

GATEWAY



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

FEBRUARY 1999

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 1998/1999

President	Peter Pavey	VK3VB
Secretary	Pat Pavey	VK3OZ
Treasurer	Mike Ide	VK3KTO
Committee member	Ivan Blezzard	VK3ARV
Committee member	Reg Goddard	VK3UK
Magazine Editor & Printing and Dispatch	Dianne Jackson	VK3HDI Ph. (03) 9776 5000

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

Visit our internet site at:

<http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~ggrec/>

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.

**The deadline for submitting Gateway articles is EIGHT DAYS
before each General Meeting.**

Please direct magazine correspondence to 105 Franciscan ave Frankston 3199
or E mail ijackson@netspace.net.au or Fax: 9776 5451

All other Club correspondence to PO BOX 1098 Cranbourne 3977

The Presidents Report Feb 1999

January is usually a quiet month or so some would have you believe. Not in this household though, we seem to have gone through January so fast its left me almost dizzy. Never the less I hope you have all managed some sanity time during the holiday period.

February. The big event so far being the start of the radio classes on Wed 3rd Feb. I met some of the students on the night and I believe there are a few late starters still to come. I extend a warm welcome to you from all at GGREC and hope you will join in some of the Clubs meetings and other events as they occur throughout the year.

As some of you will know Phil VK5VB, Kathy, and four of their children have moved into the area from Adelaide. A month living in a motel has not been all you might imagine, put it down to experience Phil. As from Monday the 15th, the family will be living in Berwick. Once the dust has settled and the antennas are up, listen out for Phil with his Vic call VK3YB. Welcome home.

The event queue is filling up, so if you don't want to miss out on Club happenings, keep your diary up to date. Extra events coming up, the Bowling afternoon on the 20th Feb, is always a bit of fun, C U there ??

The Labour Day Weekend on Phillip Island March 5th - 8th has been structured in such a way that those not camping with us will easily be able to join in the fun on day trips. See the itinerary elsewhere in the mag. If you are definitely intending to come to the hotel meal, please let Ian VK3BUF know so he can book a table for you. If you want to camp and have not yet booked a site, ring the park office soon. Cowes Caravan Park, Phone 03 5952 2211. Inform them you are in the GGREC group.

Some of you may have noticed that our six metre repeater is off air. It has been intermittent in its output for some time. Ian VK3BUF is intending to remove it soon to his workshop for necessary repairs, it will be off the air for about a month.

That I think is enough from me for this edition. Please support Dianne our editor by sending any thoughts or articles for print.

73 PETER VK3VB

**A map of Phillip Island, showing Cowes Caravan Park, is printed
on the centre pages of this issue of Gateway Ed.**



Event Queue

DAY	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Fri	19/02/99	8:30pm	General Meeting night, Battery Auction and talk by Robert Harris VK3XQ on Icom equipment
Sat	20/02/99	2pm	Ten Pin Bowling and dinner at Smorgy's
Fri	05/03/99		Labour Day Weekend at Phillip Island.
Mon	08/03/99		
Sat	13/03/99	1pm	Exams for Full, Novice and Morse. At Peter VBs house, Tooradin.
Fri	19/03/99	8:30pm	General Meeting night. Talk about Packet Radio by Philip Pavey
Sat	20/03/99		Barbecue at repeater site in Emerald
Fri	02/04/99		Good Friday No Prac night
Fri	16/04/99	8.30pm	General meeting night followed by the Annual General Meeting

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

In a few weeks it is likely that there will be CW training included in the Radio Classes currently in progress. This is a rare opportunity for Novice and Limited operators within the Club to upgrade their current license for HF access.

This would be a half hour training session each week at the class venue in Cranbourne commencing 7:00 pm Wednesday evenings on a date yet to be confirmed.

Training will be in two stages, 0 - 3 wpm for people with no prior morse experience, and later, a number of 3 -10 wpm speed improvement sessions.

