



Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

## Upcoming Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 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.



# Our last meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Our year kicked off with a great meeting and presentation on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

It was good to see some old, regular and new faces.

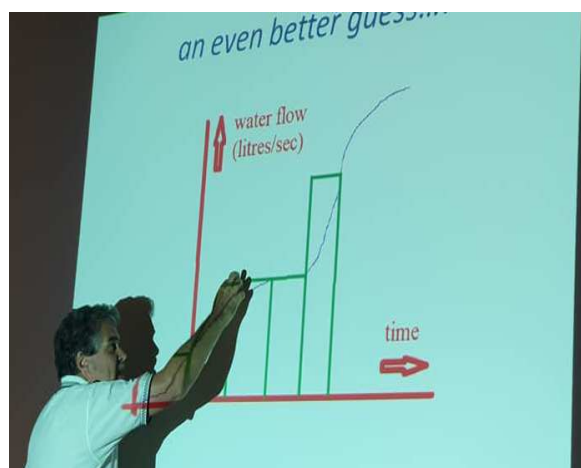
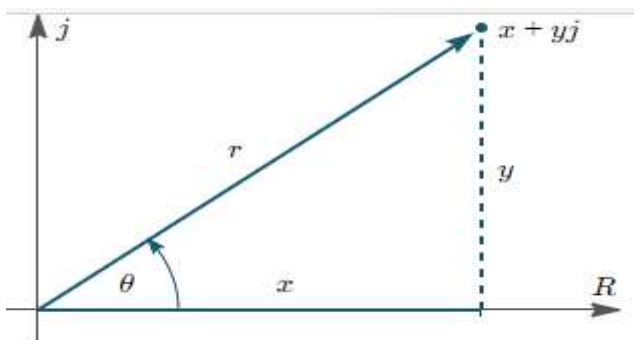
Vaughn VK2KBI did a tremendous job, bringing back the fundamental laws of reactance.

The AC perspective of Ohms Law.

We all got a good dusting of the cobwebs and Vaughn got us to all remember our imaginary friends,  $j$  &  $-j$ .

Not only was it technically interesting but a very entertaining and funny presentation

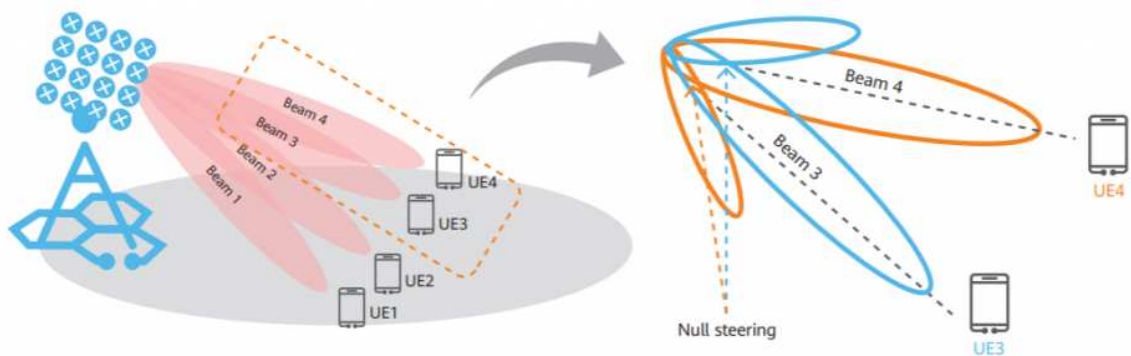
Thank you, Vaughn, we got to love those buckets and rusty nails. 😊



No more excuses that you cannot build that Hi Q bandpass filter 😊

Also, clean those rusty tools .....

## NEXT MEETING .....



## Beam forming antenna systems (5G)

Mal Vk2DXM has a keen interest in all things highly technical and has been doing some research on the antenna systems that can change direction without a rotator, in fact without moving. Would that be handy for amateur radio. I am sure many of us have said a few words when the old trusty rotator stopped working and most of the time meant that a climb to the tower top, was inevitable.

Don't get too excited because I don't think we are at the stage where we can have HF beamforming yet, unless you have a farm like HAARP 😊. <https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu>

However, I think this technology used on higher frequencies is fantastic and I'm really keen to see what it is all about.

