

ZCZC

News from the North
from 25th January 2026
sent to undisclosed recipients

this is also sent Packet Radio world wide
as YYYYMMDD News from NE Australia

- News of a Silent Key
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- News of a Silent Key
Ray Hinks VK4LU

Sad new to report that TARC Life Member Ray Hinks VK4LU
has gone Silent Key.

Ray was a former member of the Queensland Police Service,
a foundation member of the Townsville Civil Defence Volunteers,
and volunteer with the Townsville Division of the Queensland
State Emergency Service.

Ray came to Australia with his family from the UK when only
a nipper but could remember the bleak weather in blighty.
He much enjoyed the tropical weather of Townsville, constantly
scoffed the weather boffins forecast for rain and rugged up
well when the temperature in North Queensland dipped below 15C.
Ray did great things for theTARCinc, serving as Treasurer and
also setting up through the local federal members of Parliament
permission to print the magazine of renown, Back-scatter, an
arrangement that continues to this day.

While in good health Ray was also active on HF and out in the
field, helping with many comms support events.

He enjoyed holidays away fruit picking and occasionally touring
the Cape in his old but reliable Hi-Lux van (he went places with
the 2-wheel drive vehicle many 4wd drivers would avoid)
and always said that he would be lucky to see 70years old.

Well, he made it to 92.

During the last year Rays's health started to decline even more
and a diagnosis of Stage 4 Cancer sealed the deal. He enrolled in
the Volunteer Assisted Dying scheme, set his affairs in order
and went Silent Key in Townsville University Hospital on
Friday 23rd January at 0400UTC. Before passing between 0335

and 0338UTC Ray's daughter Yvette went on-air as Ray's Second Operator through the Townsville VHF Repeater and asked for any stations to send Ray any last messages. TARC Club Station VK4WIT responded, wishing Ray good DX and best journeys on his DXpedition in the next world.

Ray's funeral was a private service attended by family members.
Vale Ray Hinks VK4LU - Silent Key.

- News from Central Queensland

- Clairview Gathering 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 might even be some fox-hunting and there will definitely be RAFFLES !

The Gathering is one of the main revenue raisers amateur radio clubs in the region

It happens in 2026 from

Friday arvo 8th to Sunday 10th May, with most of the action 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.

To book your camping spot contact the BarraCrab Caravan Park Clairview on 07 49560190

When you arrive at the Barracrab for the Gathering let them know about your catering numbers for the Saturday Night feed-up.

Plan Ahead

2027 Friday arvo 7th to Monday morn 10th May

2028 Friday arvo 6th to Monday morn 9th May

2029 Friday arvo 11th to Monday morn 14th May

2030 Friday arvo 10th to Monday morn 13th May

2031 Friday arvo 9th to Monday morn 12th May

- News from North Queensland

- TARC does the 2026 Defence Welcome to Townsville Expo

theTARCinc will yet again be involved with the Defence Welcome and Information Expo

run by the Townsville office of the Defence Member and Family Support Section. It will be happening on Saturday 31st January at Murray Stadium from 9-30am to 12pm.

The Club will be drawing on expertise gained from participation in previous Expos

to show Defence members and their families currently residing or new to the region

some of the aspects of the wonderful world of Amateur Radio.
It is hoped to demonstrate the hobby through a mixture of static, dynamic and interactive displays,
with members experienced in many facets of the hobby able to provide meaningful answers and guidance for those attending the Expo.
The display will be put in place from 7-30am to 8-45am and packed away from 12pm to 1pm.
If you want to be part of the TARC team on display then please contact
The Master - Iain/VK4IGM on telephone 07-47214083 or on the air.

- TARC Management Meeting in February
The Management Meeting of the Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc happens this Tuesday 3rd of February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms perched atop the SES HQ Green Street West End.
Make sure you bring along something for the Show and Tell session.
The meeting will also be available via Zoom teleconference session.
Those attending the meeting physically are invited to use the hand sanitising station located at the top of the stairs and grab a chair from the pile inside to get comfy on.
The TARCinc financial members will receive the meeting details including the Zoom teleconference details during Monday 2nd February.
All welcome !

- TARC does the WIA JMMFD 2026
The TARCinc will be participating in the WIA John Moyle Memorial Field Day weekend
from Friday 20th to Sunday afternoon 22nd March at
the Mount Fox Campgrounds, 2944 Mount Fox Rd, Mount Fox QLD 4850.
Location 18.817485°S 145.794824°E Maidenhead Grid QH21VE53JT Elevation 630metres
To Ingham CBD Direct 42.3km 064°T by road 63.1km approx. 1hour
To VK4RAT Mt Stuart Direct 119.3km 119°T
To Deeragun Lights by road 159km approx. 2hours 5minutes

Portable operation is the go so make sure you bring plenty of batteries and whisper quiet generators if you can.

