



GATEWAY

April 2008

NEXT MEETING April 18 2008 at 8 pm

WHERE : Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall, Grant St off Sladen St.

SPEAKER : No, AGM.

Pic-a-STAR DIY HF Radio Causes a Stir

by Susan Coleman VK3FXXX

A group of 10 Victorian hams is busily engaged on a project to each build a powerful, software driven HF transmitter and receiver (TxRx), they believe will cost just \$300 to produce. Based on a design by British ham, Peter Rhodes G3XJP, who provides and enhances free (for personal use) the operating software, the system is powered by a Pics general purpose processor usually found in intelligent washing machines, cars and refrigerators etc.

Shown at the March Al-lara meeting in Gisborne, by Graeme McDiarmid, VK3NE, was one completed subassembly for the bunch of ten Pic-a-STARs (Software Transmitter and Receiver) being built. The circuit boards are being etched by one of the group's members. Graeme



McDiarmid said the radio is as feature rich as some of the more expensive commercially available HF transmitters. He said it has been shown to be extremely effective at shielding from interference, a bane of HF transmissions. Details of the design and features are provided by Peter Rhodes in a 45-page PDF file at www.tracey.org/wjt/temp/picastar-all.pdf

A CALL TO ARMS by Ian Jackson YK3BUF

Have you ever seen the old 'F-troop' sketch where all the soldiers are lined up and the commanding officer 'Asks for volunteers to step forward'. One unlucky individual stands still and exposed while everyone else steps backwards one large pace. Thus a volunteer is found!

Clubs can be a bit like that. When election time comes around those who get the jobs are often those who run away the slowest. When the new committee is being selected on Friday and if you have not had a go for a while – or at all, pick a job and have a go.

Traditionally, when the question goes out: who wants to be the next (*whatever*), suddenly previously unexamined spots on the ceiling become really interesting and the normally faint sound of the crickets outside seem to well up and fill the room. There's no point in trying to avoid a void, have a go.

Bruno has worked hard on the role of president and other positions for some time now and has indicated he wants a break. I have not been on the committee for a spell and so I this year I have decided to nominate for the President's position. Way back in the dim past, long before the fluorescent lighting reflected from the top of my head, and the weight of the world had crushed my spirit, I had taken the Pres' chair on about six other occasions. I implore any or all of you to have a think about having a go at any of the committee positions. (Even the Pres' spot!)

So why you may ask am I saying all of this? Fundamentally, it is because of some of the changes I wish to try this time around. I want people to think about this in advance so if they don't like the ideas, they can still change the outcome at the meeting. None of the changes are big or affect the Club rules. If anything they will adhere to them more closely.

I want to bring the Club Committee back to the original five spots of Pres, Treas, Sec and two committee members. The elected Committee has the power to 'co-opt' two more members if they think they are needed and for the last couple of years this has happened. My recollections are that big committees don't have better outcomes, just slower committee meetings. This does not mean that the committee would not point the (hypothetical) paint ball gun at other members in the Club to delegate specific tasks.

I want to change the balance in two ways. I would like to introduce more tech stuff into the Club and try out new ways of getting people

continued page 8

Maybe not ZGW's best angle???

By Geoff Williams VK3ZGW

As mentioned in previous articles, there was an onslaught by club members, well four anyway, on the 6m-repeater site at Cockatoo recently, with the aim of having a general look over the gear and perform any de-bugging of the critter type that may be required. The performance of the repeater has been exemplary over its years of service and a credit to all involved in its design and construction. The condition of the repeater was very good with only slight evidence of rodent residence and a couple of light globes

required to be replaced that form a heating service to reduce the moisture level within the housing. A climb to the top by two of the more adventurous attendees (read that as stupid!) ascertained that the antenna and feeder were similarly in good condition. Some measurements were taken of the VSWR (1.35:1) and the power supply level which all went to show that it was ticking along just fine with the consensus "if it aint broke don't fix it". Some discussions are being held as to the construction of a replacement repeater



controller in the event that the current one, if it turned its toes up, could not be easily rectified due to its time in service and type of construction. The AVR gurus are busily chatting away about that at the moment so if you have any inputs to that end speak up and share your ideas.

