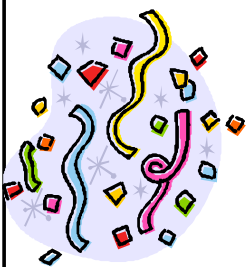


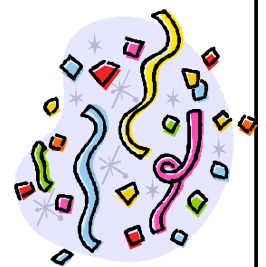
GATEWAY



Goodness Gracious, Its Ross's Birthday Bonanza



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



August 2007

Next General Meeting: 17th of August

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 Club-rooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made most welcome.** Committee meetings are also held in the club-rooms.

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT (9700 4526)
Secretary	Phil Pavey	VK3YB (5995 7484)
Treasurer	Andrew Clinkaberry	VK3HFA (5942 5396)
Committee Members:	Reg VK3UK, Max VK3, Pat VK3OZ, Mike VK3KTO	
Magazine Editor:	Ross VK3ZAP	

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

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:

Ross Jackson email editor@ggrec.org.au

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

or Email : 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.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

The Pres Says...

Planning is underway for the naming party for our Clubroom. The plaque was displayed at the July General Meeting and was met with approval. Given the effort that Peter Pavey put into education and his long term involvement with JOTA, the Committee decided to have a naming party at lunch time before this years JOTA. I'm sure that we will kick on after JOTA and might fire up the BBQ for dinner if the weather is fine. Stay tuned for more details.

As 2007 is GGREC's 30th birthday, we will be having a nostalgia night at the September General Meeting. Bring along your Club outing videos, photo albums, Club memorabilia etc and join together to enjoy a light supper.



The RD contest will be over by the time you read this magazine. It is a fun night and the number of people to talk to on so many bands in one night is amazing. It isn't all short contacts to swap numbers. Last year I was happy to chat with anyone that wanted to and got to chat to many amateurs around Victoria. There was no shortage of YLs to talk to on the night and I'm expecting more this year, given the increasing number of YL F-calls. Did we modify our Club call sign to "VK3BJA the current RD Champions"?



Melbourne Cup Long Weekend preparations are underway and will be announced when we have a firm location. Stay tuned as you will need to book early so that you will not miss out on a fun week end.

In closing, Friday the 31st August is Foundation Night at GGREC. If you have an F call and want to try out bands that you don't have access to, then come along on this night that is all about you. We want you to get the most out of your hobby and we will be available on the night to assist with operating on HF SSB, 6, 2, 70 FM & SSB and anything else that we can get a contact on.

Bruno Tonizzo, VK3BFT

The Editor's Ramblings

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed

Hi everybody, this is an incredibly busy month, and there are so many things I have to say that I hardly know where to begin. A good starting point, I think, would be to mention that on 15th of August I turn nineteen, so I thought I would make this issue of Gateway specifically dedicated to this event. You could probably tell this already by the way I decorated the front page, which I reckon looks awesome, it's just a shame GGREC acronyms don't lend themselves to jokes about birthdays very well. Somebody asked me the other day whether I was the editor of a radio club magazine or the Ross Jackson ego trip, and you know what, I stood up, looked him straight in the eye, and said "I'm the editor, so there". Some witnesses claim there was some poking of the tongue and finger wagging in the general direction of the person responsible for the outrageous comment, but if anybody asks I'll flatly deny it.



Before you all throw away your magazine in utter disgust I'd like to mention a few more things. First things first, for those of you who were ripping your hair out (or wished you had hair to rip out) over the puzzle in last month's magazine, the common thread between all the strange sentences was that they were all palindromes, that is to say, if you spell any of those sentences/words backwards, they will spell the same sentence/word that you started with. For example, if you spell "*civic*" backwards, it will still spell "*civic*". Whilst we're on the topic of palindromes, I thought I'd mention another one which I found not long ago, "*Gert, I saw Ron avoid a radio-van, or was it Reg?*" which I thought was pretty cool, especially considering it's got Ron, Reg and radio's in it. It's a shame it doesn't make much sense though.

