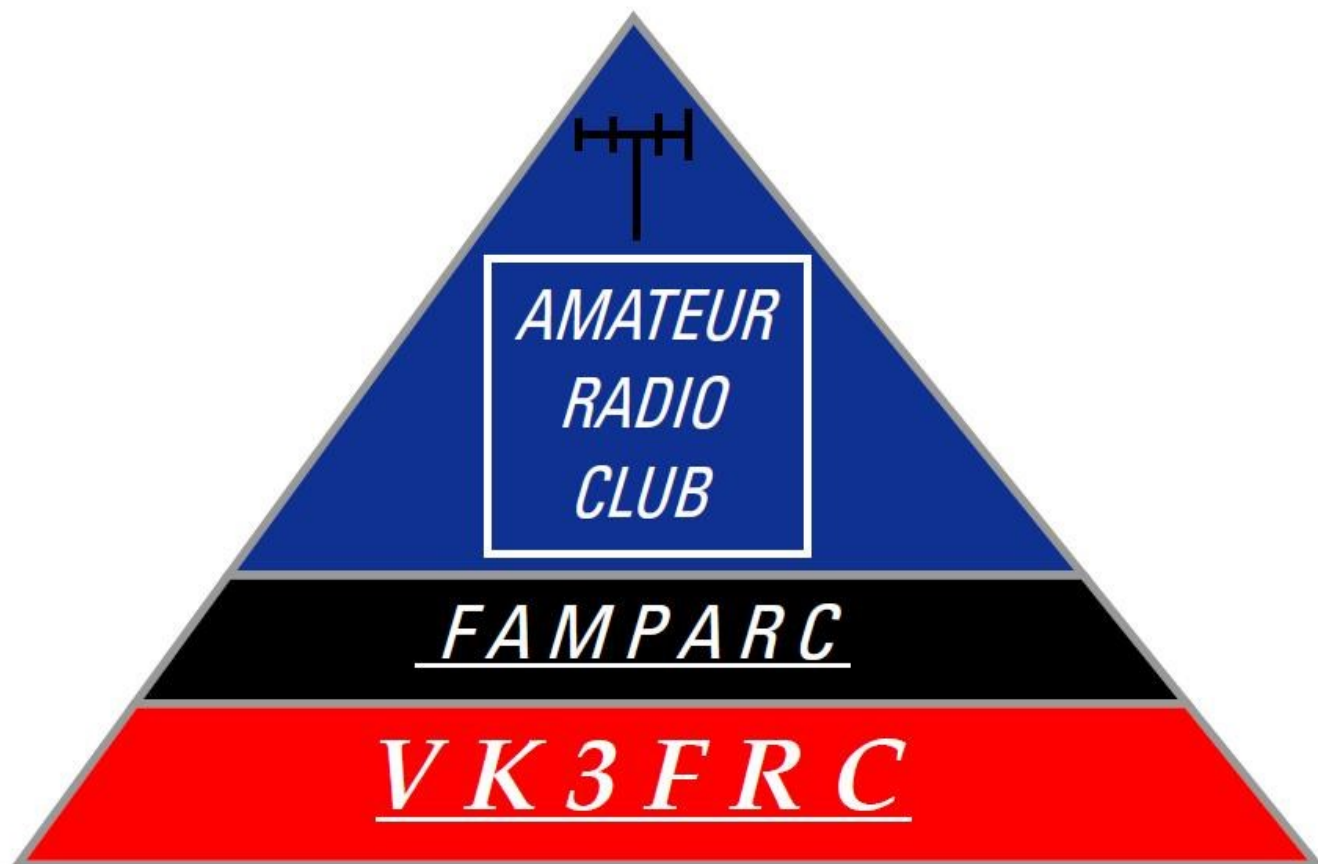




# FAMPARC - VK3FRC

FRANKSTON AND MORNINGTON PENINSULA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

March / April 2013



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## 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 Famparc members,

By now all Famparc members who hold a current Amateur Radio licence will have received notification from the ACMA that we amateurs are to lose part of our current spectrum, from 2300-2302 MHz. You will have also received a draft letter kindly put together by a club member Colin vk3cr to add to or simply copy and sign and send it to the ACMA in regards to our objection to the loss of this section of our current spectrum.

