



GATEWAY

August 2008

NEXT MEETING Friday August 15 2008 at 8 pm

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

SPEAKER : Ian Jackson VK3BUF just returned.....

'Reflections of Modern Industry in China'



Shane Clayton addresses the July General Meeting

Residents with north-facing and unshaded roofs will get the biggest bang for their buck from a domestic solar electricity system that can feed back into the grid, according to Shane Clayton who gave an excellent presentation at July's General Meeting. Questions from the floor came thick and fast as Shane gave a step by step description of the procedure, including surveying the customer's roof, calculating the number of solar panels [these are slowly becoming more cost productive], and connecting the roof system to the domestic electricity supply using a unit that can give *Cont'd page 9*

Remembrance Day contest

The RD contest is held in August each year. If you are interested in participating in this year's event please let Mike Ide know.

This year it will be held on the weekend of the 16th and 17th. Pretty good fun and you'll be tired but it's worth the effort.

Hi, all WIA Victoria Club Contacts,

The Geelong 2m repeater, VK3RGL on Mt Anakie (147.000MHz, negative offset) now requires a 91.5Hz "sub-audible " tone to open the recently installed CTCSS feature.

Users are advised to avoid over deviating their transmissions as that is likely to interfere with the reliable opening of the repeater. 73s,
Peter Andjelkovic VK3APJ Secretary, Geelong Amateur Radio Club

One from Anon I. Mouse

When a man attempted to syphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for.

Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage.

A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his syphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake.

The owner of the motor home declined to press charges saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had!

HAMFEST JULY 08

Pictures by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

Waiting for 10am.....



The inside crush



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 clubrooms.

| | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| President | Ian Jackson | VK3BUF (5625 2545) |
| Secretary | Phil Pavey | VK3YB (5995 7484) |
| Treasurer | Albert Hubbard | VK3BQO (5659 6562) |
| Committee Members: Max VK3TMK, Graeme VK3BXG, | | |

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 [TBA] 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

HAMFEST JULY 08

Megan browsing for bargains



Two cooks chef up a storm



Our photographer Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

From the president ... Ian Jackson VK3BUF

The Big QSY

Since the late 1970's, 146.225MHz on the 2 Metre band has been the meeting place for GGREC members. Technically it is just a measured interval of a travelling wave. But within the minds of Club members it is *somewhere that you go to*, just as tangible as a hotel bar, a campsite on a river, or the way teenagers hang out at the front of a shopping mall with untucked shirts and skateboards.

Well, the end of an era is nigh. Our beloved RF venue has been allocated as an input frequency to a 2 Metre repeater spot for quite some time. While it has been used this way in Adelaide for many years, it had not been used before in Victoria – until now. Apparently a repeater destined for Warrnambool is presently being trialled in Melbourne for a while. So this is the time that we must move on to a new place. Unfortunately, real estate is tight and it is quite difficult to find a spot, free of other repeaters, interference sources and other established 2 Metre band users. Presently we are checking out 145.450, but this has not yet been finalised as a resting place and may only be a sort of refugee camp on our way to a brave new frequency. Watch this space.



The annual GGREC 'Hamfest Sale' is over for another year. Many thanks to all of those members who contributed on the day, especially our hardworking kitchen team! It was a grand effort and went very smoothly. This was not simple luck but due in most part to the efforts of Albert VK3BQO who had been preparing this event for much of the year and coordinated the operation on the day. This one event saves many separate fundraising efforts throughout the year and keeps our annual membership fees to a reduced level. I heard nothing but praise from the stallholders and visitors, so we can safely use this year as a model for future events.

At our last meeting Shane Clayton gave an entertaining and informative talk on solar power systems that interface with the power grid. It went down really well and it was quite stunning to learn about the changes that have been implemented in this field. I'm not quite sure what it will look like, but I remain keen to do something for myself in

From the president cont'd

I'm not quite sure what it will look like, but I remain keen to do something for myself in this area.

On another topic I did an ABC radio interview for drivetime AM radio in regional Victoria this week. The topic was amateur radio and things that GGREC does on the air and at the meetings. I think that it went down well. If we get some visitors coming along to this next meeting, be sure to make them welcome.