The campsite features :
Huge grassy open space next to a lagoon (part of Michael Creek) that has abundant bird life
plus very tall trees, topography ideal for vertical radiators and tree supported wires.
Basic toilets, cold shower and a covered camp kitchen.
Dog friendly area, no mains power, a view of the nearby extinct volcano called Mount Fox.
Accessible to motorbikes, RVs, camper trailers and caravans.
Mobile Phone coverage is by the Telstra 4G low capacity base in Oak Hills Road, approx 2km from the campsite.
\$10 donation per night per vehicle to the local chapter of the Rural Fire Service
whose members also maintain the facility in pristine condition.

Accessing the campsite via road :

From the Deeragun traffic lights drive on the Bruce Highway for 95.6km to the Lannercost Street lights at Ingham. Do your final shopping and fuelling up in Ingham

before travelling on.

Left turn onto Lannercost Street, proceed 8km along Abergowrie Road to Trebonne.

Left turn onto Stone River Road, proceed 18.9km and right turn near Upper Stone to stay

on Stone River Road.

Proceed 6.7km then Right turn onto Mount Fox Road.

Proceed up Seaview Range for 28.8km then turn right into the campgrounds.

Ensure while you travel up and down the range to maintain a radio watch on UHF-CB CH40

and travel with caution as there are many bends, steep climbs and descents and narrow points

on Mount Fox Road. There are call points along the road at the most hazardous locations

and it is highly recommended that you call at the points to ensure other vehicles know you

are on the road.

Equipping for success :

Logging for the event will be done by a dude that can type using a 12V powered netbook running N1MM logger with the WIA Multiple Operator User Defined

Contest File, there will be lots of antennae lofting and tweaking, operating on HF,

VHF & UHF in a location that can be used what ever weather is happening plus plenty

of chances to kick back and socialise.

Some essentials to bring :

Food, Drink, condiments, toilet paper (donate some extra rolls), washing up gear, portable shelters, comfy chairs and beds, portable lighting - plus your radios, batteries, generators & fuel, antennas and the height acquisition kit.

Hope to see you there - come rain or shine !

JMFD Rules and resources are available on the WIA National Website - look under the members section at Contests.

- TARC Communications Support

There is a full programme of Communications Support events that you can get involved with

and have some radio fun !

If you can help out please contact og/VK4ZZ on 0427182469 or on the radio

Thu 2 April to Mon 6 April - B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Horse Endurance Rides 5/20/40/80km

with possible 120 and 160km rides - Fri 3 to Mon 6 April inclusive.

Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, VK4ME, VK4CUZ, VK4HSV, VK4IGM, Doris &

VK4WSG, more operators needed.

Sat 18 to Sun 19 April - NQORA Gold City 450 QLD Championship Round Off Road Racing

Millchester MSRC near Charters Towers

Operators so far - VK1ZZ, VK4ZMB, VK4ZM & VK4ZZ, Doris & VK4WSG, more operators needed.

Sat 25 to Sun 26 April - 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 16 to Sun 17 May - Bush to Beach Endurance Ride Assoc. Autumn Escalade Horse Endurance Rides 5/20/4/80 - NQ Equestrian Centre Bluewater Park

Operators so far VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, many more operators needed.

Fri 29 May to Sun 31 May - Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riding Assoc. 5/10/20/30/40/80km/Harness

Tropical Winter Horse Endurance Rides - Euri Gold Farms near Bowen

Operators so far - VK4ZZ, VK4ZM, many more ops muchly needed.

Sat 13 to Sun 14 June - 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.

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.

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 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.

Some more details of these events -

Whitsunday Region Endurance Riders Association Inc Euri Gold Farm Endurance Rides.

All the rides happen on the verdant slopes of Euri Gold Farm, just out of Merinda

north of Bowen North Queensland.

You are able to camp out early at Ride Base or the checkpoint from Wednesday onwards.

The ride starts up on Friday morning and will run right through Monday afternoon.

Your chance to get out into some lovely countryside, set up camp with a portable station

or three and communicate in a relaxing fashion as the horsies and riders go by, day and night.

Hey Mackay and Bowen horsie operators - you can join in the fun too !

Canteen, hot water, bbq din din plus brekkie and mod cons available at Ride Base.

Denison Creek Horse Endurance Rides

Mackay Amateur Radio Association members provide Communications Support and Checkpoint services

for the Horse Endurance Rides that happen at Denison Creek Station near Epsom Central Queensland.

Their volunteer numbers are dwindling and they need a hand to provide a safety net for the events.

