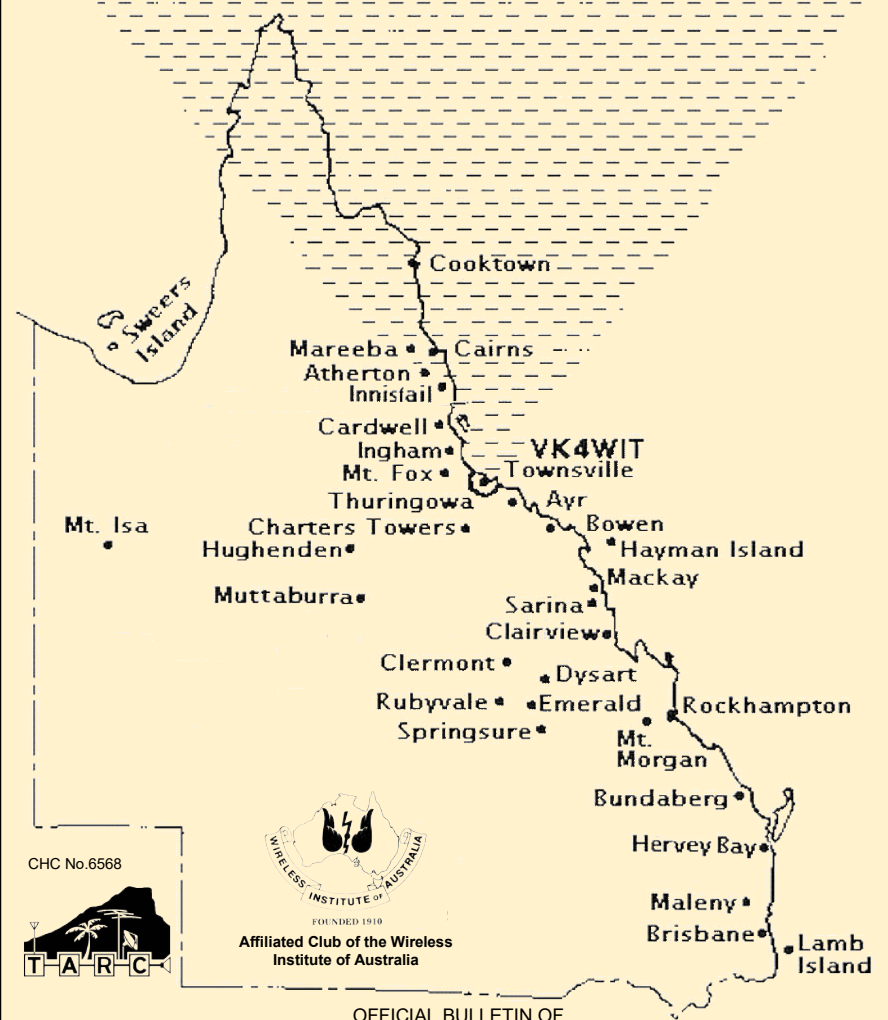
SISTER CLUB  
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The Amateur Radio  
Communications group for  
EMERGENCIES



# 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

Hams help out with Endurance Riders, Scouts, Swimmers and Auto Sports Events - May 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** if not answered, leave a message or be marked as SPAM.

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 Inc Bank - Bendigo

BSB 633000 Account Number 230033540 Reference (your surname or callsign)

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

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

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

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**Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ**

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#### 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](mailto: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, Ben VK4YT, Gavin VK4ZZ.

**PM** – Richard VK4PQV, Peter VK4PQ, Lyndall VK4ZM, Gavin VK4ZZ, Ben VK4YT.



#### 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 **feedline**

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:- " Cabbage: A familiar kitchen-garden vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head. "**

#### 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 91.5Hz Tone  |
| (Mt Stuart)                    | VK4RAT   | 433.225  | 438.225 91.5Hz Tone  |
| West End FM/C4FM/WIRES-X       | VK4OO    | 431.750  | 438.750              |
| 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                         | VK4RMI   | 146.100  | 146.700 91.5Hz Tone  |
| (Four Mile Hill)               | VK4RIC   | 434.950  | 439.950 91.5Hz Tone  |
| 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 Wormhole               | 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](https://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. TEW, DLX, WSG, ME, PQV, ZZ,  
ZMB, PQ, FUJ, AEX.

**ATTENDING:** via Zoom Session ID – 786 3029 6207  
VK4's XC, YT, ZM, OIL, XA

**VISITORS:** Nil.

**APOLOGIES:** VK4's. UCM, JPA, ICA, KMA, EMF, DNF, JWC, LKG, FCRH, FIBW, FBNP, CK, CD, IGM, PAL, TJS, HCZ, RO, TTW, WDM, KGH, KN, MIK, PA, OT, ZON, ZT, KMD, YMD, FNQ, FRYL, OO, MSS, AE, GWA, KDF, PJH, AFW, ZWC, DJC, WJ, KEE, YWG, GUN, TUB, CMW, PE, GED, GDN, FUDO, JBY, AAH, BDE, HSV, PQ, GFR, ALS, CHG, BRM, TSV, VK1ZZ, Joan McDonnell, Roslyn Bryant, Rhonda Wilks, Peter Renton, Wendy Schinkel, Derek Goodhew, Toni Goodhew, Jeanette Mann, Noelene Melrose, Kerry Wright, Cate Gooda, Bill Walker, Kev Chillout, Brad Payn, Vallerie Payn.

Business commenced at 1931h with the meeting chaired by the President Snow/VK4ME. Snow welcomed all attending, greeting members and called for any apologies.

#### **SILENT KEYS:**

Vernon Crabb VK4FVC – Vern went Silent Key 11th April 2026 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!

A comprehensive tribute to Vern was published in the April 2026 edition of Back-scatter and, of course, was incomplete for someone who had an extensive record of volunteering, working and travelling.