I recently had the pleasure of living and working for a couple of weeks in Ningbo, China. It revealed a good cross-section of a quite different lifestyle, which is paradoxically matching our own, more and more each year. Sure some of the beer pours as flat as apple juice and shoe sizes above '9' are almost unobtainable, but everyone I met seemed friendly and reasonably content with their lifestyle. My mission there was to do some training on 3 phase power converter and voltage stabiliser equipment. Certainly language was something of a barrier, but it's surprising what can be achieved with some hand waving and a white board marker.

The customs bloke was a bit unsure about my portable oscilloscope within my pyjamas, but as I smiled a lot and was not wearing the pyjamas at the time, he took pity and let me in the country anyway. While I had a China Mobile phone in my pocket, I did not make any overseas calls. I managed to do all of my important communications using 'Skype' software over the internet. This worked really well from many places – especially the video linking, and saved a lot of money. The weather there was really hot and humid, mostly between 36° and 38°. But I did get some cycling in for 15km around a lake in Hangzhou. This is a big town that had the population of Melbourne around the 10th century.

While years of manipulating pliers and soldering irons bode well, when it came to pursuing rice, noodles and undefined bean-shaped things around the interior of a food bowl with a couple of wooden sticks, I must confess that I really did enjoy that kangaroo steak I consumed upon my return. Perhaps I was over-compensating, but I don't care!

See you at the meeting on Friday night.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

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When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

Anon I. Mouse

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, OR, THIRTY YEARS LATER.

By Mike Ide VK3KTO

Recently John Brown VK3JJB, kindly passed on to me a quantity of GATEWAY magazines from 1978 and 1979.

The July 1978 edition, marked number 9, carried a front page article entitled:

“Projector Purchased”.

The article states:

“THE CLUB HAS PURCHASED A 16mm MOVIE PROJECTOR AND HOPES TO SCREEN REGULAR TECHNICAL FILMS AT MEETINGS AND CLASSES. The projector, an RCA Hollywood model which was purchased second hand is a professional quality “large screen” model and will be ideal for our club rooms. It is currently being overhauled and cleaned by John VK3EW who has had much experience with this particular model”.

Whatever happened to this projector is not known, but it is interesting to note that 30 years on the club has just purchased a video projector with the same object in view. *Mike VK3KTO*

Nothing good lasts forever.

Users of our “Club Frequency” 146.225 have received the news that they have been dreading for several years. That news is that the Club frequency which is the input to a repeater channel has been allocated for a new repeater: VK3RPL. Ah well, just have to find another frequency to use.

Many regulars of the 225 channel worked together over a 2-week period to compile a list of useable frequencies. Then one by one we crossed them off to create a short list. Temporarily we have been using 145.450MHz and this seems to be working fine for all concerned.

As a Club, it probably needs a bit of discussion to accommodate all users.

So this will be discussed at the next General Meeting. Albert VK3BQO

GGREC UPCOMING EVENT LIST

| EVENT | DETAILS |
|---------------|---|
| Aug 15 | 3rd Friday General Meeting Talk on the new China by Ian Jackson. |
| Aug 1 | Friday Prac Night at the Club Shack |
| Aug 24 | Committee meeting at Club Shack |
| August 16 -17 | Remembrance Day Contest weekend |

TBA – To Be Announced.

Version 1/08/2008

Cont'd from page 1 **SHANE CLAYTON ADDRESSES THE JULY MEETING** as well as receive power from the grid. This allows customers to 'top up' if they have to, or feed back excess power to the grid if they make too much. Shane said Melbourne gets enough solar energy—average 6-7 hours a day compared to Germany's 2 which is still deemed sufficient for a workable solar system. Cost for a medium house, north-facing and unshaded roof is around \$16,000 of which you get back \$8000 if done by a qualified installer and your combined income is less than \$150,000. (If a not so perfect roof, to get the same bang you'll need more panels, and these are where the real cost lies.) Meantime a campaign is underway to get the cap lifted. After all who has \$16,000—\$20,000 spare cash floating around for such an item especially given it still takes 10-15 years to break even. The audience was able to quote at least one large landholder who has already gone solar and invested in \$50,000 worth of batteries to store the excess generated solar electricity, not exactly your ordinary family's ballpark energy aspiration. Shane's enthusiasm about the potential was contagious and our president says he is already thinking seriously [see President 's Message page 6] .
Susan Coleman VK3FXXX.