It was evident that the site has grown in popularity since we first occupied it as the sole resident. And it appears that the possibility of mobile phones being run off the tower is real as some boxes with the necessary antennas were stored at the site. With the advent of dual, tri and quad band radios, let's hope that more members are able to utilise RDD, which has a great performance from its location in the hills to the north of Westernport. *Geoff VK3ZGW*

RUSS AND READY

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor? WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law in this courtroom.

"Everybody's got to believe in something. I believe I'll have another beer."

W. C. Fields

Russ VK3MWR

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne GirlGuide Hall in Grant Street. Prac nights are held on the first Friday night in the Peter Pavey clubrooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made welcome.** Committee meetings are also held in the club-rooms.

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT (9700 4526)
Secretary	Phil Pavey	VK3YB (5995 7484)
Treasurer	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO (5659 6562)

Committee Members: Reg VK3UK, Max VK3TMK, Pat VK3OZ,
Mike VK3KTO

Magazine Editor: Susan Coleman VK3FXXX

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 the third day of each month.

Please direct magazine correspondence to:

Susan Coleman email editor@ggrec.org.au

All other Club correspondence to P.O. Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977
or Email : secretary@ggrec.org.au

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

Annual General Meeting 2007 Minutes**Date:** 20th April 2007**Start time:** 09:40 PM.**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne.**Chairperson:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO**Minute Taker:** Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT**Present:** As per attendance sheet.**Visitors and Guests:** Brian Smith**Apologies:** Ian VK3KSZ & Val Benson, Paul VK3TGX & Marianna Stubbs, Helmut VK3DHI & Dorothy Inhoven, Geoff Williams VK3ZGW, Bobbie Bishop, Peter Vat VK3KCV, Barry Astbury VK3NJB.**Correspondence Received:**

Proxy nomination form from Phil Pavey.

Correspondence Sent:

Nil

Treasurer's Report: As tabled**Income :** **Expenditure :** **Balance :** \$5029.54**Read by:** Mike Ide, VK3KTO **Moved by:** Reg Goddard VK3UK **Seconded by:** Ron Robertson VK3EXJ **Carried:** Yes**Previous Minutes:****Read by:** Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT **Moved by:** Andrew Clinkaberry VK3HFA **Seconded by:** Russ White VK3MWR **Carried:** Yes**Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Nil

New Business:

Albert Hubbard – thanked all who helped him throughout the year especially Reg & Jenny for their Fundraising effort, Dorothy for baking cakes for our supper, Ian Jackson for the AVR course, Bruno for helping, Paul Stubbs for taking photos of our events and outings, Andrew for his excellent work as editor, Dave Wright & Geoff Clifton for printing and the magazine, Dave Campbell for his work on our website, the Committee and all who came along to help on the working bees.

Ian Jackson offered to produce Club photo ID cards again for 2007. Cost will be \$4.00.

Special resolution – Albert moved that the Club rules be amended as published. Seconded by Reg Goddard VK3UK and passed unanimously after some general discussion.

New Committee:

Bruno Tonizzo was nominated for the position of President by Jenny Goddard, seconded by Andrew Clinkaberry and was elected unopposed.

Andrew Clinkaberry was nominated as Treasurer by Mike Ide, seconded by Dave Campbell and elected unopposed.

Phil Pavey nominated himself for the Secretary position, seconded by Andrew Clinkaberry and was elected unopposed.

General Committee members:

Albert Hubbard nominated by Reg Goddard and accepted.