The rides happen on the ramparts of Mount Seaview approx 60km southwest of Mackay and is accessed

via the Peak Downs Highway at 21.482444S 148.810030E. Camping available at Ride Base and the

event is made up of a number of stationary and mobile checkpoints.

Rides start from 1pm Saturday and finish around 11am Sunday.

Let Mackay Comms Support Co-ordinator Gary/VK4CUZ know if you can help on mobile 0410462892

NQORA Offroad Racing Events - Millchester Motorsport and Recreation Facility Charters Towers

The North Queensland Offroad Racing Association Inc. runs a series of offroad racing

events at the Millchester Motorsport Facility Charters Towers . They need Autosport and

Radio savvy people to run checkpoints for the events.

Operate at Checkpoints throughout the day with a ringside seat to see up close the offroad racing action whilst doing useful things with radios.

Camping overnight Wednesday to Monday Night is available at the NQMS Radio Precinct,

or if you prefer your creature comforts motels and pubs are available to stay in less

than 10 minutes away from the venue.

Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim.

A great day out on the water playing with radios to the sound of Migaloo and a hundred plus marathon swimmers thrashing across Cleveland Bay.

Main comms on VHF, with some UHF comms with clubbies and aircraft.

Operating positions at sea and on land with operational endurance 4 to 5 hours.

Kennedy Region Scouts Nighthawk activity.

Your chance to make a real difference and show the youth of today how useful

Amateur Radio can be. Teams tracking and a chance to set up portable at a spot you would not normally go to. Arrive at Nighthawk HQ at 2pm on Saturday, then go to your checkpoint for a night of easy operating in the field tracking the progress

of Nighthawk teams, with some in-flight entertainment as you observe youth members try to impress

the Scout Leader judges with finesse in their activity.

Bush to Beach Horse Endurance Rides.

The rides are based out of the North Queensland Equestrian Centre at Bluewater Park

approx 30mins northwest of Townsville. Some checkpoints are camp-outs, others a temporarily activated during the rides with operators glamping at Ride Base. Ride tracks vary from rugged river crossings and slightly undulating land through

the properties near Bluewater Park. VHF with high mounted verticals

or Field Yagis needed to get through the topography and the occasional inversion blocking.

There is excellent and ample camping facilities at the Equestrian Centre and on checkpoints.

- Townsville Nets Callbacks

VHF Net Callbacks - VK4WIT 146.700MHz

by Peter/VK4PQ at Kelso North Queensland

following the WIA News and QNEWS transmissions 20260125 0900-0936K

Callbacks by Peter/VK4PQ

at Kelso North Queensland - 20260125 0937-1019K

VK4YT Ben and Jo at Kelso via AllStarLink/VK4YT/VK4PQ

VK4JBY Ron and Mandy at Enoggera via Echolink/VK4JBY/VK4PQ

VK4GED Gareth at Laguna Quays via Echolink/VK4GED/VK4PQ

VK4GEO Darrin at Mount Isa via AllStarLink/VK4GEO/VK4PQ

VK4TTW Tony portable at Ayr

VK4ALS Les and Leslie at Kelso

VK4ZZ Gavin and Lyndall/VK4ZM portable at Flinders Region Girl Guides Training Centre Bluewater

VK4PQV Richard and Lloyd/VK4FP portable at Flinders Region Girl Guides Training Centre Bluewater

VK4IGM Iain and Sheila/VK4PAL portable at Flinders Region Girl Guides Training Centre Bluewater

VK4HSV Phil and Jan at Douglas

VK4TJS Tony at Kelso

VK4FNQ John and Cheryl/VK4FRYL at Majestic Towers

VK2QRT Bruce at Sans Scouci via Echolink/VK2QRT/VK4PQ

VHF Net Callbacks - VK4WIT 146.700MHz repeater

following the North Queensland Net retransmission

by Gavin/VK4ZZ portable at the Flinders Region Guides

Training Centre Bluewater, North Queensland

- 20260125 08-00pm

Callbacks by Lyndall/VK4ZM portable at the Flinders Region Guides Training Centre Bluewater, North Queensland

- 20260125 08-30pm to 08-49pm

VK4PQ Peter and Ruth at Kelso

VK4HSV Phil and Jan at Douglas

VK4ME Snow portable at Bluewater Park

VK4OIL Ray and Wendy at Kirwan

and fyi - North Queensland Net participants
on 3605.4kHz from 20260125 07-30pm to 08-48pm
Net control by Gavin/VK4ZZ operating VK4WIT
portable from the Flinders Region Guides
Training Centre, Bluewater, North Queensland

