



# GATEWAY



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

**March 2007**

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

70cm Repeater **VK3RLP** Freq. In 434.475, out 439.475MHz

CTCSS 123Hz IRLP Node Number- **6794** (Using **VK3RLP**)

**Call in Frequencies are:** HF on 28.325 MHz, USB VHF on 146.225 MHz, FM and UHF on 438.850 MHz,

Visit our internet site at: **[www.ggrec.org.au](http://www.ggrec.org.au)**

**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.**

Please direct magazine correspondence to:

**Andrew Clinkaberry, 1 Carney St. Nar Nar Goon Vic 3812**

Phone: **5942 5396** or email **[editor@ggrec.org.au](mailto:editor@ggrec.org.au)**

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.

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## **GGREC Event Queue**

Club Meeting - 16th March

Foundation Lecturers Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> Monday

Foundation Course 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007 + Wed

Evening 21<sup>st</sup> March

AGM Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Proposed date for foxhunt 28<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Working Bee 19<sup>th</sup> May at 9:30

Club Dinner - Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June

White Elephant/Hamfest - 21<sup>st</sup> July

## The Pres Says.....

With the AGM fast approaching, I am attempting to clear up some unfinished business that I had on my "To Do" list when I took on the Presidents role last year. These things I would like to finish so my successor doesn't have to pick up the pieces. One of the more important items on my agenda is the new incorporation rules for the Club. You will see elsewhere in this edition for the second month, an article describing the Special Resolution required to change our rules.

If you have read the proposed new rules and are happy with the changes it will be a simple YES vote at the AGM. If you do not agree with the new rules, a majority NO vote will see the whole thing go back for review as the wording cannot be changed on the spot. Please make yourself aware of the changes and if you have any items which require clarification they can be discussed at the AGM when the motion is put.

Another item I wanted to see to completion was the installation of the second air conditioner for our Club Rooms. Unfortunately you will see by the Event Queue, the next working bee is scheduled for May so that will be in the next financial year. However, the first of the two air con units is installed as everyone knows and is getting a great deal of use due to the hot weather. The Club Rooms are now much more comfortable but the second unit is still necessary to make life easier for the first unit. Hopefully you will notice during the year that the Club Rooms have changed both inside and out. Additional antennas and re arrangement of furniture and gear are making the Club Rooms more useable. So if you feel the need to get away from home for a while, pay a visit to the Rooms when ever you feel like it. You may find someone else has the same idea. The Club Rooms belong to you the members so make use of them.

The Committee wishes to thank those few who returned the questionnaire but there are many outstanding. If you intended to fill one in and return it, please do it soon as we need to pull the results from them within the next month. On a final note for this edition, I urge everyone to consider taking on a position in the Committee. You will see an article elsewhere in the magazine with a sample nomination form. Check it out. See you at the meeting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

73s Albert VK3BQO

## Water Thought!

This is not about radio but I wonder if as a group could we urge the Minister for Water and Mr. Howard to consider piping water down from the Ord River Scheme to the southern end of Australia since they have about 12 times the volume of water in Sydney Harbour and 3 days outfall could supply the greater Sydney area for a year. 21 days outfall could supply all the major cities in Australia. Facts are from the ABC Landline programs during the last 2 months.

Russ 3MWR

A planet doesn't explode of itself," said dryly The Martian Astronomer, gazing off into the air: "That they were able to do it is proof that highly Intelligent beings must have been living there."  
- John Hall Wheelcock, "Earth"



The SM155 battery link version is shown here

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## Notice of Special Resolution (2 of 2)

All GGREC Members are advised that a Special Resolution will be put to the vote at the Annual General Meeting. This Resolution refers to the changing of the Club Rules (rules of incorporation).

In accordance with our existing Rules, a Special Resolution must be advertised in the magazine for two months prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted on.

Our Rules must comply with the "Incorporation Act". If you would like to read the "Model Rules" please go to Consumer Affairs Victoria at [www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au). A copy of the PROPOSED new rules appears on the GGREC website and you will need to go to the following address to read them: [www.ggrec.org.au/newclubrules](http://www.ggrec.org.au/newclubrules). If you cannot access them via the internet, contact the Secretary as per the front cover and you will be mailed a copy.

Voting on a Special Resolution may be done in person at the meeting or by signed, dated, proxy vote on an official ballot paper. Proxy votes must be received by the Committee at or prior to the said meeting. You must request a Proxy Vote form from the Secretary. Contact details are on the magazine front cover. The motion will be as follows:

**"ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE DAY, I WISH TO MOVE A MOTION THAT THE ADVERTISED PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CLUB RULES BE ACCEPTED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND BECOME EFFECTIVE AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007."**

The above motion is to be moved by Albert Hubbard – President.

