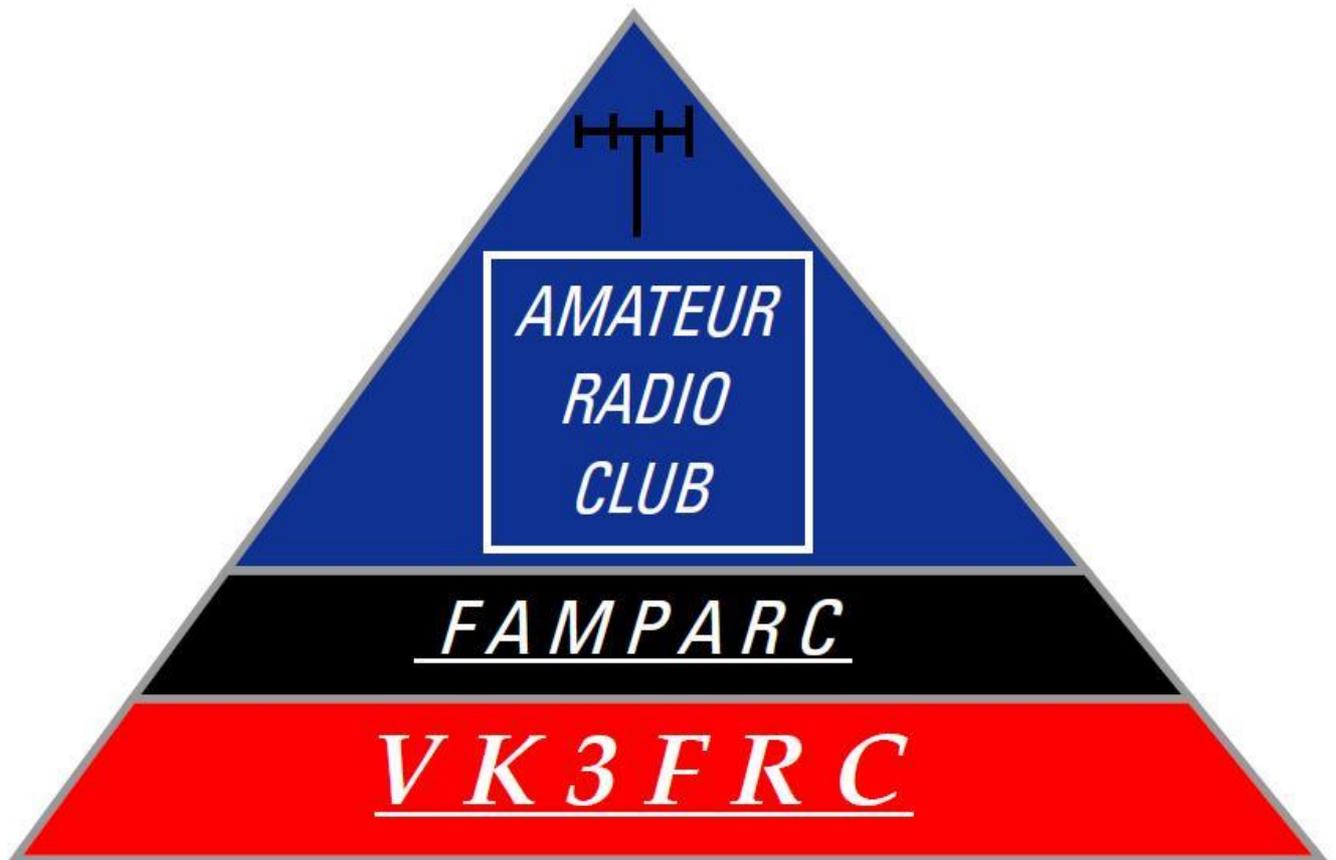




# FAMPARC - VK3FRC

FRANKSTON AND MORNINGTON PENINSULA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

January / February 2013



CONTENTS	
Cover Page	1
Club Info	2
Presidents and editors say's..	3 & 4
Club Meetings, News	5
AGM	6
Trip to Airways Museum	7
What's on? Contests, Hamfests etc.	8

