



# GATEWAY



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO  
AND ELECTRONICS CLUB inc.

**August 2006**

Incorporation Number A0016893M

Club Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant Street. Prac nights are held on the first Friday night in the Clubrooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made most welcome.**

President	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO (5659 6562)
Secretary	Phil Pavey	VK3YB (5995 7484)
Treasurer	Mike Ide	VK3KTO
Committee Members :	Reg VK3UK, Helmut VK3DHI, Ivan VK3ARV	
Magazine Editor:	Andrew VK3HFA,	

**Club Station VK3BJA located in the clubrooms.**

6M Repeater **VK3RDD** : Freq. In 52.575, out 53.575 MHz

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**Current GGREC inc. Membership Fee Schedule**

Full Member \$37.00, Pensioner Member \$22.00

Junior Member \$22.00, Extra Family Member \$17.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

**The deadline for articles is TWELVE DAYS before each General meeting.**

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All other Club correspondence to **P.O. Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977**

or Email : **[secretary@ggrec.org.au](mailto:secretary@ggrec.org.au)**

It costs lots of cents to produce and send each copy of Gateway.

**Disclaimer-** The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official view of the GGREC inc and the GGREC inc cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.



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## Editor's Musings

It's good to see that so many people actually read the mag when it is distributed and are happy to pick the living daylight's out of me if I get things wrong! Ok so it was not the Fiddlers Green so sue me!

Congratulations to all involved in the HAMFEST, it appears that it was once again a remarkable success. The strength of any club lies in its members willingness to put in we are very lucky at GGREC to have plenty of those!

## The Pres Says.....

How are your eyes? A bit weary like mine after the RD Contest? I remember last year and it took me a couple of days to get back to a normal routine again. I am writing this in anticipation of the outcome as the magazine is edited prior to the event. I gather it went well and all participants had a good time. We are still not sure of last year's outcome but it's mostly for the experience – not the result.

I was extremely pleased with the attendance at the Village Green Hotel evening last week. 25 hungry people enjoyed an “eat all you can” meal and a few drinks afterwards. Looks like this one was a winner and can be repeated in the future.

Of course the most notable event recently has been our Hamfest. By now we (the Members) have it down pat but we can always try to improve it. This year saw our best yet and with Bruno at the helm, it was a pleasure to be there. It's a case of right man, right job. As shown by the Treasurer's figures we had more buyers through the door than ever before plus sellers were still trying to book tables in the week before the Hamfest. I am sure this puts us up with the “must attend” Hamfests during the year. The amount of electronic equipment walking out the door astounded all who took notes. Well done Bruno and all who helped on the

day.

The Club has been lucky enough to obtain a lot (meaning heaps) of electronic equipment and parts at a very reasonable price. A storage CRO, VHF Test Set, several power supplies and an assortment of RF coax connectors are amongst the collection of gear. After it has been evaluated, the items will be displayed and available for Member use.

The Club Room is starting to look more like a workshop / radio shack every day. At least power supplies won't be in short supply.

As for upcoming events, don't forget the working bee at the Club Room on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need your help please.

OK, I am off to fill in the Government Census paperwork. Maybe we can compare notes at the meeting.

See you there.  
Albert VK3BQO



**Red Skelton : All men make mistakes, but married men find out about them sooner.**

**Milton Berle : We owe a lot to Thomas Edison - if it wasn't for him, we'd be watching television by candlelight.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	WHO/WHAT
Friday, August 18th	General Meeting Night	Guide Hall 8pm
Monday August 28th	Committee Meeting	Club HQ
Friday Sept 1st	Prac Night	Club HQ
Saturday Sept 2nd	Working Bee	Club HQ
Friday Sept 15th	General Meeting Night	Guide Hall
October ?	JOTA	Guide Hall/Club Shack



The **SM155** battery link version is shown here

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**GGREC TRIP TO MARYBOROUGH 2006  
Melbourne Cup Weekend  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>**

Things have been moving on the organisation of this fabulous, fantastic, fun weekend. Maryborough is only a three hour drive from Melbourne, so with an early start, you could easily be there by lunch time on Saturday. Even if you can only stay for One or Two nights, it will be a lot of fun.

The Ballarat BARG Hamfest is scheduled for the same weekend, and it is only a half hour drive from Maryborough, so this is something that we can incorporate into the weekend festivities.

