

GATEWAY



Growing Gardens Require Extra Care

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

September 2007

Next General Meeting:
21st of September

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...

This month we will be getting together to reminisce about GGREC's past. We can look at the photos and videos and see what members used to get up to many years ago.

At the same time, we need to look to the future and scope out what we want our Club to be and do in the years to come. It's not as easy as it seems, as you need to have vision and get everyone on board to make it happen. That's why we ALL need to be part of the "GGREC of the future" decision making team. We all need to have an agreed goal for GGREC and work towards it. We will debate this in the coming months and I encourage you to read Ian Jackson's comments in last month's magazine.



You may have heard by now that Jan (Yarn) Onken VK3NOV has been in hospital undergoing life saving surgery. I have visited Yarn and passed on the Club's best wishes for a speedy recovery. Yarn is looking forward to getting behind the microphone again and doing more work on his micro controlled antenna rotator.

JOTA – I encourage everyone to come along and help out for the four hours that we will be providing communications for the Guides. The day goes very quickly and the event will be preceded by the Club Room naming ceremony. So come along and be part of these two very important events.

Speaking of events, have a look at the "Coming Events" list in the magazine to keep up with the many and varied events to come. The Committee will attempt firm up the dates well into the future so that you can plan ahead and attend. Splitting the events evenly between Saturday and Sunday is not always possible but we will try to meet your expectations.

See you at the GM,

Bruno Tonizzo

The Editors Ramblings

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed

As you should all be aware, this month's general meeting is going to be a memorabilia night, where you should all bring along some photos you have collected over the past 30 years of the club history, and reminisce over that time when you horribly embarrassed yourself in front of everybody and earned the nickname "One-ear". And if you are new to the club and haven't been here long, then you are more than welcome to make stuff up, like the time I single-handedly got over 1000 radio contacts in the last RD contest...in a single hour...on a radio that didn't work...with a blindfold on! Clearly though, if you're intending to make stuff up, it's probably best if you try to make it at least a tiny bit plausible, otherwise you'll end up looking like some sort of deranged weirdo with a strange obsession for Harry Potter.

As usual, this magazine is overflowing with great stuff, including lighthouses, computers, sea monsters and more. I've only got the October and November editions left, so if you want to get your articles in, then you'd better do it quickly otherwise you will miss out! If you want to send some material email secretary@ggrec.org.au

See you at the next meeting.

GGREC 2007 Christmas Party.

We are looking for a venue for this year's Christmas party. If you have been meaning to invite the Club around for an afternoon but needed an excuse....well here it is.

Speak to one of our cheerful committee members and let them know your place is available. We BYO everything and don't leave a mess!!

Bruno Tonizzo.

The Angels Have The Phone Box

Upcoming Events

21st September, Friday	General Meeting: Bring all your old club photos and remember 30 years of GGREC
24th September, Monday	Committee Meeting 8:00 PM sharp.
5th October, Friday	Prac Night - Antenna building project
20 th October, Saturday	JOTA & Naming ceremony for GGREC Club Rooms.
3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, November	Melbourne Cup Long Weekend Camping (Powlett River Caravan Park - Wonthaggi)
17th, 18th November, Weekend	Spring field day, and pub night!
December	Christmas break-up, New Years celebrations

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

Birthdays For September.....



For reasons long and varied, I don't have the list of birthdays for September. You see, I usually have the birthdays written down on a piece of paper, but just as I was about to enter it into the magazine, a gust of wind blew into the room and blew the paper out the window. I walked outside to pick it up, but it was blown all the way down the paddock. I chased after it, dodging cows, leaping over fences and side-stepping cow-dung, but I was too late, it had been blown down to the bottom of the hill and into the creek. Fortunately, it landed on a piece of floating bark, so I followed it down the creek for miles and miles, until it ended

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up right in the middle of some sort pond. Using some nearby fence-posts and my shoelaces, I ingeniously construct a raft and float out onto the pond. However, all was not well, for just as I was about to collect the list, a giant and ancient sea serpent burst



out from the depths and lunges at me. Using nothing more than my wrist-watch, some pocket lint and a soggy shoe I manage to heroically defeat the sea serpent in an epic battle and claim the birthday list as my prize. Sadly, it was a bit wet, and I couldn't read any of the names on the list, so I ended up throwing it away. If it was your birthday in September, then I apologise for not being able to print your name in this month's magazine. I will do my best to include your name in next month's edition, sea serpents or no.

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed

Remembering the Last 30 Years of GGREC.

