

Contents

Front Page

President's Column,
Editorial.

Page 2

President's column
(cont),
Club Program, &
ILLW report.

Page 3

Violet Mac.

Page 4

5G—beware?

Page 5

JOTA and WICEN

Page 6.

Morse code training

Page 7

QSL corner.
Estates Report.
Serious Stuff
Out on a Limb.

Page 8

Show and Tell Night
Report.

Page 9

General club
information.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

December 2020 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

My first try at writing a burst for the AHARS December 2020 news letter would have been censored out of existence, we all know what a very bad year this has been, in the words of the Queen, it has been another Annus horribilis. Annus horribilis is a Latin phrase, meaning "horrible year". It is complementary to annus mirabilis, which means "wonderful year". Origin of phrase. The phrase annus horribilis was used in 1891 in an Anglican publication to describe 1870. And I thought the queen was very literate!

The AGM did not get off to a good start, the nominee for the position of secretary went into hospital a week before the AGM and under the AHARS constitution, committee members had to be nominated at least two weeks before the AGM. I did not see any problem with this at first because under the constitution we can appoint people to the committee after the AGM.

I called on the weekly broadcasts and via emails for someone to take on that position but no one wanted the job. In desperation I decided I would have to be the Secretary as well as the President. Looking at the constitution a committee person could occupy two positions on the committee. I gave up looking for someone to take on the position about August and decided it was not too much of a bother to keep doing it.

When we were hit by the Pandemic in April we had to cancel all eyeball QSO's (face to face meetings) and then I decided we could use the repeater network to keep in touch with many of our members. This worked well and the Thursday night net went on for several months until the number logging in fell to just a few regulars. This meant we had two AHARS nets, the regular Monday night net and one on Thursday nights.

The pandemic also put an end to our coffee and Techo sessions at the shack. These have not restarted yet and we still have to negotiate with the owners of the site to get these events started again. We did manage to get permission to run a training session in the shack recently and also a JOTA event.

(cont . p2.)

EDITORIAL

What can I say about 2020 that hasn't been said before? Not much!

Keeping Busy: Being naturally busy types, I think that most radio amateurs found plenty to keep them sane during the lockdown/s.

For this person, I found time to pull down my infamous G5RV, leave it horizontal for about 6 weeks, and resurrect it again, without feelings of guilt. However, I did join in the successful JOTA Day at the clubrooms, and worked with Paul, VK5ZRT, in doing comms for the 2020 Gorge Rallysprint in September.

History: Noted that Paul, VK5PAS has taken over the important task of Club Historian. Member Lloyd Butler (VK5BR) had been doing it for yonks, but realised that it was time to hand it on.

See <https://www.qsl.net/vk5br/aharshistoric.htm> or <https://www.ahars.com.au/>

What for 2021? We shall all have to be a bit on our toes for at least another year to keep our part of the World safe from Covid. The overseas friends that I've been in contact with have expressed desire to come and live in Australia!

Thanks to Hans (VK5YX), and Lesley (VK5LOL) for proofreading this newsletter.

Cheers, John, VK5EMI, Editor. (--... ..!)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, cont:

The AGM will be on Thursday the 18th of February 2021 and we need nominations for committee positions. I have sent out via email, nomination forms and a document outlining the duties of persons on the committee. If our second Wednesday night meeting night does not suit you, I am sure you can negotiate with the members of the new committee to change this, it has been the first Thursday night and the second Wednesday night in the past.

Two present committee persons have decided they have been on the committee for twenty plus years and it is time to convince younger AHARS members to take on the running of the society. Under the constitution, my automatic use by date has expired last year. The constitution has a limit of three years on the president's position, unless no one is prepared to stand.

Let us see if we can get to close our Covid maximum attendance at this AGM in 2021. At present this is over 100 people and it would be nice to get this number at that meeting. See many of you there on February 18th 2021.

Phil, VK5SRP, President, AHARS.