**SUGGESTED ITINERARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>SAT 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MORNING</b>	Set up Camp
	<b>LUNCH</b>	BBQ/Picnic lunch at the Caravan Park
	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	Visit Local Tourist Spots
	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>7.30</b> at the pub across the road from the Caravan Park
<b>SUN 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MORNING</b>	Massive Sunday Market in Maryborough <b>or</b> BARG Hamfest
	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	TBA
	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>6.30</b> Fish and Chips in the Recreation Hall at the Caravan Park
	<b>EVENING</b>	<b>8.30</b> Talbot Observatory followed by drinkies at the Pub
<b>MON 6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b>11.00</b> Winery Tour of Local Winery
	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	Visit Old Gold Town of Dunolly and Spectacular Look Out
	<b>DINNER</b>	TBA
<b>TUE 7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MORNING</b>	More Site Seeing
	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	Packing Up and Heading Home

We have booked the exclusive use all weekend, of the Recreation Room at the Caravan Park. This will be a fantastic head quarters for the group to meet, greet, chat, rendezvous and communicate with each other.

To ensure you don't miss out on a site for this brilliant weekend away, PLEASE call the **Maryborough Caravan Park on 5460 4848**. Tell them you are with the Radio Club, and they will ensure that all our sites are close together.

## Hamfest report - Bruno VK3BFT

The GGREC 2006 Hamfest has proven to be a huge success. The number of amateurs calling Dianne Jackson to book tables increased greatly in the week prior to the event. Unfortunately we had to turn down some booking requests as all tables had been booked.

The day started off at 7:00 AM with great support from the GGREC members pitching in to get the hall ready before the sellers arrive.

The inviting aromas emanating from the kitchen tempted people to the back door looking for food, hot drinks and a toilet. I think we need to look at providing breakfast next year if we can get the volunteers. I was having a bit of trouble telling people the kitchen wasn't opened, after they had traveled hours to get to the hall.

The sellers were let in a bit earlier than advertised to speed things up a bit. I think that worked well as it avoided the rush to unload and set up the tables. The rear car park would have been gridlocked if we'd waited until the official time.

I was surprised at the amount of good quality amateur radios and equipment that was on sale, and also surprised to hear that a huge amount of it had been sold on the

day. I was too preoccupied with how the event was running to stop and look for things to buy.

All the members that came to help on the day did a fantastic job. I would be reproducing the membership list if I had to mention everyone that came along. What impressed me the most was that anything that needed to be done was done without question, even though it may have inconvenienced the person that was asked to do it.

I knew we had a record attendance when Helmut called me to say that we had sold out of food and run out of milk and sugar. An additional 48 sausages were purchased and they were soon sold out as well. Luckily it was the end and the demand had all but dried up, so we decided to close the kitchen.

At 1:30 PM we decided to announce that the door prize was about to be drawn and were advised that the sellers had not received a door prize ticket. This may have been a catastrophe but for the good planning by Albert. You see, we had handed out and sold off all 400 door prize tickets that we had printed. Luckily,

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Albert had thrown a printer into the back of his wagon “just in case” and we were able to print out more door prize tickets for the sellers.

First prize, a hand held GPS unit, went to Clifford VK3FMAU. Second prize, a desk lamp / magnifying glass, went to David Russell VK3 XDR. Third prize, the Drew Diamond construction book went to Bruce Parnell. Fourth prize, a TTS Systems construction kit and assorted items that were donated on the day went to Dan Haslett VK3DWH.

Apart from one minor dispute between buyer and seller, that ended amicably, the day was a huge success.

The GGREC Club members that contributed to the success should all be proud of themselves as I only heard praise for the professional way that the day was run and how the sellers were looked after (except for the hungry punters in the morning).

And now for JOTA.....



## This Months Challenge

Not too many (nobody!) guessed last months challenge , even I got it wrong and I knew who it was!!!! Sorry Peter....oops... I mean Steve.

Have a go at this months picture. No it's not me or anybody that looks like me. And another clue it's not the newly initiated pom in our midst. So are you going to change your callsign to VK3POM?????

## Happy Birthday to you.....

Three birthdays on the club database this month, some younger than others (or is that some more mature than the rest???) :

Stephen Harding, Naree Ide and Ross Jackson. Hope all your wishes come true and that Mike opens his wallet!