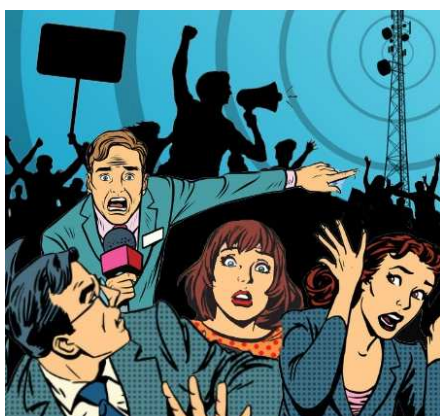
So, if you are playing in the GHz bands or just want to find out more about this technology, please come along for a great evening of entertainment where Mel will share some of his research with us.

Same as the previous meetings, Vinnie VK2VIN will be helping with TEA & COFFEE due to the Covid19 rules of the venue, which is still NO SELF-SERVICE, (Although if it does get back to normal we may prefer to have Vin continue as is 😊) THANK YOU VINNIE !

To help ensure our safety, Wazza VK2MWK has offered his time again. He will be checking temperatures and helping to ensure that everyone is safe and healthy when they enter the premises and help keep the IARS meetings COVID19 safe. Thanks again to Wazza for his help, much appreciated.

## Looking forward to seeing you all there on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Unless the little green men use the network and make us all vanish before the 9<sup>th</sup>



### WAKE UP SHEEPLE!

The truth is just so damn obvious....



# SNOWBALL

The SNOWBALL was drawn at the last meeting with Simon VK2XQX the lucky winner. It was our first one for the year and not a “big stash of cash” but more than enough to make Simon smile 😊 , congratulations to Simon.

Please be a part of this fundraiser which can get you some cash in a hurry. You will need to be a IARS member to participate, if you not then speak to John VK2EJL on the night and he will be more than happy to fix you up.

**Simon VK2KU, the good looking fellow with BALLS will book you in for \$5**



As always all monies received goes straight back into your club for your enjoyment 😊

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**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

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 comfy chair.

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

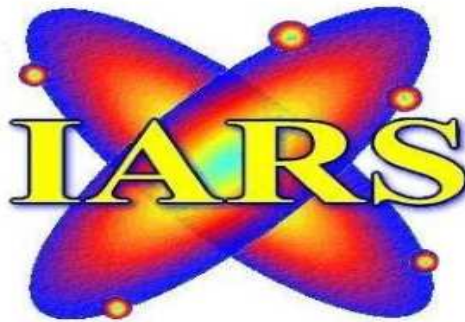
Saturday Morning EAST COAST NET hosted by Steve VK2BGL

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.

# 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
- 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 **Back on air** 🙏 thanks Rob
- 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 **OK**
- 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](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com) or [secretary@iars.org.au](mailto:secretary@iars.org.au) 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](http://www.iars.org.au) under the Contact details page.

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



We are almost ready to rock and roll with the John Moyle Field day around the corner.

The shack is fully erected and we are in the process of kitting it out with some luxuries. We have generously received some tables and chairs, coax, connectors, solar panels, solar regulator (high power), batteries, antennas and all sorts of wonderful items that will make our remote shack the *palace* to be. (yep palace is not a typo 😊)

Thanks to all the members who have been more than kind in offering so much gear and furniture, we are very appreciative, a very big thank you.



Phil VK2CPH loving the long grass and a glimpse of our new radio bench



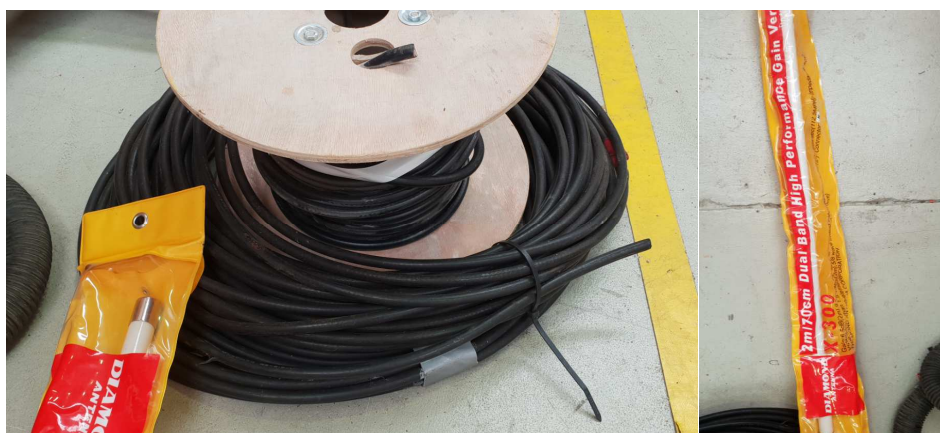
Tables and chairs and even a custom fireplace for Mal to take care of 🙏



Take note, there are two BBQ's that can only mean good times ahead and we have a backup!