As individuals our protest will have a limited response. It's at times such as this that we need additional help. The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is currently talking with the ACMA not only on this particular issue but others too. We need the WIA to represent us when modern technology requires greater sections of the current VHF, UHF and higher frequencies. It would be true to say the ACMA could understandably say to the WIA "with your current level of membership you can not say you represent the majority of Amateur Radio Licence holders through out Australia". We need to support the WIA if we wish them to help protect us from further losses of our current frequency allocations

Will Famparc members who hold a current Amateur Radio Licence please give some thought to joining the WIA. Full membership is \$80 with concession being \$70 this is less than one bottle of beer each week. One of the other benefits of WIA membership is the monthly magazine keeping you abreast of technical and topical amateur events. It is not much to ask for better protection of our Amateur Bands.

For some weeks now we have been planning an open day at Famparc, to demonstrate Amateur Radio and the interesting aspects of our hobby. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Cornish College held an open day festival to celebrate their first year as a new College which I understand has been extremely successful. Famparc was invited to exhibit our hobby. Unfortunately we were initially advised the Festival displays would extend into the area in front of our club, however, on the day this didn't turn out to be the case and we found ourselves some distance away from the main show area. Two positive items came from the Festival day. The first being that Famparc members as previously listed, put on a very interesting and informative display. Peter Parker who is not a member of Famparc gave up his afternoon to display a home brew qrp rig and a most unusual tone/noise machine which raised many eye lids. The second item of interest came from a parent (who holds an Amateur Radio Licence) of a child who attends Cornish College, during a conversation he offered to talk with the College Science teacher with a view that Famparc would visit the Science class and give a talk and possible demonstration of our hobby. Next year we will make sure we are in and among the main arena area.

Roy, Famparc President.

(Here's a photo from the day and some more over the page..)



Stefan Caspersz with his son and Peter Parker VK3YE

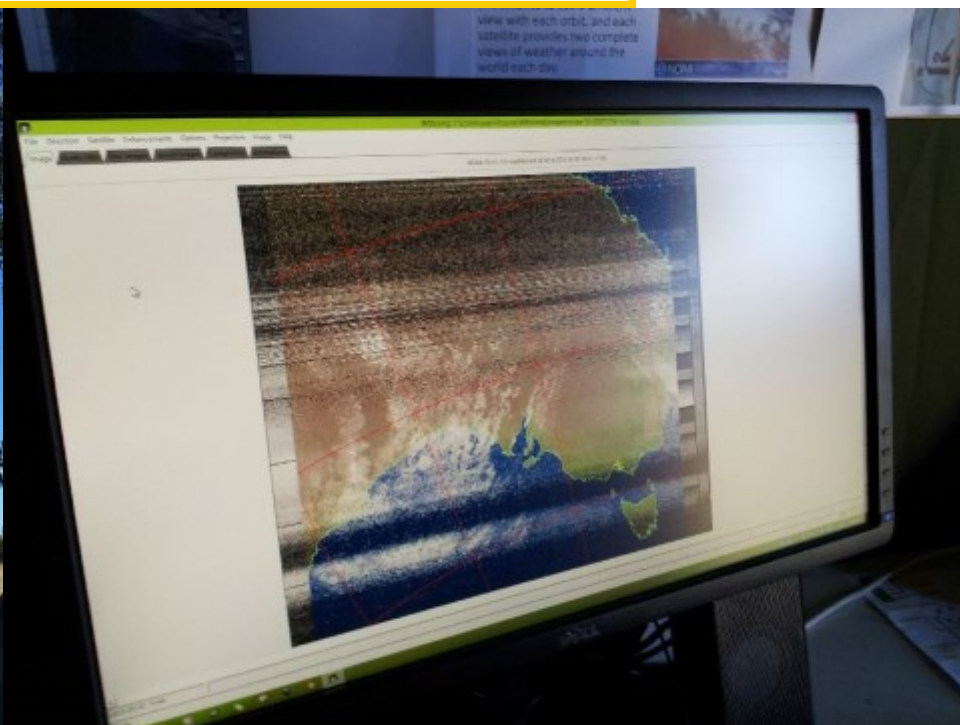
## Cornish Carnival FAMPARC Display



Stefan Caspersz WX Setup on left with Mark VK3HAI SDR Display



VHF Antenna for WX Satellites



WX Satellite Picture

## Meetings & NEWS

As you know, there's a monthly business meeting on the last Saturday of each month. There are generally around fifteen to twenty members in attendance. Here's a **rollup summary** of some of the items discussed at club meetings.

**January 26th** Meeting opened 10:30am, closed 10:55am

Correspondence in: NAB Statement

Correspondence out: None.

- Cornish College Festival discussed.
- John Moyle contest discussed and location for it to be the club rooms on HF.
- Ken VK3ZER volunteered to give a talk on microphones.
- John VK3CVF volunteered to give a lecture on PSK setup.
- Vote of thanks to VK3LDR for donation of replacement computer for the treasurer!

