



# NERG NEWS

Incorporated 1985 in Victoria  
Reg No A0006776V - <http://nerg.asn.au>

July 2003

NERG Inc.  
PO Box 270  
Greensborough  
Victoria 3088

## NERG ON THE MOVE !

The NERG is moving to **Briar Hill Primary School** !  
The school is located at **Gladstone Rd (off Sherbourne Rd.), Briar Hill, Melway 21-B3** - See the map below.

Thanks to the enormous efforts of Don VK3KDT, with assistance from Greg VK3VT, and Mark VK3XXX, an agreement to use a classroom and storeroom at the school for NERG's exclusive has been negotiated.

This location will allow the NERG to expand its activities greatly. For starters we have access most times of day and night, making classes, special interest group meetings, and coffee shop gatherings much easier to organise. The lockup rooms mean we can start a permanent station for VK3CNE, and house our Library (which fills most of Don's garage at present!). There are open spaces and trees to string wire antennas from and maybe even run the odd foxhunt class.

Finally, a big benefit of being at a primary school is that the furniture is a lot bigger than at the GreenHills pre-school.

Assistance will be appreciated to tidy up the rooms and set up facilities, so you can look forward to a working-bee soon!

## JULY GUEST SPEAKERS

This week we **have two guest speakers** -

**John Brown VK3JJB**, secretary of the WIA Vic. Division and a well-known NERG -**Gerhard VK3EWM**.

John Brown has offered to talk about the activities of the WIA in Victoria and what is in store for the future. He will take questions from the audience. John should be able to fill us in on the latest proposed changes to amateur licensing and the state of negotiations with the ACA to enact them (or not as the ACA seems to think at present!).

Gerhard has offered to talk about grid-modulated AM transmitters. This is a very efficient means of modulating the final stage of a transmitter and avoids the need for the high power audio amplifier found in the conventional plate modulated design. This may seem a little nostalgic, but after listening to squeaky side bands for a few years you will appreciate the mellow tones of a well built AM valve transmitter! In fact they have made a bit of a comeback on 80-meters after being pushed aside for decades by their solid state SSB cousins. You can hear several good examples of AM transmissions on the Friday night 80m AM net.

Tea, coffee and good chin-wagging to follow.

See you at 7.45pm Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July

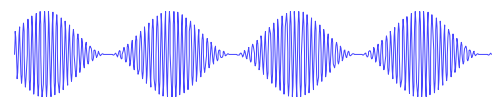
## AT NEW MEETING ROOMS: BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

7.45 pm, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
This weeks guest speakers



**John Brown, VK3JJB,**  
Secretary WIA Vic division

&



**Gerhard, VK3EWM**  
Grid Modulated AM Transmitters



## NERG EVENTS

### Tuesday Morning Tea Group

A good morning tea and lunch was held the QTH of Ian and Lynne, thanks to Lynne for the fine spread. The food was great and company was not at all bad, with Ian, Gerhard, Alan, Dave, Jim and Mark with apologies from Steve. Topics discussed cover amateur radio including possible changes and policy along with several important social issues.

The next NERG morning tea will be held on Tuesday 22nd July at 10.00am at the QTH of Alan, VK3JPK 13 Ingrams Rd., Research.

73, Jim VK3DBQ

### Our June Meeting - David Battle

Last month we were fortunate in having as Guest Speaker, Mr. David Battle, who is a contractor extraordinaire to the world of outdoor, on-site, Television broadcasting.

David gave us a brief and very interesting talk on his working history and the circumstances that led to him being involved in the construction of an Outside Television Broadcast van.

The talk on the van itself was enlightening, as it was not on the technicalities of this venture so much as on the practicalities and reasoning in its design and construction, plus an entirely new insight into the horse racing business for which the van was commissioned. David explained how the TV camera system is designed to work at a racecourse, its use by off-course viewers, on course viewing and then by the racing Stewards. Detailed were the camera locations at a racetrack and their ability to provide continuous both side and head-on display of a race and also places such as the mounting yard and post race weighing etc.

The importance on being able to provide to the Stewards an instant recall of any section of the race, even whilst it is still being run was highlighted as a major benefit in the system designed and delivered by David and the Companies involved.

