



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

FEB 87

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1986/87

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President.....Ian Jackson VK3BUF  
Secretary.....Andy Beales VK3KCS  
Treasurer.....Albert Hubbard VK3BQO  
Member.....Kerry Clayton VK3KFC  
Member.....Dave Game VK3BJV

Club Component Officer & Test Equipment Library:  
Albert VK3BQO

Publicity Coordinator:  
Kerry VK3KFC (059 963580)

Magazine Editorial:  
The entire Committee

Club meetings held at the 1st Oakwood Park scout hall in  
Heyington Crescent, Noble Park North. Meetings commence on  
the Third Friday of each month at 8:00 pm.

Club Station: VK3BJA Located at the scout hall.

Postal address: P.O.Box 98 Dandenong 3175

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ALL VISITORS WELCOME

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT - FEBRUARY 87

Welcome to the first edition of GATEWAY for 1987. Readers will note that there have been many events since December and we are poised for many more. (See the diary on the next page..)

Over the Christmas break we received an 'accreditation package' from the Department of Communications inviting comment on a proposal to change the amateur license examination system. At our last general meeting the matter was presented by Brenda VK3KT, the W.I.A. education officer, and we drew conclusions for the way that we would like to see the system evolve. Details of our view were submitted to D.O.C., the W.I.A. and to A.R.A. A copy of this text appears in this months GATEWAY.

On the Australia Day long weekend several of our Club members ventured up to Corowa, N.S.W. for a bit of fun. We participated in a major event, the Annual Raft Regatta. Seven rugged individuals set off with a raft fully equipped with the necessities, six metre mast, a five element yagi, an eski, a water cannon, slingshot, the Club 2 metre rig, air horns, and 25 kilo's of talc powder as ammo. Actually seven on board proved to be a bit crowded as we capsized 180 degrees and trawled the bottom of the Murray with our yagi. The air horn stopped working because it had an egg in it and I learned how to tread water with a car battery. All was not lost, our Club rig is as good as new. (except for the mud in the 'S' meter) Plans for the 1988 raft are being negotiated.

This Friday, 20/2/87, Albert VK3BQO and Richard VK3XR0 will demonstrate their RTTY systems. Albert has designed a teletype package for the Tandy Colour Computer, it has some very unique features. Richard shall show his Siemens 100 teleprinter and modem, and of course the Clubs VZ200 system will be on display. Dont miss it!!!

Members may also note the Radio and Electronics display in the Dick Smith store in Springvale on Saturday morning the 21st of March. We hope to give much publicity to this demo as it is an excellent way to promote the hobby.

If you have any interesting articles or circuits of general interest keep them aside for the next edition of GATEWAY, our dynamic band of editors eagerly await your contributions.

*Jim Tuckey*

VK3 BCF

# DIARY OF EVENTS

- 28 Feb.....General meeting and RTTY demonstration.
- 1 March 8:00am....Great Ocean Road outing/BBQ, day trip for fishing, swimming, radio etc.  
Meet at Southland car park, Cheltenham.
- 6 March 7:30pm....Social night, Langwarrin Hotel, Langwarrin.
- 11 March.....Committee meeting.
- 28 March.....General meeting.
- 21 March 9:00am....Dick Smith radio and electronics display.
- 1 April.....Committee meeting, VK3KCS QTH.
- 4 April & 5 April.Alexandra Apex Horse Trial, GGREC to provide the communications.
- 18 April.....General Meeting.  
NOTE: Meeting is brought forward to the second Friday to avoid Easter.
- Membership fees are now due.  
(Still \$10.00)
- 6 May.....Committee Meeting.
- 15 May.....Annual General Meeting. (Committee election)
- 18 June.....Committee meeting. (combined old & new)
- 19 June.....General meeting.
- FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR CALL IN ON 2 METRES (146.225) ON ANY EVENING.

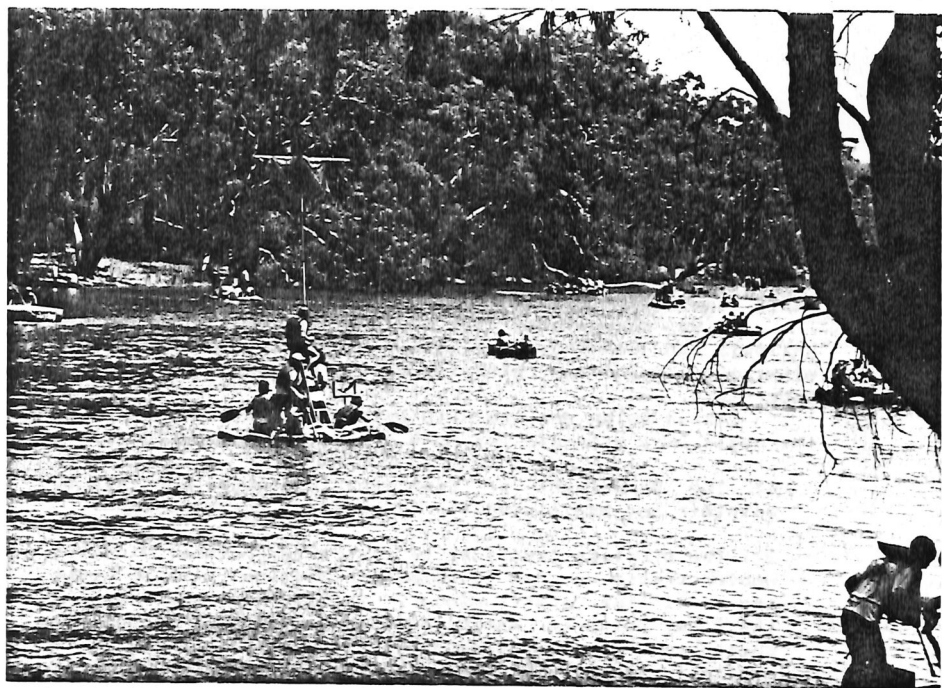
## QSL BUREAU

The W.I.A. have changed their fees for outward QSL cards. It is still free for W.I.A. members but a charge of 40 cents per card applies to non-members.