If you are interested in joining these CW sessions, call Ian VK3BUF on 9776 5000 to confirm a position.



Gory Details...

PHILIP ISLAND:

Fri: Arrive at Cowes Caravan Park, 164 Church st Cowes.

Sat: Meet at A MAZE N THINGS, 10.30am for a cup of coffee, a round of mini golf or a stroll through the wooden maze, then on to Churchill Island, talk in on 146.225.

6.30pm Barbecue dinner at the caravan park. There is a \$2.00 charge per head for day visitors, plus \$1.00 for parking.

Sun: 11am Seal Rocks sea life centre. 6pm Dinner at the Isle of White Hotel.

M 10am Depart caravan park

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is coming up soon, so it is time for everyone to consider taking an active part in our Club, by nominating for a position on the committee. The positions vacant will be: President, Secretary, Treasurer and two general positions. These jobs wont take up much of your time, (about one hour, twice a month) and you will always know all the latest Club news before anyone else does.

EXAMS

AOCP, NAOCP and Morse exams are held regularly by the Club. They are held in Tooradin at the home of Peter and Pat Pavey, VK3VB and VK3OZ. The next exam will be held on March 13th starting at 1pm. If you want to sit this exam then you must fill out an exam application form(available at Club meetings from Peter and Pat) and return it to Peter or Pat at the February General Meeting. There will be a \$15 sitting fee if there is only one applicant however if three people sit for the exam then it will only be five dollars per head. **Other exam dates for this year are: MAY 1st , JULY 3rd , SEPT 4th , and NOV 6th.**

BATTERY AUCTION

Various chargeable and re-chargeable NiCad batteries (Donated by Bruno) will be auctioned off at the February meeting night, so be sure to bring along some loose change.

TEN PIN BOWLING and DINNER

Saturday the 20th of February, meet at Fleming Lanes, in Manchester rd Mooroolbark at 2pm. \$11 for two games plus shoes a drink and chips, or \$25 per Family. Dinner at Smorgy's in White horse rd at 5pm.

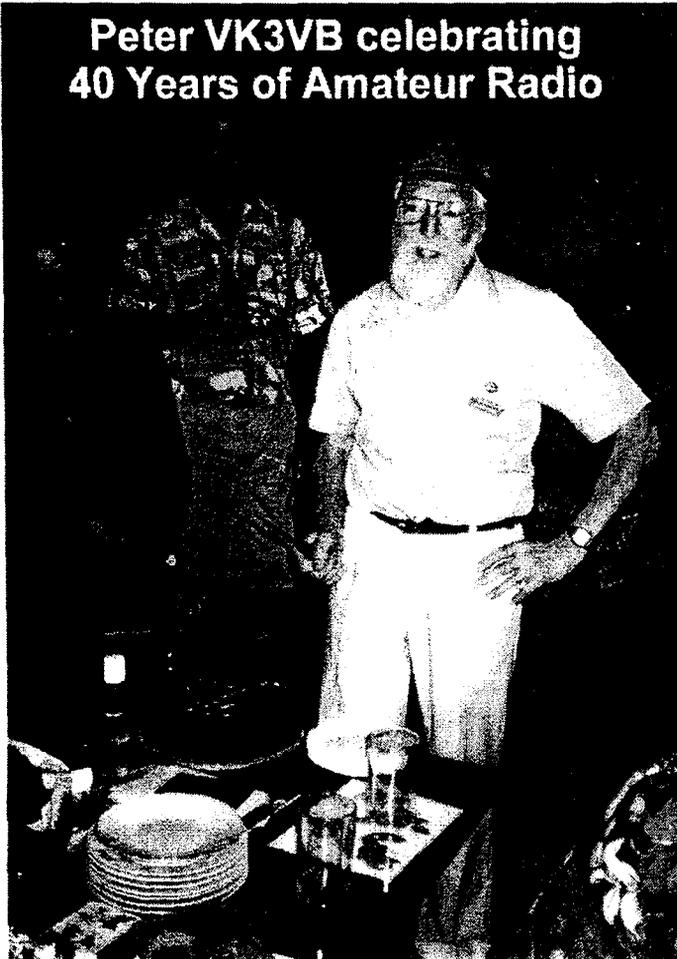
BARBECUE

Everyone is invited to a BYO everything barbecue at the 6 metre repeater site, in Paternoster rd Emerald. The repeater has been down for repairs, and this will be a good chance to get a close up look, as it is re-instated.