I recently come to the realisation that the introductory piece that I write for the magazine is making a habit of being quite long, so I'll end it now by saying thanks to Bruno for sending me so much material, and everybody else who has sent me articles to put in, you may not all get in this month, but you will eventually. And remember, I always welcome more material, so if you have written an article, or come up with a snazzy GGREC acronym, email editor@ggrec.org.au

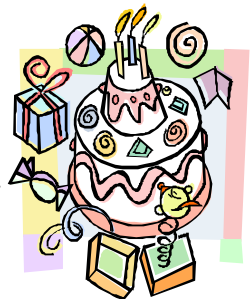
Upcoming Events

11th & 12th August	RD Contest: Start 5:30 PM Saturday until 6:00PM Sunday Come along and help if you can.
17th August, Friday	General Meeting: Phil Pavey to give a talk on Computers for the Ham Shack.
27th August, Monday	Committee Meeting 8:00 PM sharp.
31st August, Friday	Foundation Night (Start time to be announced)
7th September, Friday	Prac Night - Something for everyone!!
October	JOTA & Naming ceremony for GGREC Club Rooms.
November	Melbourne Cup Long Weekend Camping (TBA)

There are a lot of fun and interesting events in the upcoming months, so make sure you attend as many as you can!

Happy Birthday to.....

Well, me actually. On the 15th of August I will turn 19. Not only that, but did you know that Napoleon Bonaparte, who was at one stage of his life the emperor of France, was also born on the 15th of August? Or that VJ-Day was on the 15th of August 1945, which is the day that the Japanese surrendered and marks the end of World War 2? With events such as these preceding my birth on the exact same day and month, it can only be a good sign of future things to come. Oh yeah, there are also some other people who have their birthdays in August. Here they are:



Stephen Harding

Naree Ide

Henry Vandeligt

Not on the list? Then contact the treasurer and update your information. And Happy Birthday to you all.

Pub Night @ Kelly's

By Bruno Tonizzo, VK3BFT

30 Club members attended a very successful Pub Night at Kelly's Hotel in Cranbourne. The night started off with pre-dinner drinks in the gaming bar where a tall tail or two was told over an icy beer. The ladies tried their luck with the no arm bandits but I didn't hear if any fortunes were made.

At approx 7:00 PM we were invited to be seated in the dining room and we took out time to select our meals from the extensive menu. The meals were ready after a short wait, which was surprising given the number of people in the dining room with us. Members were pleasantly surprised with the quality of the meals and even more delighted with the deserts.

Paul Stubbs recorded the night in pictures which can be viewed on his web site <http://www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net/>. Topics discussed on my table ranges from radio & electronics to how many pairs of ladies shoes can be fitted into a station wagon verses a car boot, and the evils of gambling (Gambling Gets Ross Extreemly Cranky " It was only toooo dollars!!"). After a few more drinks or three (coffee), it was time to head home knowing that Kelly's will definitely be on our list of pubs to revisit.

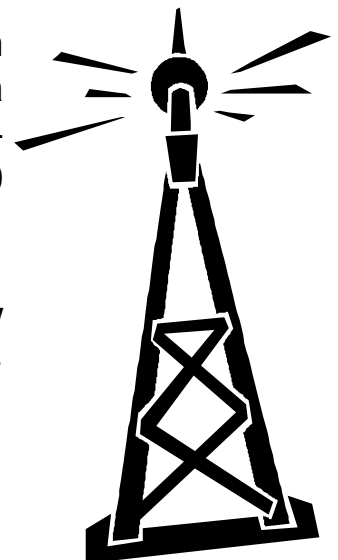
Thanks to all that attended for making the night a success.

New 70cm Repeater Antenna

During the last month, Doug VK3KMN & Ivan VK3ARV installed the new 70cm RFI Repeater antenna on top of the GGREC Tower. A new cross arm was installed and the new antenna as well as the existing 2/70 antenna were well and truly mounted.