Please note that the contents of the proposed changes are not up for discussion, a simple YES / NO vote is all that will be asked for. If you have concerns you would vote NO.

Thank you -- Albert Hubbard – President.

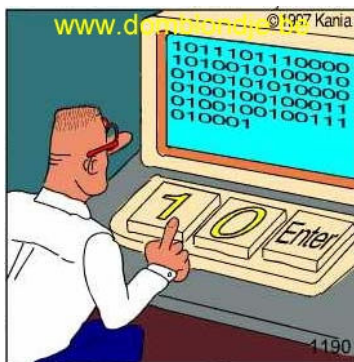
## All that blinking binary.....!!!!

The first evening of the AVR processor course saw about 18 members listening intently to Ian unravel the mysteries of binary counting while adding a few snippets of information about the processor itself. All went quite well, with some of the more experienced members helping others within the group.

The course, based upon the popular AVR microprocessor series will run for 7 more sessions at two-week intervals on the following dates: March 15, March 29, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24 and June 07

Entry for this course for new starters has closed, but you will be hearing a lot of chatter on air about bits, ports and interrupts over the next few months.

With 7 more sessions to go the course potentially will leave the Club with possibly the highest percentage of AVR trained members of any Amateur Club. Interesting prospect for future projects Hmmm.



Real programmers code in binary.

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

## Happy Birthday to you.....

Maria Harding and Ian Jackson VK3BUF are both celebrating being 21 and some months during March..

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



**CTCSS FOR IRLP IS NOW 123Hz**

## VK3HGG in training.....

Two days after our January meeting, in 38 degree heat, Ian VK3BUF and I drove out to a park near Hastings. Jeff Clifton VK3HGG had invited us along to have a look at his miniature train engine. Now, I know what you're thinking, but this is not a model that chugs around in someone's basement on a card table. This is larger and much more fun.



Jeff built his engine to design specs and measures about 70cm in length. Ian helped Jeff to position the engine onto an elevated, five inch gauge, track. Then Tristan, Jeff's 8 year old son, expertly manoeuvred the train onto the turntable where a 1.2 metre long carriage was connected up to the engine.

The train engine is powered by two 12 volt batteries and a six relay golf buggy controller. As this train is battery powered it is *very quiet*. To alleviate this *obvious* problem, Jeff has installed a "diesel loco" sound effects kit, to give it that real train sound.

The track, built by Blue Scope Steel, is about 800 metres long and includes its own little train station. Blue Scope uses this track for the benefit of its employees at Christmas time every year. The rest of the time, the track is utilised by the members of the Western Port Railway Society.



Tristan (and Justine, aged 4) were Jeff's first passengers; they got a few laps in before the grownups got a turn. There was only one other train enthusiast there on the day, so we had plenty of opportunities to whiz around and around on Jeff's little train. It was heaps cool, just ask Tristan.

Di (VK3JDI)

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

By Dianne Jackson VK3JDI

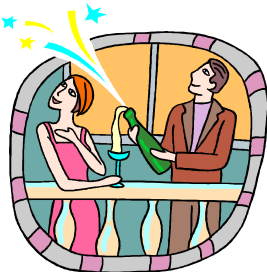
This year the Gippsland Gate Radio Club will be celebrating its thirtieth year, with an anniversary dinner at the guide hall. The date is the **23<sup>rd</sup> of June** (put this in your diaries and calendars now). The meal will be catered by a local company. I am still checking out the different possibilities. I just like the idea of not having to cook. The caterers will **not** be providing any drinks so that will be up to you.

Valerie Benson helped me out on a shopping trip to Fountain Gate, where we purchased some new table covers for the trestles. I am still trying to come up with something attractive and inexpensive for the table decorations.

Albert VK3BQO and Mike VK3KTO have come up with some very helpful suggestions, but there is still plenty of time to think of a few more.

We are planning to have a nice door prize and maybe some balloons?

If you have any good ideas then pass them on the committee or phone me on 5625 2545 and we will take it from there.





## Don't sit on the fence all your life.....

The AGM is next month and as per usual nominations will be called for to obtain candidates for the Committee Positions. Our Rules state that :

- (B) Nominations shall require a proposer and seconder and shall be called for at least twenty eight days before an Annual General Meeting and shall close with the Secretary seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

With this in mind we have enclosed a sample Nomination Form for you to copy, fill in and return before the AGM. Please use it and if you would like to be nominated yourself, ask someone to sign it for you. The running of the Club does require fresh ideas to prevent it from stalling so give it some thought please.