AHARS Calendar 2020 ver 4_3 10/12/2020

Date	Day	Activity	What
December 25th 2020	Friday	Christmas Day	
January 8th 2021	Friday	Lunch @ RSL	
January 17th 2021	Sunday	The AHARS January picnic	at the Marion RSL 11 AM to 4 PM
January 22nd 2021	Friday	Lunch @ RSL	
February 12th 2021	Friday	Lunch @ RSL	
February 18th 2021	Thursday	The AGM	
February 26th 2021	Friday	Lunch @ RSL	

ILLW (International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend)

Alan often goes "bush" (well, seaside in this case), setting an example to the rest of us couch potatoes. (Ed.)

"26-Aug-2020

Hi John,

VK5CJL operated from Cape Jervis last weekend (August 22-23).

We had multiple contacts on 160, 80, 40 and 20 meters totalling nearly 200 contacts

No overseas lighthouses were heard

We used CW, SSB, and multiple digital modes

Equipment used included an IC-7300 and a 62 meter length wire

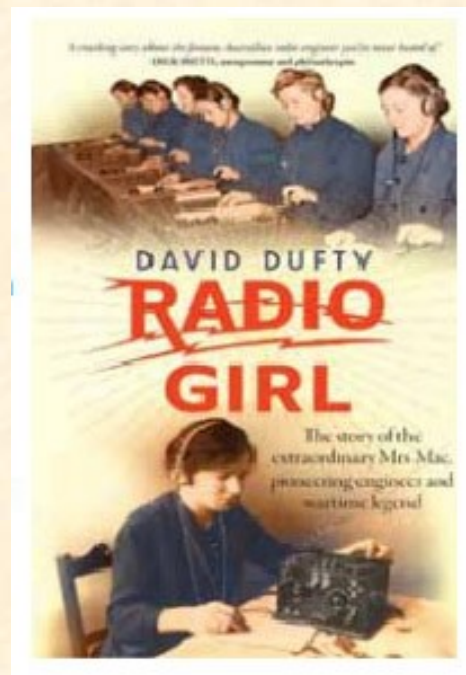
Andrew VK5CV and John VK5AJQ assisted

73 from Alan, VK5AR "

FROM "THE SIGNAL", WINTER 2020.

BOOK REVIEWS RADIO GIRL The story of the extraordinary Mrs Mac, pioneering engineer and wartime legend. A smart girl from a poor mining town, Violet McKenzie became an electrical engineer, a pioneer of radio and a successful businesswoman. As the clouds of war gathered in the 1930s, she defied convention and trained young women in Morse code, foreseeing that their services would soon be sorely needed. Always a champion of women, she was instrumental in getting Australian women into the armed forces.

Wikipedia entry: <https://bit.ly/3hwwpel> Mrs Mac was adored by the thousands of young women and men she trained, and came to be respected by the defence forces and the public too for her vision and contribution to the war effort. Author David Dufty brings her story to life in this heart-warming and captivating biography. Publisher: Allen and Unwin. 312 page paperback. RRP \$29.99



(Many thanks to "The Signal" for permission to publish this article—Ed.)

The Signal is the official newsletter of The RSL, SA.

Continued below:

Early employment and interests (from Wiki)

Violet taught mathematics at Armadale, before deciding to take a course in electrical engineering.^[5] Throughout her studies, Miss Wallace worked as an electrical contractor, installing electricity in private houses, such as that of politician [Archdale Parkhill](#) in [Mosman](#), and in factories and commercial premises, including the Standard Steam Laundry on Dowling Street, [Woolloomooloo](#).^[12]

She was an enthusiastic [wireless experimenter](#), being licensed to receive from late 1922 shortly after the commencement of the new Wireless Regulations of 1922 (callsign 2GA, later A2GA, OA2GA, VK2GA). She passed the Amateur Operator's Proficiency Certificate in 1925 (the first woman to do so) and thereafter was permitted to transmit. She held her licence continuously till the commencement of WW2 in 1939 when all amateur transmitting privileges were withdrawn for the duration. When amateur licensing resumed in 1946, her allocated callsign was VK2FV.^[13] In 1922 Miss Wallace opened "The Wireless Shop", McKenzie later said it was schoolboys visiting her shop who first introduced her to Morse code.^[6] Australia's first weekly radio magazine was conceived at the shop, by Miss Wallace and three co-founders. "The Wireless Weekly" became the monthly magazine "Radio & Hobbies", then "Radio, Television & Hobbies", and finally [Electronics Australia](#),^[13] and remained in circulation until 2001.^[1]

