



Darling Downs Radio Club Inc.

Newsletter

Toowoomba January 2024

CLUB INFORMATION

Postal address: PO Box 3257

Toowoomba QLD 4350

Email address

secretary@ddrci.org.au

Web Site: www.ddrci.org.au

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Dougal Johnston VK4EKA

Vice President: David Curry VK4SP

Secretary: Theo Moller VK4ESK

Treasurer: Wayne Richter VK4ARW

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Sam Pascoe VK4SAM;

Cameron Scarvell VK4CSS;

Robert Hosking VK4FRH;

Bruce Boardman VK4MQ.

REPEATER COMMITTEE

Chairman Bruce Boardman VK4MQ

Members: Paul Stevens VK4CPS;

Cameron Scarvell VK4CSS;

Rod Webb VK4ZJ

Station Manager Theo Moller
VK4ESK

2 Metre Net Convenor
Kevin Crandell VK4VKX
80 Metre Net Convenor
Theo Moller VK4ESK

CLUB MEETINGS:

2nd Monday of the month.

Start 7pm.

First half hour business matters, then
social meeting incl a lecture.

Meeting place:

Community Venues, Level 3 City
Library
Victoria St. Toowoomba

CLUB NETS:

80m on 3.650MHz, Saturday 7.30pm

2m on 146.750MHz Toowoomba

Repeater. Sunday 10am

Other Regular Nets in the

Toowoomba area:

Monday: UHF Net on 438.025MHz
7.30pm

Tuesday: The new Horizons Net
on 147.050 MHz 7.30pm

Thursday: Scrub Turkey Net on
147.050MHz 7.30pm.

Friday: VK4 Friendship Net on
3.587MHz at 7.00pm



A note from the President

Darling Downs Radio Club Inc

Summary of Management Meeting on 11th December 2023

We had a good lunch at the Southern Hotel on the 9th December. The Christmas break-up Picnic/BBQ was set for the 16th at Federation Park. There were 12 for the Management Meeting and following talk.

The minutes and mail were confirmed and the secretary reported Bob VK4ZOW has agreed to talk on CHAT GPT after the January 8th 2024 Management meeting. Some more QSL cards were received and will be forwarded to the club members.

David Toal VK4JPS was accepted as a member.

The Treasurer reported more than \$6300 in funds and no outstanding commitments. Bruce reported that he has the new antenna for VHF VK4RDD in hand; it requires IPX connectors, the bracket to mount the antenna are to be manufactured & galvanised. Bruce was approved to proceed.

Next Social Lunch at the Southern Hotel, for Saturday, 11th February 2024.

Planning is under way for participation in the Summer VHF/UHF Field Day on 13th January 2024, possibly at Anduramba.

The DDRCi will also look to be active in the March 2024 John Moyle Memorial Field Day again at the Danish Flower Farm, Highfields.

Sam or Terry would appreciate any comments on the changes to the DDRCi Web Page. Len again thanked for the club Newsletter, he will consider a title for it.

Bruce gave a brief demo/talk on his power supply blowing up his raspberry PI.

Next Management Meeting 7:00 pm 8th Jan 2024. Community Rooms TRC Library.

Dougal then gave a talk on RF detection in the shack.

The new Class Licence reinforces the need to keep the public and operators safe from exposure to radio frequency energy. All should keep records of the likely safety of their activities.

Perhaps further guidelines will come from the ACMA or the WIA.

At present Dougal refers to the ACA document: "HUMAN EXPOSURE TO EMR: ASSESSMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ACA REQUIREMENTS" 2005.

Safe level for operators:

Occupational

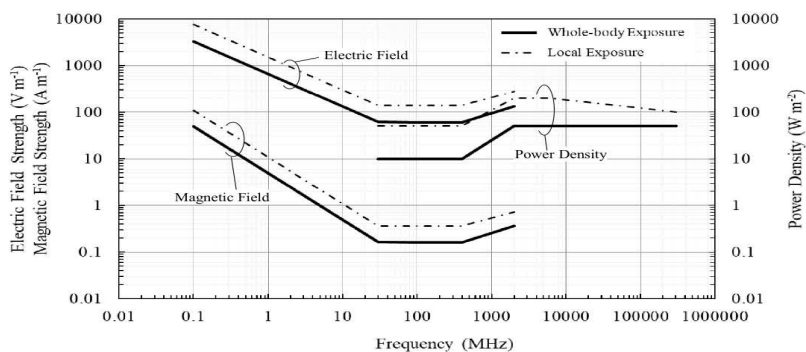


FIGURE 1. Reference levels for time averaged occupational exposures of ≥ 6 min, to electromagnetic fields from 100 kHz to 300 GHz (unperturbed rms values; see Tables 5 and 6 for full specifications).

CLUB REPEATERS.

Both VHF and UHF repeaters are co-sited and have the same call identifier: **VK4RDD** 146.750 Mhz, negative offset, no access tone required; **VK4RDD** 439.275 Mhz, negative offset, 91.5 Hz, access tone required. **VK4WID** is the club's call sign for all nets on HF, VHF and UHF, as well as all contests. Please note that during contests which conflict with our regular net times, the contest has priority over the net in so far as the club call sign is concerned. The nets will then be conducted under the convener's call sign instead of **VK4WID**.



On the 16th of December the Club had it's yearly break-up BBQ at Federation Park. Only a small group was present but never the less an enjoyable time was had by all.

On **19 February 2024**, the following aspects of **the new arrangements will commence:**

- the Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023 (amateur class licence)
- revised qualifications framework
- new call sign arrangements
- ACMA allocating qualification and call sign services
- ACMA receiving accredited assessor applications
- revised arrangements for overseas visiting amateurs.

Not all the energy fed into an antenna system will reach the antenna itself. If the system has a tuner, part of the power is lost in the inductor of the tuner and part is lost in the feed-line. When properly tuned, tuners using T-networks lose about 10% of the power and L-network tuners lose about 5% of the power being fed to them.

Notice we said properly tuned. However, improper tuning of the antenna tuner may cause you to believe the feed-line is matched, but when this happens there is a very high circulating current in the inductor causing it to get hot.

This causes extremely high losses, and very little power reaches the radiating part of the antenna. In addition, so much heat is produced in the inductor that it can be damaged.

We melted the plastic insulation that forms the inductor on one tuner this way. For this reason, some hams dont like tuners, preferring to use resonant antennas.

Read the instructions for your tuner for proper tuning or you may wind up with a poor signal and a damaged tuner.

The resistive losses in the conductors of the feed-line and the dielectric losses in the feed-line also rob power from the system. These are the reasons for you to use the best tuners and feed-lines possible.

January Meeting

Darling Downs Radio Club Inc
Meeting and Talk 2nd Monday only
Management Committee Meeting
January 8th 2024 7:00 pm
Community Rooms Level 3
Toowoomba Library, Victoria St.

If you have any matters to raise please bring them to the attention of the Management Committee or Steering Committee members

Chatbots and "Artificial Intelligence" information programs have become ubiquitous recently.

After the Management Meeting Bob Murton VK4ZOW will help us see how to best use CHAT GPT. Bob has some examples of CHAT GPT responses to guide us.

Happy New Year

Members and commitee of the Darling Downs Radio Club Inc. wishes everyone connected with Amateur Radio a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Hope DX will be plenty-full.