



Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

Propagator November 2021

Upcoming Meeting on the 9th November 2021

If the COVID19 conditions and restrictions for NSW do not change

The next meeting **will be at the** Blue Scope Steel visitors centre 7.30pm.

Blue Scope Northgate entrance off Springhill road



THE FOLLOWS A COVID19 SAFE PLAN

There will be distancing and preventative measures still in place with hand sanitisers available for use, please adhere to info below as a minimum.



Wash your hands
regularly



Avoid contact



Keep a safe distance
of at least 2 metres



Avoid touching
your face



Cough or sneeze into
the crease of the elbow
or in a tissue



Stay at home if
you are ill

Our last meeting 12th October 2021

146.850 & 146.675MHz, VK2MT-R & VK2BGL-R Echolink

On Air meeting due to Covid lockdown restrictions

Review:

Great Meeting, Great people, Great amateur radio society, what more can I say?

Enjoyed writing that 😊, it has always been a great pleasure for me to minute the “ON AIR” meetings with a sense of enjoyment from everyone who attends. Thanks to all those who participated including our listeners.

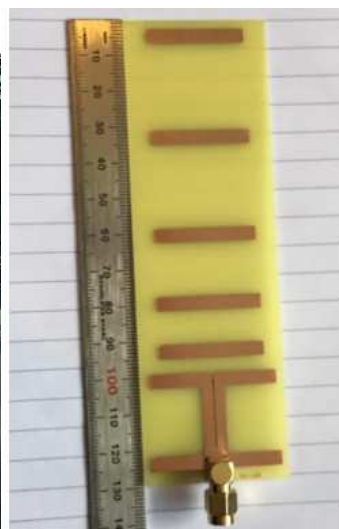
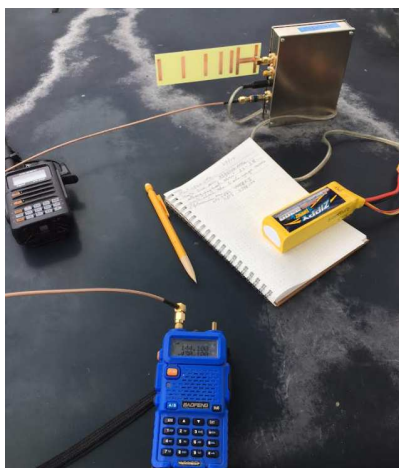
Although we have a lot of fun on these on air meetings, I think the time has come for us to get back in the Blue Scope saddle and have a good get together.

The reading of minutes, sharing of financials and general business was aired, meeting presented by Rob VK2MT club president.

After call ins we had a few members share some stories with us.

IARS on AIR “MINI” presentations

1. Rob VK2XIC discussed the parts of his life that grew his interest into the higher bands of amateur radio. From working 6m up to 9cm, Rob shared some stories about the wonder of propagation and how at these high frequencies can get some “DX” under the belt. Who needs the ionosphere hey Rob? 😊
Rob noted that there are a number of local amateurs who are having plenty of fun building antennas and equipment for these frequencies, Darrell VK2BLS, Ted VK2ARA and David VK2LDW
If anyone would like to contact Rob on getting your hands on a 23cm, 13cm or 9cm transverters, please contact him via email vk2xic@gmail.com



Some of Rob's 9cm gear with the transverter pictured as the little steel box

2. Shane VK2HCO shared his experiences and experimentation with SDR, Software Defined Radio. This was a very interesting topic where one could spend from \$10 to >\$1000 upwards for some SDR equipment. Shane warned that be careful of the cheapies because they may not have temperature stabilised oscillators, which can become a nightmare. Other than that, a great aspect of the great amateur radio hobby.
- Shane will be presenting "LIVE", yes live next year at the Blue Scope visitors centre, watch this space 😊.
- If anyone would like to get more information, please feel free to contact Shane via email shane@dapto.com



Some examples of SDR equipment

Stations that called into the meeting, excludes listeners

VK2MT – Back up at Wisemans for the last couple of days and operating the meeting from here with a good signal from Maddens.