"I went down to Technical College and saw the Head there, and he said, 'Oh, you can't come here and do engineering unless you're working at it'... I said, 'Well now, suppose I had an electrical engineering business and I'm working at it, would that be all right?' He said, 'Yes, if you produce proof.' So I went back and I had some cards printed with my name on, and electrical work, and got the paper and wrote down the ads, and read that a house in ... [Undercliffe](#) about 2 miles from the tram^[5] ... was asking for prices for putting in electric light and power... I went out there and nobody else was silly enough to go, so they gave me the job. ... I went back to Tech and took my card down and showed them the contract for the job, and they said, 'All right, you can start.'"

Further information on this progressive (if somewhat dangerously smart!) lady can be found on Wiki, etc). Ed.

5G STORIES

I attend the monthly meetings of The Audio Engineers Society, along with Mark (VK5AVQ) and Graham (VK5ZFZ). Sometimes the anecdotes are more interesting than the official presentations at the meetings!

Stated by one of the engineers after one of this year's meetings:

"I know of one person who is so worried about the effects of 5G on his health, that he's built a Faraday cage of chicken wire around his van."

Mr Faraday might feel honoured that his clever invention has been put to such an innovative use, but I wonder if it would be effective in this case? - (Ed.)

SEE INFO RE "C" BAND.

17-Aug-2020

From VK5LT

'David Wescombe-Down', lawson.p, & John E

Yes indeed John; that understanding is correct. It's the exposure to sources of dangerous *ionising* cell and DNA damaging radiation one must be concerned about.....not low-level non-ionising RF fields.

I'll give you an example of the totally benign effects of even quite high levels of safe RF energy. RF diathermy is a classic decades-old therapeutic technique used by medicos and physiotherapists for treating muscle damage and joint conditions by inducing heating deep into the targeted body tissue. Shortwave diathermy applicators use the high-frequency current to stimulate regenerative heat generation deep within tissue to accelerate healing, and also used to stimulate arterial blood flow and treat a variety of medical conditions.

Interestingly the tiny mm waves which 5G will eventually migrate to as technology allows are very benign as they are incapable of deep body tissue penetration.....and buildings; so there will be a trade-off between the 5G blistering-fast speeds and robust mobile signal coverage.

The ARPANSA regulated Specific Absorption Rate / SAR of mobile phones, cell towers, Wi-Fi, ham radio transmitters, etc. emissions to which the general public are exposed are all far, far below that which induces discernable body tissue heating or biological effects.

I've cc. copied our friends Paul and Doc on this. Paul is trained and certified in matters pertaining to EMR.

Cheers,

Leigh

P.S. Yes, you're right about loonies crawling out of their caves lately and pervading sane society.....

From: Leigh Turner

Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:16 PM

To: 'John Elliott'

Subject: RE: 5G issues

I'll chime-in here John and reiterate the "Loony" characterisation of this chap in my recent comment J

John, in relation to those EMR shielding endeavours of "a certain VK5" amateur who you mention, I suspect his brain may already be damaged or impaired.....tongue in cheek :-)

Either that, or taking such an extreme measure of covering his van in chicken wire mesh results from not having a sound understanding of EMR and its biological impact on living tissue! There exists a lot of quite over-the-top misunderstanding about the impact of environmental radio frequency fields on humans....especially in relation to folk harbouring unfounded concerns resulting in a prevalence of wild conspiracy theories about emergent 5G systems.

