

MRC 2023 Summary Sheet

Saturday 25 November 2023

www.mrc.cat.net.au

Calling Channels

- HF CBRS Channel 26 LSB (27.265 MHz)
- UHF CBRS Channel 26 FM (477.050 MHz)

Calling Times

- Noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm.
- 8pm on Friday if you are at your mountain early.
- Monitor the call channels between these times as much as possible.
- Report on air any planned periods away from the radio or station shutdown.

Notes

The antenna polarisation for this event is vertical. You can additionally work horizontal by arrangement with the stations you contact. Band conditions can change, so see if you can work MRC stations that you had difficulty calling earlier in the day, especially if you are still holding the message or reply or were only able to share it using skip. Let the organisers know on the Zello channel and they can help coordinate.

MRC Station List

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Summit</u>	<u>Team</u>
MRC1	Flagstaff Hill Lookout VIC	Peter, Tony 355 & team
MRC2	Boroka Lookout VIC	Mitchell 521
MRC3	West of England Firetower VIC	Matt CB661
MRC4	Mt Terrick Terrick VIC	Michael BSB44
MRC5	Mt Tarrengower VIC	Erik DW134
MRC6	Mt Disappointment VIC	Paul 153
MRC7	Mt Wombat VIC	Mark 178
MRC8	Mt Baranduda VIC	Kevin 773
MRC9	Mt Ginini ACT	Matt KK266
MRC10	Mt Gibraltar NSW	Joel 1330
MRC11	Mt Bindo NSW	Dan WR082 & team
MRC12	Mt Macquarie NSW	Wayne HR207
MRC13	Turondale NSW	Shane WR350
MRC14	Coolah Tops NSW	Joel WR346 / AR346
MRC15	Mt Kaputar NSW	Glenn 521

Listen For

Mt York NSW	Rach & Yin
Mt Ida VIC	Dave MD1
Whitlands VIC	Scotty 455 & Ben
Mt Sugarloaf NSW	Earle 43EE333
Mt Archer QLD	Gerard AX493

Zello

The Zello PTT app is an essential tool for the MRC and works well even with poor mobile coverage. Install it on your mobile device and join the "MRC 2023" channel. Use the channel to send and receive reports of operational status and progress of the MRC message.

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Objectives

The relay message (northbound, starting at MRC1) and relay message reply (southbound, starting at MRC15) will be sent simultaneously at Noon, Australian Eastern Daylight Time (UTC 01:00) from the stations at opposite ends of the MRC Station List. Take note of your position in this list. Your local objective is to establish contact with your immediate neighbours or failing that any other station on the list. Your immediate neighbours are the stations directly above and below you on the MRC Station List.

Remember that the overall objective is to complete the relay on the HF (27MHz) or UHF CBRS bands and to do so using direct-wave (line of sight) propagation. So only use skip and/or employ the help of non-MRC stations if you are not able to establish contact any other way.

Calling

Establishing relay contacts: Please monitor and transmit on the call channels per the schedule on the Summary Sheet. Do so until you have established contact with your immediate neighbours or failing that any other MRC Stations.

Maintaining contact: Check in with these contacts no less than once every half hour to reconfirm, and do so until you have relayed or shared both the message and reply with them. Band conditions and circumstances change, so you may find that who you can contact will change throughout the event, so do not delay in sharing the relay message or reply with your immediate neighbours.

Bypassing neighbours: If you cannot establish contact with an immediate neighbour please be patient, especially at the start of the event when it may take longer than anticipated to reach a mountain due to localised weather conditions or road closures. But eventually it will become clear that a neighbour is unreachable and must be bypassed to keep the message moving. Re-establish contacts if you have to, and let your contacts know about the unreachable neighbour at check-in and also let the organisers know on the Zello channel.

Relay on another channel: Please avoid using the call channels (27MHz Ch 26 LSB or UHF Ch 26 FM) for the actual message relay. Ask the other station to move with you to a clear channel first.

Completion: When the message and reply have been successfully relayed by every MRC station the global objective has been achieved. If you are shutting down your station and leaving your mountain please call your contacts to let them know and report your status on the Zello channel.

Night Operation: Some stations are camping on the Saturday night when direct-wave conditions can be more favourable. If you were unable to relay using direct-wave earlier in the day you may now be able to. So if you plan to stay late do try and make contact again and let the organisers know on Zello so that they can help coordinate with other stations. If you are not staying late you may also make contact with camping stations while travelling or back at home. You may even discover that signals improve en-route and so establish a great location that can be used in a future MRC.

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Record Keeping

Write down both the message and reply exactly as received (i.e. make every effort to make no error yourself but do not correct any spelling, punctuation or grammar) as well as the callsign of the sending station along with signal report information and the time of receipt. Share this information with the organisers after the event. We don't only care about the distance of the relay but also the quality of the relay. We do this by measuring the errors accumulated in the message and the message reply and which links the errors occurred on.

Zello

Install Zello and join the MRC 2023 Zello channel. There you will find the MRC organisers and many of the MRC Stations. Zello works well on older devices and under marginal mobile network coverage and has proven itself at previous MRC events as a reliable method of sharing operational status, reporting progress of the relay, doing troubleshooting, coordination with neighbouring stations and for getting general technical advice.

Listen For

Feel free to involve people on the Listen For list and invite them to call in to other MRC stations. Last year's listen-fors might be next year's new MRC recruits. Alternatively they might be previous MRC participants with a pool of event knowledge and experience to share. Encourage other local stations you contact during the event to call other MRC stations, keeping in mind the need to minimise chatter during actual message relay.