Not listed? We don't know then, please tell us!!! Let the Treasurer know.....



## The Golden Days of Radio....

*We continue the fascinating adventures of Gold Rush Jim (VK3UFO)...hey didn't somebody name a radio station after your story title?????*

### War wounds

Back at camp that evening (goldless - again!) Suzy asks; "What's that big dark stain on the leg of your jeans?". "Probably blood from when I had to fight off the giant man eating spider of Cemetery Gully" I reply, hoping to regain some male pride. "I think it is blood", she says "take your jeans off". "Really darling" I reply "it's not even six o'clock, do control yourself". Despite my protests off come the jeans and, sure enough, it is blood - lots of it along with three very fat leeches of which even a divorce lawyer would be proud. I thought I felt a tickle on my leg when digging for that really big nugget (the horse-shoe) in a particularly deep damp section of Cemetery Gully. I'm astonished my leg has any blood left given how fat the leeches are and the amount soaked into my jeans - I'm sure my left leg seems thinner than my right but Suzy says I'm just looking for sympathy; it's alright for her she hasn't nearly died from blood loss!

### Time for a shower

One of the simple pleasures of camping is my daily shower. I fill a bucket

with water and hang it over the fire until it reaches the right temperature. (NB. Do not try this with a plastic bucket - my tests prove, conclusively, it won't work). With the addition of a battery operated pump and a shower rose tied to a tree branch a delicious shower awaits. On those days I'm feeling particularly decadent I have a two bucket shower - luxury!

The evening had turned a little cooler and a light wind arisen, never mind, the water was ready, my soap, towel and fresh clothes prepared. Anyway the blood from my fight with the giant man eating spid... errrrr... leeches had to be washed away. I strip off and switch the shower pump on; hmmm the wind seems to have strengthened a little and it's suddenly turned rather cool. I notice Suzy having a fit of barely suppressed schoolgirl giggles; "Very funny!" I admonish her "it's just the cool of the evening and a perfectly normal response". The warm water starts to run and I luxuriate in it's flow as I lather my hair with shampoo. It is well known that gum trees will drop branches without warning and it's a perfectly normal desire for a young tree not to be the odd tree out. Unfortunately it was this moment

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when my tree choose to establish it's credentials as 'one of the gums' by dropping the branch to which I had attached the shower at my feet knocking over the bucket of shower water in the process. For reasons which escaped me, as I stood naked looking like an advertisement for soap suds, Suzy seemed to find the situation hilarious.

### The aftermath

OK, so maybe gold isn't that easy to find but I'm not downhearted and will be out to the deepest bush again before you can say

"horseshoe" continuing my search for the yellow metal.

However I am a little concerned about Suzy; with me gone for some hours each day prospecting it can't be too much fun for her waiting around camp by herself so I suggested she may prefer to stay home on the next trip but she would have none of it insisting she wouldn't miss one under any circumstances, she's a trooper, I think....

To be continued....

Jim Francis, VK3UFO



### **Peter Pavey Honoured by GGREC**

At the last General Meeting it was unanimously decided to honour the memory of Peter Pavey (VK3VB - SK) by naming our club rooms after him.

Peter was instrumental in organising, cajoling, pushing for, participating in building and sundry other words ending in "ing" in order for the club to have the fine building that we have now. Whilst Peter would not want us to downplay the contributions of every other member involved, this tribute is a fitting one for a fine club member and past president.

The committee is working on the exact wording to be used let them know if you have any ideas. We will have some more on this, and about Peter, in the next issue.

**Why not listen to the WIA news each week on the VK3RML repeater. It is on Sunday nights at 8pm and Wednesday 11am**

## THE WICKED WINCH OF THE EAST By Ian Jackson 3BUF

Recently several members of the GGREC purchased new brake-winch assemblies to replace the basic winch assemblies on their radio towers. Most of these were for the two-stage, tiltover 'Nally' radio towers which use two winches. Why do this' you may ask? Or more to the point, if you *don't* ask, then there's no reason to read this article.