Vern's celebration of Life took place at St. Anthonys Catholic Church in Deeragun on Tuesday 21st April with a Requiem Mass with Vern being very well sent off and remembered with a great roll-up from friends in Amateur Radio, Volunteering, Travelling and Community. We all found out new things about Vern and celebrated what we did know.

With Vern's 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.

Sincere condolences to Nell and family in Vern's passing. Vale Vernon Crabb VK4FVC, Silent Key.

Brian Winterburn VK4BOW – Brian passed away on Tuesday 21st April after a long fight with kidney disease.

Brian was one of the founding members of the Bowen Radio Amateur Group and also a past member of the Townsville Amateur Radio Club. Brian was an accomplished Morse Code Operator, yachtsman, musician and technician, helping establish the Gem of the Coral Coast, 95.1MHz GEM FM and maintaining the systems of the broadcaster until ill health curtailed the activity.

For a number of years Brian was a regular operator on the 3599kHz CW portion of the Gnarly Net and also came up from

## **The TOWNSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.**

**Minutes of  
Management  
Meeting  
Held on  
the 5th of May  
2026 at the Club  
Rooms SES HQ,  
Green Street,  
West End**

time to time on the 7100 Afternoon Net. The Amateur Radio community in Bowen, indeed in North East Queensland, is measurably poorer with Brian's passing.

Brian's celebration of Life was held on Wednesday 29th April at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Bowen and was well attended by friends made during his working, sporting and volunteering years. There were also a few Radio Amateurs in attendance to ensure Brian had a good send off.

Vale Brian Winterburn VK4BOW, Silent Key

#### **NEW MEMBERS** Robert Ellershaw

Robert is a retired Broadcast Technician and has passed the Foundation assessment recently, wants to keep his mind active with experimentation in Amateur Radio and socialising with people who are likewise interested in keeping active in the technical sphere. Robert has attended some of the club meetings already and has contributed to some slide shows which depict some of the large plumbing used in the broadcast industry to get the entertainment signals into the air. Robert would like to join the club and not only contribute further to the Amateur Radio realm but also exchange ideas and glean further knowledge about radio technology.

**Motion 202605001** Moved by Snow Herodes/VK4ME and seconded by Gavin Reibelt/VK4ZZ that Robert Ellershaw be accepted as a member of the Club.

– CARRIED unanimously with applause.

#### **SHOW AND TELL:**

Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB – showed an electric motor that suffered premature failure due to shoddy assembly. The commutator was not properly seated in the bearing carrier, causing half of the brushes to wear away and some arcing marks on the commutator.

Wayne/VK4WSG – passed around some heritage component data books used by his father

Gavin/VK4ZZ – passed around his recently acquired Rattel RT-920 dual band handheld transceiver with a bonus receiver range of 150kHz to 1GHz, accompanied with 4 types of magnetic loop receiving antennas for various bands.

Snow/VK4ME – displayed his recently modified V-Dipole complete with modified Snow-Dog loading coils rewound with solid copper conductors. Snow is also trying out some loading coils recently acquired from AliExpress which show good promise performing well in the field.

#### **ACCEPTING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**Motion 202605002** moved to be accepted by Ashley/VK4FUU and seconded by Wayne/VK4WSG  
– CARRIED unanimously.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- Nil

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Inwards. 9 articles, Outwards. 6 articles, as detailed in the Correspondence Log with the most noteworthy being:

- Ergon Energy – Electricity Account Mount Stuart Repeater Site for April 2026
- RSGB – Renewal of Membership & Radcom Subscription
- WIA – Amateur Radio Magazine Vol 92 Nr 2 2026
- RSGB – Radcom Magazine April 2026
- Richard Goodhew VK4PQV – Reports for May Management meeting
- Lyndall Reibelt VK4ZM – Reports for May Management Meeting
- Peter Harrex VK4PQ – Report for May Management Meeting
- TARC Financial Members – Notifications for Management Meeting, Project Night and Social Evening
- TARC Financial & Honorary Members & Complementaries – Back-scatter April 2026
- TARC Financial Members – Mount Isa Amateur Radio Group Inc May Newsletter

- TARC Financial Members – Management Meeting Agenda so far
- Vernon Crabb VK4FVC Notice of Silent Key
- Brian Winterburn VK4BOW Notice of Silent Key
- WIA Inwards QSL Bureau – couriered to the north via Adrian/VK4TCA
  - Cards for VK4FP, VK4KEE, VK4ME, VK4OO, VK4PQ, VK4XA
- Wayne Giebel/VK4WSG – Notice of motions for May Management Meeting

### **Motion 202605003** Accept the Secretary's Report.

Moved by Gavin/VK4ZZ, Seconded by Jeff/VK4XA

– 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 202605004** Accept the Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Peter/VK4PQ, Seconded by Wayne/VK4WSG

– 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.

Lyndall/VK4ZM ran an assessment session mid April with the candidate being successful.

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 –

*Off Road Races* - NQORA have amended the Off Road Racing event timetable for 2026, with Pato's 7 Hour Enduro now happening on the weekend that was going to be the Millchester Challenge – Saturday 27th June, Short Circuit on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July and the postponed April event now happening on Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 September. Please have a look and help.

*Horsie Rides* – 2 happening this month and so far only have Lyndall, Snow and myself for the B2B Autumn Escalade on Sat 16 and Sun 17 May at Bluewater Park, and the WRERA Tropical Winter Ride on Sat 30 and Sun 31 May at Euri Gold. Need heaps more operators to make the comms work.

*Clashes* - 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.

*Yet to be Notified* - 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 5/20/40/80 - NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park Operators so far

VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ME, VK4CHG, 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, VK4CUZ, many more ops muchly needed.

Sat 27 to Sun 28 June

- NQORA Pato's 7 Hour Enduro Off Road Racing - Millchester MSRC

near Charters Towers. Operators so far

VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG.

