

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) 0427 715 663 & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson

Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Josh Gardner & Rodney VK3UG - with power to co-opt.

Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) rodlynn6@bigpond.com Peter & Andy (Printing/Distribution)

A new service from Radio Australia Shepparton

No, it is not a **Radio Australia** service, but a unique opportunity that we as amateurs have been given to use the site and its antennas for a short period. Rex James, VK3OF, has been negotiating with BAI (formally Broadcast Australia) and has been granted approval nominally for the weekend of 14th and 15th March.

The opportunity to use a magnificent antenna system with gains from some antennas of up to 20 dB with our current amateur power levels will give effective radiated power (ERP) in a favoured direction of 40 kW. If as has been mentioned the amateur service may get an upgrade in power for advanced licensees this may well give us 100 kW ERP capability by the event dates. The event will be restricted to the use of one service on antennas that suit amateur bands. We would only be able to operate on bands 7, 10, 14, 18 and 21 MHz. One of the rhombics may be able to be used on 3.5 MHz. Some antennas are broadband but whether that means broadband within International Broadcasting bands only or not is yet to be determined. There are 13 antennas 2 – terminated Rhombics, 5 - broad band antennas and 6 – narrow band antennas. The antenna bore sites range from North West through North to nearly due East. The antenna slewing system (electronically changes beam direction by a preset numbers of degrees) will not be available, unfortunately.

I do know that 7 MHz is feasible as one frequency used by Radio Australia was 7.24 MHz. The 21 MHz narrow band antenna will work on our band. The Radio Australia 21.725 MHz frequency works well but due to a problem at one time with a digital divider frequency control circuit 21.325 MHz (within the amateur band) was accidentally transmitted for a short period. Our reception from the antenna system will also be enhanced as much as for transmissions.

Only six people will be allowed on site (excluding BAI staff) at any one time so shifts will need to be organised so that a reasonable number of people get an opportunity to operate the station. If you are interested in being involved in some way contact Peter VK3FPSR as soon as practical. A special call sign is being sought to use during this important event. There will be an on-line registration system set up and details will be announced via the club website when ready.

Members of SADARCs committee, Rex James and other folk involved with this and other aspects of the sites future met on Sunday 12th at Ray's home to discuss what has to be done to really get this on the road. Some things are still in confidence and are being negotiated so we can't really tell you much more. Without Rex's and Joe's (one of the anonymous folk involved) input this would be unlikely to get off the ground. This whole exciting project will be discussed in much more detail at the next meeting on 1st February.

Rodney Champness VK3UG

Presidents Report December/January 2020