By Bruno Tonizzo, VK3BFT

Come along to the September General Meeting and sit down with a nice cup of coffee, or tea and a piece of cake to reminisce about the GGREC days gone by. Yes, it's time to get that old skeleton out of the cupboard and come clean with as many stories as you can remember. Obviously, we cannot cram 30 years into one night so bring the highlights of your memories to share with the rest of the Club. For the newer members (like me) you might ask:-

- Why do we have a six meter repeater and who built it.
- How did a photo of Paul Stubb's tonsils get into the local paper?
- Who nearly broke his leg building the Club Shack access ramp?
- Why do people lose all sense of respectability at buck nights?
- Why horse trials meant so much to the Club?
- Where did all the moustache's go?

So many questions, so few remember the answers. This is your chance to learn about GGREC's history.

See you there!!

CLUB YL ACTIVITIES

Written By Pat Pavey, VK3OZ

Three of us were active in the ALARA contest on the weekend of Aug 25th and 26th and it was great to hear so many stations active and enjoying the chance to meet each other on the air. The contest was well supported by the OMs and Kerri-May VK3FSD, Susan VK3FXXX and I enjoyed the time we were able to spend taking part.



A very enjoyable YL lunch was held on Saturday 1st September at Glen Waverley where fourteen ladies shared in a long lunch and had a chance to meet each other, in many cases for the first time, although we may have spoken on air. Three of us were able to be there, Maree VK3FSAT, Susan VK3FXXX and myself. The lunch was arranged by ALARA and open to any ladies who wished to attend. We hope to have lunches every two months and any YLs who are interested are warmly invited to come along. Details will be in the next magazine or contact me for info.

P.S. OM - husband or male operator
YL - Young lady or female operator

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.

Computers In The Shack

By Phil, VK3YB

Hopefully this is everything that I went through at the August General meeting... First the websites we looked at.

First was our very own GGREC website

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

DXCentral was the online DXCluster. <http://www.dxcentral.com/> When you get to this site you “hover” your mouse over “DX Cluster” and select the first option “DX-Central Web Cluster”.

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/> was my suggestion for reviews of equipment

<http://www.qrz.com/vk3bjia> is where you can look up details on any call-sign (replace VK3BJA with the call you are looking for)



Everyone needs new toys. Vkham is the place to go

http://www.vkclassifieds.vkham.com/cgi-bin/classifieds/classifieds.cgi?session_key=

We looked at the “logger” for live vhf/uhf dx info

<http://www.vklogger.com/>

Starting on the software we looked at “Ham Radio Deluxe” for rig control. The homepage for this is <http://hrd.ham-radio.ch/> To install this you click on the “downloads”. On the righthand side you will then find “download the latest kit now” – click on this. Click on “run” when the box appears on your screen and follow the prompt.

The sensational group of software from DXLAB included the logging software, dx spotting on world map and propagation software. Homepage is <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/> . From here choose “Downloading and installing DXLab applications”. You will see a box marked “install launcher”. Click on this and follow the prompts. Once the launcher is installed you can select the components you wish to use. Have a good look around the website as it has heaps of information.

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Echolink was the last. <http://www.echolink.org/> There is “download” link on the left hand side. You will have to enter a callsign and email address and you will then be sent instructions on how to install.

Websites are changed frequently, so by the time you try out the above it may be slightly different to how I have described, but hopefully it is close enough that you can find your way through. If you have any difficulties feel free to give me a call.

Lighthouse Weekend

By Graeme Brown, VK3BXG

As a guest of the East Gippsland Radio Group I was invited to spend the International Lighthouse weekend 18th and 19th August at the lighthouse cottage at Point Hicks on the coast of East Gippsland some 45Km south of Cann River. Point Hicks has the historical significance of being the first piece of Australia sighted by Captain Cook from the Endeavour on 20th April 1770 - a fact I made known during the course of the weekend. It is also the tallest cement constructed lighthouse in Australia. For our weekend, Robbie, VK3EK arrived first on site on the Friday afternoon, with Maurie, VK3VLR and Mark VK3MOA and set up the radios in one of the former lightkeepers cottages which had been booked for the weekend. They also set up the 80 meter / 40 meter dipole and a two element beam for 20 meter work.



I arrived later in the evening followed by Bruce Treasure VK3BJT and Col Pomroy VK3BLE, but with it all set up we settled into catching up with all the news. I must add that with the exception of Mark I have known all these OMs for many years. The cottages, although not connected to the power grid all have 240 volt AC power supplied by batteries an inverter and Diesel generator. When I was last there they had a wind generator but I believe that blew down in a gale a few years ago.

Operating under VK3EG, the club callsign, contacts started being made on Saturday, first on 80 meters then on 40 meters to other lighthouses and interested parties up and down the eastern seaboard and into ZL, however because of the fickle

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conditions on 40 at the moment, all these contacts seem to come in bursts and over the course of the day and I found myself hunting for contacts. Robbie kept reminding me that it was not a contest – we were just there to have fun and he seemed to be having just as much fun doing all the cooking; and what a great cook he proved to be.