ICOM DEMO

At the February meeting Robert Harris VK3XQ, from Harris Communications, will be bringing along his demo vehicle with all the latest and greatest rigs and radios for us to have a look at. So could everyone please leave some room in the car park for him and his van near the door to the guide hall.

Peter VK3VB celebrating 40 Years of Amateur Radio



READ ALL ABOUT IT

If you have been up to any interesting or entertaining since the last meeting, Jot it down and let us read all about it.

VALENTINES DINNER By Jenny Goddard

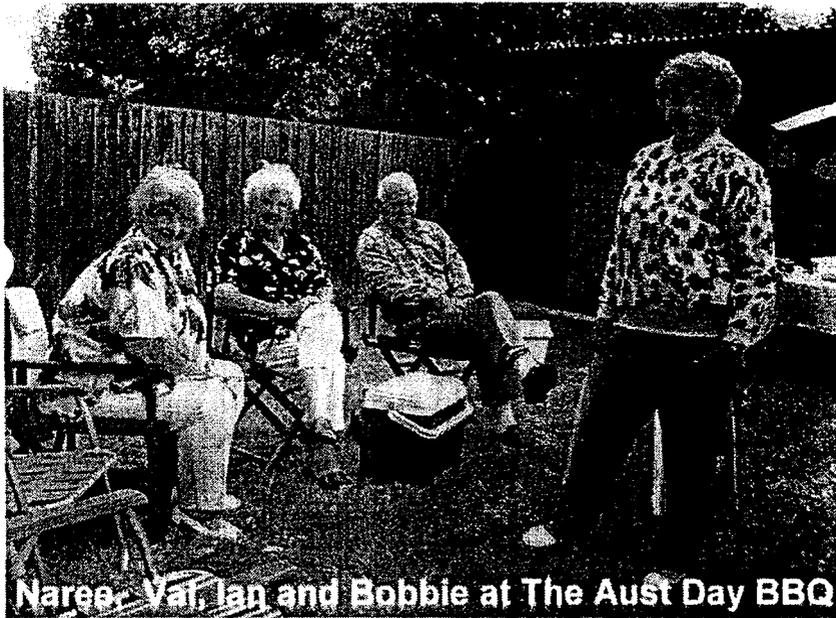
A small group of 15 enjoyed a very nice meal at Valentines, all you can eat for \$20 per head. Hal and Ross indulged on chicken wings, with plenty of ice cream to follow. Mike and my self had a good tuck in to the oysters. From there a few of us continued on to the Edithvale R.S.L where the boys had a few games of snooker, for once I believe Ivan and Reg beat Helmut and Steve well done boys.

RADIO LIMERICK By Dianne Jackson

While listening to 6.225
the band suddenly came alive
there's Reg, Ivan and Pat,
Helmet, Ron, Peter Vat,
and Colin came in on the side

BARBECUE THANK YOU By Jenny Goddard

We would like to give our thanks to Pat and Peter for a very pleasurable Australian Day afternoon, good company great barby. Thanks.