**February 23rd** Meeting opened 10:30 , closed 11:30am

- Motion moved to transfer funds to term deposit & discussion about fund usage.
- Decision to cancel on club participation in the John Moyle contest due to lack of availability of people to dismantle the station after the contest.
- Discussion around the ACMA 13cm band proposals and pro-forma letter to be distributed for signature.
- Roy to speak on radio station 774 about the Club display at Cornish carnival.
- An auction of items was held following the meeting which was then followed with a BBQ.

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.

## A Solution to RF Interference

By Peter Collins VK3IJ

I have some squawking in the subwoofer in the lounge room when transmitting on 15 meters and 40 meters causes feedback in the computer speakers in the shack for some time. It had been on my mind to do something about it but there was always seemed to be something more interesting to do. On Sunday night it came into my mind so not having anything planned I decided to tackle it the morning.

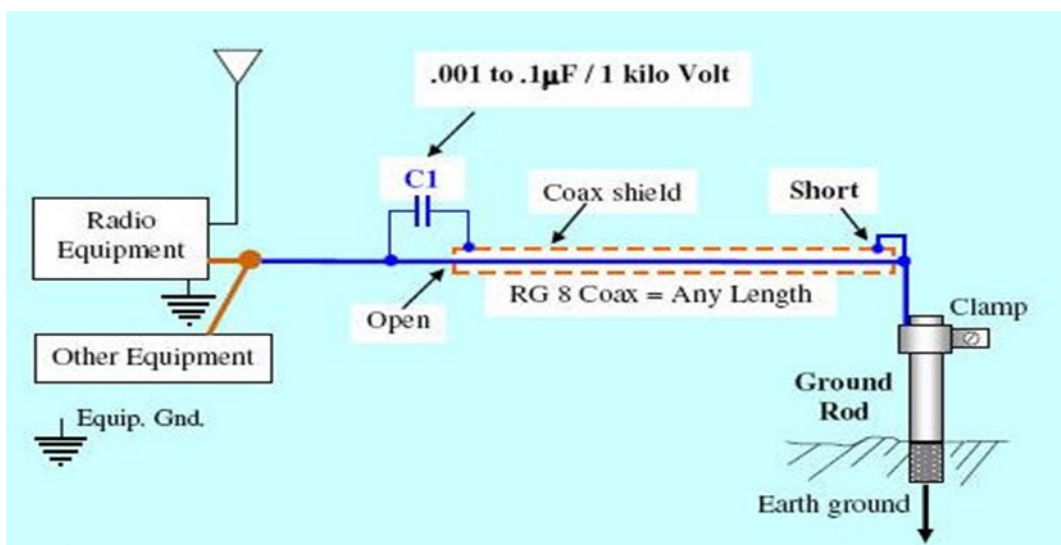
I had previously attempted fixes without success so the first stop was Google. I came across an interesting article which I had seen before called *Grounding Systems in the Ham Shack* by DL1ANV <http://www.para.org.ph/membersarticles/DU1ANV/Grounding%20Systems.pdf>

As my nearest earth is about 5 meters from the radios I decided to try the RF Suppressor Ground System at the end of the article.

I cleaned up the connection on the copper pipe I connect my ground and found a length of LMR240 which had UG88 connectors on both ends. This gave me an idea to keep that connector fitted and make up an adaptor with a UG89 to give a waterproof exterior connection as the LMR 240 is foam coax. The centre pin and the body of the UG89 are soldered together onto a short piece of the original earth wire to connect to the ground clip.

I removed the original earth wire and ran the coax in its place and decided to terminate the shack end of the coax on a piece of circuit board. I cut a gap across the board with a hacksaw to remove the copper to provide a means of terminating the capacitors and somewhere to connect the wires to the radio, amp and computer. The 2 capacitors I used are 0.01/1kv ceramic.

After connecting all the gear I was pleasantly surprised to find there was no interference to the subwoofer on 15 meters but although greatly improved there was still a slight howl from the computer speakers on 40 meters. I wound the shielded lead from the speaker output on the computer to the input of the amplified speakers and that cured the last of the problems, quite a pleasing result considering the small amount of time it took to complete.



PTO for photographs

## A Solution to RF Interference



Water pipe termination.



Shack end of coax showing capacitors and ground wires to going the radios and computer.



Twin shielded speaker cable wound on T200 toroid

## **How did Famparc manage to establish a radio club in the grounds of what was St Leonards College. Now named Cornish College?**

Having spent some time reading through old books with a record of General meetings and committee meetings, I have discovered the following reports of how Famparc managed to establish a Radio Club in the grounds of what was then St Leonard's College.