Ross Jackson (Editor) nominated by Andrew Clinkaberry

Mike Ide nominated by Albert Hubbard

Pat Pavey nominated by Albert Hubbard

Max Hill nominated by Bruno Tonizzo

Reg Goddard nominated by Albert Hubbard All elected unopposed. Ian Jackson will remain as Public Officer. Tom Wilson will remain as Financial Auditor

From the president ... Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

I hope each of you have been considering standing for the committee positions as there have been some very strong views put forward on how the Club should be run during discussions at previous meetings.

The year has gone very quickly again and it seems to have overtaken some of the initiatives that the committee was hoping to have in place by now.

We still need some sort of shelter (tent) for field days and the Hamfest, and we are still looking at data projectors. The Tower pole needs to be replaced and we need to organise the mid year dinner to continue celebrating GGREC's 30th anniversary. Some of these tasks are ongoing as they involve spending the Club's money. This is not easy as you only get one shot at it and all of us have to live with the results. So I ask all of you to be understanding until we make our decisions.

The Tower pole replacement needs to be planned and completed with safety as the primary driver and it will not go ahead until the committee is satisfied that all precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of those doing the work. I apologise if this has meant delays in getting the job done. At the same time, the committee has achieved some goals. The 2007 Hamfest ran smoothly and was a great success. The field day "tasters" were good fun and I look forward to attending them in the 2008/9 season. A visit to VK3RDD was completed and we noted that there are many more commercial antennas on site contributing to interference issues.

Training of applicants for the foundation licence has been very rewarding.

Knowing that we have helped people that wanted to be radio amateurs achieve their dream is what the hobby is all about. Bringing new people into amateur radio will ensure its continuation. Personally, I think the best thing that has happened over the last 12 months is seeing the new members getting involved in Club activities. Their enthusiasm and participation in Club events, both socially and practically is very pleasing. I have enjoyed my term as President but will not be standing for re-election. There are other interests that I need to pursue and I look forward to some overseas travel. The Club has a lot of leadership talent amongst its members and I'm sure GGREC will continue to offer fun learning and good times for all. *Bruno VK3BFT*



More On 70cm VK3RLP Repeater Antenna.

by Bruno Tonizzo

There has been much discussion about the 70cm repeater antenna and its suitability for being located on our tower at a height of 14m above ground. The view is that the repeater antenna has a radiation pattern that is optimised for installations on top of a mountain with most of the radiation beaming downwards and not on top of a tower in Cranbourne. I can assure all members that this is not the case. The 70cm repeater antenna specifications are for mounting on a 14m tower with a radiation pattern to ensure wide area coverage.

Many factors will affect your ability to get a good signal into and from the repeater: - Geographical location.; Antenna cable losses at 439 MHz; Transceivers sensitivity and power output; Antenna gain, polarisation and orientation. Need further assistance? Contact any committee member if you still need help accessing VK3RLP.

Bike Ride at Braeside Park

Sunday 30th March was a not too cold, not too windy day for a bike ride.

Max Hill, Helmut & Dorothy, Pat Pavey, Reg & Jenny and I met at car park number 6 for a very pleasant bike ride and BBQ lunch.

Helmut and Dorothy had state of the art bicycles that looked like they were going fast when they were standing still. Max was showing off his fitness by riding rings around all of us while Jenny, Pat and I sat in the rotunda and enjoyed a coffee and BBQ lunch.

The BBQ worked a treat after being sorted out the day before.

Reg's bike drew the attention of many a passerby who could not believe the array of accessories fitted to a modest bicycle.

It's not every day that you see a bike fitted with:

- Air horns and air compressor
- Video camera
- 2m hand held transceiver
- 2m power amplifier / pre-amp
- 5/8 whip antenna
- 12 volt battery
- tyre pump

To top it all off, Reg also had special QSL cards printed for the day!!

Now that's dedication to amateur radio.

Club BBQ Now Cooking With Gas

For those of you that attended the bike-ride day, you would have noted that the BBQ heated up and cooked food as never before.

It warmed up in no time and had the sausages and steak sizzling to perfection.