VK4CWL Bob and Cherie at Emerald

VK4CMW Mick and Kerry at Collinsville

VK4UFO Ed at Walkerston

VK4FNQ John and Cheryl/VK4FRYL at Majestic Towers

VK4CUZ Gary at Blacks Beach near Mackay

VK4PQV Richard portable at Bluewater Girl Guides Training Centre

VK4YT Ben portable at Bluewater Girl Guides Training Centre

VK4ME Snow portable at Bluewater Park

Regional Events -

January

- Defence Welcome to Townsville Expo - Sat 31st January bump in 7-30am expo 9am to 12pm - Townsville Stadium

February

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 3rd February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

- TARC Project Night - Tue 10th February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

- TARC Social Evening - Tue 17th February from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 24th January - from 7-30pm on Tsv1 UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

March

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 3rd March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

- TARC Project Night - Tue 10th March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

- TARC Social Evening - Tue 17th March from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End

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

- Ann Renton Memorial Net - Tue 24th March from 7-30pm on Tsv1 UHF Repeater and

VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

- Tech On The Air Net Tue 31st March from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

April

- B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Horse Endurance Rides - Bluewater Park Thur 2 April to Mon 6 April
- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 7th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 14th April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- NQORA Gold City 450 QLD Championship round Off Road Racing - Sat 18 April to Sun 19 April - Millchester MSRC
- TARC Social Evening - Tue 21st April from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- AM & CW on ANZAC Day - Sat 25th April
- MARA Valley Riders Dee Jay Arabians Denison Creek Horsie Rides - Sat 25th to Sun 26th 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
- MARA Valley Riders Greg Willoughby Memorial Denison Creek Horsie Rides - Sat 13 to Sun 14 June
- 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
- Tech On The Air Net Tue 30th June from 7-30pm on Tsvl VHF Repeater and VK4PQ AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

July

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 7th July from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green

Street West End

- TARC Project Night - Tue 14th July from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- 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 Tsv1 UHF Repeater and VK4TUB AllStarLink & Echolink Nodes

August

- TARC Management Meeting - Tue 4th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- TARC Project Night - Tue 11th August from 7-30pm at the Club Rooms Green Street West End
- 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 Tsv1 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 Tsv1 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 Tsv1 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 Tsv1 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
- 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

- Buy Swap and Sell and Wanted

- HF Station for Sale

Ken/VK4HAI is reluctantly selling his seldom used HF Station which consists of -

ICOM IC-718 HF Transceiver

Regulated Linear 13.8V 30A Power Supply

Microphone

DC Lead

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.

- Rare 27MHz Transceivers for Sale

Very active 27MHz CB Operator Dave Jenkins recently went

Silent Key in Ayr, North Queensland.

His daughter Kylie would like to sell to good homes the following

27MHz CB Transceivers, with pick-up from Ayr.

- Pearce Simpson President tabletop base AM/SSB 27MHz Transceiver
- Wagner 510 tabletop base AM/SSB 27MHz Transceiver

For more information or to seal the deal, text - yes text Kylie on 0408 617223. Pick up only from Ayr by prior arrangement.

- 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.

- Solar Panels !

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

12 by 1650 x 994 x 36	Pmax 250W	Trini	TSM-250PC05A	bare aluminium
1.6401 m ² = 15%	Voc 38.0V	Vmpp	30.3V	
	Isc 8.8 A	Imp	8.3 A	

All \$20 each. Contact Hairy on [qrm] rnsstone [at] gmail [dot] com [qrm] (making sure to release the countermeasures first)

- Regional Communications Support Events 2025-2026 so far.....

Atherton Tablelands Region

Tablelands Radio and Electronics Club Inc.

- Co-ordinator David Falls VK4DNF 0419206498

Fri 1 to Mon 4 May - Pioneer Trek 3x20/3x40/3x60elev/3x80/100/200/400 Endurance Rides Tepon

Sat 6 to Sun 7 June - Kuranda 20/40/60elev/80km Endurance Rides Tepon

Sat 8 to Sun 9 August - Mt Baldy 20/40/60elev/80km Endurance Rides Tepon

Sat 29 to Sun 30 August - Wetherby 20/40/60elev/80km Endurance Rides Tepon

Fri 25 to Mon 28 Sept - Cordillera Trail 3x20/3x40/3x60elev/3x80/60/120

Endurance Rides Tepon

Townsville Region

The Townsville Amateur Radio Club Inc.