We thank David for providing us with a most interesting and enlightening insight into O/B vans, the people who man them and the significance to the Racing Industries. Don, VK3KDT

### WANSARC Amateur TV

As reported last month the Western And Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club is getting fired up on Amateur Television and has invited NERGs to join in. Get in quick if you'd like to join the bulk purchase of converter kits. If you are interested then contact Mark VK3BYY at NERG or Mark VK3PI at WANSARC.

Below: 1957 TV van used at Melbourne Olympics, from ABC-TV



The ABC Outside Broadcast van and camera used at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics at Ultimo during the 2000 Olympics. The van and camera are now an exhibit in the National Museum in Canberra after being restored by Barry Lambert (left front) and Jurgen Schmidt (left behind)

## GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS HERE !

This year's NERG Raffle will be drawn at the Annual General Meeting in August so get in now for your tickets. \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Prizes include a dinner for two at the gourmet pizza and pasta restaurant Di Riccardos in Lower Plenty. Tickets can be bought directly from Don VK3KDT or at the meetings.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Call for Volunteers -

### IARU Region-3 ARDF Championships

All sorts of volunteers are needed for the championships, to be held in Ballarat around the last weekend of November. Your help will be greatly appreciated in running the events.

We need people to assist in registration, guiding international visitors, provide transport, setting up, running, and cleaning up events, translating, etc, etc.

We are also seeking the help of Cameramen that can help film the event's DVD production along with a loan of semi/professional DV camera equipment. Andrew from Creatology Australia has kindly offered to produce and edit the DVD.

To register as a volunteer or get more information see the official IARU Region 3 ARDF 2003 web site recently updated at: [www.ardf.org.au](http://www.ardf.org.au), or talk to Mark VK3BYY at the NERG

### ARDF Calendar [www.ardf.org.au](http://www.ardf.org.au)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June was a wonderful day for an amateur radio direction finding event - not too hot and not too wet! The location was the Watson's Glen reserve located in the hills between St. Andrews and Yarra Glen. The damp green bush was a pleasant change from last summer's drought. The wooded valley has rather steep sides that made the climb worth the effort, not only in finding transmitter #4, but also for the great views! Many thanks go to Ian Stirling VK3MZ from the dozen or so competitors for planning and running the event.

The next event is a combined Metro/ARDF at Cardinia Reservoir, 10:00am **Sunday 13 July**, Melways 126 B11, take Cardinia Creek Road into Reservoir Park

If there is **snow** about on **Saturday 26 July**, then put on your snowshoes and try the SNOW-ARDF at Lake Mountain.

If Saturday's snow ARDF is cancelled, an ARDF will be held at Toorourrong Reservoir on **Sunday 27 July** with the NE Metro group. Left from Kinglake/Yea Rd. About 4km from Whittlesea, 610 N11

Newcomers are always welcome. There will be some spare gear to borrow and hunters you can tag along with. To keep up to date, join the ARDF e-mail list in Melbourne, follow links at <http://www.nerg.asn.au/ARDFlist.htm>

## CONTESTS

### NEWS CONTRIBUTORS AWARD

Only one more issue to get your award winning story into NERG NEWS and become a contender for the annual NERG NEWS award. The award is given to the best contributor of articles and news over the past year. A vote will be taken at the AGM in August. The perpetual trophy is a framed original John Kolm cartoon.

## ACA EMR REGULATIONS

The ACA has announced there will be NO changes to amateur regulations until at least 2005. This will delay the introduction of a entry level licence but even more disappointing will delay the removal of the Morse Code requirements which had been expected this year. The WIA is objecting to the delays and hopes to get the Morse changes through sooner.

## 2003 EVENTS

- July 5-6** GippsTech 2003 - Gippsland Technical Conference  
**July 5** Jack Files Contest - CW/SSB/PSK31  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>** Metro/ARDF - Cardinia Reservoir Park  
10am, enter Cardinia Creek Rd, Melways 126 B11  
**July 19** Pacific 160m Contest - CW/SSB  
for P2, ZL & VK stations only.(rules in June AR)  
**July 26** Snow ARDF - Lake Mountain  
(pending snow!)  
**July 27** Metro/ARDF at Toorourrong Reservoir  
- if Saturday's snow ARDF is cancelled,  
Left from Kinglake/Yea Rd 4km from Whittlesea,  
Melways 610 N11  
**Aug 16-17** Remembrance Day (RD) Contest (All modes)  
**Aug 16-17** International Lighthouse weekend  
0001 UTC Sat. until 2359 UTC Sun.  
**August 23** ARDF event - Greensborough by VK3VT or  
Snow ARDF (if July 26<sup>th</sup> event cancelled)  
at Lake Mountain, again pending snow  
**Oct 18-19** JOTA - Jamboree On The Air (Scouts and Guides)  
**Nov 28-Dec 3** The 5th IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships  
Mt Helen Campus, Victoria University, Ballarat.  
Info: [www.ardf.org.au](http://www.ardf.org.au)