### **12th March 1993**

During a committee meeting on the John vk3edd reported he had been speaking to the Principal of St Leonard's College at Carrum about leasing a block of land on the campus. It was decided at the meeting that this was to be followed up by John vk3edd and our President Gordon vk3gad.

### **14th May 1993**

There was some discussion in regard to the venue at Carrum. Fred Turner was not happy regarding the proposed venue, whilst others thought it was a good idea to have club rooms of our own.

### **4th June 1993**

Notice is given that a formal meeting will be held on the 15th June 1993 in St Pauls Church Hall, High Street, Frankston. Starting at 8.00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to receive a formal proposal from John Chalmers on behalf of the club committee to establish a permanent, owned, home for the club at St Leonards College, River End Road, Patterson Lakes. Details of cost, building installation and benefit to club members will be made.

This is a formal invitation from your committee and is the most important ever since the club was formed. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU ATTEND THIS VERY IMPORTANT MEETING.

### **25TH June 1993.**

John Chalmers vk3edd submitted estimates of cost for a 40ft X 20ft X 10ft steel building to be outlined to the members at the general business meeting. After a time of questions and answers from all members present. A formal motion was put forward. It was as follows: " That the committee through John Chalmers vk3edd and the current President Gordon Dawe vk3gad are formally given approval to negotiate with St Leonard's college for a site with appropriate car parking space and access. This motion was put to the members present to vote and was accepted 21 for and 1 against.

### **9th July 1993.**

The lease proposal was put to St Leonards, with Kerry Bolger the College Principal indicating it will not be a problem. Further negotiations will take place with the college council next week.

### **27th August 1993**

John vk3edd informed the committee that St Leonards had approved the site for our club house and are in the process of drawing up a ten year lease agreement. It was decided a sub committee be formed for the building consisting of the President, Secretary, John vk3edd and member Chris Rogers.

### **10 September 1993.**

A draft proposal of the lease agreement with St Leonards was presented and will be published in the newsletter for all club members to read. Following this committee meeting a general meeting was held in "the lions den" A copy of the design for the new club rooms was displayed for members to view and the contents of the draft of lease agreement was then read.



### **8th October 1993.**

Final details to the exterior design of the club house was put forward by John vk3edd and the decision was made to accept the quotation from Strait line Engineering Pty Ltd due to the extra strength in the design of their construction plans. A deposit of \$535.00 has been forwarded to the company and building will commence once council approval is obtained.

### **10th December 1993.**

The President reported that the new club house has been erected. The next job is concreting and fitting out the interior. Working bees will be arranged. The balance of \$4815.00 has been paid for the building.

### **11th February 1994.**

There is a comment that an invoice of \$1700.00 for concrete was paid.

### **13th February 1994.**

The President Peter vk3cpj gave an outline of the work needed to make the club house habitable and called for volunteers for a working bee on Saturday 19th February at 1.00pm. Several members agreed to come along. The Treasurer thanked members for their generous response to the building fund appeal and said that we need another \$75 to take full advantage of our anonymous sponsor. Allan vk3abb (now vk3ab) made a donation of \$50 and Doreen Law contributed \$25 to make up the leeway.

### **11th March 1994.**

The President Peter vk3cpj reported that the club had passed its final inspection from the building inspector, and in talks with the Principal of the college, it was indicated that the power and water will come from the maintenance shed and we will give a donation to the college council to cover costs. The Principal also agreed that the school will pay half the cost of installing a septic tank but it won't be budgeted for until 1995.

### **4th June 1994.**

The President announced that he had asked for quotes on the supply and installation of a septic tank and also a quote for the wiring to be done in the club house. Interestingly at this meeting John vk3law announced that he had received a number of small native trees, which are to be planted out on the west side of the new club rooms.

### **13th August 1994.**

The President reported that the two working bees had not been well attended, although those who did turn up had done some useful work. Peter also said that the water pipe had been located but not yet connected and that the electrical wiring has been installed including lights and two ceiling fans. The insulation has been installed in the walls and some of the lining put in place.