Naree, Vat, Ian and Bobbie at The Aust Day BBQ

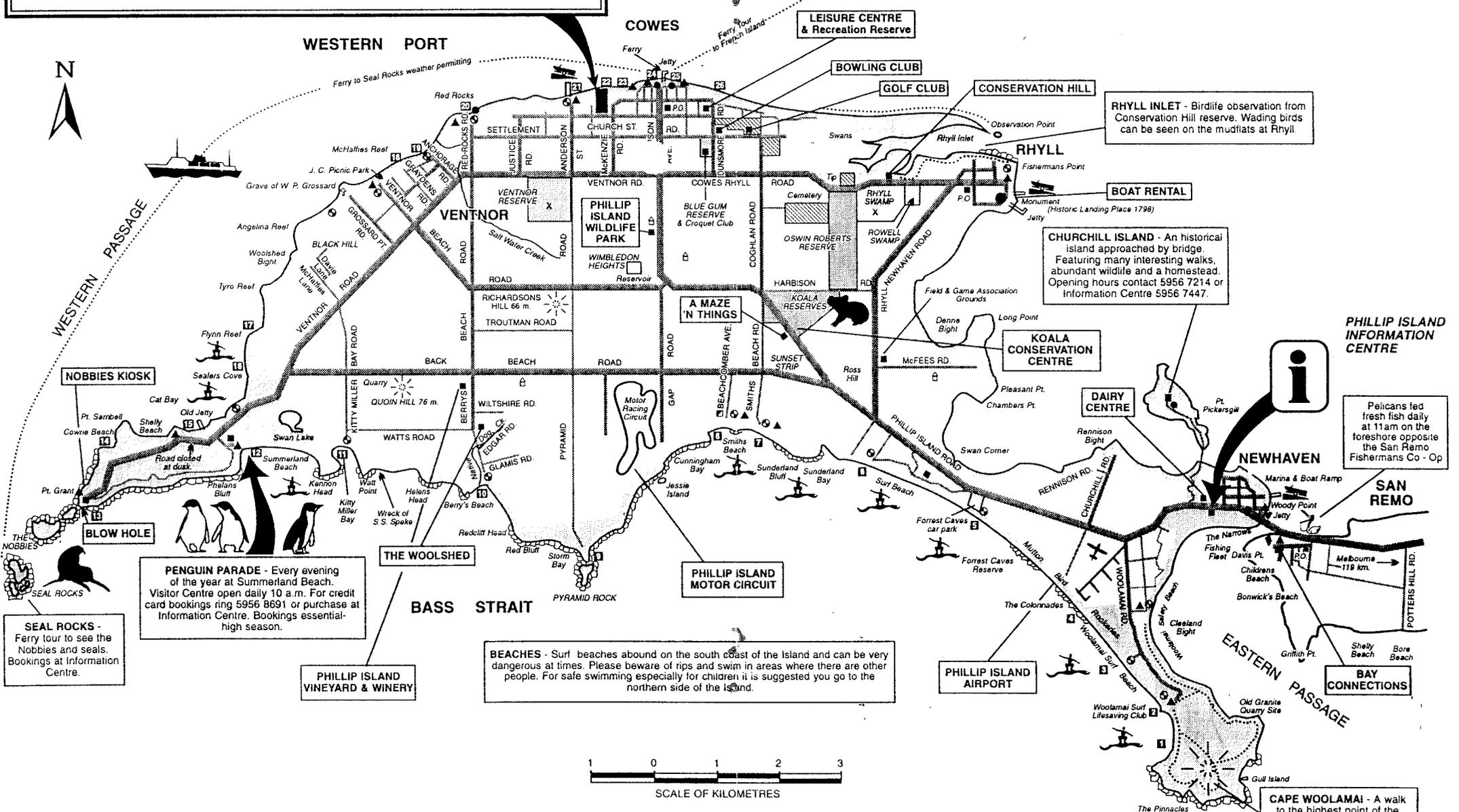
COWES CARAVAN PARK

"RIGHT ON THE BEACH"

(03) 5952 2211

164 Church Street, Cowes 3922

- BEACH ACCESS & CAR PARKING
- KOALA RESERVES (open to public)
- BOAT RAMPS
- WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PUBLIC RESERVES (X restricted)
- CHICORY KILN
- NUMBERED BEACHES (Quote number in case of emergency)
- PUBLIC CONVENIENCES
- SURFING BEACHES
- B.B.Q.'s



SEAL ROCKS - Ferry tour to see the Nobbies and seals. Bookings at Information Centre.