The Guru Say

**Man who conduct symphony orchestra part-time, not make
him semi-conductor**

Mike Ide VK3KTO

PROFILE

Mike Ide VK3KTO

'If we were lucky, an amateur would turn up and open the transmitter room and VK3WI would go on the air.'



When our highly esteemed editor, Susan VK3FXXX, asked me to recall some of my memories relating to radio, I had to start at 1948.....

It was in that year that the family's 4-valve mantle radio set was replaced by a 5-valve dual wave table model!

This brown bakelite beauty had a dial that not only had all the Australian and New Zealand broadcast stations marked but also a short wave band marked in metres and megacycles as well for far away places like London, Berlin, Moscow, to name a few.

Many happy hours were spent tuning around these bands but the part that really captured my interest was around 40 metres, marked "Amateur Band" I soon discovered more amateurs around 20 metres although it was not marked as such.

In addition to my listening activities I would frequent the local newsagent to pick up the latest edition of *Radio and Hobbies*, and built crystal sets, and later, 1- and 2-valve radios.

When I turned 14, I became the proud owner of an AR8 receiver. These receivers were quite plentiful on the disposals market after seeing service during the war in Catalina flying boats, among others.

In 1954 the WIA Victorian Division started a Short Wave Listeners Group. What a big event it was to travel to the WIA rooms at 191 Queen Street Melbourne for the SWL group monthly meetings.

PROFILE CONT'D

Mike Ide VK3KTO

If we were lucky, an amateur would turn up and open the transmitter room and VK3WI would go on the air. Around this time I got to know quite a number of amateurs, including Ron Fisher VK3OM, Stan Dixon VK3TE (sk) and Ted Jenkins VK3OQ (sk). Ted lived in St. Kilda Street, opposite Elsternwick Park and I would often visit him after cricket practice.

Apart from radio I also had an interest in audio and built a push-pull 6V6 amplifier and this, with the addition of a bias oscillator and Byer tape deck became the basis of a tape recorder.

Around this time I was working for Stewart McLean in Gardenvale, who was in the public address business. Stewart had the calisign VK3GK but was not active at the time.

In a few years time other interests such as motor racing started to take over from radio and I found myself employed in the motor trade. My interest in radio was however not far from the surface as in 1976 I purchased a Realistic DX160 receiver.

What a change had come over the amateur bands! In my younger days AM was the main mode and it was very rare to hear an SSB signal; now the reverse was the situation.

I then decided it was about time to do what I should have done years ago: sit the exam and get a licence. I rejoined the WIA, joined the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club, and had a crack at the next AOC exam.

Unfortunately I just missed out, but was successful at the next Novice exam and was on the air in February 1978 with the call VK3NIO and a second-hand Swan 500 coupled to a G5RV antenna.

A couple of months later I managed to pass the full call theory and for some time had the call VK3YTO as well as VK3NIO.

Cont'd over

CONVENTIONS FOR DONATING OR SELLING ITEMS TO GGREC

GGREC Committee would like the members to accept the following new guidelines in reference to items donated or sold to the Club. Discussion will take place at the August General Meeting.

The Club Shack has limited space for equipment storage, so we must take care to ensure that items donated to the Club have a practical use and a place to put them.

Additionally by our "Rules of Association", items accepted by the Club cannot be disposed of without membership consent, so unsolicited items of low value cannot simply be discarded. For these reasons the club now has the following policy, governing the acceptance of donations of material items.

All items donated to the Club must be done so unconditionally. This means that it is at the discretion of the Club members as to how donated items are used, stored, loaned to members, on-sold or discarded.

- Before an item can be 'donated' it must first be accepted by any two committee members on the basis of its value to the Club. Unsolicited items left with the Club may be returned, or even discarded if they have not been formally accepted.
- All accepted items require a note of endorsement by the donor so that we have proof of origin of the items, which are then entered into the register of Club assets unless the item is for resale as stock.

(The Club has a standard "Donation / Sale" form which can assist with this step)

These are practical guidelines to ensure that the Club can continue to enjoy the use of equipment kindly donated to it, without the burden of having to deal with unwanted items.

GGREC Committee

The GGREC Committee has now formalized some guidelines to clear up any misunderstanding about booking fees paid by members to reserve a position at a Club organized event. Please take note for future events.

