

## **VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST**

**FOR SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2008**

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### **"MEET THE VOICE " BBQ AT ROSS**

This is the final reminder of the "Meet the Voice" BBQ at Ross Caravan Park next Sunday, and of course the return to Eastern Standard Time, so what better way to celebrate than to come along to Ross and join in the Group discussion which starts at 11AM on the subject "The future of amateur Radio as you see it", which is of course of interest to all amateurs.

What will the future bring ? will it be a combination of current radio, HF, VHF, UHF and the present off shoots of IRLP, Packet etc. or will it be development of digital modes in conjunction with present modes, will it expand to combine with the Internet and Broadband, will future governments allow us to retain present frequencies for almost free? Please join in the discussion and expand your views with the panel of 4-5 amateurs who have been invited to lead the discussion.

A BBQ will be available and ready to use from about 12 noon followed by a Car Boot Sale giving you an opportunity to sell or purchase some pre-loved amateur equipment . Sellers are requested to advise Brian VK7KBE at the Registration table of their intention to be part of the Boot Sale

The idea behind the BBQ is of course that you may meet up with the person behind the voice you may have been talking with and never met until now or once again exchange greetings with your amateur friends.

Registration is \$5.00 per amateur or amateur family which includes a ticket in the draw for the "Antenna Switch" valued at around \$150. Extra tickets available at 3 for \$2.00. The switch donated by David & Claireen of TTS SYSTEMS.

See YOU at Ross.

(Don, VK7AY for the "Sewing Circle Daily Net.

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### **VK7 EVENTS DIARY**

The VK7 events diary provides a quick summary of VK7 club happenings over the next couple of months:

REAST – This Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Presentation on the Technology behind Weather Forecasting.

SEWING CIRCLE - Meet the Voice BBQ – Next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 10am at Ross Caravan Park.

NTARC – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 6:30pm at Tranquility Gardens, 558 West Tamar Highway, near the Tamar Island Wetlands Reserve for tea and talk from Tony from Australian Customs.

NWTARIG – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April – General Meeting at Lions Club Facility, West Ulverstone starts 2:00pm

And a quick reminder of the regular events and broadcasts:

Sewing Circle Net – Every day from 5pm on 3.59MHz

<http://reast.asn.au/awards.php#sewingnet>

CHARCT Quiz Net – Every Thursday night from 8:30pm on 3.585MHz.

<http://www.qsl.net/charct/>

NWTARIG broadcasts in the NW and Launceston during the week. Check the website for details.

<http://www.vk7ax.ausport.net/>

REAST – ATV Experimenter’s Night every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm, apart from the first Wednesday of the month. Check the website for details.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#ATVnights>

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## **NON-COMMERCIAL FOR SALE & WANTED**

### ***Wanted:***

Kerry is looking for a 3 or 5 Element beam for 27MHz. Kerry can be contacted on mobile 0421938395.

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David VK7YBY is looking for a Stromberg “H” variable tuning capacitor for a project he is working on. David can be contacted on 6362 4250 or on email [dan42191@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dan42191@bigpond.net.au). David will be at the Sewing Circle BBQ.

### ***For Sale:***

Allen VK7AN has for sale:

1-only Yaesu FT950 HF-6M Base station transceiver virtually new in box, and

1-only Icom IC7000 HF, 6M, 2M & 70cm. Transceiver as new hardly used in box etc.

Phone or email Allen on mobile 0417354410 or email [allen.burke@bigpond.com](mailto:allen.burke@bigpond.com)

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## **NORTH WEST NEWS**

### ***North West Tas. Amateur Radio Interest Group (NWTARIG)***

<http://www.vk7ax.id.au/nwtarig/>

The next General Meeting of NWTARIG is scheduled for Saturday 12 April 2008.

It will be at the usual venue of the Lions Club Facility, located at West Ulverstone commencing around 2.00PM.