Collected from AR magazine, WIA Vic, Vic ARDF Group

## HAMFESTS

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July - GGREC - Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club HAMFEST. Now at a new venue - all under cover. Cranbourne Public Hall, Clarendon St, Cranbourne, Melways 133-K4 - Opens 10am - \$5.00 entry. Sellers Tables incl. 1 entry \$18, setup 8:30am. Contact Keith Sadler 5995-7958 or [hamfest@ggrec.org.au](mailto:hamfest@ggrec.org.au)

## WHERE DID YA GET IT? MICROWAVE DISHES

For the Microwave and WLAN experimenter:

Hills Industries sells a 25db grid dish with 50-Ohm Dipole feeds. These are for S-Band (2400 - 2450 MHz) but they will supply other frequency feeds if there is enough interest.

The complete 25db gain parabolic grid dish (including the feed) is about \$140. The dipole feed on its own is \$85.

Perhaps Hills will produce an L-band model (1240 - 1300 MHz) or maybe just the dipole feeders??? At L-Band they would have about 19 db of gain, which is OK. At 70 cm they would have only 10 db gain. At 9 cm they would have 28 db gain. That is probably the practical limit of these parabolic grid dishes.

See <http://www.hillsantenna.com.au/catalog/catalog.html>  
- look under "Microwave Antenna".

Posted on the vk-vhf yahoo group by Murray, vk2kgm

Please send more ideas to NERG NEWS !

## DICK SMITH - YAESU DEALERSHIP DISOLVED

Dick Smith Electronics announced that the company will no longer distribute Yaesu branded amateur radio products in Australia.

"Rest assured that Dick Smith Electronics will continue to offer our customers all of their requirements for spare parts and warranty service.". There are two alternatives for ordering spare parts:

1. Through Direct Link mail order department - 1300 366 644 with payment by credit card, or
2. Go to the nearest store to order and pay for the spare parts and they will get them in.

From Mr Quizon and Susan Cremat, Dick Smith Electronics. Via QNews

## TRANSCEIVER WANTED

NERG member Frank Talbot, is looking out for a compact 70cm or 2m/70cm dual-band Amateur Transceiver.

Prefer a small mobile or desktop Amateur unit rather than ex-commercial box. Something around \$400-\$500 range.

If you are selling or know anyone selling such a unit, Frank would love to hear about it on Ph: 9432-3251 (please call in the evening)

## VK3 NEWS BROADCASTS

Things were beginning to look crook for amateur news broadcasts in Melbourne with the recent closure of the APC news broadcast from the Moorabbin radio club. This would have left Melbourne listeners with just one broadcast per month from WIA Vic.

Fortunately Q-News, originating from the WIA Queensland division, is now re-broadcast around Melbourne several times a week.

VK3KRB from the EMDRC is now re-broadcasting QNews via the VK3RHF (10m/6m/70cm/23cm) and VK3REC (2m) repeaters at 10:30am Sunday mornings. QNews has also been heard on 2m FM on Wednesday nights, although NERG NEWS isn't sure where this comes from.

QNEWS isn't just news for bananas benders - it includes a loads of interstate and international news, and even some music!

In case you miss these broadcasts, you can download the audio recording over the Internet and listen to it at your leisure.

Alternatively you can have the text emailed to you each week, or read it on the web site at <http://www.wia.org.au/vk4>

While on the subject of broadcasts, WIA Victoria's VK3BWI broadcasts on the 1st Sunday of the month at 8pm 3615kHz & 7085kHz LSB, and repeaters VK3RMM 147.250, VK3RML 146.700, VK3RWG 147.225, VK3RMU 438.075.

Dates for the remainder of 2003 are:

6 July; 3 August; 7 September; 5 October; 2 November; 7 December

## ALTERNATIVE LICENCE SURVEY

Recently Owen Duffy ran an online survey on the Entry Level Licence. The CQVK Licence Reform Survey explored views on the proposed reform to amateur radio licensing as announced at the recent WIA Federal Convention. Although the WIA ran their own survey, a number of amateurs, and more importantly prospective amateurs, queried the validity of the WIA survey.