### **11th December 1994. Annual General Meeting.**

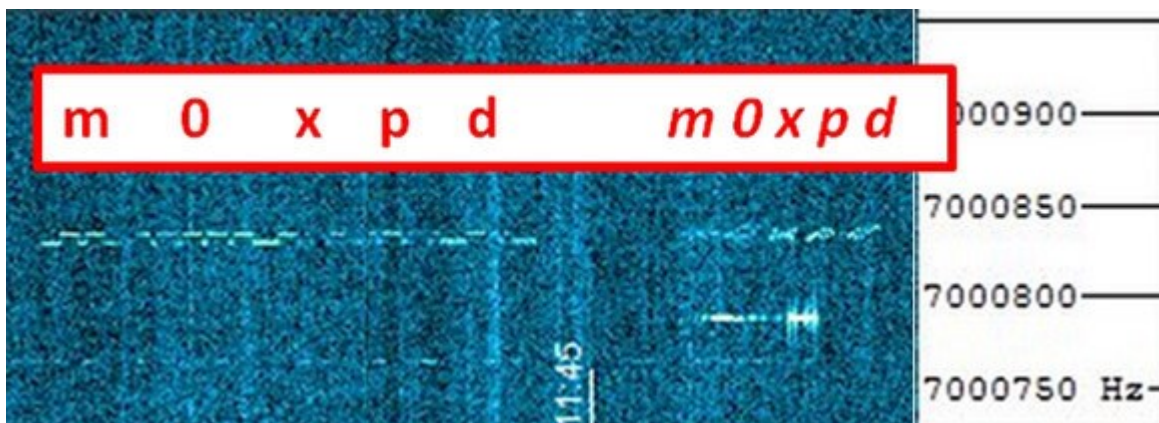
It was reported that the club house is almost finished, bar the installation of a septic tank and toilet facilities, which are hoped to be completed next year. At this meeting the clubs subs were increased to \$25. How interesting that as of March 2013 our subs are \$30. Five dollars increase over 18/19 years? At this meeting it was proposed and passed. To hold an official opening of the New Club rooms early in the New Year and invite all Famparc life members to be present at the celebrations.

## Amateur & General interest news

- Developer uses brainwaves to route mobile calls!  
<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/328194,developer-uses-brainwaves-to-route-mobile-calls.aspx>
- ACMA to upgrade spectrum monitor system  
<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/328951,acma-to-upgrade-spectrum-monitor-system.aspx>
- Australia's miners, gas operators drive towards digital radio  
<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/331459,australias-miners-gas-operators-drive-towards-digital-radio.aspx>
- **ACMA plots amateur radio band harvest for LTE**  
<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/333129,acma-plots-amateur-radio-band-harvest-for-lte.aspx>
- ACMA plans to kill radio transmitter labeling - could mean 103,000 devices need re-labeling.  
<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/333939,acma-plans-to-kill-radio-transmitter-labelling.aspx>
- Liftoff for NSW prison mobile jamming trial - ACMA approves license for restricted tech.  
<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/335518,liftoff-for-nsw-prison-mobile-jamming-trial.aspx>

### Some recent Ham Radio "hacks" at [www.hackaday.com](http://hackaday.com) (<http://hackaday.com/category/radio-hacks/>)

- Arduino as an inexpensive radio frequency counter  
<http://hackaday.com/2013/02/09/arduino-as-an-inexpensive-ham-radio-frequency-counter/>
- Hacking a Ham Radio! A Baofeng UV5R (A \$40 4W amateur radio)  
<http://hackaday.com/2013/02/28/hacking-a-ham-radio/>
- Arduinofied QRP radio beacon  
<http://hackaday.com/2013/02/24/arduinofied-qrp-radio-beacon/>



## 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>

- **Scoresby Steam Festival March 9th - 11th. EMDRC will have a display.**  
[http://www.emdrc.com/scoresby\\_steamfest\\_2013.html](http://www.emdrc.com/scoresby_steamfest_2013.html)
- 2013 Rosebud Kitefest 10th March. SPARC will have a display  
<http://rosebudkitefestival.com.au/worthy2013/>
- **John Moyle Contest 16-17th March-** <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/>
- **CQWW SSB WPX -** <http://www.cqwp.com/> (March 30th - 31st)
- **WIA National Field Day 13th - 14th April -** <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/nfd/>
- **EMDRC White Elephant Sale 24th March -** [http://www.emdrc.com.au/wes\\_2013.html](http://www.emdrc.com.au/wes_2013.html)



### Happy Birthday! Feliz Cumpleaños!

#### March

Albrecht Baer VK3FKH, Russell Earl VK3BER, Craig Shine VK3NCR, SR Subramani VK3SRS, Peter Willmott VK3TQ, David Wilson VK3JKY

#### April

Ruben Acevedo VK3PRA, Jessie Buchanan VK3VAN, Michael Lammer VK3UUU, Kevin Maroney VK3IR, Elly McAulay VK3FLEW, Peter Repschlager VK3YG.

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