- Co-ordinator Gavin "Og" Reibelt VK4ZZ 0427182469

Thu 2 to Mon 6 April	- B2B Blue Hills Bash Easter Horse Endurance
Rides - Bluewater Park	
Sat 18 to Sun 19 April	- NQORA Gold City 450 QLD Championship Round Off
Road Racing - Millchester MSRC	
Sat 16 to Sun 17 May	- B2B Autumn Escalade Horse Endurance Ride Comms
Support - Bluewater Park	
Fri 29 to Sun 31 May	- WRERA Euri Gold Tropical Winter Horse
Endurance Rides - Bowen Region	
Sat 18 to Sun 19 July	- B2B Paluma Passion Horse Endurance Rides -
Bluewater Park	
Fri 14 to Sun 16 August	- WRERA Euri Gold Winter Harvest Horse Endurance
Rides - Bowen Region	
Sat 15 August	- TOWSA Maggie Island Swim from 5-30am Strand
Park	
Sat 5 to Sun 6 September	- B2B Spring Shore Horse Endurance Rides -
Bluewater Park	

Mackay Region

Mackay Amateur Radio Association Inc

- Co-ordinator Gary Crothers VK4CUZ 0410462892

Sat 25 to Sun 26 April - Dee Jay Arabians 2x20/2x40/1x80 Endurance
Rides Denison Creek

Sat 13 to Sun 14 June - Greg Willoughby Memorial 2x20/2x40/1x100eliv
Endurance Rides Denison Creek

Dates could change - watch this space

Want to help out ? Contact the co-ordinator in your region and join in the fun !

- ACMA Exams Services for Amateur Radio

The Australian Communications and Media Authority runs services
for Amateur Radio Assessment and Certification.

- Specialist Assessors available for remote or online assessments are
 - Laurie Pritchard/VK4BLE in Brisbane on 0411413588
 - Ron Bertrand/VK2DQ on Gold Coast on 0426771808
 - Gail Lidden/VK4ION in Bundaberg on 0410121345,
- General Assessors available for face to face assessments in the regions
 - Stuart Dunk/VK4SDD in Malanda on 0407700096,
 - Bob Ronai/VK4BOB in Cairns on 0438323737,
 - Howard Small/VK4BS in Cairns on 0425825799,
 - Darrin Archer/VK4GEO in Mount Isa on 0418981353,
 - Eric Baker/VK2TRD in Mount Isa on 0427703693,
 - Lyndall Reibelt/VK4ZM in Townsville on 0427688014,
 - Roy Moore/VK4RM in Sarina on 0409597410,

Clive Sait/VK4ACC in Rockhampton on 0429632815,
Ray Dobinson/VK4XXX in Rockhampton on 07 49281219
Lawrie Ellis/VK4LE in Gladstone on 0477166712

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

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

- Holiday planning
State Public Holidays in North Queensland

2026

Fri 3rd Apr - Good Friday Holiday
Sat 4th Apr - Easter Saturday Holiday
Sun 5th Apr - Easter Sunday Holiday
Mon 6th Apr - Easter Monday Holiday
Sat 25th Apr - ANZAC Day Holiday
Mon 4th May - Labour Day Holiday
Mon 5th Oct - Kings Birthday Holiday
Fri 25th Dec - Christmas Day
Sat 26th Dec - Boxing Day
Mon 28th Dec - Boxing Day Holiday

2027

Fri 1st Jan - New Years Day Holiday
Tue 26th Jan - Australia Day Holiday
Fri 26th Mar - Good Friday Holiday
Sat 27th Mar - Easter Saturday Holiday
Sun 28th Mar - Easter Sunday Holiday
Mon 29th Mar - Easter Monday Holiday
Sun 25th Apr - ANZAC Day
Mon 26th Apr - ANZAC Day Holiday
Mon 3rd May - Labour Day Holiday
Mon 4th Oct - Kings Birthday Holiday
Sat 25th Dec - Christmas Day
Sun 26th Dec - Boxing Day
Mon 27th Dec - Christmas Day Holiday
Tue 28th Dec - Boxing Day Holiday

2028

Mon 3rd Jan - New Years Day Holiday
Wed 26th Jan - Australia Day Holiday
Fri 14th Apr - Good Friday Holiday
Sat 15th Apr - Easter Saturday Holiday
Sun 16th Apr - Easter Sunday Holiday
Mon 17th Apr - Easter Monday Holiday
Tue 25th Apr - ANZAC Day Holiday

Mon 1st May - Labour Day Holiday
Mon 2nd Oct - Kings Birthday Holiday
Mon 25th Dec - Christmas Day Holiday
Tue 26th Dec - Boxing Day Holiday

2029

Mon 1st Jan - New Years Day Holiday
Fri 26th Jan - Australia Day Holiday
Fri 30th Mar - Good Friday Holiday
Sat 31st Mar - Easter Saturday Holiday
Sun 1st Apr - Easter Sunday Holiday
Mon 2nd Apr - Easter Monday Holiday
Wed 25th Apr - ANZAC Day Holiday
Mon 7th May - Labour Day Holiday
Mon 1st Oct - Kings Birthday Holiday
Tue 25th Dec - Christmas Day Holiday
Wed 26th Dec - Boxing Day Holiday