The cause of the new found performance was due to the unclogging of the gas jets fitted to each of the 4 gas taps on the BBQ. The BBQ was also given a long overdue de-grease and wash. Give it a try at GGREC's next event at Lysterfield Lake on the 19th of April.

Happy BBQ'ing. *Bruno VK3BFT*

P.S. Did you take a GGREC gas bottle home after an event or to refill it? If so, please advise and return.

The Guru Say

Eating lots of prunes produce back—scatter

VK3KTO

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### HAMFEST HELPERS WANTED NOW

As the year progresses (rather quickly I might add) there are certain events that come around each year that require thought and organisation. One such event is our Hamfest. This year it will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July. A fair amount of work goes into this event as it is our major income earner for the year. Therefore to make it run as smoothly as it can and to present a good appearance to our visitors to justify their entry fee, we need to know how many, and preferably who, is helping out on the day. As in the past, we ask that as many as possible commit to a few hours on the day to make it easier on others. You will be asked at the next meeting to put your name on the list so we can delegate jobs. I am coordinating the Hamfest as per the last several years and Dianne Jackson (VK3HDI) is once again taking on the Table Booking Coordinator job. Last year we had enquiries for more tables than we could provide so if you want to sell at this year's event, better talk to Dianne soon. Further advertising will appear in next month's magazine regarding the event details. More information can also be obtained by emailing. Please have your answer ready when asked at the next meeting. Thank you in anticipation *Albert VK3BQO*

### **A CALL TO ARMS** *from page 2*

involved without the use of either ransom or blackmail (or at least not much of it). Secondly, I want to change general meeting nights around somewhat to give more time for social interaction and have much shorter formal meetings. Members will still be able to raise issues and vote on them in the normal way, but the test I would use is: 'if the committee can deal with it, then let them do it.' 'If we can announce it in the Club Mag instead of at a meeting, then we do that too.' I want to watch the clock and unless something special is going down, I would like to see general meetings of 20 minutes or less.

Finally, I want to limit the number of dot points in my articles to no more than three. If there are four or more, then almost certainly I'm up too late and I'm just padding out the space. Also, I think I want to get more people writing their own stuff for the mag. Everyone has a story to tell. When I open the Club mag I'd like to find Facts, Humour and Irony - all without having to resort to a metal detector. So there you have it. If you want to be a part of a dynamic team and no other clubs have vacancies, then put your hand in the air at the GGREC AGM and say the words 'Pick me' loud enough for the person next to you to hear. I will now step down from my frothy box and see you all at the meeting. *Ian VK3BUF*



| EVENT        | DETAILS                                                                                                                  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>APRIL</b> |                                                                                                                          |
| 4            | Friday Prac night                                                                                                        |
| 18           | <b>APRIL GM/AGM</b><br>Come along and support your Club. Nominate for a position.                                        |
| 19           | Fox Hunt – Lysterfield Lake 10:30 AM start. Enter off Belgrave Hallam Rd, approx 1km Nth of Heatherton Rd. Melway 108 G2 |
| 28           | Committee Meeting                                                                                                        |
| <b>MAY</b>   |                                                                                                                          |
| 2            | Friday Prac Night                                                                                                        |
| 10           | Pub Night (TBA) Stay tuned to 146.225MHz for the latest news.                                                            |
| 18           | General Meeting                                                                                                          |
| <b>JUNE</b>  |                                                                                                                          |
| 6            | Friday Prac Night                                                                                                        |
| 9            | Queen's Birthday                                                                                                         |
| 14           | MID YEAR DINNER Tooradin Sports Club                                                                                     |
| 20           | June General Meeting                                                                                                     |
| <b>JULY</b>  |                                                                                                                          |
| 4            | Friday Prac Night                                                                                                        |
| 19           | GGREC Hamfest – Our main event !                                                                                         |
| 18           | July General Meeting                                                                                                     |

TBA – To Be Announced.