There is a proposal before the W.I.A. at the moment to NOT process and deliver non members inwards cards through the Bureau. It is intended that non members cards will be forwarded to the W.I.A. rooms in Fitzroy. If this happens I still intend to operate the inwards bureau for the Club and pick up these cards whenever convenient.

Any Club member wishing to use the W.I.A. inwards or Outwards Bureau will have to register with me immediately. W.I.A. members will have to prove their financial status. Club members cards will still be taken to the outwards QSL bureau, but the cards will cost 40 cents each payable in advance, with cards.

KERRY. VK3KFC





## AMATEUR EXAMINATION CHANGES - A GGREC VIEW

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On Friday evening, the 16th of Jan, members of the GGREC met to discuss, among other things, the future of the amateur radio examination system in Australia.

We acknowledge that the present examination system is unlikely to continue, due mainly to the immense cost involved with the lease and staffing of the examination venue by the Department.

Listed below are the main points of what we believe to be the basis of a flexible and more efficient examination system.

1/ The Department of Communications would continue to maintain and administer the examination question bank.

2/ The Wireless Institute of Australia, Federal Division would create a new 'Examination Section' with at least one full-time staff member. This section would become the focal point for administering examinations across the country. It would conduct examinations at the main capital centres not less frequent than at present and when given sufficient notice could administer examinations for country centres and class groups.

3/ It would be the function of the Examination Section to approve of exam locations and dates, enlist volunteer staff to supervise the proceedings, dispatch and retrieve examination papers as made available by the Department of Communications, and pass on the examination results to candidates.

4/ The Department would receive exam answer sheets from the W.I.A. Examination Section, mark them and return the results to the W.I.A. for distribution. Successful candidates may then approach the Department direct for actual license application. This has the advantage for the Department examinations section to deal only with the W.I.A. and not with individuals, in order to considerably reduce the manpower requirements.

5/ Morse code (CW) examination method would have to be simplified to allow the new system to function. The W.I.A. would generate Morse examinations tapes and distribute them as required to examination centres. These would be played to candidates in the conventional fashion. The result (in written form) would be marked by the Department as with the theory exams.

6/ Morse sending would be dropped as an exam requirement. It would prove too difficult to find volunteer examiners that are both consistent and competent. They must also be able to attend to the diverse locations where exams are to be held. By eliminating CW sending the need for reliable morse transmission equipment at each exam location would be unnecessary.

Experience has proven that most candidates capable of receiving CW transmissions are reasonably competent to send at equal or greater speeds. Thus we consider this test to be unnecessary. As the quality of transmission has never been a great consideration under exam conditions this should not be seen as a 'reduction of standards' of the amateur license.

7/ The Department of Communications would maintain the right to observe without prior notice, the conduct of any examination to assure the integrity of exam conditions.

We realise that this is only a broad framework of what would be a whole new system, but feel that it is a fair concession between amateurs and the Department to maintain current standards. We also feel that it is most important that the exam system be administered by a single body, whose sole interest is the conservation of the hobby. Therefore TAFE colleges and other institutions should not maintain any control within the examination system.

Ian Jackson VK3BUF President,  
On behalf of the members of the Gippsland Gate  
Radio and Electronics Club.





# NEW MOBILE TELEPHONES AND NETWORK COMING

A new cellular mobile telephone network – MOBILENET, and a range of mobile phones – EXPLORER, will be introduced shortly.

## WHAT MAKES MOBILENET SO NEW?

MOBILENET is the latest in mobile telephone technology. It covers an area with cells (typically 6 km in diameter) which enable re-use of valuable and limited radio frequency; this gives the network greater capacity.

MOBILENET will also offer our customers an up-to-date range of features that include: automatic roaming (i.e. MOBILENET can automatically locate the user – no area codes required), call diversion and other EASYCALL type features not before available to mobile telephony in Australia. By the early 1990s MOBILENET will have reached some 50 major centres around Australia and will cover 85% of the population.

## EXPLORER – TELECOM'S MOBILE PHONES

The EXPLORER range of mobile telephones will be sold in the challenging environment of open competition with private suppliers.

To complement the new technology of MOBILENET, Telecom's EXPLORER range of mobile telephones will be compact, stylish, highly mobile of course, and competitively priced:

- **TRAVELLER** – a standard car mounted unit, more streamlined and compact than our previous model.
- **ATTACHE** – the transportable telephone that can slot into a mounting bracket in your car or be easily removed and assembled for carrying around.
- **WALKABOUT** – a hand-held unit that will fit into your bag or briefcase and can also click into a cradle for 'in car' use.

All EXPLORER units will have a wide range of features that are comparable to the latest available in office/home telephones, e.g. memory number store, repetitive dialling, etc. These features provide time and money-saving benefits and make mobile communications so quick and easy.

## WHEN WILL MOBILENET AND EXPLORER ARRIVE?

A pilot launch of MOBILENET and EXPLORER is planned to occur on 5 January, 1987 in Sydney, with full marketing launch scheduled for 23 February, 1987. The preliminary launch in Melbourne is scheduled for March/April 1987; other capital cities and major regional centres will follow. This will be the beginning of an implementation program that will continue well into the 1990s.