



## **Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:**

**Weekly HF Dawn Patrol** – 56 week ending 23rd August.

**Monday\_INFO Net** – **Tues\_Sarc Digi Net** – full “*Digital Modes Report*” below

**Wed\_70cm Net** – **Thursday\_(ex 6mtr) Net** – 6 - Titanic (fading away faster than expected)

**Friday Night Net** – 6

## **News Items:**

### **Stork visits SARC Plovers**

OK - It's a bit of a bird-centric folk tale headline, but the resident SARC Plovers have hatched all four eggs. Their nest was on the middle of the lawn to the side of the clubrooms. They were still eggs last Thursday but by Saturday they had hatched. It's nice to have the joys of nature unfolding on the club grounds but it would be better if they made it easier for us to give them space.

## **SARCFEST 2019**

A near perfect day with clear blue skies unfolded for Sarcfest 2019. The sarcfest isn't your traditional hamfest. It's more of a social gathering where friends and members from afar gather together for a chat and to rummage through SARC's bargain bins. This year our visitors came from as far south as Coffs Harbour and north to Brisbane. Our 'neighbours' from Grafton and the Gold Coast were well represented as usual. It's always a great day to catch up with friends old and new that we don't see face to face all that often. A good laid back day in true North Coast fashion. Life member *Leith VK2EA* who we claim is Australia's longest continuously licenced amateur radio operator didn't make it this year. He'd had a fall and was under medical observation.

The crowd of around 50 to 60 was a bit smaller than expected but that's the way hamfests are trending. No actual sales data is available but a good quantity of gear changed hands with the SARC sales point and our private sellers doing steady trade. No entry fee and no seller's table fee remain part of the SARC tradition of making a Sarcfest a social occasion that values friendship over finance. Catering was once again carried out by *Elizabeth "E2R"* and *Lachlan VK2FOOD*. Definitely a lot of people eating and a lot of people talking. The warmer day compared with last year's cold, wet miserable day reversed the ratio of hot to cold drinks sold. By lunchtime things wound down and Sarcfest was over for another year.

***“Many Thanks for all who helped out before, during & after (packing up) at this Years SarcFest  
& of course those who turned up today too”*** ***{see photos below}***

SARCFEST 2019 (photos)



## **DIGITAL MODES**

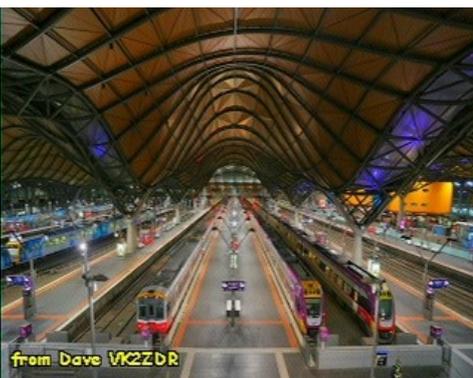
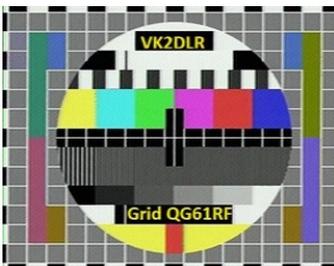
TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 2019

This week we had *Leith VK2EA*, *John VK2JWA*, *Duncan VK2DLR*, *Steve VK2SLM*, *Kris VK2KWW*, *Duncan VK2DLR* and *Dave VK2ZDR* logging in. This week it was back to MMSSTV and after the customary 2 rounds of chat we QSY'd to our USB VHF frequency of 144.230.

Dave was delayed by a lengthy phone call, and by coincidence I was also caught with one too. That didn't stop things though and we were able to ping out images using MR140 and Martin 1. Thanks to Duncan for his patience. There is an advantage when images are being transmitted, it gives you some time. Keyboard to keyboard (F1 Digi) is normally faster flowing.

An enjoyable net, MMSSTV is just plain fun and it was good to have a net free from the technical glitches that we have experienced in the past. Thanks to all who participated.

*Cheers from Paul VK2PMG*



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## **ILLW weekend at Ballina - some technical comments**

A Wi-Fi snag at VK2DLR's end prevented some words and photos from the ILLW Ballina weekend reaching the SARC News editor until way after the deadline. Instead of old words about how the weekend went; here's a few comments on some technical points.

**Power:** The 120W portable solar panel kept the jump starter battery supplying both radios in the go box fully charged all day. No need for any other power source.

**Computing:** The little ASUS netbook held enough charge to operate when wanted all day without recharge. Use the bluetooth mouse rather than the touchpad that generates lots of RF noise when used.

**Internet:** An internet connection was required to set the netbook clock to the precise time for FT8 / JS8Call operation. An attempt to provide a bluetooth link failed miserably. More work needed there.

**2M / 70Cm antenna:** The 5m tall Diamond 2M / 70Cm antenna gave good all round performance and was very easy to carry and erect.

**HF antennas:** We took the opportunity to test a number of small, simple multi-band antennas that can be erected and dismantled quickly. These included a 4m long 5 band trapped vertical, a 7M tall vertical fed with a 9:1 balun, a couple of short end fed wires (5 to 13M) fed via 4:1 and 9:1 baluns.

No antenna stood out above the others. All received the WIA CW beacon in Sydney weakly during daytime operation. Two way voice contact was made with a New Zealand lighthouse. A number of SSTV non lighthouse related images were received from ZL, VK5 and VK6. More work needs to be done in this area but antennas tried indicated that the 'quick and simple' multi-band antennas were far from useless.



### **Our Disclaimer:**

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