The Original winch assemblies on the Nally towers were a very basic 1:1 ratio pawl & ratchet assembly. Pretty much like what you would see on the village well in an African *Foreign Correspondent* documentary. When you wind it up you get a clack-clack of the pawl riding over the ratchet. If you let go of the handle, the pawl locks into the ratchet and the winch cable remains in a safe state. All sweet if you are winching 'up' the mast (or bucket). The fun starts when the tower is being lowered, (it's ok to stop thinking about buckets now) because you must use one hand to hold the safety pawl back, while unwinding the winch handle with only one hand. This can be very heavy indeed. If your one hand should slip from the handle during this process, you have a runaway tower. The top stage drops like a pile driver, the handle spins out of control, breaking whatever bones it can. When the tower bottoms out, your multi-hundred

dollar antenna rotator crumples like a Styrofoam burger container under the front tyre of a Hummer (with the burger still inside!). Approximately 2.7 seconds later the sky rains aluminium from what was your antenna system. There are words that would be spoken following this chain of events which gentle ears should not hear and my spellchecker cannot deal with. Fortunately this has not happened to me, but it is a spectre that does haunt us all.

There is a solution. Enter the 'Brake Winch! (insert mental image here of a hand whisking away a violet silken handkerchief from something on a pedestal that could be a brake winch) The popular *brake winch* has two advantages. Firstly, it usually has a gear reduction which makes it easier to wind up and down. You will no longer need that well oiled and bare-chested rower from a Cleopatra river barge to crank the tower for you. (unless of course you enjoy having him around) Secondly it has an inertial brake. You can un-wind the winch safely and let go at any time without dire repercussions.

Now we get to the good bit. First buy your winches. You will need a

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winch in the 260 to 300kg range like the Jarrett F18230 brake winch, or the Rig-mate BRWH270 from Nobles rigging supplies in Dandenong. They are around \$80-\$90 each. Many of the GGREC members purchased the 500kg BRWHB500 version which is a larger, heavier winch. After some experiments with both winches, I preferred the smaller BRWH270 because of the shorter winch handle which did not clash with the tower and better cable departure angle from the spool.



The first stage was to secure the tower, un-wind all the cable from the old drum and grind off the old winch assembly. The second stage was to drill the 10mm holes in the steel adapter plates. These plates were standard 110 x 10mm flat stock cut to size by a local steel merchant. It was much easier to pre-drill the plates in the drill press than to do it on the pole. The plates were then welded into position, tidied up with a grinder and sprayed with

undercoat. The plate was 400mm long for the vertical lift winch and 150mm long for the tiltover winch. The vertical welds can be a bit of fun to get right, but remember that the worst welding job will still be better than the best duct-tape and garden twine job you can do.



To prevent unwanted angst and loss of enjoyment to life, I highly recommend not wearing your favourite polyester house slippers during the grinding and welding phases. Of course you will then lose a great talking point around the coffee table when your guests ask why your white socks can be seen in a kind of reverse-Dalmatian style through your dark blue slippers. (Before you know it department stores will want to sell pre-welded slippers alongside their pre-washed, pre-holed denim products. Be a trendsetter!)

When attaching the winches to the plates, use 10mm x 30mm stainless bolts, with matching washers and

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nuts. The stainless bolts have a higher tensile strength than equivalent mild steel ones, and of course they will not rust. The difference in cost is minimal. In fact, check the integrity of your winch cable during this upgrade. Remember the mantra: If it's brown, tear it down. If it's clear, have no fear. On my tower I found some corrosion on the tilt-over cable where it passed through the lower pulley. I replaced it with some 6mm dia stainless cable and stainless wire rope clamps.



To keep the winches looking pretty, you may want to cover them with a bag or something. On the vertical lift winch, tie a bit of rope or scrap cable around the wire above the cover, so that when the water runs down the vertical cable, it will drip off the scrap wire before entering the cover and wetting the cable on the reel all the time.



I usually use a counterweight on the rear of the tower to make life a bit easier. It is a slab of steel with a removable mounting hook. With the weight in place a three year old kid could work the winch. Mind you, that same three year old may find it awkward to drag the 60 kilo slab of steel into position, and he would also need a decent box to stand on to reach the handle, but all of these difficulties could be overcome with a little thought.

In the final pic Dianne VK3JDI is working the winch with ease. A bit of the 20M 4 element monobander can be seen in the background. Also present is a very small cow, which appears to be trying hard to avoid being crushed by the counterweight.

For the experiment I tried tilting the tower over *without* the counterweight and it did this with ease. Maximum strain was well within the winch specs and it held the load eas-



ily. The 5:1 gear reduction makes quite a difference to managing the load.