Cheers,

Leigh

JOTA : October 17th, at the Girl Guides' Hall and The Shack



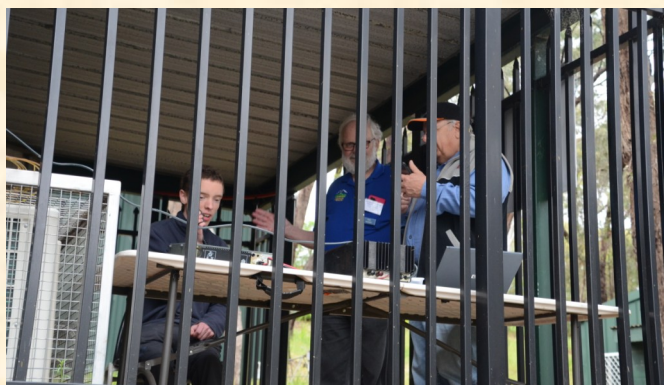
Under Roy's watchful eye, some of the older examinees go through their paces.



Sue, VK5AYL, came all the way from Hindmarsh Island to assist in the exercise.



*Waiting her turn.
Once the girls got talking on the radio, they found it quite a lot of fun.*



*Three AHARS people in the clubroom "cage":
Patrick, Phil and Paul.
(Somehow, these gents don't look out of place behind bars....)*

The 2020 Gorge Rallysprint

I (Ed) operated with Paul, VK5ZRT) at the point indicated on the map: <http://sa.wicen.org.au/>



Welcome to the **PINKERTON GULLY / ATHELSTONE STAGE**
9.00 Am on Sunday 13th September

Thank you for volunteering your time to help us run the MSS Safety Gorge Rallysprint.

You have been allocated to the **PINKERTON GULLY / ATHELSTONE Stage** as a Stage Official.

Your **Stage Commander** is **DAMIEN ROLLAND**

Where do you need to meet your Stage Commander?

The meet point will be **ROADSIDE LAYBY, GORGE ROAD BY PIPELINE CROSSING THE RIVER TORRENS**



If you're wondering what's involved, here's a short run-down:

1. Register on the Rallysa website:
<https://rallysa.com.au/>
2. Await feedback : all of the information that is needed comes from the head office, and WICEN people.
At right is the allocation map that Paul and I received for our stint in the above event.
3. Other AHARS members (heard during the event, but rarely seen!) include Paul (VK5PH), Alan (VK5AR), David (VK5LSB), and Rodney (VK5KFB).
It's great fun, and we're making good use of our skills.

WHAT'S UP DOC?

Doc is running an informal CW training "school".

Amongst several others who are finding it of great interest is Lesley, VK5LOL.

Here's Doc's reply to her email.

8-May-2020

"Hello Lesley

It was not until I read the latest AHARS Newsletter that I was aware you were active in improving your CW skills: well done you!! 😊

About 9 weeks ago, after repeated invitations from several ops, including George VK5IT & Paul VK5PH, I attended a group meeting of about 10 Adelaide Plains amateurs, all licensed I believe, who had been working industriously with Paul to improve their Morse code abilities, both sending & receiving.

Health & mobility issues have precluded my attending AHARS meetings for the best part of 3 years so far, and I decided to offer regular Morse transmission activity, hand sent with a straight key, to this group along with some near North ops who also showed interest: Roger VK5WE @ Booleroo Centre, Ian VK5IS in Beetaloo Valley, Andy VK5AAQ @ Sheidow park and Peter VK5ZPG in Balaklava.

I transmit about 20-25 minutes on 1818kHz +/- 5kHz QRM (haven't had to QSY as yet!!) @ 7pm local time. I design & circulate a 'crib sheet' to the participants well in advance of each session so it is not 'Morse by ambush' & may be used as prop if/when required.

I don't run a net, simply sending the session contents with some intentional speed variations due to the differences in Morse code ability of group members.

Session feedback is solicited by email & has been unanimously positive and constructive: from George in particular.