PENGUIN PARADE - Every evening of the year at Summerland Beach. Visitor Centre open daily 10 a.m. For credit card bookings ring 5956 8691 or purchase at Information Centre. Bookings essential - high season.

PHILLIP ISLAND VINEYARD & WINERY

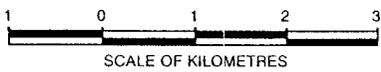
BEACHES - Surf beaches abound on the south coast of the island and can be very dangerous at times. Please beware of rips and swim in areas where there are other people. For safe swimming especially for children it is suggested you go to the northern side of the island.

CHURCHILL ISLAND - An historical island approached by bridge. Featuring many interesting walks, abundant wildlife and a homestead. Opening hours contact 5956 7214 or Information Centre 5956 7447.

RHYLL INLET - Birdlife observation from Conservation Hill reserve. Wading birds can be seen on the mudflats at Rhyll

Pelicans fed fresh fish daily at 11am on the foreshore opposite the San Remo Fishermans Co - Op

CAPE WOOLAMAI - A walk to the highest point of the island. Short-tailed Shearwater rookeries, old granite quarry and the Pinnacles.



PHILLIP ISLAND MAP

THE JOKES ON UK

A doctor and his wife were having a big argument at breakfast. "you aren't so good in bed either!" he shouted, and stormed off to his surgery. By midmorning, he decided he'd better make amends and phone home. After many rings, his wife picked up the phone. "What took you so long to answer?" he asked. "I was in bed," his wife said. "What were you doing in bed this late?" said the doctor. "Getting a second opinion," replied his wife.

The boat was slowly sinking, and one passenger remained on the deck praying. A lifeboat came past. "Quickly! Jump in!", called the boatman. "No, I have faith in the Lord. God will save me."

The boat continued to sink and the passenger continues to pray, when a helicopter flew past. "Grab the rope!", called the pilot. "No, said the passenger. "I have faith in the Lord. God will save me." The chopper moved off.

The boat continued to sink and the passenger continued to pray, when a speedboat came by. "Quickly! Jump in! The ship is just about to go down!"

"No", said the passenger, "I have trust in the Lord. God will save me." So the speedboat moved off.

Eventually the ship sunk and the passenger drowned.

When the passenger arrived at the Pearly Gates, he asked St Peter if he could use the intercom. "Lord," he said, "I trusted you all my life, but you let me drown. I just can't believe it." "You can't believe it?" said the Lord. "And I sent you two boats and a chopper!"

The Godfather in Italy had found out that one of the Family members in America was fiddling the books. He decided to deal with the problem himself and, as he could not speak English, took an interpreter with him.

He had three suspects and decided to put each through the third degree to find the guilty one. The Godfather interrogated the first suspect, holding a gun to his head.

"I'm innocent", he cried. "I swear on my mothers grave." The interpreter said to the Godfather, "It wasn't him. He swears on his mothers grave."

The second suspect was interrogated. He also swore his innocence and swore on the heart of his wife and children. The interpreter repeated his denial to the Godfather.

The third suspect was brought in. He quickly broke down. "I did it!, he said, "but please, be merciful. Do not kill me. The million dollars I stole is in a suitcase under my bed."

"What did he say?", asked the Godfather. The interpreter replied, "He said he did it, he spent all the money and he bets that you haven't got the balls to pull the trigger."

Jokes supplied by Reg VK3UK

THIS APPEARED IN THE MELBOURNE HERALD-SUN LAST WEEK

Code of silence dotted with dashes of sadness

By GREG THOM,
science reporter

THE world's most famous rescue message, SOS, will be heard no more.

