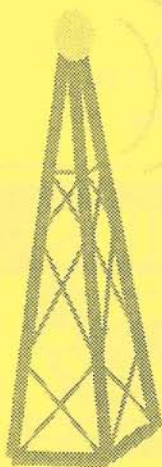


GATEWAY

**THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO AND
ELECTRONICS CLUB INC.**



AUGUST 1997

Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club Inc.

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month
at the Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant street.

The doors open at 8:15 PM & the meeting commences at 8:30 PM

Visitors are most welcome.

Committee Members 1996/1997

President	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF
Secretary	Ivan Blezard	VK3ARV
Treasurer	Paul Ash	VK3HAS
Committee member	Graham Brennan	VK3KCS
Social Co-ordinator	Reg Goddard	VK3UK

Magazine Editor & Robin Linn VK3TFA
Printing & Dispatch Ph. 9807-3083

Deadlines for articles is Thursday week prior to the meeting.

Club Station VK3BJA Located at the Guide Hall

Club Repeater VK3RDD Freq. In 52.575, out 53.575 MHz.

Call in Freqs. are HF on 28.325 MHz-USB

VHF on 146.225 MHz, FM and UHF on 438.850 MHz, FM

Current GGREC Inc. Membership Fee Schedule

Full Member \$30.00, Pensioner Member \$15.00

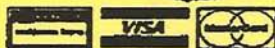
Junior Member \$15.00, Extra Family Member \$10.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

G & C Communications

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GRAHAM VK3KCS

THE PRESIDENTS REPORT

July was a pretty big month for us, The White Elephant Sale saw the Club raise over \$400 for the day, with good attendances by stallholders and buyers. I think that next year we should keep to a similar formula for the event, as most would regard it as one of our best sales in many years.

Roger Sayers, VK3ETT took a number of Club members for an exciting afternoon on Westernport bay aboard Brindabella II. Roger's Yacht showed a little of what it would be like to be at the mercy of the elements.

Last meeting, our planned guest speaker was unable to attend, fortunately Paul VK3HSA was able to arrange an alternate topic. Mr John Bowen entertained us with a first hand description of the civil engineering tasks of developing Loy Yang A and B power stations. Many thanks to John for coming along on such short notice.

On a similar vein, we had a huge turnout to the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard communications headquarters at Sandringham. I am sure that all who attended were impressed with our hosts and the tour they presented. If you think that operating at their communications centre is the sort of thing that interests you further, why not contact them and see if you can sit in on a full watch. Keith Jones would be happy to hear from you. They are looking for operators willing to fill in a few hours during the mid-week shifts. (Ph. 9555 3666 during business hours)

Our Six metre repeater has been debugged and is back on the air. Mike VK3KTO, Colin VK3HR and myself visited the site for several hours where we activated the repeater and conducted a number of tests with the trial (148.063mhz) paging transmitter operating from our site, as setup by Huchinsons Communications. I am pleased to report that even with 110 watts being keyed down less than three metres from our own antenna, that our repeater showed no perceptible degradation of performance. Our transmitter is now producing about 50 watts, with about 20watts going up the antenna. In about a month we will visit the site again and give it a final fine-tune.

BARGAIN COAX SALE! If you have not already purchased some, we still have a fair amount of good quality, 2nd hand **RG213** coax available. Remaining lengths are between 2 and 10 metres. Take as much as you wish for **30 cents per metre**. Proceeds will go to the Club. See me at home, or come along to the next meeting.

Don't forget our scheduled **Movie Afternoon** and **Dinner Session** in Cranbourne for **Aug 17**. Full details are printed elsewhere in this magazine.

At our last Prac Night we ironed out some circuit details for the proposed JVFax project. It will consist of a standard PC to Transceiver interface with lots of good TX/RX microphone and monitoring facilities for two radios at a time. There will be more about this at our General Meeting on Friday night.

Our Next Prac Night on September 5 will have a different flavour, We will be visited at 7:00pm by the Langwarrin Scouts who will sit in on a pre-Jota tour of Amateur Radio. Some may stay for our regular Prac night activities, so make them welcome.