VK2KQB – Noted working on house renovations and hopefully get back into some radio projects like the long overdue linear amplifier. Finished building a CW paddle and wanting to get back into that as well.

VK2KU – Has been chipping away at the noise cancellers one by one. Has 6 completed and another 8 on the way. Has also been working on a MMDVM, multimode digital voice modem to work on DMR. Also been working on a APRS unit for VK2KQB to be testing. Also working on a LOSSY UNAN, a very special device will let you know how it goes. Rob MT is looking at getting a noise canceller board and also wants Simon to give a presentation on the LOSSY UNAN

VK2TS – Checking Rob's signal on the inputs, thanks to the chaps for the great presentations. Feeling a bit crook, perhaps from the second jab but will get over it.

VK2KHE – good evening everyone with interesting discussions about transverters and SDR's, something I would like to get more involved and see at future club meetings. Packet radio seems to be a bit dead these days. Keen to work with the Fusion repeater systems that the club has at Maddens Plains. Looking forward to catching up with everyone at the meeting.

VK2XIC – Rob noted that apart from the material he shared with us tonight, Rob advised that the 2meter dish he got from Simon is still in the process of getting installed. For those into national parks, Kasey Station is an Australian national park. Thanks to all that are involved in the on air meetings and looking forward to getting back to normal.

VK2CPH – Good meeting with good presentations and nice to catch up with everyone. Lets hope that nothing goes wrong and we can all meet next month at the Blue Scope centre. The FT690 that Simon XQX was watching on Ebay went for over \$600, old rigs are still fetching the money. Still working for Gladys and getting the same money.

Rob MT noted how strong Phil's signal was on the input.

VK2XQX – Thanks for great meeting and catch everyone on the 80m nett.

VK2HCO – Thanks for the meeting, thanks to everyone in the club and it will be good to get back to normal. Just noting the TV is another SDR avenue, including even a mobile phone stations just playing around with radios. Looking forward to the auction, one of the highlights of the year. Can even find ceiling fans.

VK2EJL – Thanks all for the meeting very good. Thanks to Rob and Shane for the presentations, still operating of the link and need to get the radios sorted out on this end.

VK2BBI – Have not been doing a real lot of things just pottering around the house. Been working on a few of my climate change fact sheets and at website www.climatechangethefacts.org.au
Done a little bit more house renovations but still way behind on that.

VK2KBI – Just checking with Keith VK2KQB to see if he got the propagator information sent for the next edition. For Dan VK2FDSD benefit I did paint my UHF antenna mast. Looking forward to getting the UHF antenna back on the roof and looking forward to the return of the analogue 70cm repeater. Thanks for all the contributions and a remarkable achievement on the microwave work Rob XIC has done.

VK2MWK – good evening all, good to be back. Was trying to get on the last meeting but was having signal issues from Yass. Keeping busy driving trucks around Moree, Albury and Wagga been around trying to recover. Operating from Heathcote tonight

Apologies from Neil, VK2NRD

Meeting END

NEXT MEETING 9th November 2021



What we have all been waiting for, you **DO NOT!** want to miss this one

Great news, we are starting face to face meetings with the legendary IARS auction, run by our distinguished auctioneer Simon, VK2FO or his VHF voice on VK2QXQ 😊

This year we hope to have a great turnout with lots of nice goodies to buy and sell.

Some gear pictured below that was donated by Bob VK2NRB that will go on auction with no reserve, all monies to the club.





IMPORTANT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE SELLING

Please fill out the Auction forms before you arrive as that will save time in getting the auction going. (Form attached with this email) or contact secretary at iars.keithb@gmail.com for a form)



Will also be back on line 🎱, for \$5 you can earn some good cash and all monies go to your society, win-win.