Complete with Solar panels, regulator and batteries (13.8 @ 65A DC charge capacity)



Solar panels, batteries, wire, regulators, tables, chairs, RG213 coax and even a brand new 2m/70cm Diamond X300 are some of the items that have been donated to the club by our members, thank you.

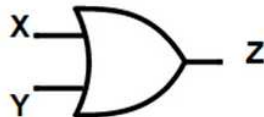
Last working BEE before the 20th of March will be the Sunday prior to the big weekend, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If you are not busy on the 14<sup>th</sup>, please come along and help get the shack ready.



## Looking to Upgrade your Foundation or Standard licence?

As mentioned last month, let 2021 be the year. The IARS has two options, Ted VK2ARA who is our club tutor and the Radio and electronic school or both 😊. Your society supports further learning, please find out more on how we can help you. I have run this again for this month due to the interest we have received on this.

We also have approved AMC assessors and can get your upgrade fast tracked. Please email [secretary@iars.com.au](mailto:secretary@iars.com.au) or return email if you wish to receive more information on how the IARS can help you achieve this goal in 2021.



435-megawatt combined cycle natural gas Tallawarra power station in Wollongong (Lake Illawarra)  
New station Tallawarra "B" on the cards for 2022/23 commission with plans to inject \$300M into the Illawarra Community

Energy Australia Tallawarra Power Station are currently doing a survey and would like to invite Illawarra residents to participate. The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society was approached and asked if any IARS members are interested in participating. If you are interested in participating in this survey, please forward your details to myself and I will pass them on to the relevant people at Energy Australia.

Email [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com) or [secretary@iars.org.au](mailto:secretary@iars.org.au)

## Proposed Spectrum management changes

### Have your SAY!! .....

As we are all aware, the ACMA are looking to reduce the management of the spectrum and in doing so will be removing some of the aspects that control amateur radio as we know it. One of which they clearly state “No more cost to you, but you are on your own”.

There are many views going around and I would seem to be biased if I had to directly give my option selection on this newsletter. The only thing I can tell you is that I care enough about the future of amateur radio to respond to the survey, which I already have done.

**The most important thing to do is take part in this survey and have a say.** This would mean that amateur radio operators in Australia have a voice, we are not just a group of “sheeple” but a group of people who care about their spectrum and what happens to it.

Take the time to read what the ACMA are looking to achieve, make the decision that best suits your vision of your future in amateur radio **in the long run**, then submit your preference.

If we do nothing and hope someone else will do it for you, will be disappointing. The general belief is that the ACMA have already made their mind up so why bother, this is another disappointing approach to take.

**Have your say**, the more interest we show the ACMA, the more notice they may take. If a dribble of surveys come in, what would that say about amateur radio in Australia as a whole? It would mean we don't really care what happens to us or our spectrum and we may be treated as such.

**Only YOU**, can make the difference, please support the future of amateur radio in Australia. See big link below, not everything for free is good, choose wisely.

[https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2021-01/review-non-assigned-amateur-and-outpost-regulatory-arrangements-consultation-012021?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Have%20your%20say%20%20review%20of%](https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2021-01/review-non-assigned-amateur-and-outpost-regulatory-arrangements-consultation-012021?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Have%20your%20say%20%20review%20of%20)



**BUY..SWAP..SELL..GIVEAWAY**

**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 [secretary@iars.org.au](mailto:secretary@iars.org.au) or [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com)

Looking for some output tubes for a Kenwood TS520. This is to repair a rig donated to the IARS by a silent key

## *Disposables Donation Table*

At last month's meeting we saw a few items been donated to the club for the table.

There was a Brand new 40Ch CB still in the box, A SWR meter and some RG213 to BNC connectors.

Please keep the momentum going and we are hoping our members will continue to participate in this new venture. Looking forward in seeing some more items on the table next month.

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**

Let us know by return email or [secretary@iars.org.au](mailto: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.