See you at the meeting, de VK3BUF

EVENT QUEUE from AUGUST 97

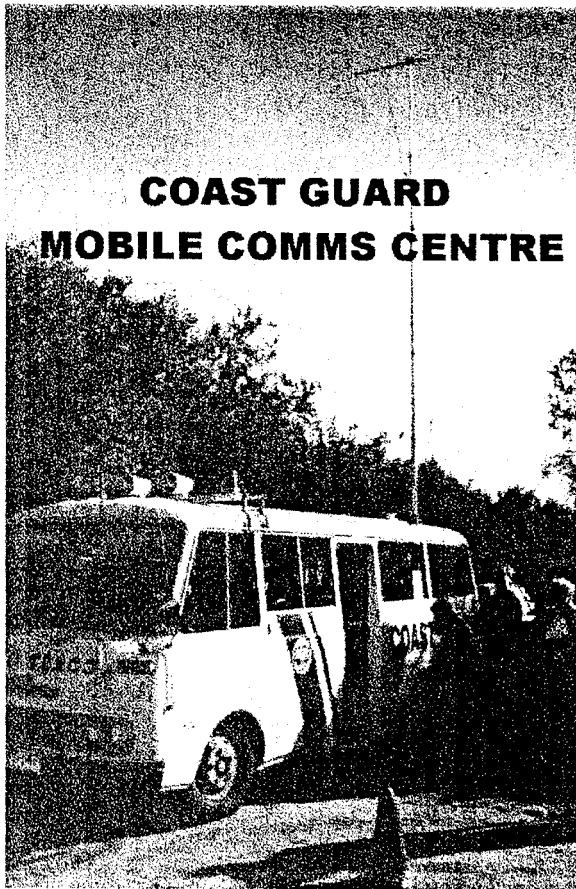
FRIDAY	15/08/97	8:15 PM	GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY	17/08/97	3-4 pm	MOVIE AND DINNER AT CRANBOURNE
FRIDAY	05/09/97		Scout Training Session & PRAC NIGHT
MONDAY	08/09/97		COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY	19/09/97		CLUB MEETING



**COAST GUARD RADIO OPERATIONS ROOM
at SANDRINGHAM**



**COAST GUARD
MOBILE COMMS CENTRE**



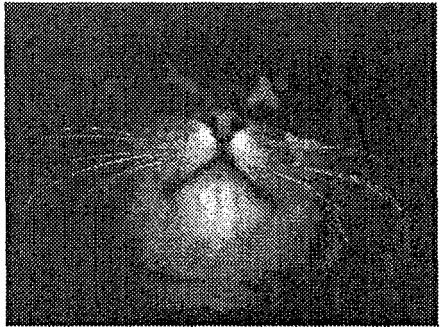
THE LAP TOP COMPUTER VERSUS THE LAP TOP CAT

by Ian Jackson VK3BUF

When lying awake in bed at night one cannot help turning ones thoughts to the similarity that exists between the cat and the computer. Picture yourself in front of the TV during an ad break, with your eyes closed. Is it a cat or a computer in front of you. Can you *really* pick the difference? The weight and surface area of the average portable PC closely resembles that of a curled up cat. They both give off about the same amount of heat. They go to sleep after a few minutes of inactivity, only to spring back to wakefulness at the first stroke of the keyboard (or fur, as the case may be).

OK. I concede the obvious, a computer cannot quite purr like a cat, but if you ... formatting a disk, it feels remarkably similar....

'What about food?' You might ask. Well, if you compare the characteristics of a Nickel Cadmium battery pack with the voracious appetite of a cats stomach a pattern does begin to merge. You can feed a cat well, but it only lasts for a few hours before it insistently demands more energy. As with the computer, the cat will start to exhibit a memory effect when fed at regular intervals. The lap top computer beeps and whines and gives constant reminders of impending shutdown should it not receive more power.



These links may seem a little tenuous, but when examined as a whole the resemblance is much too close to be mere coincidence. Both the cat and the PC will instantly respond to the smallest movement of a mouse. By their temperament they both tend to be extremely unpredictable. Should a car accidentally reverse over either of them, do they not cease to function?

When replacing a cat or computer, a similar degree of consideration must be given to their performance. Speed is important. The older models tend to be slow. Newer models will last a lot longer and are more user friendly. You must also decide whether your preference is for a colour or black & white model. It is a big decision to introduce one into the household. While you must be prepared to spend a lot of time with them, If you are not careful they will consume *all* of your time and other members of the family may become jealous. Be warned... just when you think you have it under control, it'll go off on its own and ignore you.

Oh, and if you are wondering about the picture, it is what you get if you put some cat biscuits on the glass of a flat bed scanner and say 'Here kitty kitty..'

NOVICE NEWS.

Have you ever wondered what Novices in other countries have in their license conditions .1991 saw the first Novice tickets issued to United Kingdom amateurs.

There are two types license. Class A Novice similar to our Novice with 5 WPM Morse and Class B Novice with no Morse and VHF-SHF privileges only, like our Novice Limited.

The Novice A has HF + VHF-SHF frequency allocations.

Novice B can use 50-52 MHz , 432-440 MHz , 1240-1325 MHz, and 100-10.50 GHz .

They may use any mode that is applicable to each band plan.

IE: FM,SSB,RTTY,PACKET,FAX,SLOWSCAN TV and FASTSCAN TV.

Novice A can use all the above bands & modes and 1.95-2.00 MHz, 3.560-3.585 MHz, 10.130-10.140 MHz, 21.100-21.149 MHz, 28.06-28.19MHz, and 28.225-28.50MHz. Modes as Class B plus C.W.

I wonder if there is a reciprocal agreement yet for VK novices when in Blighty.

Call signs to look for:

COUNTRY	CLASS A	CLASS B
ENGLAND	2E0	2E1
SCOTLAND	2M0	2M1
WALES	2W0	2W1
NTH IRELAND	2I0	2I1
ISLE OF MAN	2D0	2D1
JERSEY	2J0	2J1
GUERNSEY	2U0	2U1

All call signs have a three letter suffix, IE 2D0AAA etc.

One big drawback, the maximum power output on any band is 3, Yes ! 3 WATTS.

PETER VK3VB.