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 Rides- NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park.

Operators so far VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, Doris & VK4WSG, VK4ME,

many more operators needed.

Sat 25 to Sun 26 July

- NQORA Charters Towers Short Course Off Road Racing - Millchester

MSRC near Charters Towers. Operators so far

VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG.

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, VK4ME, 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 5 to Sun 6 September

- Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Spring Shore 5/10/20/40/80km

Horse Endurance Rides - NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park

Operators so far VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, Doris & VK4WSG, VK4ME, many more operators needed.

Sat 19 to Sun 20 September

- NQORA QLD Off-Road Racing Round 1 (from April) Millchester MSRC

near Charters Towers. Operators so far

VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG.

If you can help out with any of the events please contact

Gavin/VK4ZZ on 0427182469 or on the wireless.

### **TECHNICIAN REPORT:**

- Kerry/VK4TUB reported via Gavin/VK4ZZ

Mount Stuart Rack and Cabling refurbishment project will commence during June or July, possibly even during the second part of March (depending how the planets align). During the refurbishment Amateur Radio services will be affected, with loss of service to repeaters and beacons. Planning is underway to minimise disruption and notice will be given before work commences. During the refurbishment a 91.5Hz access tone will be applied to the VHF Repeater receiver to prevent product mixing interference from affecting normal repeater operation.

### **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 mid April.

- VK4WIT Operations - No portable operations this month.
- VK4ATV Operations - AX4ATV was active for AM & CW on ANZAC Day, Sat 25 April from the Club Rooms - Project 81. Log sent to members.
- VK4ATV WSPR Beacons - Will be tuning up the dipole for 10m and 6m at Clairview, then installing during May.
- North Queensland Net - All nets going good, participation is great with operators enjoying the quieter conditions.
- Much more treasure has been donated, much thanks to all.
- Kerry/VK4TUB, our Club Technician and helpers have been trying to pinpoint the sources contributing to the lingering product interference happening on Mount Stuart which occasionally moves onto the input frequency of the VK4RAT VHF Repeater. Investigations since the lightning storm in February 2025 which caused damaging strikes on most radio comms facilities on the mount have drawn a blank with a couple of suspect sources that sprang up after the strike still persisting. The decision has been made that during the Repeater Hut racking replacement and cabling the VHF Repeater will be reprogrammed to include a 91.5Hz CTCSS access tone on the receiver to prevent the ongoing interference from interrupting correct repeater operation. Kerry will advise when this will happen - expect sometime during the next month.

#### **LIBRARIAN REPORT:**

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

#### **FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:**

- Phil/VK4HSV reported via Gavin/VK4ZZ.

Due to family circumstances Phil will need to withdraw from Club events and meetings for an indefinite period. The waterproofing project for the Repeater Hut still needs to go ahead and the materials for the project have been stored in the repeater hut, ready for a working bee that Phil can not be able to be involved with. While putting the materials in place Board of Control Jan gave the repeater site a hair cut - however follow up trimming and poisoning will need to be done. Phil is still available to consult on anything affecting the club and will retain his repeater site key in case someone needs a lend of it to access the repeater site.

#### **LADIES GROUP CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:**

- Lyndall/VK4ZM, reported via Gavin/VK4ZZ :

The Ann Renton Memorial Net happened on Tuesday 28th April 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**

16C tonight and 25C during the day, some nice autumn weather happening. Have hooked the QRP Labs transceiver (made up from a kit) onto the HF Bushcom antenna and getting some good SSB contacts. Really like the rig, yet to play FT8 on the big antenna. The AllStarLink node completely crashed and couldn't be recovered, put together the latest versions of the operating system and Asterisk and now back on-air with it. Really glad that Daylight Savings Time has ended, all the northern nets are back on the right time 😊. Might head to the local park during the next couple of nights to do a bit of telescope viewing of the sky, some nice clear nights happening at the moment. Caught up with all the projects so looking for a winter tech project to do (Amazon has a valve radio kit that looks inviting).

#### **Ryan/VK4DAT, Mount Isa, North QLD, Australia via AllStarLink/VK4DAT/VK4TUB**

Checked in and said Hi and listened into the net.

Via the Townsville UHF repeater were

#### **Ben/VK4YT, Kelso, North QLD, Australia**

Had fun with AM on ANZAC Day operating from the historic Oonoonba Bomb Crater site, Project 81 (TARC Club Rooms) and

from home. Did a little bit of HF on Sunday plus made some ISS contacts, a low pass but got two VK2s, the next pass would have been better but a scheduled radio outage on the ISS stopped that. Tripping to the Tablelands next week to do some comms support with the Tablelands Radio and Electronics Club and the FNQ Endurance Riding Association for the Pioneer Trek Horsie Rides, followed by some more kilometres to the Mackay Amateur Radio Association yearly Clairview Gathering.

#### **Andrew/VK4CHG, Mount Louisa, North QLD, Australia**

Had a day off in lieu of the extended shifts worked during the previous days. Some upgrades happening at Garbutt AFB so security has been stepped up. Hope to deploy a Random Wire End Fed Antenna with 9:1 unun in the near future and play with it a bit. Currently on the VHF J-Pole and getting through the range ok and going good on HF with the VK4WSG Mk1 End Fed Half Wave antenna.

#### **Stephen/VK4AEX, Douglas, North QLD, Australia**

Went to the historic Oonoonba Bomb Crater site for AM & CW on ANZAC Day and spent a few hours picking up some good ideas for a future field station off the operator who had set up portable stations there, plus a few good conversations as well. Been chasing some Russian satellites and managed to decode a view SSTV images. Playing with a EFHW HF antenna - it needs trimming a bit to get the proper dips on the HF bands. Also building a 6 band Spiderbeam but it is on hold at the moment - have run out of parts. Had another good contact with Les/VK4ALS via the ISS during the week, seem to pick Les up a lot on the satellites!

