



ALARA MEET 2017

Friday 8th - Monday 11th September 2017

PROGRAMME AND INFORMATION

Updated August 2017

Friday 8th September 2017

<p>1200-1600</p>	<p>Registration and Lunch/ Afternoon Tea. Check in to Cairns Colonial Club Conference Centre, Main Foyer Greeting Table. Sign in, receive your Goody bags, collect local information and register for Logging Demo, Foxhunt teams or Craft Class.</p> <p>Continue upstairs to Jardine Room for refreshments and chat with other Attendees.</p>
	<p>Bring items that you want to hand in for the Display Tables. There will be a table to showcase our craft and handwork. YLs have many skills that are discussed on the radio nets and here is a chance to see some of that beautiful work. Special QSL Cards, Awards, or Photo Albums of a special Holiday or Radio Activity would be welcome too. Perhaps some recipes for our ROTA group.</p> <p>Sign on for one of the Breakout Sessions: These include a special fun session by Di VK4DI and Linda VK7QP on how to use computer logging programs. Tina VK4TMC can show you how to make the most of Echolink. Bring your laptop or smartphone and have the software installed and learn how to use these programs while you are here.</p>
<p>1900 till late</p>	<p>Welcome Dinner in the Homestead Restaurant with a Tropical Theme. Buffet Dinner with selection of meats, vegetables and salad. Cash bar.</p> <p>Join in the fun of the Crossword Puzzle Quiz. Announcement about the Mars Bar Awards that will be monitored over the weekend!</p>
	<p><i>Depending on what time members arrive and register, we hope to have short tours of the Royal Flying Doctor Base, Bureau of Meteorology Office etc.</i></p>

Saturday 9th September 2017

0800-0845	Late registrations
0900	<p>Opening of the Meet by the President of ALARA in the Jardine Room, Cairns Colonial Club Convention Centre.</p> <p>Fair warning about the Mars Awards running over the weekend!</p>
0930	<p>Stroll around the Display Tables in the Jardine Room, or have an Eyeball QSO chat on the verandas outside.</p> <p>Examples of Displays will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display of members' craft activities, including our talented lacemakers with a demo by our President Shirley VK5YL and with a short interactive craft session on how to make a Kumihimo Keyring by Tina VK5TMC • Some of the Morse Code keys restored by Lyn VK4SWE with Brasso for anyone who wants to have a go! • Our "Bletchley Girls" with mementos and secrets from their visit to Bletchley Park last year. • DXpedition Display with some ideas on how to play radio whilst on holiday • Brag table - see some of the wonderful Awards that members have gathered over the years. • Special demo by Colonial Club management/staff on how they use radios for communications around their 11-acre property. <p>The idea is that members can wander from table to table, pausing at whatever interests them most, with plenty of space and chairs out on the shady verandahs outside to catch up and chat.</p>
1030	<p>"Smoko" = Morning Tea/Coffee and the Official Group Photos Session. <i>(We will be taking ongoing photos throughout the Meet as well as the Official Club Photos.)</i></p>
1100	<p><i>OMs or partners can take the Optional Tour to the nearby Australian Armour and Artillery Museum - this is the largest museum of its kind in Australia with a huge range of exhibits, including some unique vehicles, all very well presented with lots of information. The front counter is pretty unique, being a British made WWII Matilda Tank! There are optional Joyrides available and a Shooting Gallery, also an interesting gift shop and coffee room.</i></p>

<p>After Smoko (Morning Tea/Coffee)</p>	<p>FOXHUNT! Form up into Teams and take part in a Mini Foxhunt among the tropical gardens - if you've never taken part in one of these fun 'Direction-finding' events you are in for a treat - we'll use handheld radios and antennas to zero in on a small transmitter hidden in the nearby gardens - we can mix and match teams to ensure everyone has an equal chance at finding the Treasure! Those who prefer to sit it out on the Verandas or tropical gardens can watch the fun! Equipment is supplied, and there will be prizes for the winners!</p>
<p>1300</p>	<p>Lunch, for everyone (including returned OMs) served on the spacious airy Verandahs with a selection of dishes to cater for all tastes.</p>
<p>1400</p>	<p>Breakout Sessions continue with another Computer Logging Demo or around the Displays and check anything you missed out on earlier, or heard about from others that sounds interesting, plus a chance for the OMs and partners to see what we YLs have been up to! Wander round the Displays, pause where you like, listen in to a talk on local Telegraph history, Bletchley Park (as featured in the Enigma codebreaker movie), join in the fun of collecting Morse Keys, Foxhunting without hounds and the fun of Treasure Hunting with radios. Have a go at polishing a brass morse key, or try your hand at digital photo editing so that you can design and print your own unique QSL Cards!</p>
<p>1530</p>	<p>Afternoon "Smoko" - a selection of Tea, Coffee and Snacks on the Verandahs.</p>
<p>1600</p>	<p>Free time to relax around Resort Pools or take the 5pm Shuttle Bus into town for some sightseeing/shopping at the Night Markets or walk around the Esplanade Pool or Marina.</p>
<p>1900</p>	<p>Irish Night Dinner at Homestead Restaurant. Themed bar and menu. Tasty Traditional Irish dishes to choose from. Cash Bar. Live Irish Music!</p>