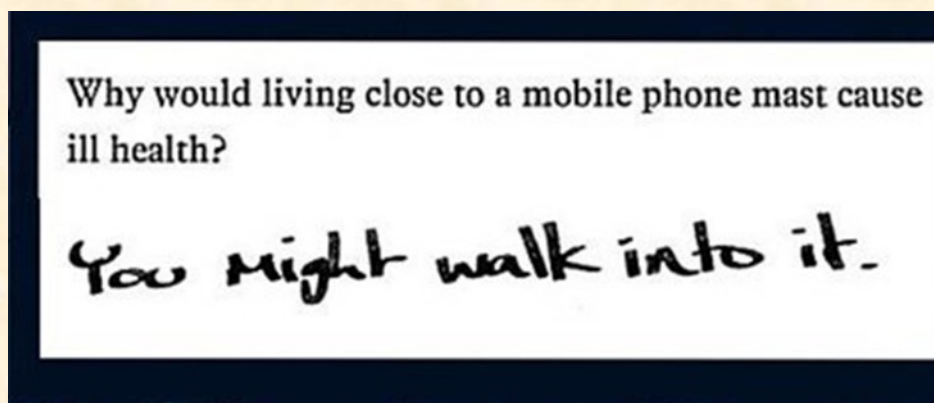
I will separately send you copies of the sessions to date, one of which was repeated on a second night for some who were unavailable for its original transmission, making our next session on Wed 13 May the seventh such event.

Nothing was included in the Newsletter about this initiative, but I am certainly enlightening you on this activity & warmly welcoming you to access this medium should you be interested in a very different but thoroughly time tested learning format. I was the WRANS Morse instructor in 1969-70 & took much pleasure in dismantling the traditional methods of learning the code, replacing it with live, hand sent code containing directly relevant material as opposed to onerous slabs of text, figure & letter groups.

Please have a look @ the material plus my weekly advisory info & tune in if it interests you.

73 & yours in the pursuit of better CW operation across amateur radio

Doc VK5BUG"



QSL REPORT

About 2 months ago, I posted out QSL cards for Shirley, VK5YL. Overseas cards I sent to the VK QSL Outgoing Bureau, and VK's I posted direct.

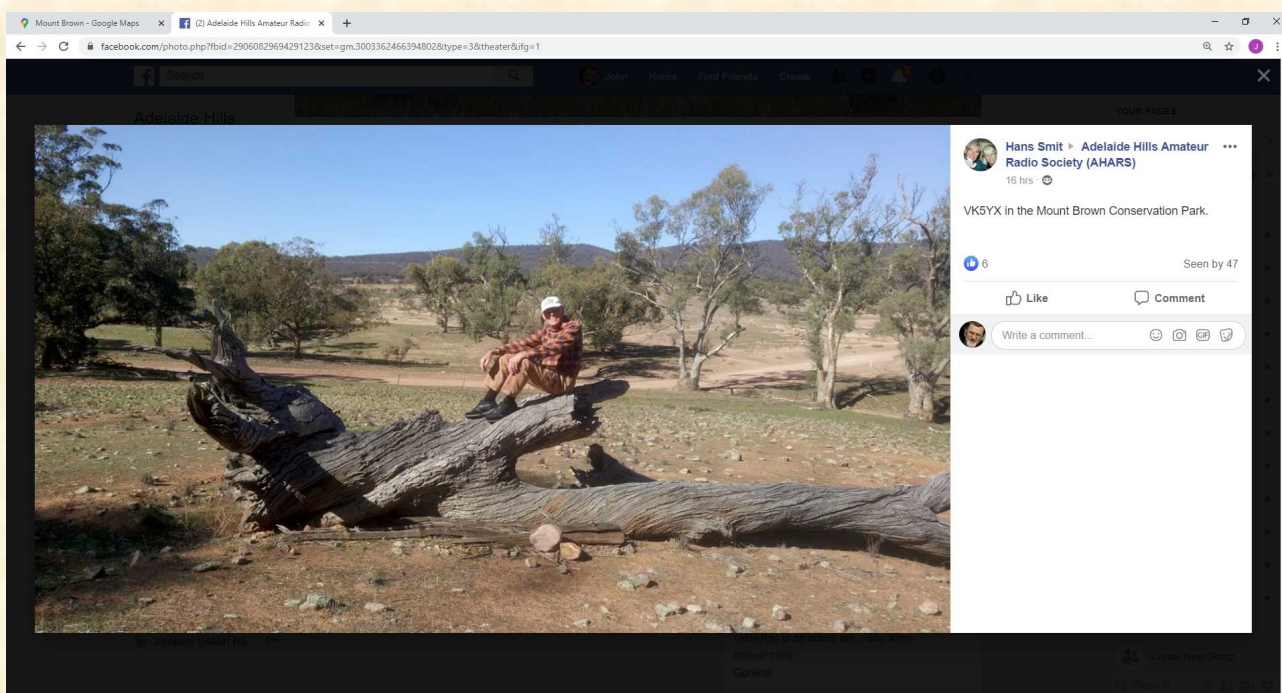
I understand that our friends in AREG have some QSL cards for AHARS members, and am eagerly awaiting those:

***If any AHARS member is in contact with AREG, please arrange pickup from them, and contact me to pick them up from you. ** (Ed.)*

ESTATE REPORT

As you can guess—almost nothing to report, but we all hope that things can get rolling next year!

OUT ON A LIMB?



Takin' it easy : Hans (VK5YX) in the Mount Brown Conservation Park:
No doubt he logged a few calls.

SERIOUS STUFF



← Let's hope that she likes flowers.

High current bolts are now available from Bunning's.
Note that Active and Neutral appear to be crossed..might explain the need for such fuses? →



“SHOW AND TELL” MEETING OCTOBER 15TH

The radios have separate Transmitter, Receiver, Power Supply and Final amplifier.

Barry VK5BW provided valuable insight into the conversion and his notes saved a lot of time and provided a direction on the project. Barry made the face plate and got the project started. I then did the wiring and loom for the switch on, Bias and other things including band switching. Time was probably about 8 hours per week over a 6 week period. A lot of research and reading of manuals was done on my part.



Post-presentation information from Dean:

"I have three of them and another is almost finished. The third is in parts. The 250 watt TH430 devices are over \$300 AUD new but Chinese suppliers offer "them" (knockoffs) at prices starting \$15.00 to \$80.00 AUD. They are so unscrupulous. I obtained a pair from a home brewing contact in the US.

The T1130 is a 3 stage amp requiring 100mw in for 500 watts rated output,

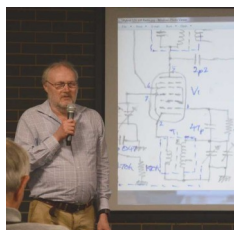
The final transistors are TH430 (2x) rated at 250 watts each.

It had some modules fitted that were redundant and so were removed. It

is powered by 240 volt supply with 38 volts on the finals. Bandswitching is controlled by the Software Defined Radio and it covers 1.8 to 30 MHz.

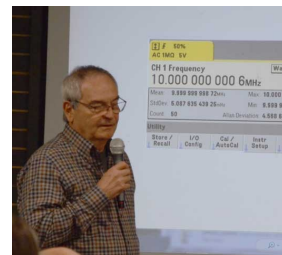
The unit weighs 30kg and can run 400 Watts PEP all day without effort.”

Daryl, VK5JDS, demonstrated his hybrid AM radio creation, which uses low-voltage valves. These valves, were used in the early car radios which ran from vibrators.



"Rubens, VK5FE, showed us the stability measurements related to a 10 MHz GPS disciplined VCTCXO (voltage controlled, temperature controlled crystal oscillator) he designed.

He was able to show that the standard deviation, after 50 samples spaced 1 sec, was about 5 milli-Hertz or 5.00×10^{-10} ."



David, VK5AAH, showed his converted AM CB to side band an old Signet HF radio, which easily picked up some local traffic during his demonstration.



With some tweaking, it can even transmit a carrier if you are not careful!