#### **Lyndall/VK4ZM, Vincent, North QLD, Australia**

Good to hear about the antenna work being done, remember to measure twice and cut once 😊

Was on the air from the clubrooms for AM & CW on ANZAC Day last Saturday, did some AM contacts on 20metres and 10metres sharing the operating load with Gavin/VK4ZZ. The weather is cooling down a bit now so there has been a bit of cleaning up at the Borg Cube, with some lighting fittings that stopped working sometime ago being thrown out.

The net concluded at 1023UTC after the ta ta round was completed and the Net Controller wished everyone a safe return for the net in May.

The next ARMN will be happening on Tuesday 26th May and then on Tuesday 23rd June 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 30th June from 0930UTC then on Tuesday 29th September 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:

Jamboree On The Air and Jamboree On The internet will be happening this year 17/18 October.

Kennedy Region Scouts this year should be having a Regional JOTA/JOTI camp at Camp Tarmaroo Bluewater. Operators will be 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 :

- Some cards have arrived, couriered to the north from the VK4 Inwards QSL Bureau via Adrian/VK4TCA - Cards for VK4FP, VK4KEE, VK4ME, VK4OO, VK4PQ, VK4XA. The ones for VK4KEE, VK4PQ, VK4FP and VK4ME have already been delivered and arrangements are being made to deliver the cards for VK4OO and VK4XA.

**EDITOR BACKSCATTER REPORT:**

- Gavin/VK4ZZ reported :

The May issue will close for articles on Thursday afternoon 14th, then with the security clamp down currently in place be sent to the Senator's Office electronically on Monday 18th 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 April 2026 the WIA and Q-news transmission and call-backs were done by Peter/VK4PQ while the North Queensland Net news retransmissions and call-backs were done by Richard VK4PQV.

For the Month of May 2026 the WIA and Q-news transmission and call-backs along with the North Queensland Net news retransmissions and call-backs will be by Richard VK4PQV, except on Sunday 3rd May when there will be a substitute operator while Richard/VK4PQV is involved with a family event. On that day the WIA and Q-news transmission and call-backs were done by Peter/VK4PQ while the North Queensland Net news retransmission was done by Gavin VK4ZZ and call-backs were done by Lyndall VK4ZM.

**PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:**

- Iain/VK4IGM reported via Gavin/VK4ZZ:

The limited print run of Back-scatter magazine continues. Many thanks to Hon Susan McDonald, Senator for North 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 is highlighting the issue of the 2026 ITU Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services Handbook and suggests that it is a good reference to have in the radio shack.

Free download PDF available at

[https://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-r/opb/hdb/R-HDB-52-2026-PDF-E.pdf](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/opb/hdb/R-HDB-52-2026-PDF-E.pdf)

- The 2026 WIA AGM Weekend and the Albury-Wodonga Radio Club VK-SUMMIT has just completed over the May Long Weekend. A summary of events will be available soon through the WIA news sources however the images being shared from the event indicate that there was a strong presence of commercial and experimental displays at the event, some good technical seminars and – of course – many catch-ups during the weekend.

- From the WIA National News Service, special shout out to some VK4 hams who received 2025 Merit Awards at the 2026 WIA AGM, a President's Commendation to Mackay ham Shane Lynd/VK4KHZ for his previous and ongoing volunteering in the world wide ARISS Telebridge Team, allowing the youth of today do the ultimate STEM activity, talking to Astronauts in Space via Amateur Radio, and the Chris Jones Memorial Award to the Mains - Dianne/VK4DI and Bill/VK4ZD - for their continuous work in the realm of Contesting and assisting the WIA and radio amateurs in operational and technical matters.

**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 202605005** moved by Richard/VK4PQV to accept tabled Ex-Officio Reports and Seconded by Rowan/VK4TEW.

- CARRIED unanimously.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:****Promoting the Club and assisting the community at large in understanding Radio Technology**

Wayne/VK4WSG - I would like to put forward a motion to help promote TARC and Amateur Radio.

- Assembling a small Working Group (members to nominate) to collaborate, create a plan and regularly report back to the Management Team for the following:

1: An infield event to promote TARC and Amateur Radio in a safe enjoyable manner, at a weekend or evening time slot and a prominent location. Planning to include:

Public safety,  
Suitable locations,  
Signage,  
Potential access to equipment under strict supervision,  
Creation of a mailing/contact list of interested persons,  
Potential invitation to local media.

Planning to also include capacity to utilize other stations within reception distance to showcase HF radio and Amateur Radio.

2: Following the infield event, consider a small guided tour for interested persons at TARC clubhouse to allow more "One on One" with Amateur Radio and TARC Members.

If the motion is successful, I propose a Working Group be selected/nominated to begin planning for a future event.

Discussion took place and the following motions were raised –

**Motion 202605006** moved by Wayne/VK4WSG and seconded by Ben/VK4YT that Club Members be involved in radio field activities designed to promote the Club in a safe and enjoyable way with the aim to involve the community at large and, following the suggestion of President Snow/VK4ME, that Wayne/VK4WSG champion the activities.

- CARRIED unanimously.

**Motion 202605007** moved by Wayne/VK4WSG and seconded by Jeff/VK4XA that the Club hold periodic tours of the Club Rooms for small groups of interested people and facilitate the use of the Club Radio Shack with one on one activities.

- CARRIED unanimously.

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

Gavin/VK4ZZ : the Tropical Coast Wanderers chapter of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Dam Fine Rally is still on - with a TARCinc display of Amateur Radio happening with other exhibitors on the Saturday 4th July Public Open Day. Forecasting that the size of the site will allow 2 display tables, pergolas and a roped off area for the setup of portable antennas. Bump in and bump out details yet to be advised. Operators interested in participating – Richard/VK4PQV, Wayne/VK4WSG, Ben/VK4YT, Gavin/VK4ZZ, Snow/VK4ME.