After 161 years in which the thousands of lives were saved, the Morse code ended yesterday.

The final message was a solitary dot, the letter E, tapped out from Ireland's Valentia Island radio station — the last to sign off.

Technology has caught up with the simple series of dots and dashes.

The satellite-based Global Maritime Distress and Safety System has replaced it.

While the hi-tech network is more accurate, sadness has greeted the passing of morse.

It's the end of something that saved a lot of lives," said Glen Dunstan, of the Canberra-based Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

"I leave it with a tear." The end came after the International Maritime Organisation ruled no maritime nation should use morse after February 1. Many countries, includ-



Institution: sending a morse message in 1962.

ing Australia, have been using the satellite-based system for several years.

But transmitting stations, including one in Melbourne, remained operational to cater to ships still reliant on morse.

After 87 years, Melbourne's morse men sent their final message with a touch of sadness.

"On behalf of the countless souls who would have died but for morse, we salute all who have served our profession with skill

and dedication throughout the years," it said.

American painter Samuel Morse invented the code in 1832.

The most famous morse signal, SOS (dot-dot-dot, dash-dash-dash, dot-dot-dot), was agreed to by British and German radio operators in 1908.

Contrary to popular belief, it had nothing to do with "Save Our Souls".

S and O were simply the two most easily recognisable letters.



THE first SOS sent at sea was also the most famous.

In the early hours of April 15, 1912, the wireless operator aboard the doomed passenger liner *Titanic* sent the message, in part: "SOS. SOS. Come at once. We have struck berg."

But many of those who have fallen back on SOS in the hope of being rescued have had to improvise.

In 1994, geologist Suzanne Smith spent six weeks stuck in the WA desert before a plane saw her SOS scrawled in the sand.

In 1910, morse code helped to catch a murderer.

After killing his wife, a British doctor and his mistress were fleeing to Canada on a ship when the captain recognised them.

He sent a morse message to Scotland Yard and police arrested the couple.

WANTED TO BUY

Russell White, VK3MWR would like to purchase a copy of Fred Swainstons AOC Study Guide. If you have a copy you are willing to sell, call Russel on: 9796 2601

FLIGHT BUG WARNING By Wayne Jones

Re printed from the Melbourne Age Newspaper

AVIATORS using global satellite positioning systems for navigation have been warned of a major computer glitch similar to the year 2000 millennium bug.

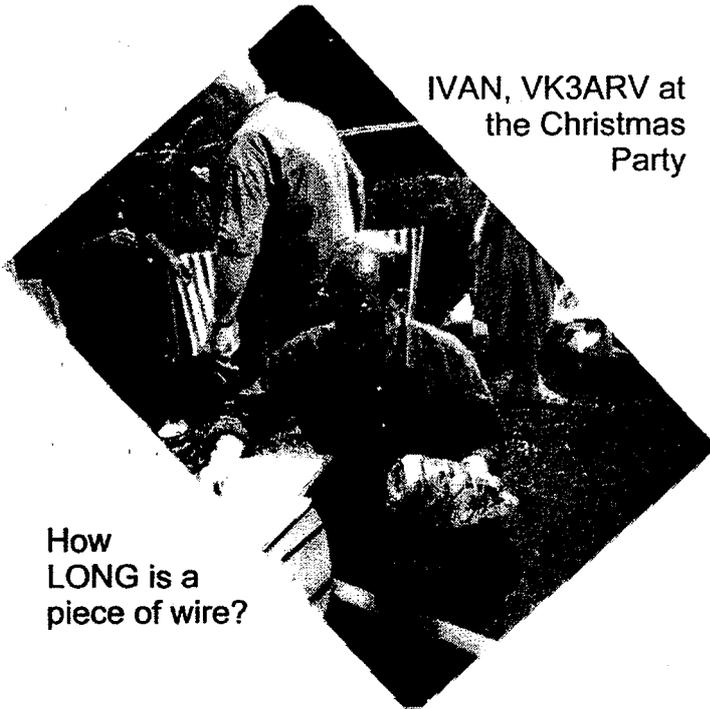
At midnight on August 21, 1999, thousands of global positioning system receivers worldwide could run into a date rollover problem.

Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority has warned the computer problem, dubbed the "end of week" bug, will cause some satellite navigation receivers to run out of weeks, which are needed to keep track of time. As a result GPS receivers could give incorrect bearings and read incorrect dates.

Like the millennium bug issue, the problem has arisen because programmers saved memory space by limiting time fields. CASA has warned GPS receivers bought before 1995 are most likely to be affected.

The United States has established a GPS joint program set up to deal with the problem but has said satellite broadcasts will not be affected by the bug. GPS systems are used by commercial airline carriers and in general aviation.

A Qantas spokesman said that the GPS bug would not affect the Qantas fleets sophisticated equipment.



IVAN, VK3ARV at
the Christmas
Party

How
LONG is a
piece of wire?



Just a prediction:-

January 1, 2000

Re: Vacation Pay

Dear Valued Employee:

Our records indicate that you have not used any vacation time over the past 100 year(s). As I'm sure you are aware, employees are granted 4 weeks of paid leave per year or pay in lieu of time off. One additional week is granted for every 5 years of service. Please either take 9,400 days off work or notify pay and processing and your next pay check will reflect payment of \$ 8,277,432.22 which will include all pay and interest for the past 1,200 months.

Sincerely,

Automated Payroll Processing

More likely though is:

Dear Wishful employee

Our records indicate that you have not as yet started work with us Please refund all monies paid in advance of your commencement date immediately, with interest.

Sincerely,

Automated Payroll Processing

SUBMITTED BY PAUL VK3TGX

SIX METRE ACTIVITY

Six has been quite lively, and not as dead as many think.

A good article in Feb R&C Mag, pages 36/37 is worth a read. Openings are reported on 12/13 of December and a list of ZL stations and VKs active from call areas 9, 7, 4, 3, 2, plus QSOs to the USA and Mexico in late December.

1999 brought good openings also with JA, N5, ZL9, YJ8, N6, through January. Those with 6 Mtr CW/SSB capability would be advised to take a listen down the bottom end from time to time.

H F DX SCENE

Take from R&C Mag (not received AR yet)

Novice Activity from Guernsey UK. 2U0ARE 10.130 - 10.135 Mhz 1430 - 1600 Z

Bahamas C6AKW 16 - 23rd Feb 160 - 10 Mtrs inclusive.

Crozet Island FT5WH Listen 14.180 Mhz around 1915Z.

Amsterdam Island FT5ZJ for 1 Year heard on 14.122 Mhz Not in net 1700 - 1800 Z.

Lots of other info including QSL routes etc.

VK3VB

RED TAILED BLACK COCKATOOS

Tim Burnard is coordinating an effort to track Red tailed Black Cockatoos in the hope of better understand their patterns of movement and nesting behaviour, for the Red-tailed Black-cockatoo Recovery Team. They are calling for volunteers to help with the tracking of birds that have been fitted with radio transmitters. They need to locate the birds twice a week, and this can be quite time consuming, especially when the radio birds separate into different flocks.

We will supply you with radio receiver and antenna and are looking for volunteers who can undertake this duty for two weeks at a time. If you need to stay away from home we hope to be able to supply accommodation and perhaps some money to help cover food and travel (we are in the process of applying for funds and will not know the outcome for a little while yet).

The radio tracking studies will be;

Dunrobin (nth of Casterton)	February 1999
Dunrobin	August 1999 - April 2000
Naracoorte	September 1999 - April 2000

If you would like to participate in this project then contact:

TIM BURNARD, PO BOX 25, CASTERTON, 3311