

Hi, and welcome to the start-of-April Newsletter for the Darling Downs Radio Club. We've fixed a heap of member and guest entries and you might be seeing emails from us for the first time.



In this edition:

- No time change here: Australia Daylight Saving ends everywhere else
- The big weekend: 12/13/14 April
- **Club informal lunch: Sunday 13 April** with **changed location**
- **Next club technical meeting: 14 April** with **adjusted location**
- Hunting the Foxes
- Join the Nets
- John Moyle Field Day wrap
- How do we reach those who don't know we exist?
- Education and training - tell us what you need
- Licence exam process
- Membership renewals: non-members and newbies get 15 months for price of 12 if you sign up right now
- WIA membership: helps the club and you
- Old Timer News: RAOTC
- News from other clubs
- Document source - membership form, certificate template

Before you read further, two really important notes:

1. at all events run by the DDRCi, **members, guests, non-members, and newbs all welcome!**
2. we're a member organisation, and we need your membership! Consider joining or renewing.

And now: here's the news!

**Don't wind the clocks:** Did you set your clocks back this morning? If you're in Queensland, the answer should be "no". And for the next 5 months and 29 days, you won't have to worry about meeting, sched, or flight times being confused. Everyone on the eastern seaboard of Australia is once again officially UTC+10. Nice.

**The big weekend:** Put the dates in your diary so you don't miss out. There's more detail on these events further down the page.

- Saturday 12 April: **Redfest** 25 from 0900. It's in a new location, so [check their website for details](#).
- Sunday 13 April: Club informal lunch at the Withcott Hotel.
- Monday 14 April: Club technical meeting and info night at the Toowoomba Library

**The Lunch: Sunday 13 April** 1130 for 1200-1430

Could the club do a lunch not on a Saturday? Yes. And given that this month we'd have a clash with Redfest, it's a good time to try a Sunday lunch. We're also trialing the Withcott Hotel, to provide some incentive to people who are east of Toowoomba. You know who you are, and we expect to see you! We've tested the location for parking and menu, and both are good. Special recommendation: [seniors meals under \\$20](#) (check the steak!) and cake/coffee for an additional \$6. Look for us at a table over near the fireplace.



Hint: to get the seniors rate you might need to produce ID. But if you're a senior, you might not need ID to purchase a seniors meal for someone younger. Wink.

Let us know that you're coming. Click this very safe link: [lunch@ddrci.org.au](mailto:lunch@ddrci.org.au) and your email client will do most of the rest of the formatting for you.

**Club tech meeting/update:** On **Monday 14 April** at 1900 we're back at the **Toowoomba Library**.



**Cam VK4CSS** will tell us all about **RADAR and LIDAR**, and you can bet that there will be useful tips about how both are used by official channels. Apart from over the horizon, and self-driving cars, who hasn't wondered if speed detection is accurate when used in fixed and mobile traps? This will be a good time to ask the questions. We can't promise this will help you get over a speeding fine or red-light camera, but informed is armed, and knowledge is a powerful thing.

At this stage, we're working to get the meeting streamed, with interactive response so that remote participants can ask questions. It's a big leap, but we'll see how it goes. Watch the website for details - links will be on the calendar entry on the night if a stream is possible.

Coming up on 12 May: plan is to pick up the session on WICEN (the meeting that had to be changed because we were in the middle of a civil emergency).

**Redfest:** Saturday 12 April from 0900. Many of us will be going to [Redfest](#). The Redcliffe Radio Club has put a lot of effort into their gig, and it will be good to see what they are doing. Apart from likely junk and commercial gear, they will run several technical Lecture sessions: Adventures on HF: POTA & SOTA; Field Portable Antennas; and HF Contesting. It's likely to be worth the trip just for those sessions.

If you're going and you want/can offer a ride, maybe drop into the Sunday 2m net this week (6 April) and let others know. Or drop a line to [secretary@ddrci.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddrci.org.au) and we'll try to match people.

**Hunting the Fox:** our inaugural Fox Hunt and social BBQ day is scheduled for Saturday 10 May. We know where the start and end point will be, and we have a BBQ location (which is most likely neither of the other two locations... but it will be close). The aims here: do some tech stuff including building your own antenna; have fun; enjoy company; have lunch! Details on the hunt, DIY and arrangements will appear on the home page real soon now.

**Fish the nets:** the club runs many weekly nets for members and guests, including the HF net on Saturdays at ; the 2m net on Sundays at 1000. Check the home page and scroll down to where it says "Repeaters and Nets" for details.