There were 276 responses received over two weeks, mainly from licensed amateurs, and some other interested persons, from across Australia.

Overall, there was strong support for the concept of a new Entry Level Licence, but clear preference for a three-tiered structure - with Entry, Novice and Unrestricted Licence levels.

The report makes interesting reading and will provide a topic for interesting discussions on and off air.

See the CQVK survey report at [www.cqvk.net](http://www.cqvk.net) via QNews -

## MANAGERIUM

The heaviest element known to science is Managerium.

This element has no protons or electrons, but has a nucleus composed of 1 neutron, 2 vice-neutrons, 5 junior vice-neutrons, 25 assistant vice-neutrons, and 125 junior assistant vice-neutrons - all going round in circles.

Managerium has a half-life of three years, at which time it does not decay but institutes a series of reviews leading to reorganization.

Its molecules are held together by means of the exchange of tiny particles known as morons. (Author Unknown)

The NERG Inc. Reg No A0006776V <http://nerg.asn.au>

The North Eastern Radio Group, Inc. is an amateur radio club devoted to encouraging members and others to enjoy the hobby of amateur radio. It tries not to hang on ceremony and endless reporting but rather participate in the fun aspects of this fascinating hobby.

**Membership Fees (due each August):**

**Full: \$30 Family: \$40 Concession: \$20**

**Send to: NERG Treasurer, PO box 270, Greensborough, Vic., 3088**

**Committee**

President	Greg Williams	VK3VT	9432 0563
Secretary	Mark Beacham	VK3XXX	0417-597399
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Committee	Dave Pricor	VK3JMB	9465 9708
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
Social Sec.	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	9439 1102
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

**Meetings**

2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (excepting Dec. & Jan.)  
Greenhills Community House, Yandell Reserve, off St. Helena Road,  
Greensborough. (Melway map ref 21-B1)

**Classes**

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur license candidates.

**Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)**

Club call - VK3CNE <http://www.qsl.net/vk3cne>

6m rpt VK3RMH FM 52.550 MHz in 53.550 MHz out

70cm rpt VK3RMH FM 433.325 MHz in 438.325 MHz out

IRLP node 6350

6m beacon VK3RMH CW 10 Watts 50.295 MHz – Soon!

10m bec'n VK3RMH CW 20Watts 28.2565 MHz

Occasionally home to the Scout Radio & Electronics Group repeater:

2m VK3RSR FM 146.375 MHz in 146.975 MHz out

**NETS**

NERG NETS run on 146.575 MHz FM Simplex (8.30 – 9.30 pm Thursdays).  
Please join the discussions. NERGs often monitor this frequency and the 70cm  
VK3RMH repeater.

**WEB Sites:** <http://nerg.asn.au> and <http://www.qsl.net/vk3rmh>

**NERG NEWS submissions and comments invited:**

*editor:* Mark Harrison VK3BYY

*ph:* 9435-3043 hm (btwn. 7.30-9.30 p.m. please)

*post:* 266 Nell Street West, Watsonia, 3087

*email:* [vk3byy@nerg.asn.au](mailto:vk3byy@nerg.asn.au)



**NERG**

North – East Radio Group VK3CNE  
Incorporated 1985  
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

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## MEETING this week - at the BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL !

**7:45 PM Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2003**

**This Month** – John Brown, WIA Victoria update, and  
Gerhard VK3EWM on Grid Modulated AM Transmitters

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**2003 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD)**

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**NERG Meeting - 7.45pm - TWO guest speakers!**

July 13<sup>th</sup>

Metro/ARDF - Cardinia Reservoir Park, 10am, Melways 126 B11, take Cardinia Crk Rd

July 26

Snow ARDF - Lake Mountain (pending snow!), Otherwise....

July 27

If no snow on Sat.: Metro/ARDF at Toorourrong Reservoir,  
Left from Kinglake/Yea Rd 4km NE from Whittlesea, Melways 610 N11

July 19<sup>th</sup>

GGREC HAMFEST- Sat 10am Cranbourne Public Hall, Clarendon St, Melways 133-K4

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**NERG Meeting - 7.45pm - Annual General Meeting**

**Sept 11<sup>th</sup>**

**NERG Meeting - 7.45pm - TBA**