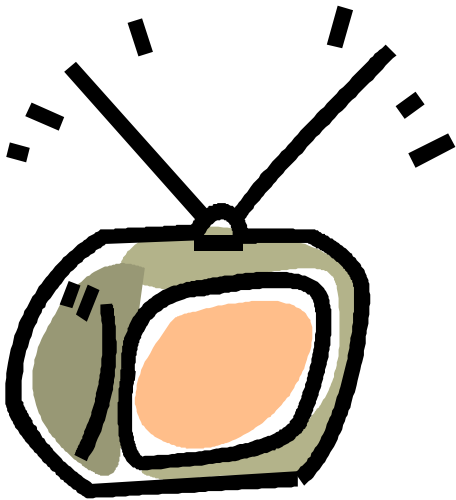
In their usual quiet no fuss manner, Doug & Ivan safely carried out the delicate task with skill and professionalism for the benefit of all GGREC members.

Thank you very much from all the members of GGREC.



GGREC Member Makes TV Appearance

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed



No, I'm not talking about SSTV, I'm talking about the real deal! That's right, there is a celebrity in our midst, and he is soon to make his debut appearance on the television screen. On Wednesday the 29th of August, if you tune your TV to the ABC at 8:00pm, you will see our very own Ian Jackson (VK3BUF) appear on the hugely popular "The New Inventors" show. Yep, that's right, Ian will be on the TV, and if you pay really close attention to the show, you may just find a shot of a GGREC mug in the

foreground of the introductory video. Although the invention is quite complicated (it would be quite at home in one of Frankenstein's underground labs), the TV show will present it in an easy to understand manner, but most importantly, you will get to see Ian on the TV. So don't forget to tune in and hope that he takes home the huge cash bonanza that they unfortunately don't offer the winner.

Air date: 29th August, Wednesday 8:00pm, on the ABC

Name Tags & Club Room Access Pass

Are you a member of the Club but don't have a NAME TAG ?

Do you got to the Prac nights and find that you haven't got a pass* to get in the door?

If you answered YES to either of these Questions, then don't forget to put your name down oN the form at the July General Meeting.

See Mike Ide or Bruno Tonizzo. *Conditions Apply*

ATTENTION MEMBERS

This is just a reminder to all members using the club rooms that you should ensure that the shack is locked and secure when you leave it for the night. Please make sure that both doors are closed and that the gate is shut.

HAMFEST – 2007

A President's perspective.

By Bruno Tonizzo, VK3BFT

This year's Hamfest was very successful in many ways.

The preparation and organization schedule has been documented and refined over the last three to four years. The document sets out the items to be addressed and the dates that they need to be done by. This ensures that nothing is forgotten from one Hamfest to the next.

The booking process is working well with deposits being paid largely on time to secure table space. Food management practices are in place and we are becoming very well acquainted with current food safety requirements.



Our advertising has worked well and is reflected in the growing number of people attending each year.

Our "Exit Poll" carried out by Dianne Jackson, Albert, my self and others indicate that both sellers and buyers are very happy with the event and the venue. All comments were positive (although we need to do better in the steamed dim sim department (hi hi)) and buyers noted the vast array of good quality radios and equipment for sale. We are fortunate that the hall is spacious and the facilities include large sturdy tables, heating, large kitchen and a good public address system. This year, public parking was hard to find close to the hall and people had to walk short distances to the hall. Club members should be congratulated for the professional manner that they displayed on the day. The fact that the day ran so smoothly is a reflection of the excellent pre-event planning and the willingness of Club members to help.

So what can we do better?
We need new members to get involved and "learn the ropes" from the current members. The old saying "One day all this will be yours." is very true for GGREC and we need to ensure that our newer members are well prepared to and willing to accept the challenge.

So what can we do better?