CONVENTIONS FOR RESERVED MEALS AND EVENTS WITH GGREC

From time to time the Club organizes an event at a venue where firm bookings are important. At a large restaurant venue for example, seats and tables must be laid out for exact numbers and it becomes an embarrassment to the organizers if many seats are empty on the night, or the opposite where more people show up than there are seats available.

Where the committee believes that exact numbers are important for an event, a standard set of **Reservation Rules** will apply to the occasion. Plenty of notice will be given for the event along with a declaration that the reservation rules will apply. These are intended to extract a firm commitment from persons wishing to attend, and to circumvent any unpleasantness on the day.

- α Where the statement **Reservation rules will apply** is made about a Club event, either from a meeting night or as an item in the Club magazine, then all persons wishing to attend must provide a deposit amount to the **Club Treasurer** (usually \$5) for every person wishing to participate.
- α Unless prior arrangements have been made, no other person in the Club should accept deposit monies. This allows the Treasurer to be fully aware of exact participant numbers.
- α This deposit may simply be held and later returned to all those who attend. There may be some occasions where this amount will be forwarded to the event vendor and the deposit value will be deducted from each person's bill as they pay. Advance notice will be given should this situation occur for a special event.
- α If a deposit has been paid, but it is not possible to attend, notice should be given to the booking coordinator as soon as possible. If reasonable advance notice of non-attendance is given, and this change does not incur a cost to the Club, the deposit will be refunded. Where the 'non-attendance without notice' is a result of extreme circumstances, the Committee may provide a refund of deposit money, entirely at its discretion.
- α If no prior notice of event non-attendance has been given to the booking person, the deposit money will be lost. This will occur regardless of whether the deposit is lost to a vendor or if the monies have been placed in the Club account.
- α If **Reservation Rules** have been applied to an event and **no deposit** has been paid by a person, then that person may **not attend** the event as they may displace someone else who had made a proper reservation.

- α Transfer of deposits is allowable as long as prior notice has been given to the booking person.

These simple rules have been provided to ensure the smooth execution of all important Club events. They should remove the potential for bad feelings and uncertainty at a time when a good time is intended to be had by all. GGREC Committee

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 2008

Date: 18 July 2008
Start time: 08:00 PM.
Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.
Chairperson: Ian Jackson VK3BUF
Minute Taker: Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT
Present: See Attendance Sheet
Visitors and Guests: Shane Clayton
Apologies: Phil Pavey VK3YB, Ron VK3EXJ & Judy Robertson, Steve VK3EGD & Maria Harding
Correspondence Received: FAMPARC Newsletter
Correspondence Sent: Nil
Treasurer's Report: as tabled. **Read by:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO **Moved By:** Reg Goddard VK3UK, **Seconded By:** Helmut Inhoven VK3DHI **Carried**
Income: \$512.00 **Expenditure:** \$2314.25 **Balance:** \$4703.78
New Call signs: nil
Previous Minutes: As printed in Gateway June 08.
Business Arising from Previous Minutes:
Last month's GM minutes – Apologies, section should have read Ron & Judy, not Ron & Jenny.
New Projector screen was presented to Club.
Hamfest – All booked out. JAYCAR tried to book but was too late to pay.
 Helpers are asked to be at Public Hall at 7:30 AM. G&C communications will be offering the same bargains as they did at Moorabbin.
New Business:
RD Contest - 7 members showed interest in manning a GGREC station. August 15,16 & 17.
 There was a suggestion by Brian Smith to open up the shack every Friday Night for members to attend and work on projects etc.
 Geoff gave a summary about his electric car project.
Henry & Maree will be doing the Club magazine production in David's absence.
Jota – Need to contact Guides about this year's event.
Call books and Foundation Manuals are for sale – see Mike Ide.
 Russ White has a metal space heater for sale as scrap. Suitable for construction projects.
 Pat Pavey asked about the November long weekend. What plans do we have and are we going to take up EMDRC's invitation? Russ White suggested a camp site at Yarra Junction
Call for assistance by a CB'er in the Mornington Peninsula area – Geoff to assist.
 Paul Stubbs has some PRM 80/30s to give away.
 We need technical articles for the magazine – email Susan VK3FXXX.(see page 4)
Meeting Closed at around 8:30 PM.
Guest Speaker: Shane Clayton – Solar Power for your home.
Next Committee Meeting: Contact Ian Jackson.
Next Prac Night: Friday 1st August **Next General Meeting** : 15th Aug 2008.