

## WHAT IS AMATEUR RADIO?

Amateur Radio, also known as Ham Radio, is an international hobby enjoyed by over 3 million people throughout the world. Your Amateur Radio Licence lets you operate your station for the purposes of self education, experimentation and communication with fellow amateurs. The level of involvement is up to you. It can be as simple as chatting with your friends or leading edge experimentation involving computers, microwave dishes, satellites and, of course, your amateur radio transceiver. Join the 14,000 Australian Radio Amateurs and talk to the world. You never know who may answer your call. Your next conversation may be with a Head of State, Nobel Prize Winner or an Astronaut!

*Did you know that most Astronauts, including Australia's Andy Thomas, hold Amateur Radio Licences?*

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GET ON AIR?

An initial fee for a callsign and then no ongoing fees.

## AND WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL YOU NEED TO GET ON AIR?

How much do you want to spend? You may be able to get on air with second hand gear for a few tens of dollars. However the first purchase for many new Foundation licence holders is often a handheld transceiver for the 2 meter band. These sell from about \$100 upwards. A new HF or multiband transceiver will cost from \$800 upwards. Antennas, power supplies and other accessories vary in price from tens to hundreds of dollars.

By the time you're seriously into amateur radio you'll probably spend a few thousand dollars. That's where most of us stop. For some, Amateur radio is a lifetime passion and the sky's the limit!

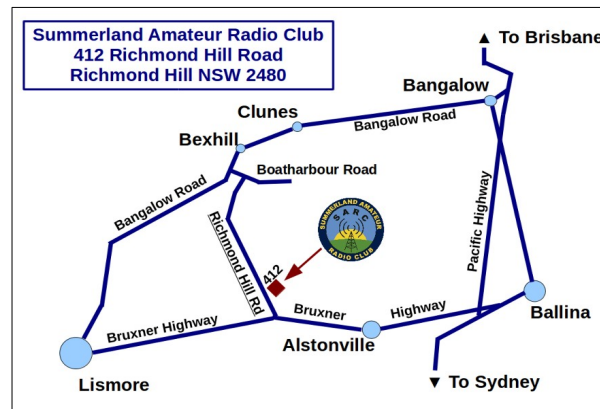
## WHO CAN HELP YOU?

The Summerland Amateur Radio Club (SARC)  
[www.sarc.org.au](http://www.sarc.org.au) [vk2src@gmail.com](mailto:vk2src@gmail.com).

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).  
<https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-radio>

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND SARC?

The Summerland Amateur Radio Club is located at 412 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill via Lismore. The Clubrooms are often open on the second Sunday afternoon each month. Whether you have your licence or not; you may also like to join our local club.



## TRAINING CONTACTS

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# Foundation Licence Course



# SUMMERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE

The Summerland Amateur Radio Club holds Foundation Licence training and examination weekends regularly.

In just one weekend you can train and then sit for the multiple choice and practical examination.

If you're successful you can also apply for your operator's certificate and your station licence.

This course covers radio and electronics theory, operating regulations and practical skills. It's specially tailored for the Foundation Licence exam.

Some people say that the level of theory is similar to high school science and that the regulations section is easier than the road rules section of a car licence test.

The practical is certainly much easier than a car licence practical test!

Saturday is devoted to training in the three areas of theory, regulations and practice.

Sunday starts with revision and an opportunity to ask any last minute questions.

Then it's into the multiple choice combined theory and regulations paper. There are 25 questions and the candidate must get at least 18 correct.

The second part is a practical exam in which you demonstrate your competence in 20 aspects of amateur radio practice.

You'll be giving verbal answers to some questions and using equipment supplied by the club. Relax, we'll go through everything as part of your training and it's not as hard as you may think.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED?

### Before the course:

Before commencing the course we recommend a copy of the text book, "**Your Entry Into Amateur Radio**" by Ron Bertrand & Phil Wait. This book is available from the WIA. This book is well written and it's a good idea to read through it prior to attending the course. Additional information is available on the club website.

### On Saturday:

Please bring your text book, pen & paper and a basic calculator. You will have to supply your own lunch and snacks. SARC does provide tea and coffee, along with a microwave for heating and a fridge to keep things cool.

### On Sunday:

In addition to that mentioned above, you need to bring the following:

**Photo ID.** Your assessors are required to sight a photo ID as proof of identity. A driver's licence or student card is fine. Please talk to us about other methods of providing proof of identity on Saturday at the latest.

**Money.** Fees as at August 2024.

SARC  
Foundation course fee \$30.00  
This fee covers costs incurred by the club.

Your ACMA costs are:-  
Your ACMA assessment ZERO!

Callsign recommendation fee \$30-\$40 range.  
This is a one off fee only. There are no ongoing ACMA fees.

## THE TRAINING WEEKEND

**Saturday** is the training day and commences at 9:00 am and continues through until 4:00 pm. Your training consists of a series of lectures following the text book. You'll also receive hands on training for the practical part of the exam. Don't forget to bring your text book, pen and paper -and most importantly lunch and snacks.

The Syllabus consists of:

1. Nature of Amateur Radio
2. Licence Conditions
3. Technical Basics
4. Transmitters and Receivers
5. Transmission Lines and Antennas
6. Propagation
7. Interference
8. Operating Practices and Procedures
9. Safety

**Sunday** starts at 9:00 am with some revision and time for last minute questions. At about 10:00 you sit for the multiple choice Theory/regulations paper. Then you work through the practical section of the exam. Things can slow down a bit at this point depending on the number of candidates and the number of assessors available.

If you don't feel confident about sitting for the exam by the end of the course then that's fine – see you next time.