Version 6/04/2008

### **Membership Fees Are Now Due!**

As another GGREC year comes to a close, don't forget to pay your 2008/9 annual fees. The committee unanimously voted not to increase fees for the coming year which is good news for all members. Full \$37.00 Pensioner/Junior \$22.00 Other family member \$17.00 P.S. Don't forget to bring an extra \$5.00 for the annual dinner booking fee.

### **May Foundation licence training Course**

The next Club Foundation Licence Training course will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. Practical information night is Wed 14<sup>th</sup> May. Contact *Mike Ide VK3KTO*

## PROFILE

Yarn Oncken VK3NOV

**“In 1998, I got the best thing my dad ever gave me, an ICOM General Coverage Receiver; It had cost him \$1200 or so, some time back. This got me interested in ham radio. “**



Hi, my name is Jan, but Yarn works better on Radio. My story takes me back to when I was a youth, with my father a master technician from West Germany, who had come to Australia with mum, and his three boys, including me, the 2<sup>nd</sup> eldest, as immigrants.

Some time later, while he was working for Philips/Astor, as a radio technician, on radios, dictation machines, 2-ways and handhelds for the CRB., tape recorders, shavers, anything but TV's, I would come along sometimes, and sort out resistors for the store.

Dad also had to make ends meet, by doing repairs in his homemade workshop (for a Mr. K), who had a second hand dealership, (this helped Dad and us, get some nice boys' toys cheap.) Made out of a VW crate, the workshop was behind the old wood and sand and tar paper garage, at the rear of our family home in Bentleigh East. Here I was conscripted, to stand at the doorway, for hours at a time, without making a sound...He said it would teach me self control (Torture more like!..). I learnt a lot about electronics, staying still, and being quiet in this way...but my main purpose, (realized many years later), was to be his safety switch!...and yes you guessed it, one day when he was working on a TV, (which he would have tried to dodge, as he hated TVs), I had to do my main job, which was to shut off the supply, as he had got stuck to the high tension and was unable to move!!!

He enjoyed taking all of us, mum, (and the four boys now), to the beach, where we would split up, and go for long walks many miles apart, using a pair of 3 ch handhelds in the CB band, to stay in contact. This, and listening to the police on his 'homebrew' receiver made from an old



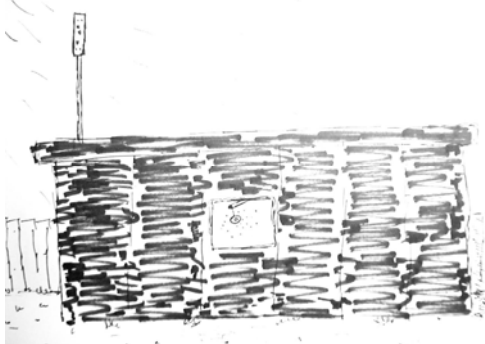
## PROFILE CONT'D

TV, and also to the Moorabbin tower and planes when at the airport, or with his 'homebrew' plate antenna on the back of the old garage, with his 'homebrew' hand held crystal receiver... all this, was what probably got me into radio...

But, what caused the stop to our air rifle target shooting, ( air darts, through a 15 mm hole in the middle of a 3 inch round tape recorder pulley, hanging in front of a board, nailed to the side of the old garage - great fun!) was, when a young neighbour, a (Mr. T.S.) came over to show us his Daisy repeater, and to my shock, put bb dents in same - it seems, shooting at someone's antenna, can make them very cranky!!! And this got our air rifle sold off very quickly!!

Actually I never found out if that antenna was real or a fake. I do not recall seeing any wires...

Maybe, it was just to see if we did the right thing with that darn air rifle when he was not there. That would be my Dad... "*It was not me!*" we all said, but to no avail.



My first station, 'homebrew' antenna, and rotator...I saved up for a 23ch Cougar AM (about \$130) and ran it with the car battery, "homebrew" antenna being a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave dipole, with a SWR of 1:1, I had made out of some  $\frac{3}{4}$  electrical conduit, belted onto insulation tape, wrapped over a bolt, put through a hole in a 2 inch gal. socket, up 21 foot, on a length of 2 inch gal.