**AM & CW on ANZAC Day – Saturday 25th April - Reports**

Ray/VK4OIL reporting from the event that happened at the Historic Oonoonba Bomb Crater Site –

Hi once again to all our TARCadian Mates and friends.

What a wonderful day it was, out in the fresh air, erecting antennas and enjoying the typical NQ 'autumn type' weather whilst making contact with Stations both near and far - on AM modulation. Whilst the weather conditions were perfect, the Band conditions were not so perfect. We experienced times of fading, frequent drop out and congestion.

Congestion is probably a good problem to experience as it tells us that there are many, many Stations getting on to the Special Events Day, "AM & CW on Anzac Day" within VK and many from ZL. Spotting and relaying incoming signals for the portable at Oonoonba was AX4ATV - from the Green Street Bunker, WW2 Project 81, led by Gavin/AX4ZZ and assisted by Lyndall/AX4ZM, Mark/AX4TSV, Richard/AX4PQV and Ben/AX4YT - many thanks fellows. The four portable Stations operating from the Oonoonba Bomb Crater Site were - Kerry/AX4TUB, Wayne/AX4WSG, Andrew/AX4CHG, Ray & Wendy/AX4OIL.

The overall number of Stations worked by the Team amounted to a fantastic total of 86. WOW ! Can you imagine just how many it could have been had the conditions on the day been in our favour. The majority of received / worked stations were fielded by the operators at AX4ATV, Project 81.

On this momentous occasion, each of the 5 operating stations received a "Lest We Forget" badge to mark the reason for operating as we did.

Thanks also go out to the 20 or so visitors to the Bomb Site who took the time to support us and investigate how we enjoy Amateur Radio, and also to take part in the fellowship between Members which I am sure, we all very much enjoyed. Amateur Radio operators visiting included Les/VK4ALS, Adrian/VK4TCA, Ben/VK4YT, Mark/VK4TSV, Stephen/VK4AEX, Chub/VK4FIBW, Richard/VK4PQV, Nikki/VK4NPK and Robert/call to be advised. Nikki had just received her callsign and thanks to Wayne/AX4WSG was able to make her first ever contacts Hi once again to all our TARCadian Mates and friends.

The future: At this point in time, I am not sure what will be happening re; transmitting from the Bomb Site on the 84th anniversary of the Bombing - Wednesday 29th July 2026, as earthworks will be happening on the land adjacent to the Bomb crater as Stage 7 of the housing development will be taking place. I am taking action to fight for a safe passage through or around the earthworks to enable us to transmit from there, this time on SSB mode. More later.

I really appreciate the help and assistance given by all to make this event the success it was. With this level of support, I can keep our activities in the face and ears of the various responsible people within the Local Council, State Government and Federal Government. Thanks.

Ray Schinkel. VK4OIL Co-ordinator - Save the Oonoonba WW2 Bomb Site

Gavin Reibelt/VK4ZZ reporting from the WW2 Historic Green Street Bunker, Project 81, theTARCinc Radio Shack Firstly I want to thank Mike Patterson/VK4MIK for his continuous efforts to commemorate those served and did not return, those who have served and those who are serving in the defence of the nation in times of war and times of disaster. His co-ordinating of the event each year has spurred others to join and help in the commemoration. Thanks to Andrew 'Tosty' Tostevin/VK5WT for helping with the event seamlessly incorporating the operations of Australian Military Radio Operators weekend into the ANZAC Day event and helping with the co-ordination of operating frequencies and publicity for the day. It was an honour too for theTARCinc to help out Ray Schinkel/VK4OIL and the portable operators in their efforts to highlight the plight of lack of recognition for the Historic WW2 Oonoonba Bomb Site. RF conditions on 40metres started out good but degraded during the day then picked up again late afternoon. The club radio shack operated AX4ATV on 7125kHz AM and also did a bit of operating on 14MHz AM where radio conditions were much more variable, limiting the chances for contacts.

Both the IC7800 (on 40metres) and the IC718 (on 20metres) were in operation simultaneously and performed very well. Some assistance to the operators at the crater were given during the day for weaker signal stations that were calling them.

It was great to hear some heritage radio gear on the air, with Clyde/VK4FCRH in Ingham with the Weston marine AM set, Barrie/VK4ALK in Yorkeys Knob with the AWA Teleradio (with valves) marine AM set, Mike/VK4MIK in Trinity Beach with the Vaughan (Weston) marine AM set and the big bonus from the Tablelands Radio and Electronics Club transmitting AX4XQA through the custom made high power home brew AM transmitter designed and built by John/VK4TL working in conjunction with the valve based HRO Receiver (with links to Bletchley Park) from Stu/VK4SDD QTH at Mudlanda.

Many thanks for help in the shack from Lyndall/VK4ZM, Mark/VK4TSV, Richard/VK4PQV and Ben/VK4YT. As in previous years the completed radio log for AX4ATV has been sent to TARC Financial Members who have email facility. We are looking forward to providing on-air support for the operations at the WW2 Historic Oonoonba Bomb Crater Site on the 84th anniversary of the bombing coming up on Wednesday 29th July plus future AM and CW on ANZAC Day events.

Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ – Station Manager – The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc.

#### **FURTHER GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil.**

There being no further business, President Snow/VK4ME closed the meeting at 2114h local time and wished everyone goodnight and a safe return to the next Monthly Management Meeting on the 2nd June 2026.

Minutes Transcribed 16h May 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 ECOM SERVICES. RECEIVE  
AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE. UTILISE THE QSL BUREAU.  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE HOBBY !  
<http://www.wia.org.au> FOR MORE INFO**

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#### **Solar Panels !**

Hairy Richard/VK4ZMB has these gorgeous Solar Panels ready to fly into your shack power system. Local pickup in Townsville only.