To my mind the best contacts came Saturday evening when we switched back to 80 meters. For most of the evening we sat on one frequency and then another and found all contacts came to us and from some of the responses, Point Hicks was a sought-after contact by others for a contact. Some contacts were made on 20 meters including Greece and USA (not lighthouses though) but they were not as continuous as like on the lower bands. Sunday morning saw a couple more contacts but as we had to be clear by 11am or pay for another day, the station was dismantled and packed up by 10am. Nevertheless and although I had been into the lighthouse on a previous occasion, I still decided to join Bruce and Mark on a walk to the top - all 165 steps.

The lighthouse is no longer in use. Built between 1888 and 1890 it was the first lighthouse in Australia to be built entirely of cement as it was considered to be too expensive at the time to ship in traditional bluestone blocks and the local granite was considered not suitable to be cut into blocks for the job. A jetty was built on the western side of the point and cement was shipped in. Remnants of the jetty can still be seen close to the shore with some of the sections of the light rail iron used to tram the cement down the jetty to the shore where it was loaded onto to horse drawn sleds and dragged to the construction site. The sled track can still be discerned through tea-trees most the way back to the lighthouse about a kilometer away.

The stone, the granite was quarried on site on the point below the lighthouse and drill holes used to break up the granite can still be seen. From there the granite was bought up by steam winch and crushed by a steam driven crusher and mixed with the cement.

The lighthouse was formed or rather built up in courses between timber frames and it was then cement rendered inside and out. It is 30 meters high with the walls 1.8 meters thick at the base and 1.2 meters at the top. The steps inside are all cast iron and spiral around the inner wall – to my mind, a magnificent piece of construction, a work of art.

Modern navigation facilities, that is satellite positioning, better radar and plus the fact that all shipping must now go further south to avoid the oil rigs have rendered this light house now obsolete. But there is a small timed light positioned on the south side to aid small pleasure craft and commercial fishing boats but that is all. Fortunately the lighthouse is now heritage listed and this should ensure its preservation and upkeep well into the future.

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

THEREBY HANGS A TALE

"Aboveboard"

Card-playing has been known in Europe since about the middle of the thirteenth century, but it is not known how soon thereafter the players discovered ways to cheat their opponents. But by the late sixteenth century, at least, the players had learned that cheating was more difficult, more easily detected, if the cards around the table were all kept in open sight-literally, "above the board." This expression was used so frequently among card-players that it became contracted in the early seventeenth century to aboveboard.

Thanks to Harper Collins, Book Publishers for permission to reprint. The above excerpt is from the book "Thereby Hangs a Tale: Stories of Curious Word Origins" by Charles Earl Funk, copyright 1950.

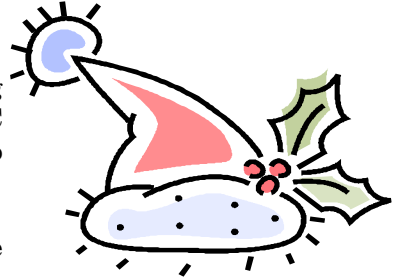
If you enjoyed this snippet about miscellaneous words, then I can include some more in future magazines, as I have a plentiful supply.

Christmas Hamper

By Bruno Tonizzo, VK3BFT

Dear Members,

Due to the drought, floods, global warming Al Nino and his wife La Nina etc, GGREC members will again need to contribute to their own Christmas Hamper.



An empty hamper will be made available for members to fill with Christmas fare.

Some suggestions are bottles of wine, shortbreads and a log periodic antenna. GGREC, I am told, will contribute a leg of ham to the approx value of \$50.00.

With no general Meeting in December, there are only 2 GMs (and 3 Prac nights) to fill the hamper. The committee has set the price of hamper raffle tickets at \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00 to win the lot.

Remember, I know who has been naughty and who has been nice Ho Ho Ho.

Merry Christmas, from Santa Clause.

(P.S. Ed, it's only toooo dollars but sanctioned by Santa.)

Make you own Antenna

“To Beam or Dipole, that is the question”.

Following many requests for antenna making projects, Mike Ide will be asking for your thoughts on antenna making. How many of you want to make a wire dipole, G5RV or a 70cm beam to get into the Club's IRLP repeater?

If we can get ourselves organized into groups, GGREC will purchase the materials at the best price possible and then organize a construction day to put the bits all together. As always the mandatory BBQ snack will be included. A small donation to the Club will be factored in to cover miscellaneous costs.

What's in it for the members?

Well, hopefully the theory behind the design and variety of construction methods will

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be a valuable learning experience for all.