It is a good thing that the new winches can be operated quickly, because while the tower is tilted, my antenna for the wireless broadband internet antenna points to the

ground, instead of to the base 5km away. Hence a couple of teenage kids have to entertain themselves while the tower is being serviced.

Also visible at the base of the tower are some 90mm, 45° pvc bends where all the coax cables enter the tower slab. They all come up through the concrete floor of the house some metres away. The 3 bends keep water out of the conduit, but can be pulled apart if the need arises to add more cables in the future.

Well, that's it...Time to wind up this article. (or down as the case may be) Replacing a winch may seem like (and possibly is) a fairly nerdy way to spend a weekend, but if you make it easier to access your antennas, then you're more likely to experiment with them. Also, on a stormy night you can ring up your loved ones from the hotel bar and get them to crank your antenna down for you - the ultimate test of a relationship.

### More on the Maryborough Trip

The Talbot observatory for has been booked for Ssunday 5th Nov. That night is unfortunately a full moon so the viewing will be degraded but still a good opportunity to see some planets up close. It is also daylight saving so we cant go too early. Book your trip now!!!

**It was great to see Bobbie Bishop inducted at our last meeting as the very first HONORARY member of GGREC. Colin would be chuffed.**

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> July 2006

**Start time:** 08:00 PM.

**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne.

**Chairperson:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO

**Minute Taker:** Phil Pavey VK3YB

**Present:** As per attendance sheet.

**Visitors and Guests:** Brian Smith VK3NBS, Harold (vk callsign coming soon!), Richard

**Apologies:** Adam Scott VK3MOC, Ron Robertson VK3EXJ, Geoff Williams VK3ZGW, Graeme Brown VK3BXG

Albert opened meeting with a dedication to Peter Pavey VK3VB who became silent key on July 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by a minutes silence

### **Correspondence Received:**

AR magazine, Acknowledgement from WIA regarding grant, MDRC Magazine, Letter from SES. Letter from MDRC regarding passing of Peter Pavey VK3VB

**Correspondence Sent:** Nil tabled.

**Treasurer's Report:** as tabled

**Income :** \$1655.50 **Expenditure :** \$230.95 **Balance :** \$1424.55

**Read by:** Mike Ide, VK3KTO **Moved by:** Helmut Inhoven VK3DHI **Seconded by:** Ian Jackson VK3BUF **Carried:** Yes

**New Call signs - Nil**

**Previous Minutes:** As printed in the March 2006 GATEWAY magazine.

**Read by:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO **Moved by:** Max **Seconded by:** Jenny Goddard

**Carried:** Yes

### **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Mid Year Dinner was a success

Phil Pavey summarised clubs application to WIA for funding for reverse cycle units

Bruno updated on JOTA plans. Looks like we will be needed from 1pm-

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6pm and will be using VK3GGC callsign

70cm Repeater is still going strong. John Whittingham has PC to set up so IRLP can be moved to new repeater  
Hamfest is tomorrow. Please come along and help. .Raffle prizes – 1<sup>st</sup> is GPS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Magnifying tool for soldering, 3<sup>rd</sup> Drew Diamond book.

Albert displayed a smaller winch that is available, but cautioned that it may not be suitable for tilting a heavy tower.

Club ID cards are now available. See Mike if you want one.

RD Contest is on 12/13<sup>th</sup> August starts at 6pm and finishes at 5:59pm.

This was a great event last year so see if you can help.

Dianne Jackson will coordinate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for 2007.

Maryborough cup day trip. Please ring and book into the caravan park.

The more that attend the more fun we will all have!

### **New Business:**

Steve VK3EGD moved to name the club rooms in honour of Peter Pavey. Committee to work on idea's for how best to name and display this. Seconded by Russell VK3MWR. Carried

Bobby Bishop was presented with honorary membership to the club.

Bruno explained the difficulties we are having getting power company to read meter since locks were changed.

Russell VK3MWR moved that the surplus GPS equipment be sold on the club table at white elephant. Seconded by Albert VK3BQO. Carried

Antenna working bee on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Look for more details!

We are looking for a small 19 inch rack. See Albert if you can source one.

Pub night at the village green on 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

Guest Speaker was postponed.

**Meeting Closed** at around 09:45 PM.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006, at the Club Rooms starting at 8:00pm.

Next Prac Night: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

Next General Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006, at the Club Rooms starting at 8:00pm