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Well Done GGREC, it was a fantastic effort.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

An examination of the future for the GGREC

By Ian Jackson, VK3BUF

By any standards of measure our Club, the GGREC, has been and is now, a successful one. The important issues have been met. We have a steady membership, a pleasant meeting venue, a dedicated, air-conditioned combined 'shack', project room and kitchen. Revenue from membership fees and Hamfest Sale's meets or exceeds our annual requirements. For this we can justifiably give ourselves a nice big back-pat. Well done everyone!

For several years we have had a full agenda in building the Club Shack and equipping it with the desired bits and this mission is now complete. The question I wish to raise is *where would you like to go from here?* This query is not from any particular desire for change, but a need for direction. Where would the members like to see our club five or ten years from now? Changes in work commitments, spare time and technology all combine to determine what we think we need from a club. Do we need to vary our club's objectives to reflect this?

I would like to see a forum later in the year where we collectively kick some ideas around and arrive at some kind of Consensus of Future Direction. I don't have a particular vision that I favour, but I will present a bunch of possibilities in order to get the ball rolling.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT SIZE FOR A RADIO CLUB?

For most of its 30 year history the radio club has had a membership that has bounced around at about 50-60 members. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? There is a tendency for most clubs to want to increase membership. More members means more membership fees and a more diverse pool of people with which activities may take place. On the other hand there are plenty of large clubs with a couple of hundred members that struggle to get more than 30 people to a meeting.

It's inevitable within larger clubs that specialty groups will develop and frequently compete for resources. Smaller (splinter) groups will always form in a club, association or even a workplace whenever they have needs that are not formally being met by that body. Eg. If our club were to stop having pub and social nights, individuals within the club would simply get together and do it anyway. If we suddenly resumed formal social nights, the pub-night splinter group would disappear. This logic can apply to most other areas of interest within a club.

A rough formula for the size of an active club is to define and count each of the interest groups. (Antenna designers, contest people, electronic nuts etc.)

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These groups will be between 5 and 15 people. There will be several of these groups with about 30-40% overlap between them. Add this all up and then double it, for there will be about 50% more who won't want to directly participate, but will derive entertainment from looking on at those who do. This effect is not entirely linear. When members exceed 70-80 persons, the 'active' number of members remain the same, while the rest become passive subscribers who only show up for special events. This is not necessarily a bad thing.

In planning for the future, a conscious awareness of how big the Club should be is important. It determines membership revenue, the size of meeting venue, committee workload and pool of available volunteers. Think about it.

HOW SHOULD WE SPEND OUR MONEY?

This is a big question, which is in turn determined by the size of the club. If the aim of the club is to expand to say 80 to 150 members, then the expenditure may well be best saved up as much as possible so that a bigger dedicated venue be sought after. Is that what we want? Perhaps a meeting hall of our own, 5-10 years from now, with the Club Shack re-located next to it? If that is a real aim then we should be saving and growing the club wealth with long-term fundraising so that we can slowly pursue this cause. If we wanted to, I'm sure we would get there eventually.

If we *don't* want to pursue the big clubroom ideal, then there is no point in developing a big money pile. We simply determine the activities we wish to pursue, work out the monetary requirements of each, then adjust our fundraising and membership fees to match this demand. Hell, we could even decide that we want to focus on making sure Amateur Radio is not forgotten by the public at large and spend some thousands each year in the promotion and advertising of it. I don't say that I favour this idea, but we do need an objective.

Another option: We can use Club funds to buy new and interesting radio's and test gear until the Club Shack is full of fancy equipment that may or may not be used. In ten years we would amass a pretty big pile of toys....then what.

If we have no desire to do any of these things, we could halve our membership fees and make up the balance with Hamfest Sale profits. Alternately, keep the fees high and scrap the future bother of Hamfest Sales. These are all radical and unsettling ideas. Perhaps you now begin to see how I would like the outcome to be dictated by thoughtful choice of the membership collective rather than a series lucky jumps or whims of individuals. (what would the 'Borg' do?)

WHERE IS AMATEUR RADIO GOING?