My first 'homebrew' rotator, easily turnable with a strong-hand, due to another socket and short piece, on the end of the length, sitting on a bigger pipe, it hit into the ground, and with a loose clip at the top, behind the middle of the upgraded steel 2-car garage. My first QRP skip? ... A CBER from nearby, (Mr. R), who came from New Zealand, and who would let me use his DSE 3-ch AM marine 2w radio, fitted with ZL frequency crystals, to get through to ZL. (It worked every time he came... how's that!???)



*Cont'd from previous page* **PROFILE** Yarn Oncken

I recall getting an Electrophone AM with more controls, a bargain at \$40 from Radio Parts.

Soon after the 23 ch SSB rigs had arrived. Bubble Bee, a friend I still know and see today, had just got a Gemtronics, I think, an ugly dark green and black thing, we just had to try it, so we fitted it in the car and went SSB mobile to the beach to talk across the bay somewhere, everywhere!...cool!

My first SSB DX was with a Kraco 23 ch, about \$170, a great radio that I ran base, (I had to cut a hole through the back of the bureau), into a 5/8w Ringo type antenna, made in the USA that my dad had given me. Or, when mobile, into a 6 foot top loaded whip on a base built into the surf bar (hidden) and split to run CB and the car radio.

Yes! The PLL had arrived! ...

My first 40+ ch rig was an 18ch Grant (\$250). It was good for 80 ch's and a great DXer, but too noisy with the car running, but I got many DX copies when the motor was off, like to the Codec 151 (or 515?) in Alaska, from the Flinders carpark from where I went to scrubber, dive and fish. (I should still have the QSL card somewhere for that one! Maybe.

By now, as a Master Plumber and Gasfitter, I was about 21 or so. I used the skills and materials to put up my first folding antenna pole, in the middle of the back of the house, out of 1 ½ and 1 ¼ gal. pipes and fitted the 5 ele.10m Werner Wulf Yagi Beam, ( big, real big, that I got in a deal, with an Electrophone SSB 18 ch and base slide unit,.

On the top, I put my 2<sup>nd</sup> 'homebrew' rotator, a strong-pull, using a bolt through a smaller pipe, sitting in, and, falling into notches like a HillsHoist, when pulled around with two ropes, to turn and tie down my beam at my new home.

But disaster struck. While trying to pull this up the first time, with the help of a 4w drive on the end of a rope over the house and in the court, it turned in the ground and came down hard to the side,

My son let go of his guide rope and ran for his life... smart lad!! ... I, with my Dad in me, probably!, screamed at him for not helping to stop it, (sorry son), but it was hopeless as it had got away, breaking many of the ends of the 5 elements. Luckily I could still get them from Werner Wulf. I had to fix it, then hammer an extra pipe in the ground, and weld two braces to it to stop it turning again, also to make the hinge better, By letting it fold only one way, over the roof, making it almost a one man job to lift.

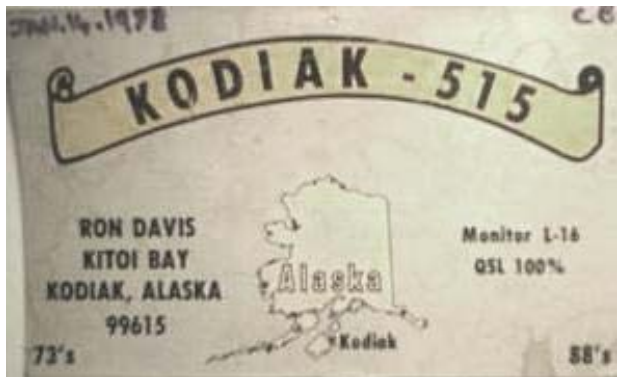
One day, like any good Radio Enthusiast, at the local trash'n'treasure, I found a small, cheap 40 ch AM. Hmmm!, Just right to build into the yellow, full Hurricane fairing I had added to my 3<sup>rd</sup> motor bike, a Yamaha XJ 650 shaft drive,

*Continued next page*

touring bike. With a rocking armature for the mike, and old headset speakers for my bike helmet, and with the short wipe on top of the top box, a PTT switch on the bars for the thumb, with SWR 1:3 to 1, I had my first motor bike mobile. It looked cool and worked great!!!