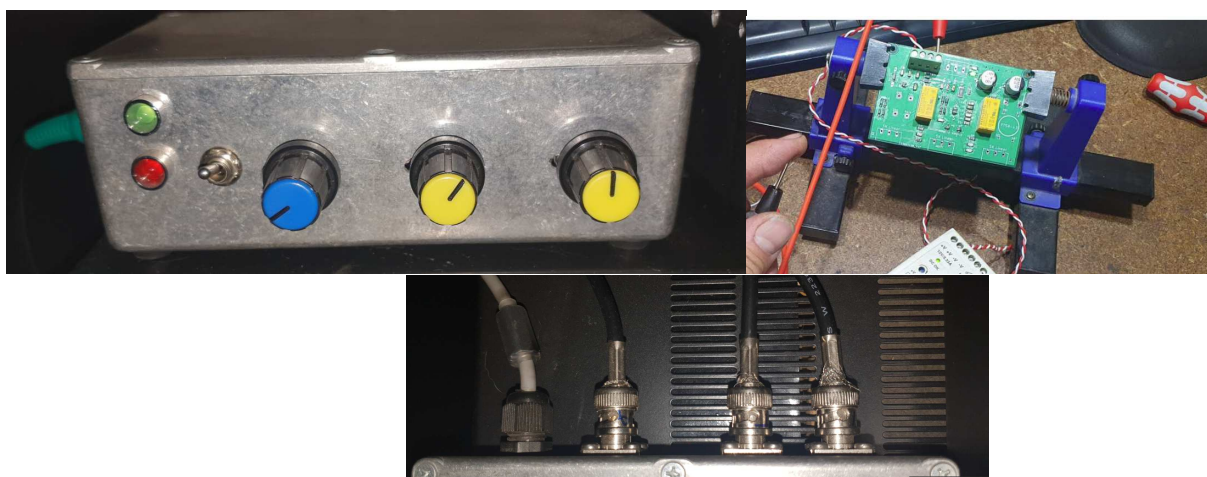
## *This month's project/Idea*

### Noise Cancelling Filter , Simon VK2KU

We have extended last month's noise canceller to this month on request of a few members. Simon VK2KU has been setting up a great project for IARS members, a simple but effective Noise Canceller module. I have been using one of these for over a year now with great success. In fact my noise on 80m in the evening is so high it makes it impossible to participate on the IARS 80m 3.666MHz net every Tuesday evening.

There will be two options, the kit which is PCB, box, knobs, parts and wire ready for you to assemble or a completely assembled kit.

return email or [iars.simonr@gmail.com](mailto:iars.simonr@gmail.com)



To see a video of this canceller in operation go to [Illawarra Amateur Radio Society group | Facebook](#)

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### Automatic Antenna Tuner for under \$100 !!!



Another Simon, VK2XQX/FO (we seem to be having all our Simons building things 😊) has come across another great kit that seems to be working very well for him. This automatic tuner even comes with a display which supplies all the Z, Rx, Xl and Xc information about your antenna, yes under \$100.00. If you are interested in this kit, please let me know and I will send your contact details off to Simon.

## Upcoming events .....

### John Moyle Field Day 20th-21st March 2021

For more information go to [The Wireless Institute of Australia \(wia.org.au\)](http://TheWirelessInstituteofAustralia.com.au) and check members section contests.

The IARS will be having the John Moyle field day weekend at our new Bundanoon shack. Please let the IARS secretary know if you intend coming so we can plan some catering and campsites.

[secretary@iars.org.au](mailto:secretary@iars.org.au) or [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com)

### Combined picnic

Combined picnic between MSCARC and the IARS is proposed for the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at the Killalea State Park. There will be a flyer sent to all members closer to the time. Covid19 and council approvals pending.

### Lighthouse weekend

There may be a opportunity for the IARS to have a joint lighthouse weekend with the MSCARC.

Rob VK2XIC has advised that the MSCARC had booked lighthouses for the lighthouse weekend.

If you are interested in taking part in this contest please contact Rob VK2XIC [vk2xic@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2xic@wia.org.au)

## Upcoming meeting presentations .....

- **March 2021** : 5G and Beam forming overview by Mal VK2DXM ,  
(We welcome Conspiracy theorists)
- **April 2021**: Simon VK2KU will be presenting the IARS noise canceller kit and how to affectively use it
- **May 2021** : Rob VK2MT will be presenting repeater management. What it takes to have a good repeater network including the fail-safe methods in linking multiple repeater sites.
- **June 2021** : Keith VK2KQB, Power supplies, Keith will be sharing some tricks on power supply design, repairs and maintenance with a look at switch mode and linear type comparisons.

That's all for now, hopefully see you at the Blue Scope Visitors centre on Tuesday evening, 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

Stay Safe

**73's**

**Keith VK2KQB**

**IARS Secretary**

**IARS, Amateur Radio in the Illawarra since 1948**