Members, please note, this is a very important meeting as the Club needs to discuss the immediate, future and ongoing maintenance issues associated with the Mount Duncan Repeater Site. It is imperative that this issue be resolved as it could affect the viability of the Club long term!!

So please!! Members... give it some thought and consideration by turning up to support YOUR Club.

DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE SAME 1 OR 2 !!!!! (they won't be around for ever)

At the conclusion of the meeting it is planned to conduct the long awaited SSTV Demo by Jim VK7JH and Tony VK7AX.

This activity was postponed from the last Meeting in February due to time constraints.

Again, the date is 12 April 2008. YES... that's Saturday Week.

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### ***Nightly Broadcasts in the N/West***

As mentioned previously, replay of the Nightly Broadcasts during the week have ceased on the 2M Repeaters VK7RMD & VK7RNW.

However they can still be heard on the Echo Linked Network by VK7HBR on 145.425 MHz. in the Launceston area and VK7AX on 145.350 MHz. in Ulverstone on the Central Coast.

In addition they are also available on 147.40 MHz. and 70CM ATV in Ulverstone by VK7AX.

73's until next time

(Tony, VK7AX, President NWTARIG)

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## **NORTHERN NEWS**

### ***IRLP Node 6700 is back online!***

Node 6700 failed last week with a bad repeater timeout lockup on VK7RAA as a result, the system has since been put back in working order and thanks go to Joe (VK7JG) for his work in making up a new Eeprom for the node radio with a 5 minute timeout to prevent any future problems and also to Tony (VK7AX) for his generous help stepping me through the process of getting the node software repaired and back online, the help and support from you both is appreciated by myself and all users of the node.

(73, Tony VK7YBG)

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### ***Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club News***

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ntarc/>

NTARCs next meeting is a dinner gathering at Tranquility Gardens, 558 West Tamar Highway, near the Tamar Island Wetlands Reserve on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April – that's just under a fortnight away. Be there at 6.30pm and a great time is guaranteed.

Jason VK7ZJA would also like to hear from any club members who would like to contribute to the WIA club affiliated web page, in particular the history of the club. Any anecdotes, significant events or identities, amusing stories from the past et cetera would all be suitable.

(<http://www.wia.org.au/clubs/vk7/NorthernTasmaniaAmateurRadioClub/>)

Please email Jason with any interesting items at [vk7zja@wia.org.au](mailto:vk7zja@wia.org.au)

We've also been told that John VK7CEJ has his new super-tower up and is going to be making some serious noise across the spectrum with his new found ionospheric radiating capabilities. Enjoy the DX there John!

Thanks from

(Jason VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

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### ***The end of an era?***

On a recent visit to Dick Smith Electronics' Launceston store, Bill VK7MX found that PCB headers he required were not in stock.

Naturally, he was not particularly pleased at this discovery but then neither was he surprised.

Stock outages in electronic componentry have progressively become a feature at this particular store over recent years. This also appears coupled with a seemingly increased degree of staff ignorance about the subject, what's more by seemingly ever increasingly youthful personnel.

Musing over these observations and lamenting the early days of DSE, when the store managers and other staff more often than not held a VK callsign, Bill decided to ask at the counter. After all, this approach had worked on the odd occasion, when additional stock had been found "out the back".

Not on this occasion though. The young man behind the counter assured Bill that the stock on the shelf was all the stock held. Now, on another occasion many months back, as a fresh recruit, this same young man had been persuaded to take a look out back. He had actually found the required items. Bill decided to remind him of that event, in the hope of a repeat performance.

But there was something entirely different about the young man's confidence this day. He was absolutely adamant! At first Bill thought that the young man had simply progressed up the ladder a rung or two and was displaying newly won authority. Come to think of it, a couple of the other staff had been showing this one limited deference and on a quick countback, Bill calculated he had now probably survived at least a year in the store. That was probably it, Bill thought, so it was worth another go.

Bill never got to have that go. Moreover, he was not exactly prepared for the next development.