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

President	Roy Seabridge	VK3GB	5971 4782
Vice President	Allan Bengtsson	VK3AB	9584 5685
Secretary	Peter Collins	VK3IJ	9551 4591
Treasurer	Brian Rich	VK3VBJ	9747 3872
Committee Member	Michael Lammer	VK3UUU	0428 880 500
Committee Member	Ken Halse	VK3ZER	9773 2563
Committee Member	Barry Gardner	VK3THE	
Committee Member	David McAulay	VK3EW	0417 358 095
Committee Member	Andrew Stewart	VK3AEJ	0430 476 489
Committee Member	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
<b>Other Committee Positions..... (Note these are A/H Numbers)</b>			
Exam / Class Admin (Temp)	Allan Bengtsson	VK3AB	9584 5685
VK3 Nominated Assessor	Peter Willmott	VK3TQ	0434 623 423
WIA Exam Assessor	Michael Lammer	VK3UUU	0428 880 500
Contest Manager	Roy Seabridge	VK3GB	5971 4782
Class Instructor	Ken Halse	VK3ZER	9773 2563
Public Officer	Jeff Fletcher	VK3EUL	0419 877 447
QSL Manager	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Equipment Officer	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Homepage & Newsletter	David Roitman	VK3LDR	0439 037 203
Newsletter Assistant	Peter Collins	VK3IJ	9551 4591

All Surface Mail & QSL to P.O. Box 65, Patterson Lakes Vic 3197

The club location is Cornish College, Riverend Rd Bangholme Melway Map ref 93 J11 or UBD Ref Map 276 A3. **Please take careful note for Sth heading traffic, take Wells Rd not the freeway.**

Follow the road into the college, observing speed limits, take a left turn at the roundabout, go left around to the car park and turn left at the tennis courts, then follow slowly to the club. In winter please do not park on the grass and please angle park on Saturdays. We would be happy to see members, guests and anyone interested to come along.

- **Weekly Net:** Tuesdays at 8pm club members (and friends) meet on 146.425 MHz controlled by Bill VK3MMM.
- **Weekly Wednesdays 9am - 2pm at the club rooms.**
  - Meet other club members no longer in the work force and reflect on those busy days. Some work may be done on projects at your leisure.
- **Weekly Saturdays 9am - 2pm at the club rooms.**
  - Get together by club members (and friends). Have a chat on HF or VHF, join in with various projects, or at least discuss them over a cup of coffee.
- **Last Saturday of the month.**
  - Member business meeting starting at 10.30 am
- Club Regular Frequencies: 2m 146.425MHz Simplex & 70cm 439.900MHz Duplex
- D-Star Repeater: 2M Port C 146.7625 MHz Output & 70cm Port B 438.125 MHz Output

## A few words from the president

Dear Members,

Another Christmas has passed, paper and boxes disposed of and Santa's sleigh tracks are fading. I hope you have all received the Christmas presents you were hoping for and will be heard on air running any new radios.

Over thirty club members attended the Famparc Christmas meal. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was good to see members mixing by moving from table to table. The food was good and with so much choice and plenty to eat, no one went home hungry. I have had reports that "some" male members had to slacken their trouser belts to remain comfortable. The ladies of course remained neat and trim.

The very nice large hamper which was supplied and donated by Barry (vk3the) and his wife Viv for a Famparc raffle was a real bonus for the evening and despite yours truly trying to pick out his own ticket. The lucky winner was Ann the wife of Ken vk3zer. Congratulations Ann a worthy winner.

I think we can look back on 2012 with some satisfaction. We have more new members join during 2012 than we have had for some years, let hope we can keep on improving the level of club membership. I hope I am not mistaken but feel that 2012 has seen more effort from members in being involved with club activities, lets try and build on this and continue to grow, not only with the level of club membership but providing interesting and informative activities where members can be involved with and participate in.

As most members will know, we have wireless internet access at the club and members have been able to bring their own laptops and scan the internet for any particular piece of information they are seeking. I have pleasure in reporting. Peter vk3ij (was vk3bpr) has kindly donated a desk top computer/screen etc with wireless access and has set it up near the kitchen unit. This will be connected to the internet whilst the club is open for club member's use. Thank you Peter.

Talking of computers David vk3ldr reports his employer is disposing of some of their office computers. David has put in a request for one of these computers to replace the antique computer that Brian vk3vbj (club treasurer) uses to keep a record of the clubs finances. Brian may feel this is a great step forward until he realises he will no longer be able to switch on his existing computer and then go and make himself a cup of coffee whilst his antique computer boots up.

Finally do we have a plumber in our membership who would be willing to help out in the New Year? The club has the offer of a complete kitchen unit set up. I have seen these units and they are in excellent condition. Modernizing the clubs kitchen is well over due.