The final demonstration for the evening was by visitor Det, VK5DET. Det enjoys portable work, usually using a 1/2 wavelength end-fed aerial mounted on a squid pole. His setup works well on all major bands from 80m to 10m. His radio is a small SDR. He reminded us that in locations where there is a dearth of trees, there is often a wire fence, which, by use of a tuner, works well too.



Barry, VK5BW, brought in an early memory plug-in memory unit. (It stirred a few memories). The unit demonstrated had a capacity of 600 bytes.



Compare this to a recent SSD with a capacity of 14 Terabytes.

Hans' XYL (Lesley, VK5LOL) gave him a choice—"either mow the lawn or make me a "Cootie Key". So here Hans, VK5YX, is demonstrating the key. It's a neat and easy to use device: a CW key with horizontal (left-right) movement. Timing of the dits and dahs is controlled by the operator, instead of an electronic keyer in the radio.



Graham, VK5ZFZ, demonstrated the use of a low-power laser in cutting a line of slots in aluminum sheet, to enable easy bending without the need of a pan brake.



As there were too many articles to display on the night, those still requiring to be displayed will be presented at the 2021 AGM.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

GENERAL INFORMATION, NOTICES & CLUB CONTACTS

Club Projects

Saturday morning technical talks.
Details from Roy Gabriel, VK5NRG. Ph 8278 2522.

Amateur Radio Licence Study Courses and Examinations Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences.

Please See Club Program For Dates
Location: The Shack, Blackwood.

Contact Sasi Nayar VK5SN
0417 858 547 or email vk5sn@wia.org.au

Club Wireless Net on VK5RAD
Listen to or join in on Monday nights
from 8 pm to about 9:30 pm local time.

Receive frequency is 147.00 MHz, with -600 KHz offset.
Net Controllers: VK5s' Jim (TR); Dean (LB); Barry (BW);
Roy (NRG); David (LSB); Lyle (WL), Steve (AIM).
All licensed amateurs are welcome.

VK5RAD (Crafer's Repeater)

The Repeater Controller is Barry Williams.
All enquiries, including requests for access, etc,
are to be made through him.
Phone 8339 5683 or email vk5bw@wia.org.au

Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA)

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

State Representative: Jean VK5TSX
Phone: 08 8322 0066

Encouraging women's interest and active participation in Amateur Radio.

ALARA was formed in 1975 by a small group of
Australian ladies interested in Amateur Radio.
Membership has now grown to over 200, with
many Australian members sponsoring
overseas YLs into ALARA.

The term "YL" stands for "Young Lady"
regardless of age.

Luncheons are held twice monthly—contact Jean
for more details.

They have a net on 80 metres on Mondays
at 1000 UTC in winter and 1030 UTC during
summer (day light savings time) at 3.570 MHz.
There are also EchoLink skeds.

CLUB CONTACTS

Club President	Phil Storr VK5SRP 0428 835 621
Vice President	Barry Williams VK5BW Phone 8339 5683
Secretary	Position currently vacant
Treasurer	Pat Storr patstorr@adam.com.au
Licence Training	Sasi Nayar VK5SN See Opposite

Meetings & Venue

***We are again meeting, but subject to
current Covid-19 provisions.***

AHARS usually meets on the third Thurs-
day of each month, commencing at 7:30
pm., at the Blackwood Community Cen-
tre, Young Street, Blackwood.

A.G.M. February, each year.

Postal Address A.H.A.R.S P.O. Box 401,
Blackwood, 5051.

Website Address & On-Line Newsletter

The address for our refurbished website is:

<https://www.ahars.com.au/>

Or ahars.com.au/

Thanks to Paul Simmonds, our
web-master.

Articles For The Club Newsletter

Projects, anecdotes, experiences, ideas, advice,
etc, all make interesting and useful reading, and
will be much appreciated.

Please forward direct to the

Editor- John Elliott VK5EMI

phone 8278 1269 or by email
(best) to vk5emi@wia.org.au

Publisher-

John Elliott, VK5EMI

**The Next Newsletter
Will Be Published In
April 2021.**