"We wont be getting anymore either. Dick Smith is getting right out of parts, such as capacitors and the like!" , the young man proclaimed. "I expect them all to be gone by the end of the year. We are only going to carry consumer lines like the computers, TV, mobile phones, GPS and those sort of products.", he volunteered, all with a degree of pride.

In turn, Bill was undecided as to protest at this news and its impact on the electronics hobbyist, or be proud of the fact that the young man had remembered about capacitors. They had been the subject of a quick tutorial when the pair had first met at the start of the young man's employment in the store -just the other day, or so it seemed to Bill.

Altruism won out, so Bill remarked that it would make life harder for the local hobbyist and, in an attempt to test the news, added that it would make kit support very difficult indeed.

“Haven’t had any kits for months”, came the rejoinder. “They have long gone. The hobbyist will be ok though. There is always mail order from the mainland. Bigger range and probably better prices too.”

It was only after leaving the store that Bill realized that he hadn’t clarified whether this was a local policy decision or applicable to the company nationwide. A check with the local opposition revealed that they knew about it, given the propensity of internal e-mails to gain wider circulation in the industry and one also pointing to a new DSE outlet that had recently opened on the NW Coast – without any component lines on the shelves at all. It’s starting to look a little ominous.

At first blush, DSE’s withdrawal from a field that helped establish the company would probably not come as any great surprise to its regular customers. Over the years, the parts catalogue has been reducing steadily over the years, with semiconductors now barely consuming a double page. The state of the shelves in most stores clearly points to the shift in company priorities. On the other hand, even with reduced holdings, DSE has still proven a valuable source for everyday components and often has precluded any need to go mail order. “Of course, if they don’t carry parts, they probably won’t continue to print that data section in their catalogue – or maybe no catalogue at all? The data section would certainly be a loss!, Bill suggests.

“Ironically, if this move takes place here, it will be the reverse of what is actually happening in the USA. Radio Shack, the main trading outlet of the old Tandy Corporation, similarly removed parts from its inventory over recent years. Today though, the amateur radio internet groups are carrying reports of their return, and often with a greater range. Radio Shack’s new CEO is credited with acknowledging a marketing mistake in their discontinuation but to being impeded in their prompt return by the franchised nature of much of the radio Shack operation.”

“In Australia, the assets of Tandy joined those of Dick Smith Electronics in the Woolworths stable some years back. Whether there is any continued dialogue between the American and Australian companies is unknown but it is to be hoped that local management decisions would be informed by this current overseas experience.”

While pessimistic, Bill notes that most of his information is second-hand and the initial source for this story about changes at Dick Smith Electronics could perhaps really be best described as “somebody closely connected with the company”, as the journalists would put it. “He may or may not be fully aware of the position but if he isn’t, how about the hobbyist customer?” asks Bill.

“This might be a very good time for the head office of Dick Smith Electronics to release an authoritative statement as to its intentions in this area. “ Bill suggests

“What do you think?”

(Bill, VK7MX)

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## **SOUTHERN NEWS**

### ***Academic Excellence Spotted***

Roger VK7ARN picked up a certain name that will be known to some on the University of Tasmania Dean’s Roll of Excellence in last Saturday’s Mercury.

Under the heading of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering was Andrew Welch who is VK7HAW, harmonic of Brian VK7BW.

Congratulations Andrew.

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### ***Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania***

#### ***Repeater News***

The R2 repeater (146.700MHz), which developed an intermittent fault, has now been repaired and is back operating on its full transmit power of 50 Watts. The complete transmitter power amplifier board with its attached components has been replaced.

Also a reminder that the VK7RAD 6 metre repeater now requires a sub audible tone of 141.3 Hz to access. This has been made necessary by the ongoing broadcast interference occurring at the Domain.

(Dave, VK7DM (Domain Repeater Officer))

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#### ***Nominations Called***

The REAST Committee is calling for nominations for a committee vacancy left by John VK7HJS who has resigned due to ill health.