Roy. Vk3gb Famparc President.

## A few words from the editor and Webmaster

Dear Members,

There was a small number of issues with the club website of late due to changes and upgrades carried out by the website hosting provider.

In September remote file access was revoked due to security changes and then re-instated once I contacted them. At the end of October the website was completely failing to load and a support ticket was logged with the host, and within two hours the issue was rectified. In November, it appears other system related upgrades the hosting provider had conducted caused the website database to become lost and the website was not able to be loaded again. A support ticket was again logged with the hosting provider and they fairly swiftly resolved the issues for us. I confirmed with them that nothing malicious had taken place as well just to make sure.

The hosting is very cheap but the support is excellent. I keep an "offline" fully functional copy of the website for testing and maintenance purposes as well. No private confidential information is held on the website.

I spent a week holiday down at Phillip Island in November, due to this was away for the AGM. I did manage to throw up a dipole but being just out of central Cowes was still within typical suburban noise floor conditions. Even the 20m band had localised interference from appliances within the house so I was not really able to operate at all and I even forgot the ATU so couldn't tune up on 15m. The dipole hung pretty low to the ground where we were, as there wasn't really anywhere to get it up high. Having the two kids now also made it difficult to find time to operate.

Isla is now almost 4 months old and all is going fine, but she can be a little demanding on attention! A family photo taken over Christmas is included below.

It was good to see members with partners or entire families at the Famparc Christmas dinner on Sunday the 2nd of December.

Hope you all enjoyed Christmas, and have a Safe and Happy New Year! Until 2013, 73!



## Club Meetings & News

As you know, there's a monthly business meeting on the last Saturday of each month (unless advised otherwise). There are generally around fifteen to twenty members in attendance. Where matters of importance are discussed **rollup summary** are listed here.

### Next Business Meetings

- Saturday January 26th
- Saturday February 24th

We are always planning to arrange a lecture/talk each month. If any club members would be willing to give a talk on something they feel would be interesting and informative for club members please telephone Roy on 59714782 to make arrangements.

We have genuine Amphenol PL259 with reducers, there are two in each pack and being sold to club members for \$6 per pack. Anyone wishing to purchase these top grade PL259s (for rg213 and rg58) should see Roy VK3GB at the club or telephone 59714782.

### Sunday 2nd December Famparc Christmas Dinner

Several Famparc members with partners, and even entire families gathered together at Frankston Foodstar for a meal! David VK3EW certainly helped himself to all you can eat prawns!



## 2012 AGM

The 2012 AGM was opened at 11:15am by President Roy Seabridge, Held at the club house in the grounds of the Cornish College campus on the 24th November with 24 club members in attendance

Apologies were received from the Club Secretary David VK3LDR, club members Gerard VK3GER, Peter VK3TQ and Peter VK3YG.

David VK3LDR had advised the committee that due to a growing family and other commitments he is unable to continue in his position of Famparc club secretary. We are very grateful to David for his efficient and smooth running of the club during his period of club secretary and wish him well with his growing family. I am very pleased to report whilst David has relinquished his position of club secretary he will continue to be club editor of the Famparc Newsletter and continue to manage the clubs website.

The President reported all club positions were declared vacant and Alan vk3ab to chair the 2012 AGM.

The Nominations were, and accepted.

President.	Roy	VK3GB.
Vice President	Allan	VK3AB.
Treasurer	Brian	VK3VBJ.
Secretary	Peter	VK3IJ
Committee	Barry	VK3THE.
Committee	David	VK3EW.
Committee	Ken	VK3ZER.
Committee	Bill	VK3MMM.
Committee	Michael	VK3UUU.
Committee	Andrew	VK3AEJ.
Other Functions.		
Newsletter & website.	David	VK3LDR.
Public Officer	Jeff	VK3BZ.
Qsl Manager.	Bill	VK3MMM.
Contest Manager	Roy	VK3GB.

It was particularly pleasing to see Barry VK3THE nominated to the committee, I feel sure he will be an asset to the on going development of Famparc activities. Equally pleasing is to see Peter VK3IJ step forward and take up the vacant position of Famparc club secretary.

It was equally pleasing to welcome to the club two new members Mr Andrew Walton VK3CAH and Mr Mark Cvik VK3HAI.