Consider some of the following: JOTA, WICEN, DX, QSL Cards, ATV, SSTV, RTTY, PACKET. These are all valid Amateur Radio activities, and yet for various reasons they have largely run their course. In another five or ten years (or even now) it is all going to look a little silly. Last week when I was being filmed on an intro for the *New Inventors* the producer thought that I could represent my hobby

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Our Trip Around Australia



Hi all,

As you may be aware, we are on our trip around the northern and eastern side of Australia. Estimated time for this trip is 6 months.

We will be QRV on 20m, 40m and in the evening on 80 metres.

Our schedule is as follows::

20m on the travellers net on 14,116 Mhz at 03.00Z

40m during the day and around 17.00 EST (if it works) on 7,100 Mhz +/- QRM

80m every Wednesday and Sunday at 20.00 EST on 3,640 Mhz +/- QRM

Hope to see you at some time during the duration of our trip.

Best 73 de VK3DHI (Helmut) and XYL Dorothy

(Continued from page 10)

by sitting in the car, while talking into a mic on 2 metres for a few seconds. When I viewed a proof videotape a week later, they had simply added the caption 'Likes old technology' to the shot. Well, I did go crook, and they say it was fixed, (to what I don't yet know!) but the point was made that this is how the world regards us. Even the camera operator lamented that we (Amateurs) must be disappointed now that anyone with a mobile phone can do what we can. Of course it's not that simple, but the public perception does not bode well for Amateur Radio. An important part of any forum reviewing the future of the Club should include a vision of what Amateur Radio will look like in 5-10 years and beyond. Will we all start to look like a bunch of Morris dancers crashing a Rap Party while people point and stare at their knee bells? Be very afraid.

WHAT ELSE CAN THE CLUB DO?

The GGREC foray into microprocessor training went fairly well. Perhaps an evolution of the Club into educational directions is the way to go. We could have a deliberate, rolling push into lots of short courses. Plenty of special interest topics that go for a few months each on things like Antennas, Circuit board design, Visual Basic, Radio Servicing. Several could be running at the same time with overlap, even if this entailed importing instructors for specific topics.

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(Continued from page 11)

Robot Wars. Perhaps we promote small teams of competitors to build models that fight each other on 70cm, or fabricate elaborate projects like a 2 metre based voice-mail system. Help me out here, I'm making this stuff up as I go along.

SUMMARISING BECAUSE I HAVE A COLD AND WANT TO GO TO BED

Pick a month, say November this year, and have an organised series of discussions to form a game plan for the future. We need a structured approach with specific steps, not just a talkfest. At the end we need to have a consensus of how the GGREC should look and feel for at least the next decade.

In 1972 a movie came out called 'The Candidate' where Robert Redford struggled long and hard in a presidential election campaign. He worked so intently that when he finally won the election he had forgotten why he wanted to win office in the first place. The movie ends with him saying "*What do we do now?*" In some ways this represents the present state of the Club. We have constructed our Clubroom, installed the antennas, air conditioners and other bits. Fresh challenges and directions are in order. What do we do now?

RD Contest

By the time you read this the RD Contest will be over. Which is a real shame, because the RD contest is a huge amount of fun, and I feel sorry for the people who might miss out on this great event. Last year we championed the event, and I think we can do it again this year if we all pitch in and get some contacts up. The thing I like most about this event is that we give our brand new club shack a throttling as we power out there to the world trying to communicate to as many stations as we can in a short period of time. So to all those who participated I congratulate you for the effort, and for all those who chickened out and stayed at home I point and laugh at you, for missing out on such a entertaining event.

GGREC For The Win

Hamfest 2007

By Paul Stubbs, VK3TGX

This year I chose not to set up a table, I have been taking the same box's to the hamfest now for a few years, time to give it a rest

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I arrived a little after 9:00, I had been hoping to do better but sleep deprivation was a problem at the time



I didn't much about too much and got my camera to work, not much chance of seeing stall holder arrive, most were completely set up, so I did the rounds seeing what bargains were to be had – only to be told – “were not allowed to sell before 10:00”, foie, I'm gonna have to have a long yak to EIPresidende.