If you are interested in filling this vacancy then please contact Clayton VK7ZCR, Gavin VK7HGO or Danny VK7HDM. Nominations will need to be in by the end of March (and that’s tomorrow!!!) so they can be voted on at the April meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

(REAST Committee)

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### *ATV Experimenters Night*

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#ATVnights>

Last Wednesday evening we didn't even have standing room in the ATV studio. We had so many people come along that they were standing outside in the cold!

It was a night of technical issue and some short presentations.

We have improved some of the technical issues with the audio and have a line of improvements that we will progress over the coming weeks to improve which include putting compressors on the microphones and possibly the audio input to the ATV transmitter.

The presentations were very professionally introduced by Sam VK7FSTL from a script professionally written by our resident producer Anthony who is VK7FTCL.

There were two short presentations given by Justin VK7TW on the Photomultiplier tube he is currently experimenting with to do the light experiments with Rex VK7MO. Then Justin went on to describe and show a YIG tuned oscillator. These are interesting devices that are used usually in professional microwave test equipment and can generate oscillations in the 2-12GHz range. These modules are starting to become available to amateurs through ebay and other sources.

<http://www.microsource-inc.com/yigintro.pdf>

Someone also realised that we actually have three F-call Sams currently with Samatha, VK7FSAM, Sam, VK7FBMX, and our anchor man Sam, VK7FTCL.

We utilised the recently installed close-up camera directly above the studio desk to enable the close up of charts and the PM Tube and YIG modules for the ATV viewing audience.

A reminder that the ATV nights start in a fortnight again on a Wednesday night starting around 7:30pm and ATV goes out on 444.25MHz – just below SBS on the UHF TV Band.

If you have an antenna pointed somewhere toward the Domain why not try tuning down the low end of the UHF TV band on a Wednesday night and give us a call on what you are seeing and hearing

(Justin, VK7TW)

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### *REAST Meetings and Events*

### ***April Presentation – Technology behind Forecasting***

This week is the REAST April presentation and it should be very interesting.

The forecasts that the Bureau of Meteorology predict and post each day have an incredible amount of technology supporting them. Things like wave rider buoys, rain radars and super computer modeling, just to name a few.

Malcolm Reilly from the Bureau has agreed to give a presentation to the club on some of this technology and the science and processes of forecasting.

This should be a fascinating talk this Wednesday night, April 2, 2008 at 8pm on the Queen's Domain clubrooms.

See you there.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#weathertech>

(REAST Committee)

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### ***The Pacific Solution - Telecommunications - Pacific Islander Style***

REAST's May presentation will be by Phil Tompson VK7SS and Malcolm Crosse from Novaris and Powercom and they have agreed to give a talk on the installation of telecommunications, radio and TV on the islands of Kiribati.

There are many interesting stories of the challenges encountered when providing these modern services to a small Pacific country.

This should be another fascinating talk on May 7, 2008 at 8pm on the Queen's Domain clubrooms.

See you there.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#telecominpacific>

(REAST Committee)

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### **DX NEWS**

#### ***YJ Activated***

VANUATU, YJ. Tony, VK3TZ is QRV as YJ0TZ until April 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. This includes an entry in the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

(Sourced from ARRL DX Mailing List)

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## TALES FROM THE ATOMIC AGE

The following is sourced from the Health Physics Historical Instrumentation Collection Website and is a fascinating short story about one of the last German U-boats. It is written from many sources by Paul Frame.

U-234 was a type XB submarine, the largest class of German U-boat ever constructed. Of the eight that had been built, only U-234 and U-219 remained. The other six had paid a heavy price for their slow speed and lack of maneuverability.