Candidates Name	Position Sought	Proposed by	Seconded By	Date

## Central Victoria RadioFest

This new event will take place on Sunday 22 April, at the Kyneton Racecourse only 50 minutes (75km) by road from metropolitan Melbourne and an hour from Ballarat and Bendigo.

It is being established with the combined resources of the Midland Amateur Radio Club, Central Goldfields Amateur Radio Club and Amateur Radio Victoria. The possibility of holding a new regional amateur radio event was discussed earlier at the inter-club BBQ on 8 October, 2006, at Laanecoorie. An organising committee was formed late in 2006 with representatives from each group.

For the latest information visit [radiofest.amateurradio.com.au](http://radiofest.amateurradio.com.au)

**Phil 3YB**

## Summer VHF/UHF Field Day

During January I managed to operate in the Summer VHF/UHF field day. I normally participate in this 24hr contest each year, like the year we were stranded on Mt Baw Baw summit, which is another story for another time.

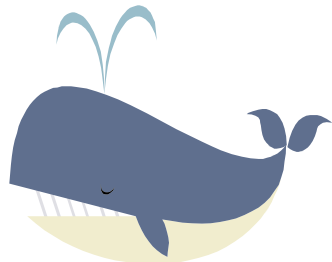
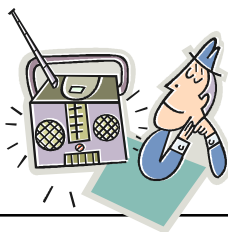
I was operating with Chris VK3QB, using the callsign VK3VB for a multi-operator station. We used Venus Bay as a staging area and headed down to Wilsons Prom for the Saturday afternoon. We could not get to the summit of the Mt Oberon, although the rangers did tell us how we could get there next time. The bottom half of Wilson's prom is the only land in gridsquare QF30, and as the contest is about grid squares we settled on a carpark in this area.

We operated on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 1.2ghz. An FT897 was used on 6m and 70cm, an FT857D on 2m and an FT817 driving a transverter on 1296. Now this is primarily a weak signal contest, so we are talking SSB and CW.

We took a 10 element beam for 2m. A mounting clamp would have helped, but with some ingenuity, rope and cable ties the beam was on top of a small wooden mast. The 70cm beam was on a 50ft pneumatic mast and 1296 on a camera tripod.

We operated for about 5 hours and had a ball. It was a big struggle to get stations to point their beams in our direction, but once we did the QSO's were easy into Geelong, East Gippsland and Melbourne area's. No qso's were made on 1296. Did we have fun? Absolutely. We also met lots of interesting people who wanted to know what on earth we were doing. One even asked if we were tracking whales, quite interesting as that is a story we used a few years ago when operating from the beach at Venus Bay.

Phil VK3YB



Who is tracking who?

## How Australian Are You?

Being Australian is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then traveling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. Oh and..... Only in Australia ... can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance. Only in Australia do supermarkets make sick people walk all the Way To the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy People can buy cigarettes at the front. Only in Australia ... do people order double cheeseburgers, large Fries and a DIET coke. Only in Australia . do banks leave both doors open and chain the Pens to the counters Only in Australia .... do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage. Only in Australia .do we use answering machines to screen calls and Then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want To talk to in the first place. Only in Australia ... are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink. And the list goes on.....

## 2nd Last Issue from me....VK3HFA

Well nearly finished this my second last issue of Gateway. Thanks to the contributors who made it possible (there was a distinct possibility there would have been no magazine this month given I had no articles on Tuesday evening).

El presidento says that the survey results are in and most people have said that they can't help in the running of the club. That's pretty disappointing but it depends why you said that. Is it because you feel you have nothing to offer? Nothing could be further from the truth, every little bit helps. Have another think about it. It is very, very hard to keep coming up with new ideas if the same people (who do a fantastic job) have to keep doing it because nobody else will! If you are not prepared to help you have no right to complain about what is happening around the place!

Thanks again to Ross Jackson for agreeing to do the mag till the end of the year, Thanks also to Sue Coleman for having a go after that!

Last issue for me next month, assuming there is something to put in it!!

## RG58 for a HF antenna?

If you have been to my house you will understand that with an open front yard I struggle to fit in a 40m dipole. I achieved this, but had to bend one end of the antenna around. For a while I fed this with open wire feeder so I could tune it on 80m and other bands, but I was not getting the results I was looking for.

While looking for a short 80m antenna design I came across coaxial dipoles. I have ended up with a modification on this, a coaxial sloper. This is a quarter wave of coax on 80m, but it is shorter than a quarter wave of wire due to the velocity factor of the coax, so it is 0.66 of the normal length. At the far end the braid and inner are shorted together. At the tower we have the braid of the radiating quarter wave section connected to the inner from the shack. The outer from the shack and the inner of the radiating quarter wave section are connected together and to the metal work of the tower.