As usual see Simon VK2KU, the fella with the coloured balls and big smile



Don't forget the two weekly IARS nets as below



to the IARS NETS



IARS Tuesday evening weekly 80m NET on 3.666MHz at 8.30pm hosted by Mal VK2DXM and Rob VK2MT

Don't forget to join us every Tuesday evening, expect the second Tuesday of the month for a great get together on 80m. Signal reports, news and general discussions are the agenda. All you need is 1 x HF rig, Piece of wire + tuner, good cuppa and good chair.

There have been some really good conversations so if you are bored on Tuesday evenings, pop in for a chat.

Saturday Morning EAST COAST NET hosted by Steve VK2BGL

You are invited to join Steve every **Saturday at 9.30am** on our **146.850MHz** repeater (linked to 146.675MHz) or **VK2BGL-R** on Echolink for a very enjoyable morning of general discussions from amateurs who log in from all over the world. This is a great net which is growing in popularity due to the wide range of subjects that get discussed. Solutions to problems from computers, radios, internet and **even plumbing** is just some of the information shared on this easy going net.

This NET is linked to multiple repeater systems including VK2RFS south coast. Join Steve and everyone for a very enjoyable 2 hours on Saturday morning

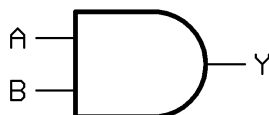


Looking to Upgrade to Standard or advanced and even obtaining your Foundation license during Covid lockdowns we have remote assessing available.

The IARS **can help** with obtaining your Foundation, upgrading to Standard or Advanced from *the comfort of your own home*.

We have approved AMC accessors that can offer remote assessments for the AMC. Please contact Keith VK2KQB at iars.keithb@gamil.com for further information. Your society supports further learning, please find out more on how we can help you.

AMC website is [Australian Maritime College - Australian Maritime College | University of Tasmania \(amc.edu.au\)](http://AustralianMaritimeCollege.edu.au)



REPEATERS



VK2RUW (Knights Hill)



VK2RMP (Maddens Plains)

STATUS

- 438.225 with a - 5MHz offset. **Currently off air due to local interference at the repeater site, working on a solution**
- 146.975 with a -600kHz offset NO CTCSS, C4FM enabled **OK**
- 146.850 with a – 600kHz offset (linked to 146.675) NO CTCSS **OK**
- 146.675 with a – 600kHz offset (linked to 146.850) NO CTCSS **OK**
- 53.650Mhz with a – 1Mhz offset 123Hz CTCSS (or key PTT 5 times to open squelch) **OK**
- 438.725Mhz with a -5mHZ offset DMR only **Final testing by Simon VK2KU (on site soon)**
- 1296.850Mhz Beacon with simplex repeater function – **OK**

The IARS welcomes any feedback on our repeater systems.

Please send all your feedback to iars.keithb@gmail.com and it will be passed on to our repeater team.

Any donations to help us maintain our great repeater system will be greatly appreciated. Please check our banking details on our website at www.iars.org.au under the Contact details page.

As reference of the donation please add your Call sign and the words “Repeater Donation”

A very special thank you to Mark VK2PH who made a substantial donation towards our repeater systems, thank you Mark 😊



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING to SWAP, BUY, SELL, an OLD PART

Parts you may need for repairs or some radio gear you no longer need that could go to a new home.....?

Email iars.keithb@gmail.com

Giveaway:

We have lots of valves and goodies to be given away thanks to a donation of old gear by Bob VK2NRB.

See pics below, please contact the secretary on iars.keithb@gmail.com for more information



Disposables Donation Table (on hold during COVID)

Each meeting we have the disposables table with items donated to the club.

Please keep the support for this going and bring oddities in and take some home for a small donation to the IARS. With the next meeting please bring along and donate those old items that you no longer use and may even have thought about throwing it in the bin, someone else may be looking for that very part. Wire, pieces of coax, old parts, plug packs, power supplies, capacitors, resistors, coils, tubes, knobs, anything that someone can use.





