

# QRM News



Newsletter of the Wagga Amateur Radio Club (WARC inc)

April 2013

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Secretary: Jorgen VK2KJJ  
PO Box 294 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
Meetings at Small St Clubrooms  
Last Friday of each month

Callsign: VK2WG – VK2RWG – VK2RTW  
Nets: 7.165Mhz Sundays 1200hrs EST  
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## President's Report



Hello Members,

Club wise it has been a quiet month. At our March meeting we farewelled two of our stalwart members, albeit for a short time. Doug 2ODD and XYL Sally 2FBND headed off for a new life at Nowra. Doug has been busy already and has set up HF and has called into both the 80m Net and 40m Net. From all accounts they have settled in well to their new life but Doug tells me he still hasn't left the classroom so he hasn't yet been able to put into practice the study he put in whilst with us.

At the last Exec meeting Geoff VK8GG presented to us our new website. I set up Skype from home and fed the laptop into the 42 inch TV in the lounge room and everyone gathered around. Geoff has done a lot of work and whilst the system looks and feels like the old website he has enabled things like membership management and it has its own mailer. As a result of that night we have decided to move to the new site effective immediately but we will introduce the other changes gradually. We will still continue to run the Yahoo sites in tandem but I would expect that they would be closed down by the end of 2013. So what does it mean for you? To start with, you won't see anything different although you may have to apply for a new password which, once you have that you can simply log in and change it to your present one. Then as time goes by your access to the site will depend on the state of your membership. Full membership will mean full access to

the site. Yes, we will still be able to cater for those who just receive QRM and live away from Wagga as we do now. Re-joining will be somewhat easier and again as time goes by we will introduce secure and easy methods of payment. And because both the mail and site are tied I am sure you will make more use of the site. For instance there is a work bench area where technical files can be stored. Remember going and looking for the HB9 foxhunt antenna? Well, no more ..it will be up on the site along with other useful tech documents. I commend this change to you and on behalf of the club wish to publicly thank Geoff for the amount of work he has put into this – thanks Geoff.

Unfortunately, I had to cancel the Foundation Course this month due to a lack of participants. We might aim for September. If you know of people wanting to do their Foundation – let me know.

Make sure you add 17<sup>th</sup> May to your diary. That's our Bunnings BBQ date. Next meeting I will be asking for volunteers. It's a Sunday.

Repeaters. We managed to resolve last month's problem by re-setting Mt Bethungra. As I write this Mike 2DAI and I are planning a trip up there again Mon (22<sup>nd</sup>) depending on the weather as this repeater has been off for almost a week. I strongly suspect the batteries and so we will take some bits and pieces up to try to get a bit more life from them. Rod advises me he has another set to be installed but that's still some weeks away.

We were to do a Foxhunt this coming meeting (Fri 26<sup>th</sup>) but few hunters will be here so we have postponed it. Planning an auction in May so start getting your surplus gear together. It will be the usual with a 10% to the club.

So, for this meeting, I plan to present a session on SOTA. So why not come along and check out what this is all about. See you Friday night – 26<sup>th</sup> April – usual time.

73 de VK2YW

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## VK2WU's L/C meter



\$33 WITH FREE SHIPPING

Brand new and high quality.

modle:LC200A.

Supply power: +5v ,miniUSB interface ,4pcs AA battery (NOT included).

Measurement accuracy:1%.

Capacitance measuring range: 0.01 pF - 10uF.

The minimum resolution: 0.01 pF.

Big Capacitance measuring range1uF-100mF/minimum resolution:0.01UF.

Inductance measuring range: 0.001 uH - 100mH.

Big inductance measuring range: 0.001 mH - 100H.

The minimum resolution: 0.001uH.

Test frequency range: L/C about 500KHZ/Big inductance 500HZ.

Effective display digits: 4 digits.

LCD display mode: 1602.

Size:15cm x 9cm x 3.5cm - 5.91inch x 3.54inch x 1.38inch.



**VDK2FBKT checking out some Capacitors**



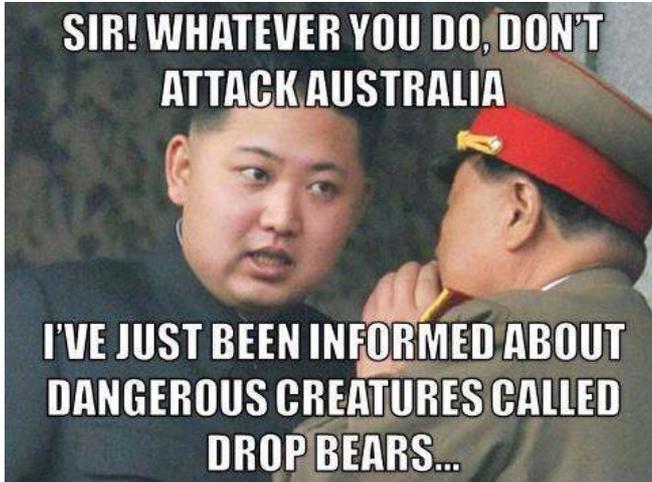
**VK2FBKT's latest project a 1954 Contamination meter No 1 Geiger counter**

**This unit took only 32 9v batteries to make operate and it is interesting what you find when you run the GM tube over old aircraft instruments some old gas mantles and jet engines emit various levels of radioactivity. Gas mantles use Thorium oxide and as thorium and uranium break down in the earth crust Radon gas is released around Wagga there is a fair amount of radon which the counter gave a few clicks. In jet engines and aircraft the use of a Magnesium/Thorium Alloy gives of low level radiation as do the old glow in the dark clock and watch faces we all used to own. Even while we were at the John Moyle site I used a Dosimeter supplied by VK2WU**

***The Wagga Amateur Radio Club (WARC) would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsor EACOM for their continued support and assistance.***

And from 11am on the Friday to 2.30pm Sunday a count of 9 uSv was counted the back ground levels there are higher due in part to the top 40cm of soil having high concentrations of Thorium and Uranium in the Granite.

**CLUB MEETING THIS FRIDAY**



Just for a split second the operator had a fantastic +60db signal then the radio went dead!!!!!!

Hey guys some stories tech reports or rigs for sale would be welcomed by the editor .

73's see you at the meeting Brian.

**Late news**

For those interested a leaping LOG MOTO CROSS event will be held at Gregadoo this Sunday Comms by Nick VK2FNGG and Brian VK2FBKT with Rod VK2FROD and Jake VK2FEET in the field feel welcome to come out for a look and support the event. Just Follow the signs off Gregadoo Rd.