After that, I got Poppy (my father-in-law) a SSB 40 ch Pace and fitted it to his boat, a ½ cabin fibreglass with 40 h/p, using alarm tape as a ground plane, for a 6 foot whip. We always got great skip at Eildon Lake, but local use was hopeless. If we had broken down, we would have had to relay through W.A. marine stations hi hi! We would camp at Bonnie Doon, to waterski, dive, and fish. (and the best bbq's, because his son was a butcher, with plenty of meat... nice one! I sold the 18 ch rig to get a black and chrome Electrophone SSB 40 ch to match the R/T interior of the blue 770-R/T charger I had built from 2 cars. (Both these rigs were only fair)

Another CBER, a friend I still see, (Mr. P.C.) got sick, and gave me his point 6/4 Archer vertical antenna. It was 21 foot plus 4x 9 foot g/plans (big!). With it on top of my first pole, it was about 54 feet or 16.4m, to the tip and I needed to use heavy fishing string as shock absorbers to stop it



bending like my first 5/8 Ringo, in the high winds here...and a Liner S-878 SSB with a 40 ch see-through dial... I still use that one! Now I needed another pole! ... So I, in time, built a telescopic, 11m tall, (max. council limit at the time) tilt-able pole, next to the side of the house, for the 5 ele. beam, a dual 6 foot x 6 foot 14 ele. UHF CB modified commercial beam I had built, (nicknamed the 30+ Laser Beam), and a 3rd 'homebrew' rotator, a car-bits...but that's another story!...

All three of these antennas, and the rotator, have now passed way. R.I.P. In 1998, I got the best thing my dad ever gave me, an ICOM General Coverage Receiver; It had cost him \$1200 or so, some time back. This got me interested in ham radio. Even though it was flash, with key pad and voice etc, it had no real filters, or easy way to ham frequencies, which I had no idea about. So after a while, off I went to Daycom, and put it on the shelf on consignment for sale next to another one the same, except without voice or new batteries. Time passed and nothing was heard, but when I rang to find out what had happened, I was informed it had sold...I asked what was available?

*Continued next page*

*PROFILE Yarn Oncken...from previous page*

I was told they had a good (top of the shelf in its time) IC-751 for \$950, so for \$250, about as much as my CBs, it could be mine...real cool!

This was it, my chance, to get my first HF transceiver with Notch filter, Ham bands, FM, Pass Band and GCR as I had!...(I happily gave up the voice and key pad for that, but now needed a power supply) Hmmm!, I got it anyway! Just used the car battery again, and made a 'homebrew' tuner...till I could afford better.

After a while, even though I did not really need to, and was doing fine with CB, I decided to study for a ham call.

Not that long after, in 1999, I join a radio club, hello GGREC., I studied with the help of Peter and Pat Pavey and others, I sat my 5 Morse and passed, then my 10 Morse - passed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> try, then did a club radio course with Ian Jackson and went for my Novice, (now Standard) I had only studied my regs for 2 days and passed both, so ordered my call of VK3NOV and got it!..

As a ham, I have now made over 800 contacts on the IC-751 with over 350 of them confirmed, and I still love it. I have also added CAT control from the PC with a board from Piexx to the rig, and to the KR-400 Rotator with a 'homebrew' board.

When I got over 10m, it was time to try 15m, which worked well on the vertical antenna with a tuner, now an MFJ 969.

So to the 10m beam, I added the required bits of fine tube with hose clamps to all the elements and retuned it on 15m, SWR 1:2 to 1. I used these for the next 6 years, and they worked great!