Share it with us, this could be suggestions, technical ideas, circuit diagrams, IARS community projects, pictures of your latest shack project, in fact ANYTHING of interest

Let us know by return email or secretary@iars.org.au

Also, if you have some IARS related pictures or information that we can put on the **IARS website**, please let us know and we can get that happening.

Restoring your old tools

By Vaughn VK2KB1

I got a bit annoyed with my rusty tools collection and have made some moves on it. There are some remarkable Youtube videos on tool restoration including some sleek mirror finish jobs which started from utterly rusted and seized up hand tools. Not quite that bad but still a nice restoration job is in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugXZFXVnh48> .

I didn't go for the mirror finish. I only wanted some respectability in what was on the tool board. So some restorations only took a couple of minutes. With other tools, I went to the effort of applying several coats of White Knight brand Rust Guard Epoxy Enamel.

Starting with a grungy looking tool, my approach was to apply a wire brush attached to a power drill to clean up the rust and other muck. This usually left a dark patina finish. For a short quick job, I then sprayed white lithium grease from a pressure pack spray can on the job and wiped it down with a rag. This was also done on parts that would not be painted. For the longer or more complete job with painted finishes, the paint was applied to the surfaces after wire brushing.

At the end of the day, I think the results look a lot better with a little attention than leaving tools to look unwanted and untouched. A nice clean looking tool is only begging for some work to do!



BEFORE BRUSHING



AFTER WIRE BRUSHING



And the final products.... All ready to go back to work!



So what looks best?? A painted ring spanner, a patina finish ring spanner or a rusted ring spanner? All three were like the rusted ring spanner or worse at start.



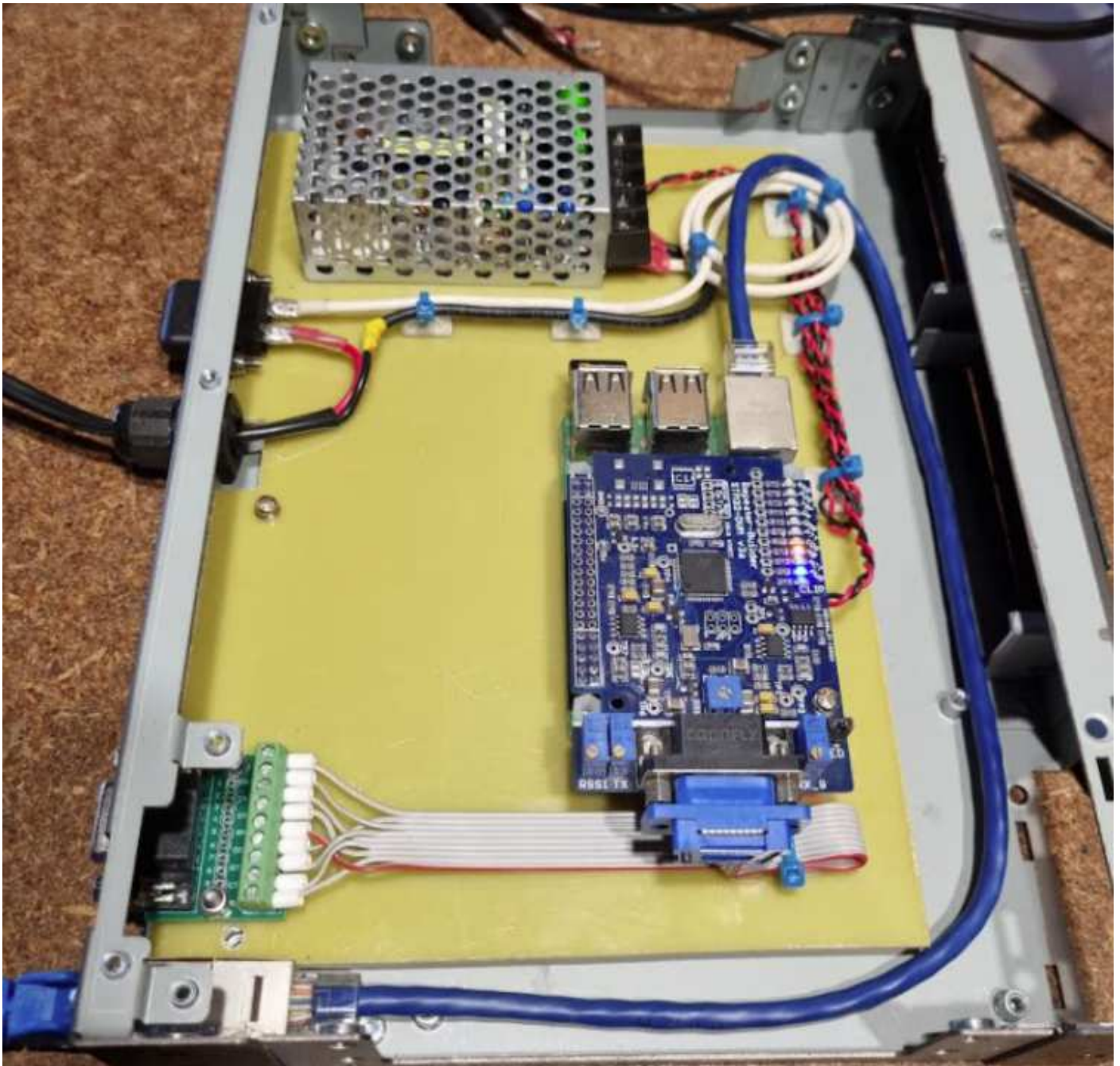
Here is an “after” restoration from a previously rather dilapidated Stillson wrench. Only problem is that it is not wearing the “regulation red” Stillson paintjob.