Lieutenant Johann "Dynamite" Fehler, who had previously served on the infamous raider "Atlantis," was in command. In addition to his crew, Fehler was responsible for an important group of passengers: monocled Lieutenant General Ulrich Kessler of the Luftwaffe; Colonels Sandrat and Neishling, also of the Luftwaffe; civilian rocket and jet experts; and most mysterious of all, Lieutenant Commanders Hideo Tomonaga and Genzo Shoji of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Fehler's mission: transport personnel and materials to Japan to support its war against the Allies. The final days of the Reich might be at hand, but what assistance could be provided Japan, would be provided. With a mission of such importance, Fehler had to avoid any possible contact with the enemy; U-234 ran deep and continuously submerged for two weeks after leaving Kristiansand. Only after making it through the English Channel into the Atlantic did Fehler feel sufficiently confident to surface for two hours each night

But events were at work beyond Fehler's control. On May 10, the U-234 picked up a fatal shortwave transmission, Doenitz's announcement of Germany's surrender: "My U-boat men . . . you have fought like lions . . . lay down your arms." Instructions were given to proceed to the nearest allied port, but U-234 was so positioned that several possible destinations existed. Fehler decided to head to the United States.

Unwilling to be captured, Hideo Tomonaga and Genzo Shoji committed suicide. On May 14, an American boarding party took over and directed the U-234 to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Despite tight security, the arrival of U-234 at the docks became a major news event. Considerable coverage was devoted to the ship's most illustrious passenger, Ulrich Kessler. Much of U-234's top secret cargo, 240 tons of documents and war materials, was shipped to Washington and opened out of sight of the press's cameras. The biggest surprise of all came when 10 containers marked "Japanese Army" were opened. They contained 560 kg of uranium oxide!

Had the uranium reached its probable destinations, Osaka and the Riken Laboratory in Tokyo, enrichment via thermal diffusion might have been attempted. Successfully enriched, the product would have been, by activity, mostly Uranium 234 or U-234!

Helgason, G. <http://uboat.net/boats/u234.htm>

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/articlesstories/u234.htm>

(Sourced from Health Physics Historical Instrumentation Collection Website)

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## **WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS!!**

File Extension Info Library

<http://www.fileinfo.net/>

ARRL Morse Broadcasts

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>

Want to know about that rig?

<http://www.rigpix.com/>

Want to know about that Microphone connection?

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rg4wpw/date.html>

Geiger Mueller tubes for detecting radiation

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/collection/GMs/GMs.htm>

Historical Instruments Virtual Museum:

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/museumlibrary.htm>

The first weighing of Plutonium

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/Library/plutoniumfirstweighing.pdf>

The Origin of Selected Radiological and Nuclear Terms

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/articlesstories/names.htm>

The Manhattan Project History

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/Library/manhattanproject/manhattanproject.pdf>

Do you have some interesting amateur related sites you have some across in the last week – send them in to justingc@ozemail.com.au

***VK7 Virtual BPL Tours Update***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcY0Eetvsw> - Mt Nelson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gsxpya3CnQ> - North Hobart

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7DfdxjRkpU> - R U ready for BPL?

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If you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator or upgrading your licence then we suggest you contact your local club for details and/or take a look at what the Radio and Electronics School has to offer. They have a range of courses that can be delivered through a variety of methods.

They can be found at: [www.radioelectronicschool.com](http://www.radioelectronicschool.com)

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Finally today, a reminder to those people rostered for next week's broadcasts:

Newsreader: VK7IR

160m: VK7DM

80m: VK7TW

40m: VK7HCH

20m: 20m Group

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7FTAZ

HF CB: VK7TED

Thanks to all people and organisations who assisted with this broadcast.

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THAT CONCLUDES OUR VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST FOR THIS WEEK.

YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO VK7WI. NEXT WEEK THE NATIONAL WIA NEWS CAN BE HEARD AT 0900 FOLLOWED BY THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS AT 0930 HOURS.

DETAILS TO SEND NEWS FOR THIS BROADCAST CAN BE FOUND AT [REAST.ASN.AU](http://REAST.ASN.AU) AND THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.