A brief report on the level of club activities during 2012 together with an idea of possible activities during 2013 were read out by Roy vk3gb. Further reports and comments were read out by Alan VK3AB, however, due to the impending BBQ being ready for consumption. There was little time for feed back from club members and the meeting was brought to a close at 11.55am.

Due to time limitations and the lack of any feedback from club members, it is proposed to send out an e-mail outlining the possible ideas for Famparc activities for 2013. This will include a request for ideas from club members. This will be an ideal opportunity for club members to propose ideas that will help in the further development and level of Famparc activities during 2013.

Please have your say.

Roy. Famparc President.



## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, A VISIT TO THE AIRWAYS MUSEUM



Ed VK3GD with the AT-8 Transmitter

On Wednesday, November the 7<sup>th</sup> Roy sent out an email to all members advising there was an open day at the Airways Museum at Essendon Airport the following Saturday and asking if there were any members interested in going. It was very late notice but surprisingly only Ed Parsons and I were the only people interested.

The full title of the place is The Airways Museum & Civil Aviation Historical Society. The museum is located in a building near the control tower at Essendon Airport. If you haven't been in the airport since it has been privatized it's worth a visit as the roads have been re-surfaced and trees planted along the sides, new buildings have been erected, it's no longer the shabby place it was years ago and of course it has DFO as one of its main attractions.

When Ed and I arrived one of the first people we met was Pat Gleeson who started training with Ed at the then Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), they both started training on the same day in Feb 1959 so there was a lot to catch up on.

Each year when the Museum holds an open day they have a theme and this year's theme was Air Accident Investigation. We attended an interesting lecture on investigating the Viscount Accidents by Mr Don Whalley who was one of the lead accident investigators employed by DCA at the time. The Viscount aircraft showed a lot of promise when first introduced into Australia in 1954 but after a series of accidents the aircraft lost favor and by 1970 what remained had all been sold overseas or scrapped.



Close-up of the 4251A tube enclosure

After the lecture the rest of the time was spent looking at the static exhibitions which included the consoles used by the air traffic controllers, instrument panels of aircraft that were used by DCA for surveying the airport instrument landing systems, rows of transmitter racks, navigation beacon transmitters, radar antennas and transmitters and a vast library of technical books.

One of the cabinets that caught our eye was the AT-8 transmitter cabinet. It is a 500w unit that Ed had worked on and used a 4251A final tube. The 4251a is an impressive all glass tube, quite an eye opener especially to those people who were brought up in the valve era. It measures 540x150mm and has a plate dissipation of 1kW. Both Ed and I are fortunate enough to own one of these tubes.

Tours of the Airways Museum are available on Tuesdays 9am-3pm and at other times by appointment and if you get a chance the Museum is well worth a visit, you can view the website at the following link <http://www.airwaysmuseum.com/nav%203.htm>



Racks of equipment used by the DCA.

Article by Peter Collins VK3IJ ex VK3BPN.

# What's on & Coming up??

## Contests & Hamfests

For popular local contest see the WIA Calendar: <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/events/>

For popular DX Contests See the following websites & calendars:

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

WA7BNM's calendar: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

- Ross Hull Memorial VHF/UHF Contest—<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rosshull/>
- WIA Summer VHF/UHF Field Day on 12/13 January —<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/>
- Kyneton Hamfest on Sunday 10th February - <http://www.amateurradio.com.au/radiofest/>

*Don't forget the John Moyle Field Day contest coming up in March*

## January

Bruce VK3UV  
Peter VK3IJ  
Barry VK3MAX  
Craig VK3JCH  
Ken VK3MJF  
John VK3JJO  
Barry VK3BAP  
Brian VK3VBJ  
Roger VK3HRS Stefan Caspersz.

## Birthdays!

If your birthday isn't at some stage in this newsletter we may not have your details so please supply to Allan VK3AB.



## February

Jeff VK3BZ  
David VK3EW  
Stephan VK3GTR

For more Amateur Radio related news, see the following sources below.

**WIA News:** <http://www.wia.org.au/>

**ARV News:** <http://www.amateurradio.com.au/>

**ITU News:** <https://itunews.itu.int/en/Latest-Headlines.aspx>

**ARRL News:** <http://www.arrl.org/news>

**ACMA News:**  
<http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=LATEST>

**CQ News:** <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com.au/>

**The latest hackaday radio projects:**

<http://hackaday.com/category/radio-hacks/>



Who said 3EW doesn't like prawns??????