This loads up a treat on 80m and I have 14 countries on 80m. With a tuner it also does exceptionally well on 30m (55 countries), 20m (56 countries) and I have even worked Canada and the US on 160m!

73 Phil vk3yb

## Don't take your magnet for a fly.....

Anyone thinking of taking their ham radio equipment on an aircraft must be aware of the ban on dangerous goods which includes magnetised material.

While it may seem like a good idea to take a magnet-mount for an antenna on a hire car, these are highly magnetised and like other such material has the potential to disrupt aviation navigation and other systems.

All baggage undergoes screening. Magnets are banned just like other hazardous material including explosives, flammable substances, wet cell batteries and mercury. Ignorance is no excuse for not adhering to aviation safety laws. Let us not see a hapless radio amateur with a mag-mount on the television show Border Patrol. - Amateur Radio Victoria.

## A Valve in Time !?

About 2 years ago I picked up an Ameritron AL-811 amplifier. For those that don't know this is a valve amp for the HF bands, 600w PEP, 400w carrier. It is well known as a very forgiving amp that will run happily into a 3:1 SWR. For those that don't know what an amplifier is – takes a little signal and makes it bigger!

All was well for a while, then the output started to drop and tuning was a bit erratic. This beast takes 3 tubes, but from the US they are only \$53USD for the three. About a month ago I ordered them, then heard nothing. To my surprise they turned up last week. After doing all the safety precaution stuff I pulled the old valves out...

Below is what happened to the valves – they had rusted out under the cap. Only thing I can think of is that they must have been stored in a damp environment before installation. It does explain why the amp was not 100% happy.

73 Phil  
VK3YB



*"Any idiot can face a crisis—it's the day to day living that wears you out."  
—Anton Chekhov [physician, author]*

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007

**Start time:** 09:29 PM.

**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne.

**Chairperson:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO

**Minute Taker:** Phil Pavey VK3YB

**Present:** As per attendance sheet.

**Visitors and Guests:** Nil

**Apologies:** Ron Robertson VK3EXJ, Ross Jackson VK3ZAP, Geoff Clifton VK3HGG, Graham Brennan VK3KCS, Grahame Coleman VK3YCG, Marianna Stubbs

### Correspondence Received:

EMDRC Monthly Magazine. AR Magazine, Casey Council (Volunteer Day), Altronics (voucher), Healsville white elephant

### Correspondence Sent:

Nil

### Treasurer's Report:

**Income :** \$174 **Expenditure :** \$936 **Balance :** \$4670.96

**Read by:** Mike Ide, VK3KTO **Moved by:** Mike Ide VK3KTO **Seconded by:** Reg Goddard VK3UK **Carried:** Yes

**New Call signs** – nil

**Previous Minutes:** As printed in the February 2007 GATEWAY magazine.

**Read by:** magazine **Moved by:** Mike Ide VK3KTO **Seconded by:** Helmut Inhoven VK3DHI **Carried:** Yes

### Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Russell gave apologies for May and June

Approximately 20 starters for pub night tomorrow night

Australia Day BBQ was success.

Ross Jackson is new magazine editor for 6 – 8 months.

Air conditioner working well. Thanks to Graeme Wheatley for installing.

Motion to allow committee to spend \$549 for second airconditioner was

put by Albert Hubbard, seconded by Ian Jackson and, following some dis-

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

cussions, passed.

Foundation Course will be 21/24/25 March. 4 starters and maybe Kerri-May Pavey

AVR course starts 1 March

Labour day long weekend club will not be going away.

AGM only 2 months away – nominations needed

DTMF mic – features discussed

Patricia Pavey has club trestle tables to be collected

Dianne Jackson discussed club 30<sup>th</sup> dinner. Catered at hall. Steve

VK3EGD requested party hats. Tentative date Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Possible commemorative Pens. Dianne is still looking for ideas and details of local caterers. Discussion on whether club should contribute to event

### **New Business:**

Discussed selling winch. Members would like it installed and Ian Jackson will lead the welding effort for this.

Reminder to send in club survey

Club Rules. Albert discussed that the motion, and therefore the rules, can not be amended for the vote at AGM. Either accepted or rejected. Some discussion followed

Ivan Blezard thanked for providing bookshelf and qsl box in shack. Reg has mounted rigs under shelf.

**Meeting Closed** at around 20:39

Next Prac Night: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

Next General Meeting: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007, at the Club Rooms starting at 8:00pm

**Still getting your club magazine in the post?? Do you have an email address?? If so let us know and you can get the full colour version and save the club some \$\$\$\$\$\$. See Mike KTO with detail.**

GGREC  
PO BOX 1098  
CRANBOURNE  
3977