12 by 1650 x 994 x 36 Pmax 250W Trini

TSM-250PC05A bare aluminium

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

Isc 8.8 A Imp 8.3 A

All \$20 each. Contact Hairy on [rnsstone@gmail.com](mailto:rnsstone@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.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **VK4FVC Deceased Estate Sale**

Snow/VK4ME is handling the following sale of equipment from the estate of Vern/VK4FVC SK

Up for sale is an ICOM IC-7300 MK1 HF/6metre Transceiver in mint condition.

Vern used it sparingly over the period of 3 months on the 3600 Gnarly Net and the 7100 Afternoon Net on a resonant antenna system lent by Snow.

The unit comes with ICOM warranty and has been well looked after. You can buy this pristine piece of equipment which features SDR based transmit and receive operation complete with responsive touch screen for only \$1400 firm.

For further information contact Snow/VK4ME on either 0439 159403 or via email on [qrm] pk4me [at] bigpond [dot] com [qrm] [making sure to delete or convert the countermeasures first]

\*\*\*\*\*



### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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

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## PERSONAL CELEBRATIONS

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Birthdays

- 19 May Kooka 4PQV
- 20 Tina, Harmonic of Peter 4PVH
- 21 John 4FNQ, OM of Cheryl 4FRYL
- 23 Gary 8AW
- 29 May Adrian 4TCA
- 2 June Bradley, Harmonic of Jeanette & Bob 4WJ
- 2 Jason 4OT, OM of Jennyvi
- 4 Ewan 4ERM, OM of Margaret
- 5 Kaye, board of control of Bob 4AAH
- 5 Jessica, flight crew 4ZM & 4ZZ
- 6 Queenslander ! Queensland Day
- 6 Leslie, board of control of Phil 2JOK
- 8 Les 4ALS, OM of Leslie
- 9 Udo 4FUDO, OM of Gina
- 9 Dave 4FD, OM of Carolyn
- 13 Clyde 4FCRH, OM of Veen
- 17 Little John 4VT, OM of Ellen
- 30 Ray 4LU, OM of Susan
- 30 Colin 4EX
- 30 June Dallas 4BWN
- 2 July Trent 4TS, OM of Lorraine
- 9 Kerry, board of control of Mick 4CMW
- 11 Peter 4PVH
- 11 Ian, VK4KMD, OM of Shinako 4YMD
- 14 Joe VK4AM, OM of Marion
- 18 John 4JKL & sir Richard Warren
- 18 Janese, board of control of Philip 4HSV
- 22 Cheryl 4FRYL, board of control of John 4FNQ
- 30 Marion, board of control of Hugh 4AM
- 31 July Sheila 4PAL, board of control of Iain 4IGM

\*\*\*\*\*

### Club Anniversaries

- 23 May 1989 VK4RAT Digipeater licensed

\*\*\*\*\*

## VISUAL BACKSLATTER



Happy 77th Kooka !



**Good afternoon, CQ de VK4DNF in Far North QLD**

FNERA will be conducting a one day endurance ride event on Sunday 7 June 2026 based at Tepon. As usual, I'm seeking checkpoint operators to support this event. If you can support this event, please respond including your callsign as my memory is fading.

For future planning, the rest of the 2026 events are:

9 August: Mt Baldy ride (one day)

30 August Wetherby ride (one day)

26-28 September Cordillera ride (three days)

If you can assist, please do.

Regards, David/VK4DNF FNQ Ride Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

**Snows Radio Direction Finding****Fun happening soon**

If you are in the vicinity of Ross Park Kelso 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 plus socialising 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 of course, on 0439 159 403**

Attending so far – VK4ME, VK4PQV, VK4ZM, VK4ZZ.

If you have ARDF Gear, bring it, otherwise some gear can be lent to you to give it a try.

Remember to bring your comfy chairs – seating space is scarce!

Want to activate Ross Park on the Air – bring your POTA gear and show it off to everyone!



Park near the loo. If you hit the Dam you've gone too far 😊



a sneak preview of some of the ARDF beacons to be found during Snow's Famous Foxhunt.

**Amateur Radio Direction Finding Primer****Frequencies :**

|                  |   |                    |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>80m</b>       | - | <b>3.585MHz</b>    |
| <b>6m</b>        | - | <b>53.300MHz</b>   |
| <b>2m Beacon</b> | - | <b>145.300MHz</b>  |
| <b>2m Home</b>   | - | <b>145.700MHz</b>  |
| <b>70cm</b>      | - | <b>439.400MHz</b>  |
| <b>23cm</b>      | - | <b>1294.850MHz</b> |
| <b>13cm</b>      | - | <b>2425.850MHz</b> |

**International Categories**

**M19 – Men ages 19 and younger, 4 or 5 transmitters**

**M21 – Men of any age, 5 transmitters**

**M40 – Men ages 40 and older, 4 or 5 transmitters**

**M50 – Men ages 50 and older, 4 or 5 transmitters**

**M60 – Men ages 60 and older, 3 or 4 transmitters**

**M70 – Men ages 70 and older, 3 or 4 transmitters**

**W19 – Women ages 19 and younger, 4 or 5 transmitters**

**W21 – Women of any age, 4 or 5 transmitters**

**W35 – Women ages 35 and older, 4 or 5 transmitters**

**W50 – Women ages 50 and older, 3 or 4 transmitters**

**W60 – Women ages 60 and older, 3 or 4 transmitters**

theTARCinc tries to run its foxhunts close to international requirements but in practice mode. The hunt normally has 3 to 4 field transmitters and 1 home transmitter. Each transmitter has a unique Morse identifier which can be easily read even if you do not know Morse Code, e.g. MOE MOI MOS MOH for the field transmitters on 145.300MHz and MO for the home transmitter on 145.700MHz. Each field transmitter runs for about a minute – there can be more than one field transmitter on frequency during the timing overlap. The home transmitter runs continuously.