But, fat or big birds, bent them down sometimes!.. So watch out for fat birds!!!!

Now in 2008 I still run a tiny FT90R on 70cm and 2m in the car, into a Diamond high gain dual band antenna. In my station, there is still a Club Philips 8040, set to the Club frequency, and my CW gear, comprising a Bencher Paddle, Clipsal and marine Keys, and MFJ Keyer, connected to the IC-751. Also, I now have a Mosley TA-33 Jr. Beam, for 20, 15, and 10m, made in the USA, to try on 20m from Mike Ide. This will be great for the next big skip peak.

Good DX all, 73's

Yarn VK3NOV END



### Mid Year Dinner JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> 2008.

This year the GGREC Mid Year Dinner will be held 14<sup>th</sup> of June at the Tooradin Sports Club. We have a room booked for the evening and we will continue to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A booking fee of \$5 is refundable. It is important that you book as we need to provide numbers to the Sporting Club and to assist the organising committee with its preparations. *Bruno VK3BFT*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2008

**Date:** 14 March 2008  
**Start time:** 08:00 PM.  
**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne.  
**Chairperson:** Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT  
**Minute Taker:** Phil Pavey VK3YB  
**Present:** See attendance Sheet

### Visitors and Guests:

**Apologies:** Albert VK3BQO, David Campbell VK3XMF & family, Steve & Maria VK3EGD, Ross VK3ZAP, Bobbie, Ron VK3EXJ & Judy, Grahame VK3YCG

### Correspondence Received:

Email from Bob Terrell VK3BNC, letter from WIA - allowing clubs to set up web pages on WIA site, FAMPARC news, Doveton & Eummering – info on infrastructure, City of Casey, true energy bill, Aus Post box bill, email re Ken Matchett VK3TL SK.

### Correspondence Sent:

Nil

**Treasurer's Report:** as tabled. Read by Bruno VK3BFT Moved  
 Income: \$ 207.50 Expenditure \$ 648.83 Balance \$ 5750.70

**Previous Minutes:** As printed in the Magazine. Proposed

**New Call signs** – Megan VK3HOP.

### Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

SWR device – work in progress  
 Club shack being cleaned (Pat 3OZ did last clean) – still have ants  
 Bowling day was great fun. Thanks to Reg for organising.  
 6m repeater site – Bruno VK3BFT, Phil VK3YB, Geoff VK3ZGW & Albert VK3BQO visited site. Key still worked! Everything in case relatively clean. Antennas looked good. Light bulbs replaced. 20w o/p 1.5:1 SWR.  
 JMFD – cancelled

70cm repeater interference. O/g  
 mid year dinner – 14<sup>th</sup> June, Tooradin Sports Club  
 Shack visit to Mike Ide VK3KTO went well  
 30 March bike ride to Braeside park, Keysborough. Need someone to transport BBQ  
 19<sup>th</sup> April, foxhunt, Lysterfield Lake

### New Business:

Reminder that next month is AGM. Consider getting on committee  
 Megan discussed possibility of speaking antenna analyser  
 Email re USS Missouri activation 11:00-13:00 25 EAST March 14.263USB, 18.163USB.  
 Albert believes FOB Reader faulty for shack access  
 100% pass in last F exam. More instructors needed. See Mike VK3KTO.  
 Megan offered to hold JAVA classes.  
 Di brought a heap of vegetables for all!  
 Pole purchased for tower, need date for working bee. Date TBA  
 Club has copy of MFJ catalogue  
 Susan needs mag articles – editor@ggrec.org.au  
 Meeting Closed at around 21:20

**Next Committee Meeting:** 28 April **Next Prac night:** 2nd May

**Next General Meeting :** 16th May

**Optimist :** A person who while falling from the Eiffel Tower says midway "See I am not injured yet."  
**Politician :** One who shakes your hand before elections, and your confidence after.  
Russ VK3MWR



GGREC  
PO BOX 1098  
CRANBOURNE  
3977