Source - QLD Government Department of Justice and Attorney-General

- Holiday planning
Queensland School Terms

2026

Term 1 - Tue 27th Jan to Thur 2nd Apr
Term 2 - Mon 20th Apr to Fri 26th June
Term 3 - Mon 13th July to Fri 18th Sept
Term 4 - Tue 6th Oct to Fri 11th Dec

2027

Term 1 - Wed 27th Jan to Thur 25th March
Term 2 - Mon 12th Apr to Fri 25th June
Term 3 - Mon 12th July to Fri 17th Sept
Term 4 - Tue 5th Oct to Fri 10th Dec

2028

Term 1 - Mon 24th Jan to Fri 31st March
Term 2 - Tue 18th Apr to Fri 23rd June
Term 3 - Mon 10th July to Fri 15th Sept
Term 4 - Tue 3rd Oct to Fri 8th Dec

2029

Term 1 - Mon 22nd Jan to Thur 29th March
Term 2 - Tue 16th Apr to Fri 22nd June
Term 3 - Mon 9th July to Fri 14th Sept
Term 4 - Tue 2nd Oct to Fri 7th Dec

Source - QLD Government Department of Education and Training

Wireless Institute of Australia Civil Emergency Network

- WICEN >> since 1946 << -
- WICEN NQ >> since 1971 << -

- Curly Wind Season is happening now. Be prepared.

Have you checked your shack and your antenna to see how they will go during the wet season ?

Have you stocked up, charged batteries and are ready for action !

Get on air - scare the spiders and lizards out of the rig and make sure your transceiver works.

- WICEN VK4 NET

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

The net happens on

14125kHz from 8-00am (2200UTC)

10122kHz from 8-00am (2200UTC)

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

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

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

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

Emergency Frequencies per IARU region - active during disasters

IARU Region 1 3760 7110 14300 18160 21360 kHz

IARU Region 2 3750 3985 7060 7240 7275 14300 18160 21360

IARU Region 3 3600 7110 14300 18160 21360

VK is in Region 3.

Frequencies noted are centre of emergency activity which could extend +/- 20kHz.

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

(Gavin VK4ZZ)

- Some Regional Nets

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

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

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

Monday Evening - Brisbane ARC 80m Net - VK4BA Net Control - 3630kHz from 1000Z

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

Tuesday Evening - Rockhampton and District ARC Net - VK4WIR Net Control - 3613kHz from 0930Z

Tuesday Evening - Bayside ARC Fusion Digital UHF Net - 438.450 MHz

(VK4RDB Repeater Mt Cotton Room 59002) from 0930Z

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

Wednesday Evening - Cairns ARC Net - VK4RCA Cairns City UHF Repeater output 439.850 input 434.850

with 91.5Hz input tone from 0930Z also on AllStarLink

CairnsHub node 533335

Wednesday Evening - Central Queensland ARA Net - VK4CQR Net Control - 3612kHz from 0930Z

Wednesday Evening - Bayside ARC 80m Net - VK4BAR Net Control - 3570kHz from 0930Z

Wednesday Evening - Sunshine Coast ARC 80m Net - VK4WIS Net Control - 3665kHz from 0930Z

Wednesday Evening - Sunshine Coast ARC 10m Net - VK4WIS Net Control - 28475kHz after 80m Net

Wednesday Evening - Hervey Bay ARC 160metre Net - VK4CHB Net Control - 1848kHz from 1000Z

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

Thursday Evening - Australian Fusion C4FM Net
438.750MHz VK400 Repeater & Room 24160 AUS-REPEATER-NET from 0930Z

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

Thursday Evening - Hervey Bay ARC 80metre Net - VK4CHB Net Control - 3615kHz from 1000Z

Thursday Evening - Bayside ARC FreeDMR Net - 438.825 MHz - Timeslot 2 Talk Group 50500

(VK4RDB Repeater Mt Cotton) from 1000Z

also accessible via DROID-Star app FreeDMR_Australia-3 TGID

50500

Friday Afternoon - Border Ranges ARC 6m Net - 52.100MHz USB 0500Z

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

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

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

Friday Evening - Darling Downs ARC Friendship Net - 3587kHz from 0930Z

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

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

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

Sunday Morning - WICEN VK4 Net Winlink - email check-in from 2200Z

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

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

Sunday Morning - Townsville ARC WIANews Net - VK4WIT Net Control - VK4RAT 146.700MHz Repeater

and connected AllStarLink and Echolink Nodes - 2300Z followed

by callbacks

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

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

Sunday Evening - Brisbane ARC 6m Net - VK4BA Net Control - VK4RBX 6m Repeater from 1000Z