At competition level, Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is the name given to an activity where the participant has to locate a number (usually five) transmitters that have been spread out over a course between four and seven kilometres. The activity is carried out on foot. Transmitters are sequenced on for a minute each and there is a sixth one on a different frequency located at the finish location.

Participants are issued with a map and card and there are orienteering style punches at each transmitter. The participant has to clip the card at each transmitter. The shortest time wins. There is a time limit for each event and participants must reach the finish within this period – overtime is automatic disqualification. Most clubs run two categories for each event – runners and walkers – thus catering for all fitness and skill levels.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Remember !  
Membership Subs  
Need to be Paid  
By 30th June 2026.**

**Not sure if you paid ahead when you were going away ?  
Think you missed a year or three ? Want to just say hi to one of the original good guys ? Check your membership status with Treasurer Peter/VK4PQ soonest !**

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

Subs can be paid in person 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 !

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## VISUAL BACKSLATTER

### AM & CW on ANZAC Day



Operators at the historic WW2 Ooononba Bomb Crater site, Wayne/VK4WSG, Ray/VK4OIL, Nikki/VK4NPK, Chub/VK4FIBW, Tubby/VK4TUB and Andrew/VK4CHG— pix by Wendy



At the historic Ooononba Bomb Crater site, Tubby/VK4TUB, Robert/VK4HLS, Adrian/VK4TCA, Les/VK4ALS, Ben/VK4YT.



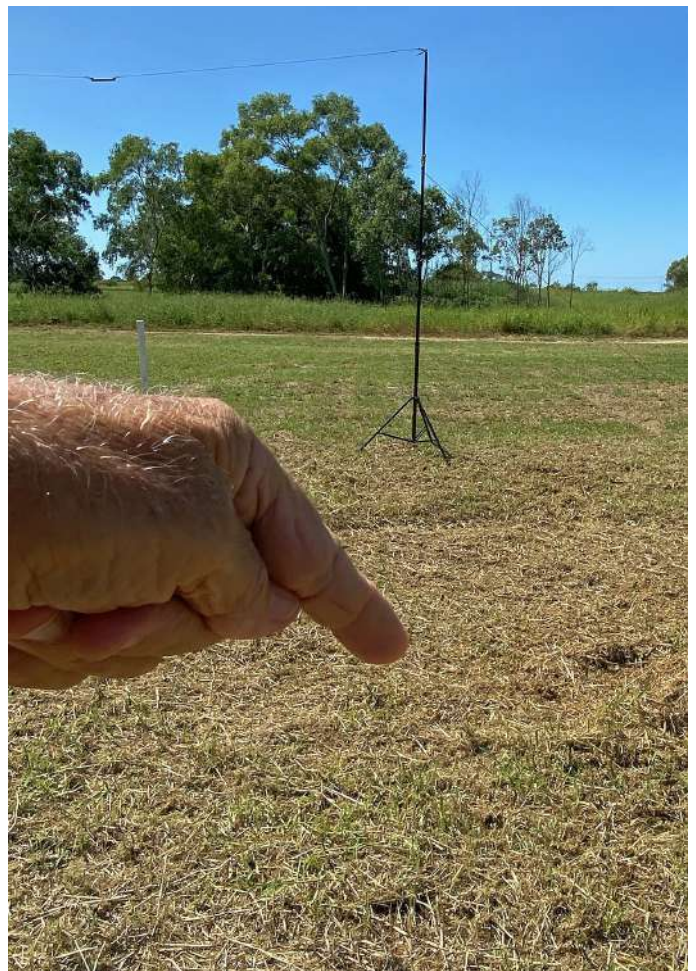
the badge Ray/VK4OIL presented to all the operators at the historic Ooononba Bomb Crater site



Operating from the Historic WW2 Ooononba Bomb Crater site, Nikki/VK4NPK, Wayne/VK4WSG, Ben/VK4YT



At the historic WW2 Ooononba Bomb Crater site, Wendy and Ray/VK4OIL. Pix by Mark/VK4TSV



That's where the Historic WW2 Ooononba Bomb Crater is – it really needs a plinth and a park around it!

**Radio happenings May 2026 to May 2027 ... so far****May**

- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 26th May from 7-30pm on 438.225MHz 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 from 1pm Ross Park  
 - 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 Pato's 7 Hour Enduro 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  
 - NQORA Charters Towers Short Circuit Off Road Racing - Sat 25th to Sun 26th July - Millchester MSRC  
 - 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  
 - 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  
 - NQORA QLD Off-Road Racing Round 1 (from April) - Sat 19th to Sun 20th September - Millchester MSRC  
 - 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  
 - 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  
 - Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 23rd February - from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

**March 2027**

- 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

**April 2027**

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 6th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End  
 - TARC Project Night - Tue 13th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End  
 - TARC Social Evening - Tue 20th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End  
 - AM & CW on ANZAC Day - Sun 25th April  
 - Australian Military Radio Operators Weekend - Day 1 - Sat 24th April  
 - Australian Military Radio Operators Weekend - Day 2 - Mon 26th April  
 - Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 27th April from 7-30pm on Tsvl UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

**May**

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 4th May from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End  
 - MARA Clairview Gathering - Fri 7 May to Mon 10 May - BarraCrab Clairview