**John Moyle wrap:** we done good. A heap of fun had by all on the day, and we ran up enough points to be in with a chance for our state and class- logs have been submitted. Dougal brought out the club trailer (a new experience for some of us) and that ran 80m into a dipole longwire; Wayne ran a beam on 20m; Sam used his very techy looking vertical on 15m; and for a while Paul chipped in on 10m.



**The Danish Flower Art complex** supplied the venue, and as predicted there was good coffee and scones (for a price!). We attracted useful attention from a number of non-amateurs who wandered over to see what we were doing; a couple of scouts dropped in; and quite a few budding amateurs got to see the combination of competition operation, off-grid power, and how to keep out of each other's spectrum in a small space.

**Expanding our horizons:** as a group we need to do some important things to keep our hobby alive. Amateur radio is interesting, exciting, and lets you develop skills. There are squillions of kids in school who need to see our enthusiasm for a hobby that will support their scholastic and professional development. So, we're looking at what we can do for outreach. So you have ideas or contacts that might help us? Drop a line to [secretary@ddrci.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddrci.org.au)

In particular, we're looking for people to help us demo the hobby at - for instance - Bunnings or Carnival of Flowers.

**Telepresence coverage of meetings:** to get to more people who are far away or don't want to drive at night: our plan is to start bringing the meetings to you via a telepresence option. Most likely that will be zoom, so that we can take questions live, but we will let you know close to the date. If we're doing a zoom, the link will be placed in the calendar entry [via "Events" on the home page](#) (or just go directly to the calendar entry for the event).

**Teaming with Scouts:** we're working closely with the regional Scouts people to get joint activity beyond JOTA and JOTI. So far various members of the Scouts organisation have appeared at tech meetings and the John Moyle Field day. The club has much to offer, especially in encouragement of development of STEM skills. Speaking of which...



**Training:** Dave Toal has accepted the mantle as our education/assessment officer, and is actively starting to sort out both training classes and assessments. Do you know someone who is interested in getting their foundation licence? Let us know. Tell us what you need, and help us out by finding potential candidates for both training and club membership. You can drop a line to Dave at [yk4jps@gmail.com](mailto:yk4jps@gmail.com) and let him know your thoughts.

**Exams:** We are working on an exam schedule for applicants who are interested in getting their Foundation ticket, and others seeking to qualify further. How soon would you like to sit?

**Membership is cheaper right now:** if you join in April, you will get 15 months of membership for the price of 12 months. And \$30 is way less than most clubs (\$25 concession). We might have to put memberships up in the next 12 months, so do it now. [The forms are here](#).

**WIA membership:** thank you to all DDRCi members who are also members of the WIA. As an affiliated club, we receive a serious discount on our annual Public Liability Insurance premium if at least 25% of our members are also members of the WIA. If you're not a WIA member, [then you can join here](#). One of the reasons that affiliated Club memberships can be lowish is that the big cost of managing our hobby, and the bulk of the heavy lifting, is through a central body. So please consider supporting them.

## Other clubs:

**Townsville Amateur Radio Club** has sent a copy of their magazine "Back-Scatter", which [you can view/download a copy here](#).

**The Wireless Institute** (WIA) would like all licensed amateurs to do a quick survey on your experience with the transition to the new class licence regime, especially if you have had to prove your amateur licence status using the new documentation. [You can do the survey here](#), and it really does only take a few minutes.

The **Radio Amateurs Old Timers club** is open to all amateur radio operators who have held a licence for 25 years or more (Full membership) or for 10-25 years (Associate membership). So you could be a member of RAOTC and still be well south of age 30. RAOTC is very active, runs a good gathering, and provides yet another way for you to engage in the broader community of amateur radio. Check them out here and [check out membership options here](#). Membership is quite low priced. Hint: life membership is equivalent of 21 years individual subscription. If you are under 60, that's a bet with good odds.



## Do you have something to tell us or let people know?

If you'd like to get news to DDRCi members; have an idea for the club; want to sell an item from the shack; need to ask a question (questions are GOOD); or you'd like to subscribe to our blurts: **please send an email** to [secretary@ddrci.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddrci.org.au) (click that link - it's safe!) so that we can get things happening for you.

Best to all, and **don't forget about the lunch and the member meeting** coming up.

John

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John Maizels VK4JPM  
Secretary, DDRCi

This email was sent because you are on one of our mailing lists: you are a member; an associated club; you have talked to us once (or twice); or somehow we honestly believe that you want to hear from us.

**If you don't want to receive future emails** from the DDRCI please [tell us so that we can take you off the list](#).