The most impressive stand would have to have been the Yaesu /G&C comms tables – 3 in total with more stock on the tables than I seem to remember from past years. In the end, I made a 'delayed' purchase of an FT8700 radio, that I plan to review shortly From what I heard, the Yaesu radio's have never been this cheap (ignoring some dodgy imports)

Second on the list would have to be TTS systems, Who had a good display. That unfortunately left one major player with no presence – Icom, come on, show yourself in 2008

The door prizes were drawn a tad late at 1:00, but as there was no re-draw of prizes, it didn't matter if people left early, but that didn't stop most hanging around for the draw. After that the show was pretty well done, with everyone pulling the plug and heading off shortly afterwards



I took a walk in the carpark, and found the BARG, or Ballarat Amateur Radio Group, who should have received a prize for best attending club, they loaded up a minibus for the trip.

If you would like to see more pictures, point your web browser to www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net and have a look for yourself!

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 20 July 2007
Start time: 8:20 PM.
Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.
Chairperson: Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT
Minute Taker: Dave Campbell VK3XMF

Present: See attendance Sheet

Visitors and Guests: Gary VK3ZGP new member

Apologies: Phil Pavey VK3YB, Kerry-May Pavey VK3FDSD, Barry VK3NJV, Steve & Maria Harding, Helmut & Dorothy Inhoven, Ian & Val Benson, Bill, VK3DOU.

Correspondence Received:

EMDRC Magazine, AR June & July.

Correspondence Sent:

Email to Ted thrift re Assessors & Assistants & learning officers. Letter of thanks has been sent to Ready Roasts by Dianne Jackson...

Treasurer's Report: Not Available

Previous Minutes: As printed in the Magazine.

New Call signs – Tim VK3TDM, Elizabeth VK3FLIZ

Read by: Bruno Tonizzo Moved by Ivan Blezard, Seconded by Reg Goddard, Carried YES.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Hamfest – All tables sold. Start time for helpers is 7:30 am.

Cannibal Hill visit was a success and enjoyed by all.

Helmut & Dorothy are in Marble Bar Arnhem land.

New Business:

Volunteers needed to help out at Hamfest.

Club membership badges – please order one if you need one.

RF ID tags – Please order one if you need one. \$10.00 deposit needed.

Pub Night – Cardinia Hotel cancelled – stay tuned for new location. Email will be sent to those with email addresses.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

JOTA Bruno to meet with guides on the 16th August to firm up details. Working with Children ID will be needed next year.

Fox Hunt – Later in the year. Club Shack – still playing up and has now been fixed by Ian VK3BUF.

F Call classes & exams – 2 candidates passed on the 30th June / 1st July session.

GGREC needs to sort out a uniform training structure as other Clubs. WIA is co-ordinating contact lists. Graeme brown has completed the Assessor training.

160m CW contest will be held 21st July 2007. 0800 -1300 hrs UTC.

Peter Pavey Club room Plaque shown to the members. Official naming ceremony to be scheduled soon.

Club Rules – Albert Hubbard talked about the Rules and the requirement for a dispute resolution procedure which is in the Model rules. Members will be advised of its inclusion.

Licence issues – Bill VK3DOU advised Bruno that there is a delay in issuing them but they should arrive within the 2 week time frame.

The Club Kenwood HF Radio has a frozen Frequency Dial. Needs to be well oiled.

Club Noise Bridge – 250 ohm pot required to repair it.

Rockby Electronics – The bargain centre is now closed but specials will be available on Saturday mornings.

Coming Events

HAMFEST – 21st July

RD Contest 11 & 12 August

Meeting Closed at around 09:30 PM.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 30th July 2007 at 8:00 pm at GGREC Headquarters Cranbourne.

Guest Speaker Phil Pavey – Computers in the Shack.

Next Prac Night : 3rd Aug 2007

Next General Meeting : 17th Aug 2007.

GGREC
PO BOX 1098
CRANBOURNE
3977