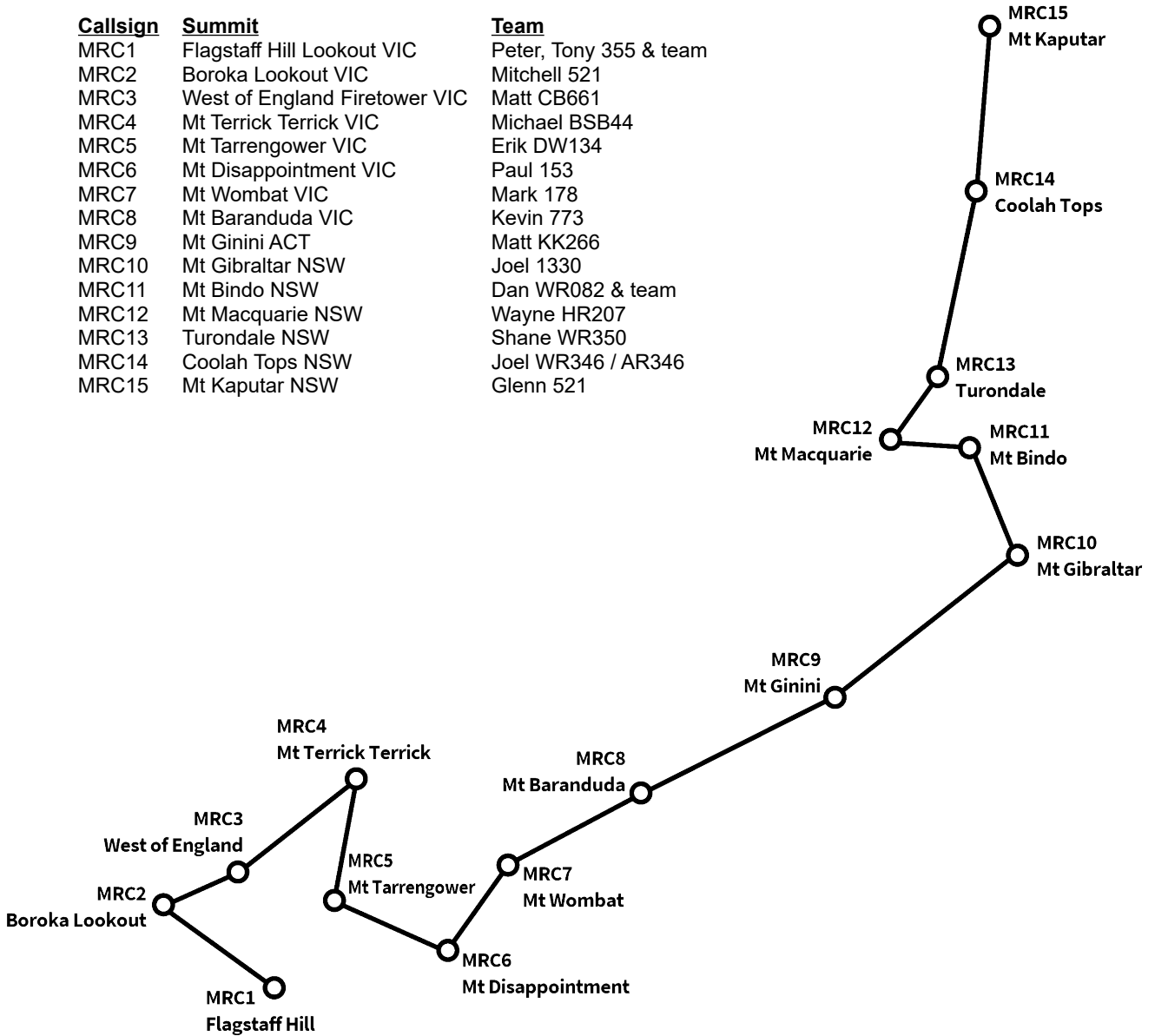
Amateur Radio

Do let other MRC stations know if you are a licensed amateur and which amateur bands you are capable of operating on from your mountain. Although this capability will not be used for the actual relay it may be useful for coordination with other MRC stations with amateur capability and for emergency communications.

MRC 2023 Map

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MRC 2023 Mountain Report Form

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To help us build knowledge for future MRC events please record some information about your station. Please also take photos of the location and your setup.

Station Details

Station Number _____ Operator Names _____

Other MRC Stations contacted throughout the day _____

(include band, mode, simplex/duplex) _____

Equipment 27MHz (radio & antenna) _____

Equipment UHF (radio & antenna) _____

UHF Repeaters worked (& location if known)

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 41 _____ 42 _____ 43 _____ 44 _____

45 _____ 46 _____ 47 _____ 48 _____

Other Contacts

UHF Simplex _____ 27MHz (direct and skip) _____

Mountain Details

Mountain Name _____

Elevation _____ Nearest Town _____

Travel Time from nearest town _____

Road Conditions (e.g. sealed/4wd-only) _____

Weather protection notes (e.g. shelter, trees) _____

Description of line of sight _____

(e.g. 270 degree views, trees block view to north)

Mobile phone access & carrier(s) used _____

Facilities at location (tick)

Toilet [] BBQ [] Table [] Tower/Building [] Hut/shelter []

Trig [] Car Park [] Other _____

Extra notes _____