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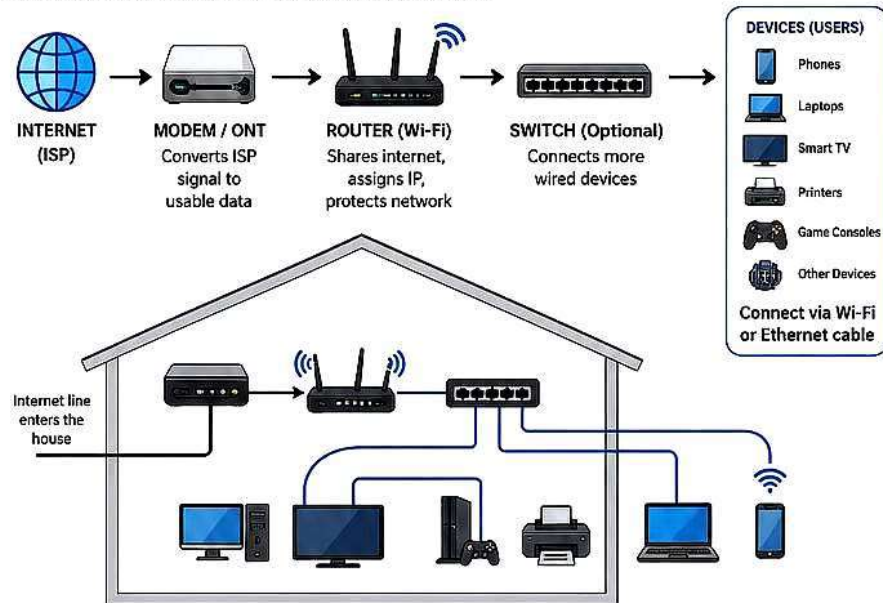
## TECHNICAL ARTICLE

## NETWORK SECURITY – COMPLETE OVERVIEW

Network security is the protection of computer networks and data from unauthorized access, attacks, misuse, damage or theft. It ensures Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability.

## 1. HOW SMALL INTERNET IS ESTABLISHED IN A HOUSE

Internet connection flows from the ISP to devices in the house.



## 2. MAIN GOALS (CIA TRIAD)

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Keep information private. Only authorized people can access it.

**INTEGRITY**

Ensure data is accurate and not changed illegally.

**AVAILABILITY**

Ensure the network and services are available whenever needed.

## 3. COMMON THREATS

**Malware**

Harmful software like viruses

**Hacking**

Unauthorized access to systems

**Phishing**

Fake messages to steal information

**DoS / DDoS Attack**

Flooding the network to make it unavailable

**Password Attacks**

Guessing or stealing passwords

**Eavesdropping**

Secretly listening to network traffic

## 4. COMMON SECURITY TOOLS

**Firewall**

Monitors and filters incoming and outgoing traffic

**Antivirus / Anti-malware**

Detects and removes malicious software

**VPN (Virtual Private Network)**

Encrypts your connection and protects data over the internet

**Encryption**

Converts data into secret code so others cannot read it

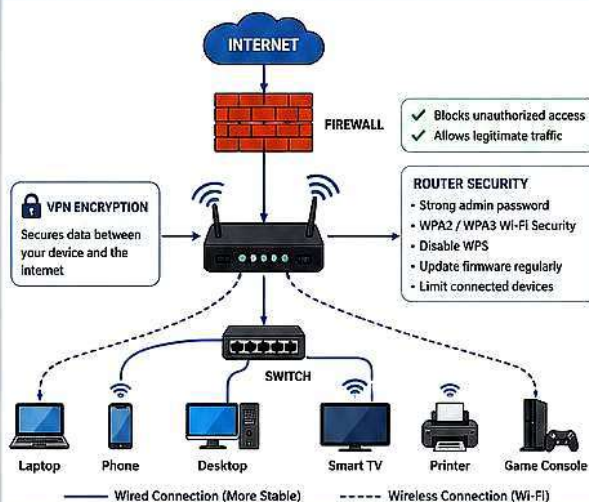
**IDS / IPS**

Detects (IDS) and prevents (IPS) suspicious activities and attacks

**Authentication**

Verifies the identity of users before giving access

## 5. NETWORK SECURITY IN ACTION (PROTECTED HOME NETWORK)



## 6. TYPES OF NETWORK SECURITY

**Wired Security**

Protects networks that use Ethernet cables

**Wireless Security**

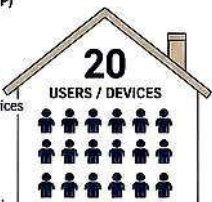
Protects Wi-Fi networks using WPA2 / WPA3 and strong passwords

**Cloud Network Security**

Protects data, applications and services in the cloud

## 7. EXAMPLE: SMALL HOUSE WITH 20 USERS

- 1 Fiber Internet Connection (ISP)
- 1 Strong Dual-band Router
- 1 Switch (optional)
- Secure Wi-Fi (WPA2 / WPA3)
- Limit and manage up to 20 devices
- Enable bandwidth control (limit speed per user)
- Block unknown devices
- Regularly monitor the network



## 8. IMPORTANT COMPONENTS

| Component      | Purpose                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ISP            | Provides internet access                |
| Modem / ONT    | Converts ISP signal                     |
| Router         | Shares internet and secures the network |
| Switch         | Adds more wired ports                   |
| Ethernet Cable | Wired connection                        |
| Wi-Fi          | Wireless connection                     |
| Security Tools | Protects the network from threats       |

## 9. BEST SECURITY PRACTICES

- ✓ Use strong passwords
- ✓ Enable WPA2 / WPA3 encryption
- ✓ Keep router firmware updated
- ✓ Change default admin login
- ✓ Disable WPS
- ✓ Use firewall and antivirus
- ✓ Secure guest Wi-Fi
- ✓ Monitor connected devices
- ✓ Backup configuration
- ✓ Educate users about phishing and cyber threats



**A SECURE NETWORK IS A SAFE NETWORK**

## 10. BENEFITS OF NETWORK SECURITY



Protects personal information



Prevents cyber attacks



Secures business data



Ensures privacy and trust



Prevents financial loss



Keeps network and services running

## REMEMBER

Good network security protects you, your devices and your data.

**BE SAFE. STAY SECURE.**