I hope you enjoyed the above.

Cheers Vaughan VK2KBI.

Thank you to Vaughan fir sharing this with us, I am sure that many of us have the same situation where we have very good quality old tools lying around that can be restored, instead of running off to the store to buy a not so good cheapy imported rubbish tool.

NEW DMR REPEATER



Quick Update form Simon VK2KU

Simon has been working very hard to get the new DMR repeater up and running ready to be installed at Maddens soon.

There are also a very extra surprises which makes the new system real handy with special access to monitor the unit remotely without having a static IP Address.

The picture is just a quick glimpse of what's to come 😊

Thank you Simon

MAD

Most probably another word to describe me ☺, however, Rob VK2XIC has another meaning for MAD.

Microwave Activity Day

Over to you Rob, VK2XIC.....

I thought as we approach the warmer time of the year it would be a benefit if we, the members of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc. could develop operating skill, construction skill or just doing something which you haven't attempted before. Maybe something you haven't even thought about.

The idea of MAD is something which could be embraced by IARS membership. The principle is already practiced in place at one of the VK4 clubs

The Illawarra has a number of members and non-members of the IARS who have stations which can operate on bands 23cm, 13cm and 9cm.

They are Nick VK2BZE, Darrell VK2BLS, Keith VK2KQB, Ted VK2ARA, Mark VK2PH, John VK2XGJ, Rob VK2XIC and David VK2LDW and a couple of others down the coast who's names don't spring to mind now.

This brings us to ask four (4) questions, What?, Who?, When? and Where.

WHAT?

What do we do?

As the name suggests 'M' for microwave, those who are interested and want to test the gear they may have been working they can, with the help of others carry out the tests.

Operate from your home station, or go to a high point (better than your home station) or a National Park and operate in the present bush, free to do what ever....

MAD is not just an active open to those who operate on 1240MHz - 1300MHz (23cm) and up, but encourage others members who are VHF UHF capable on 6M, 2M, and 70cm FM and or SSB, who may want to test any part of the station after maintenance or construction of a new aerial.