RX 53.925MHz TX 52.925MHz no tone required to access VK4RBX

Every Morning - The Gnarly Net - All the Morse and Voice you can have for breakfast

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

3600kHz LSB Voice happens after the Morse

Every Morning - Coral Coast Early Birds Net - 7093kHz starting 6am (2000Z)

Every Morning - Coral Coast Net - 7093kHz starting 7am (2100Z), 6-45AM (2145Z)

during Summer, right after the Early Birds Net
Every Afternoon - WIA Travellers Net - 14116kHz Check Ins from 0200Z - Callbacks from 0300Z

National Co-ordinator 0421043009 - more information on WIA Website.

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

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

On 7093kHz from 1630local (0630Z normal, 0530Z DST) -
Tom/VK2KF net control

alternate net controllers Peter/VK2QF or Tom/VK4ATH

- ANZA DX Net

Australia, New Zealand and Africa DX Net

20m, 14.183 MHz, 0515 UTC, daily

15m, 21.205 MHz, 0415 UTC, Saturday

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

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

A QSO is brief exchange of call sign and signal report

Please do not spot the net on clusters or skimmers !

Net Leader - Col/VK4CC

The ANZA Net needs your skill as net controller

We offer an opportunity to put something back into ham radio

Give it a try.

Message Col on [qrm] seahawk55 [at] optusnet [dot] com [dot] au [qrm]

(making sure to release the countermeasures first)

- North Queensland Internet Gateways

H24 = 24 Hour Ops unless offline for maintenance or updates

H8 = 8 Hour Ops - hours of ops defined by operator

Hx = indeterminate hours of ops - normally when operator in radio shack or out and about

Yaesu Fusion Gateways

- VK4JPA YSF Node Rangewood NQLD 145.350MHz Digital Access H24 Room 24105

>> back on the air <<

- VK400 YSF/FM Repeater West End NQLD Input 431.750MHz Output 438.750MHz 91.5Hz Tone H24 Room 69571

AllStarLink Gateways

- VK4TUB AllStarLink Gateway Kirwan NQLD interfaces with VK4RAT UHF Repeater H24 Node 46740 Echolink VK4TUB-R 837219

- VK4PQ AllStarLink Gateway Kelso NQLD interfaces with VK4RAT VHF Repeater H24 Node 49806 Echolink VK4PQ-R 956580

- VK4GDN AllStarLink Gateway Charters Towers NQLD linked with VK4TUB 46740 H24 Node 56808 439.150MHz 91.5Hz Tone H24

- VK4GDN AllStarLink Gateway Charters Towers NQLD linked with VK4PQ 49806 H24 Node 54043 145.145MHz 91.5Hz Tone H24

- VK4HSV AllStarLink Portable Gateway Douglas NQLD Hx 439.125MHz 81.5Hz CTCSS Access Tone Node 54607

- VK4BDE AllStarLink Gateway Condon NQLD H24 145.390MHz 91.5Hz CTCSS Access Tone

Node 40381

- VK4TAZ AllStarLink Gateway Heatley NQLD H24 439.325MHz
- VK4GEO AllStarLink Gateway Mount Isa NQLD H24 441.000MHz 91.5Hz CTCSS Access Tone Node 62387

- VK2TRD AllStarLink Gateway Cloncurry NQLD H24 441.250MHz 91.5Hz CTCSS Access Tone Node 512582

AX-25 APRS 1200Bd Gateways

- VK4ZZ APRS Vincent NQLD 145.175MHz H24

AX-25 Packet 1200Bd Wormholes

- VK40T-3 FBBS Heatley NQLD 145.175MHz H24 or Telnet vk4ot.ddns.net port 6300

Echolink Gateways

- VK4PQ-R Echolink Kelso NQLD Node 956580 interfaces with VK4RAT VHF Repeater H24

- VK4MIC-L Echolink Mount Isa NQLD Node 971321 interfaces with VK4RMI VHF Repeater H24

- VK4TUB-R Echolink Kirwan NQLD Node 837219 interfaces with VK4RAT UHF Repeater H24