Sunday 10th September 2017

	<p>Exotic Adventure through Tropical Rainforest to inland top of the mountain town historic Kuranda</p>
<p>0830 CHOICE OF EITHER TRAIN OR SKYRAIL TO KURANDA</p>	<p>TRAIN: Meet at FRESHWATER STATION for Kuranda Scenic Train departure. This historic train takes 2 hours to ascend the winding Range, passing through tunnels and with stunning views of the Gorges. Mingle and chat as we ascend to the scenic, cooler-climate Atherton Tablelands. We all meet at the top for some free time at Kuranda to explore town or visit the Kuranda Markets.</p>
<p>CHOICE OF EITHER TRAIN OR SKYRAIL TO KURANDA</p>	<p>SKYRAIL: Meet at SKYRAIL BASE CARAVONICA, where we ascend in sturdy enclosed Gondolas, skimming the treetops with a birds-eye view of the rainforest and out over the Barrier Reef, with stop for a short rainforest walk with local Guide along the way. We all meet at the top for some free time at Kuranda to explore town or visit the Kuranda Markets.</p>
	<p>BUS tour of the Atherton Tablelands. Our local driver takes us on a comprehensive overview Taste of the Tablelands, pointing out highlights along the way.</p> <p>LUNCH - Mareeba Heritage Centre – With a range of share platters to suit all tastes. We will be treated to a special tour of the interesting exhibits on local history, including equipment from the first licensed amateur radio station in Queensland XQA! Volunteers from the local Radio Club will answer all your FAQs!</p> <p>Continue our scenic Taste of the Tablelands Tour, passing remnants of the ancient volcanic landscape with its lakes and rich red soil, with coffee/tea plantations, and a myriad of other produce. History buffs will enjoy the links from WWII, while those who just want to sight-see will enjoy the lush greenery and waterfalls. Those staying on after the MEET might want to come back up for an overnight stay! Enjoy afternoon tea at Lake Barrine with its famous Scones, before descending back down the Range leaving some free time to relax at the Swim-up Pool Bar or a snooze before dinner.</p>

1900

Gala Dinner at Cairns Colonial Centre Conference Centre Jardine Room.
Themed Dinner: "Pirates! ARRrrr...! Putting the AR back into ALARA!"
Costumes are encouraged but are certainly not compulsory. Be inspired by Elizabeth Swann, heroine of the movie Pirates of the Caribbean, or the first Irish pirate queen Granuaile (aka Grace O'Malley)...

Announcement of Mars Bar Awards to celebrate fun hiccups over the weekend!
Prize awarded to Foxhunt Winners!

Information on Optional Tours to the Reef or Rainforest for Monday with self-paid final dinner at the Venue on Monday night for those still in Cairns.

Announce the holders of next ALARAMEET 2020 and handing over of Banner.
Official Closing of ALARAMEET by Diane VK4DI and thanks to everyone for travelling this far to Far North Queensland - quite a "DX ALARAMEET" hihi!

Monday 11th September 2017

0830	<p>Optional Day Tours:</p> <p>1. Reef Trip: Meet at Reef Fleet Terminal, central Cairns, for full day tour of Great Barrier Reef. Allow around \$200 for this full day experience of the Great Barrier Reef at locally owned family company Reef Magic's spacious pontoon platform 'Marine World'. They are offering us a special 20% discount for ALARAMEET attendees! The day includes 5+ hours on the Great Barrier Reef, with a full range of facilities to cover everyone from non-swimmers to scuba divers, high speed boat transfers on large stable catamarans, talks from marine biologists en route, smorgasboard lunch, complimentary snorkelling equipment including personal flotation device, lycra suit or wetsuit, semi-submersible tour of the reef and glass-bottom boat tour with interactive commentary, fish feeding and identification session with marine biologist, underwater observatory, use of sundeck, freshwater showers and changing rooms, with free tea/coffee and drinking water throughout the day. Plus there is a chance of spotting a whale on the way out to the reef, though it is towards the end of the whale watching season, the boss assures us that if we do spot a whale on the way out, he will stop for photos! More information on our website: www.alara.org.au/alarammeet/index.html</p> <p>2. Rainforest Tour: Tropic Wings air conditioned coach will pick us up at our accommodation (including Holloways Beach) approximately 07:30am, for our tour of the Daintree and Cape Tribulation Rainforest. It is a scenic 2-hour drive north along the coast with a stop at Port Douglas Wildlife Habitat and the opportunity of a photoshoot with some of the wildlife! We cross the Daintree River on the cable-driven ferry, driving through the rainforest to our lunch stop at Cape Tribulation. There we will have the opportunity for a swim in the Beach House pool, or stroll the sandy beach (no beach swimming due to resident crocodiles!) with a guided rainforest walk and lots of photo opportunities. Our bus takes us south again, pausing at Alexandra Lookout for stunning views. At the Daintree River, we board our vessel for a one hour cruise up the river, with the chance to spot birds, butterflies and perhaps even a crocodile! Rejoining our bus on the other side of the river, we return to Cairns along the scenic coast road with plenty of time to chat or snooze along the way! This tour gets back into Cairns around 7pm, just in time for dinner!</p>
19:30	<p>Last Supper As many members are staying on, we will have a casual (self-pay dinner at the Venue. Perhaps an al Fresco meal by the pool at Cairns Colonial Club Resort.</p>

Registration is now closed.

For all **Tour** bookings, please contact Diane VK4DI or Lyn VK4SWE in order to qualify for the special ALARA discounted tours and accommodation. There will be a Cut-off Date for this option, after which others may still book their own accommodation with the venue, vacancies permitting.

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