This would be a good chance after we have had fun or disappointment move to a pre planned area (picnic ground) for a BBQ lunch or dinner and a chat regarding what was or what was not.

WHO?

Any individual or members of any Club or Society who have an interest in the Activity, Even if they just want to have a look and see what's going on.

WHEN?

The time frame I thought would be easiest is, if it were held once every second month on the Saturday closest to the 23rd of the month. The months I thought would be good hold MAD - January , March, September and November.

For those who may be retired or on annual leave and may wish to have a lower less formal MAD the months of February, April, October and December.

As for the less formal MAD, Christmas Day would be to close to the 23rd so a more friendly Saturday would be closest to the 9th of the month.

WHERE?

Operate from our home stations, or test your skills by going portable.

As indicated above a place needs to be identified where we will have the chat and BBQ after.

Where there is activity there is life in an organisation.

73

Rob Heyer VK2XIC

Thank you for sharing Rob ☺

Upcoming events

Will keep you posted with our new calendar for 2022

Upcoming meeting presentations

- **November 2021** : The famous IARS auction night with our host Simon VK2XQX, letting us get away with some great bargains.

IARS AUCTION !!!! GET READY NOW !!!!

(Government regulations dependant on meeting will advise, however, looking good ☺)

Please get your items together, Simon VK2XQX is ready to “rock and roll”.

There will be some new gear and some very old gear, come along to purchase, just for fun or sell some of your “hardly used anymore” stuff for some cash in the pocket.

The IARS only takes 10% which goes right back to you and your society anyway.

Come along and support your society.

Sellers, please help us by filling in the attached form sent to your email with this propagator.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

• **December 2021** : Pizza night dinner with a show and tell, perhaps a door surprise this year 😊

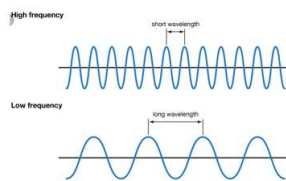
We have decided to give our famous chef Vin VK2VIN a break this year 😊. He has been preparing a feast every year end for 4 years, we believe he can sit back and enjoy some relax time with his friends this year.

THANK YOU Vinnie for all the hard work you have done every year.

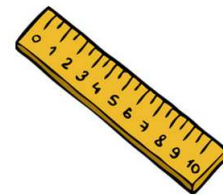
This year, come and join us for **Pizza night and Trivia**, Christmas Evening dinner meeting, This is **FREE** to our financial members and **\$5 per person** not a financial member. There will also be Trivia prizes for First, Second and a smaller Third something (to make you feel better)

- There will also be a **special lucky door prize** to everyone who is there with an option to purchase more tickets for the draw. 😊

Question 10



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What **frequency** in **MHz**, is equal to its **wavelength** in **meters**?

A : 15.7MHz B : 17.3MHz C : 16.9MHz D : 18.0MHz

FIRST PRIZE



- True RMS AC measurement
- 6000 count 3.75 digit LCD
- Non contact AC voltage detection
- Frequency counter to 60MHz
- Capacitance measurement
- Fused 10A input
- Continuity and diode test
- Auto power off
- Low battery indicator
- 2xAAA battery included
- Data hold mode
- Display backlight
- In built torch
- Cat III 600V



30 Watt soldering iron with iron clad chrome plated tip.
Snap fit carry case to keep your workbench neat and tidy after use.
Supplied with 2m of solder.
Tools included: Solder sucker, long nose pliers, small side cutters.
Rubberised grip.
240V mains operation.
Supplied with 1mm conical tip.

SECOND PRIZE



Fun Corner

Please send in your funnies to iars.keithb@gmail.com



Car Tip #36

Before an oil change, drain out all the old oil by giving the car a good firm squeeze.



Thanks Doug, John

That's all for now, hopefully catch you all at the **Blue Scope visitors centre on the 9th of November 2021**

Stay Safe

73's

Keith VK2KQB

IARS Secretary

IARS, Amateur Radio in the Illawarra since 1948