- VK40T-L Echolink Heatley NQLD Node 715822 439.330MHz Simplex

- VK4BDE-L Echolink Condon NQLD Node 607952 145.390MHz Simplex

IRLP Gateways

- VK4MIC IRLP Mount Isa NQLD Node 6921 interfaces with VK4RMI VHF Repeater H24

DMR High Power Gateways

- VK4YWG MMDVM DMR BrandMeister Cranbrook NQLD Node 5050130 441.5MHz simplex

DMR <> AllStarLink Bridge

- VK4CK BM 20415 DMR <> AllStarLink 512584 Bridge

BM 20415 Color Code 1 Time Slot 2 permlinked with TubbyNet AllStarLink Node 46740

and any other connected nodes plus VK4RAT UHF Repeater H24 - 3 minute timeout

Radio Beacons in Central, North and Far North Queensland (O = Operational, N = Non Operational)

VK4DJC Mount Morgan 28.285 MHz (O)

VK4RAR Rockhampton 432.540 MHz (N) 1296.448 MHz (N)

VK4RTL Townsville 28.270 MHz (N) 50.282 MHz (N) 144.444 MHz (N)
432.444 MHz (N)

VK4RTL Townsville 1296.444 MHz (O) 2403.444 MHz (N) 5760.444 MHz (N)
10368.444 MHz (N) 24048.444 MHz (N)

VK4RHT Mareeba 28.274 MHz (N) 50.281 MHz (O) 144.446 MHz (N)

WSPR Beacons in Central and North Queensland

VK4WCH Mosquito Creek QH46bi 50294 28126 24926 21096 18106 14097 10140 7040kHz

VK4ATV Vincent QH30jr 3570 7040 14097 21096 28126 50294kHz

Central Queensland Winlink Remote Message Systems - centre frequencies in kHz
(subtract 1.5kHz for the dial frequency)

VK4DJC Mount Morgan QG56ei H24 scan 7052.0 10146.5 14112.5 28101.5 mode VARA
VARA2750

VK4DJC Mount Morgan QG56ei H24 main 144075 mode VARA-FM

VK4GED Laguna Quays QG49ij H24 main 7052.0 and on request 3569.5 10146.5 14112.5
28101.5 mode VARA VARA2750

also peer-to-peer mode is available on request.

VK4UI Rockhampton QG56gp H24 scan 7058.5 10146.8 14111.0 mode VARA VARA2750
Hybrid

(subtract 1.5kHz for the dial frequency) using USB.

- Townsville source News Nets

Tune North Queensland Net throughout Queensland and PNG

from 7-30pm Sundays on -

HF: 3605.4kHz

and in Townsville/Thuringowa 8pm Sundays on

VHF: 146.100 / 146.700 MHz

(the VK4RAT 2m repeater)

Tune WIANEWS in North Queensland on Sundays

(with Daylight Savings corrections for NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA) -

HF : from VK7 2200Z 3570 / 7140 / 14130 / 28525kHz

HF : from VK5 2230Z 1843 / 3550 / 7135kHz

HF : from VK2 2300Z 1845 / 3595/ 5425/ 7146 / 10125 / 14170.2 / 18125 / 28320kHz

HF : from VK4 2300Z 1843 / 3605 / 7070 / 7130 / 7190kHz

HF : from VK3 2330Z 3615 / 7158 / 10130kHz

HF : from VK8 2330Z 3555 / 7193 / 10137 / 14337kHz

HF : from VK6 0001Z 7088

HF : from VK6 0001Z 3583 / 7149 / 10125 / 14130 / 29680kHz

6m: from VK7 2200Z 53825kHz FM

6m: from VK5 2230Z 53100kHz AM

6m: from VK2 2300Z 52525kHz FM

6m: from VK6 0100Z 53800kHz FM

2m: from Townsville 2300Z 146700kHz FM

2m: from Rockhampton 2300Z 146700kHz FM

Timeline for monitoring.

2200Z 3570, 7140, 14130, 28525, 53825kHz

2230Z 1843, 3550, 7135, 28470, 53100kHz

2300Z 1843, 1845, 3595, 3605, 5425, 7070, 7130, 7146, 7190, 10125, 14170.4, 28320, 52525kHz

2330Z 3555, 3615, 7158, 7193, 10130, 10137, 14337kHz

0001Z 3583, 7088, 7140, 10120, 14130, 29680, 53800kHz

Frequency List for transceiver memory

1843, 1845,

3550, 3555, 3570, 3583, 3595, 3605, 3615,

5425,

7070, 7088, 7130, 7135, 7140, 7146, 7158, 7193

10125, 10132.8, 10127,

14130, 14170.4, 14337,

28320, 28525, 28537, 29680

52525, 53100, 53650, 53725, 53725, 53800, 53825kHz

Daylight Saving for NSW VIC ACT SA TAS

begins 20251004-1600UTC - ends 20260404-1600UTC

end of file

See you at the Defence Welcome to Townsville Expo
and cheers from Gavin/VK4ZZ

NNNN