What's in it for the Club?

More amateurs on more bands, making the most of being a GGREC member.

So give this project some thought and speak to Mike Ide VK3KTO at the next GM or Prac night.

Wonthaggi Camping Weekend

This Melbourne Cup Weekend, GGREC members will trek to the lovely Powlett River Caravan Park in Kilcunda for a camping weekend.

The committee chose this location as it is close enough to Melbourne for day trippers and far enough away to be a holiday.

No powered sites are available but don't let that stop you having a great weekend. Contact the Powlett River Caravan Park on 0356787580 for bookings. Mention that you are with the radio club so that we can all be sited together.

We will be getting together with our Wonthaggi GGREC members to let them know that they are valued members of our Club despite the distance between us.

More info to come, but please book ASAP to avoid disappointment.

Bruno Tonizzo

Club Shack Naming Ceremony

Find a pen, grab a piece of non-moistened paper untainted by sea monsters, and write down this date: Saturday the 20th of October. If you don't have a pen handy, tattoo this date on your forehead or something, because it is on this date that the club shack will be named, and you do not want to miss such a historic event. Also, hang around afterwards and enjoy the Guides JOTA event, which also promises to be heaps of fun. See you all there!

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 18 August 2007
Start time: 08:10 PM.
Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.
Chairperson: Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT
Minute Taker: Phil Pavey VK3YB

Present: See attendance Sheet

Visitors and Guests: Mark Glickman

Apologies: Kerri-May Pavey VK3FDSD, Steve & Maria Harding, Grahame Coleman VK3YCG, Max Hill VK3TMK, Graeme Brown VK3BXG, Helmut VK3DHI and Dorothy Inhoven, Ron VK3EXJ and Judy Robertson, Barrie Astbury VK3NJB, Geoff Williams VK3ZGW/4W6AAD, Elizabeth King VK3FLIZ, Andrew Clinkaberry VK3HFA

Correspondence Received:

G&C invoice, e-mail from ARV re lighthouse weekend & bridging course

Correspondence Sent:

Thankyou to butchers for supplying meat

Treasurer's Report: as tabled. Read by Mike Ide VK3KTO Moved Mike Ide VK3KTO, Seconded Phil Pavey VK3YB Carried.

Income: \$1148.26 Expenditure \$1971.01 Balance \$7587.30 Hamfest Income \$3595.35 (increase over last year mainly due to increase in door fee by \$1)

Previous Minutes: As printed in the Magazine. Correction to callsign of VK3FTDM (recorded as VK3TDM)

Proposed Naree Ide, Seconded Doug VK3KMN

New Call signs – nil

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Badges – Mike Ide handed out some new badges \$6.50 each

Pub night was well attended and was an excellent night

JOTA – Bruno has met with guides and reported on progress

Transtasman 80m contest. Phil reported that Kerri-May VK3FDSD was third in the foundation class

Club Room Naming – unveiling of plaque prior to Jota

Bruno thanked Doug VK3KMN for fixing dial on club TS440

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We are looking for a 250ohm linear non-inductive pot for club noise bridge RD Contest – Mike reported it was a success, with lower activity then last year. 160m was most productive for points with 60 qso's, 87 qso's on 70cm, 152 on 2m and 22 qso's on 6m. Hopefully this is 182 HF qso's for 273 points and 261 qso's on vhf for 275 points.

New Business:

Cupday Weekend. Only unpowered sites left at venue (Powlett River Caravan Park). Bruno to circulate details so members can book.

JOTA – 1pm to 5pm. 50th Year of JOTA. 20th October.

Bruno spoke about science week

Pat Pavey VK3OZ reported next Weekend is ALARA contest

Pat Pavey VK3OZ reported ALARA Luncheon on September 1. All Ladies Welcome. Venue is Mountain View Hotel

Doug asked for feedback on the 70cm repeater following changes to antenna

Committee to program a check of the antenna pole above the rotator.

Suggested that we should resurrect the gateway magazine

Members were reminded that the clubrooms are open most Thursdays

Sue Coleman VK3FXXX asked about club membership list. Members were advised to get updates to treasurer ASAP

Sue Coleman VK3FXXX suggested a new canvas sign

Suggested that we look into new VK3BJA qsl cards

Next general meeting will be "club nostalgia night".. bring your photo's / photo's

Ross supplied muffin's for his birthday. [ZAP-ed says: I rock]

Meeting Closed at around 09:30 PM.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 24th September 2007 at 8:00 pm at GGREC Headquarters Cranbourne.

Guest Speaker Phil Pavey – Computers in the Shack.

Next Prac Night : Friday 5th October 2007

Next General Meeting : 21st September 2007.

GGREC
PO BOX 1098
CRANBOURNE
3977