



GATEWAY

January 2009

NEXT MEETING Friday January 16 2008 at 8 pm

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

ODE TO AOCP

I was studying electronics and radio theory,
For the Amateur Operators Certificate of Proficiency.
I had passed the regulations and the Novice theory too,
The Morse Code exam was a bit of a trick, but eventually I pulled through.

The AOCP theory was the final qualification,
That allowed me to fully utilise my Amateur radio station.
There are lots of different things to learn, the syllabus is quite diverse,

My brain was starting to feel the strain, I feared that it might burst.
With millihenry, microfarad, volts, amps, watts and ohms,
Heterodyne and Bullion logic tables, it's enough to make anyone groan.
I asked my partner for some help, and valiantly he tried,
But as I was squeezing the new facts in, the old ones got left behind.
As days turned to weeks and months, I studied and did the prep,
I was absolutely determined to complete this final step.
It took me five attempts until I finally passed the test,
And after all that effort, I was ready for a rest.

Now at last I've made it, I can hold my head up high,
Every time I use my callsign **V K 3 J D I**. *Dianne Jackson VK3 JDI*

Be Deaf!!!

by A-nony-mus

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs.... who arranged a running competition.

The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants....

The race began....

Honestly:

No one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower.

You heard statements such as: "Oh, WAY too difficult!!!",

"They will NEVER make it to the top.", or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one....

Except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher..

The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!"

More tiny frogs got tired and gave up....

But ONE continued higher and higher and higher....

This one wouldn't give up!

At the end, everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top!

THEN all of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it?

A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal? *Cont'd page 10*

Who knows about Christmas? *Albert Hubbard VK3BQO*

The Club Christmas breakup was again held at the Brown house in Drouin where a large majority of members plus a few welcome extended members met to celebrate another great year of the GGREC.

As we were all informed, the weather was not going to be activity friendly so at the last minute I went searching for a competition / game that could be used to give away some prizes that had been purchased for the occasion.

At about 1.30am on the morning of the breakup I came across a web site describing some trivia games including one for Christmas parties. So I printed out the questions and handed each person a copy towards the end of the day when everyone would be feeling happy and perhaps in a silly mood.

The idea was that if an answer was not known, then something silly would be added instead.

Well it worked. I felt that some of the answers could not be overlooked and this will let others know just how much we all didn't know about Christmas.

Some of the replies I received have been included for your amusement.

Please enjoy. As for the correct answers, if you weren't at the breakup you will have to wait until next year. This is how it went....

Santa's eight reindeer did not have names that included No. 1 or No. 2 etc. Nor were they Kowalski, Nigel, George or Bill.

A buche de Noel sounds dirty but it definitely isn't a Christmas butcher or a Christmas bush for that matter. A Christmas kiss sounded close but still no cigar.

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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

Magazine Printer : David Wright VK3 FW

Distribution: Snail Mail The Clifton Family VK3HGG

Distribution: Email Albert Hubbard VK3BQO

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 articles 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

From the president ... *Ian Jackson VK3BUF*

2009...2009. It still doesn't seem quite real, even though it is basically the same as 2008 with a little bit missing from the last digit., but it does make it hard to change with a pen when erroneously using '08' in the first cheque to be written for the year.

One of the first things that the Club will encounter for this New Year will be the results of the GGREC membership survey conducted a few short months ago. These results were interesting. Many responses simply endorsed our present way of doing things. The questions within the document were deliberately wide-ranging and extreme, which served to correctly gauge a proper curve of responses. A full *half* of all the forms endorsed the option of showering of committee members with rose petals, so I know that at least people were reading the questions in full. Whether this is by way of honoring the committee, or as a quest to disguise their collective body odors was difficult to confirm.

As more information on this is forthcoming, I shall not pre-empt the interpretations by the Committee and the advice that they will put forth to the members, so watch this space for a little longer yet.

A few of the Club members are presently putting together a HF Antenna Analyser Kit purchased from VK5. This is an interesting project and if some of them are working in time for the January GM, you may see some in action. The idea is that you connect this black box to your antenna, let it have a bit of a think, and it will tell you the resonant frequency and characteristic impedance of the load. Neat huh? there should be more information coming forth very soon. *Cont'd over.*



From the president cont'd

I must include many thanks here to Graeme VK3BXG and Merissa for hosting (again) our Christmas break-up party in Drouin. The weather let us down on the day, forcing the abandonment of the full DF Hunt competition scheduled for the day, but we had a wide ranging selection of diversions to keep everyone entertained, so an excellent day was had by all. We did have an impromptu hunt in the rain to recover the four hidden UHF transmitters from their initial hiding spots. Three of them were found OK but the one hidden under the dead African Myna bird in the grass heap remained elusive to the end.

So, here we are back for another year. I have deliberately left the soldering iron cold over Christmas so that I can leap back into a fresh array of projects with renewed vigor. First on my menu is to weld up some frames for a rotatable 2KW solar array in the top paddock. I'm not yet quite sure how this is all going to come together, but with enough alcohol-fueled inspiration, wire and sunlight, something ought to happen. The Sun still rises in the East, right?

See you at the January meeting....Ian VK3BUF

Scholarships aimed at radio amateurs

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio is now accepting applications for 48 scholarships for the academic year 2009-2010 to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education. FAR fully funds two scholarships and administers 46 others without cost, on behalf of various club and individual donors. Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$5000, and preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. FAR encourages clubs -- -- to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on their websites. More information and an application form may be requested by letter via [e-mail](#) or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2009, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. USA.

Cont'd from page 3 **GGREC's Christmas Do**

"Little bad girls" was not the answer to "What do bad little boys get for Christmas."

AND the same goes for "All I want for Christmas is"..... The person caught kissing Santa was not gay and Frosty the snowman would turn in his grave at the thought that everyone thinks his nose was made from a carrot.

"Twas the Night before Christmas" begins a poem written by Clement Moore - not Walt Disney or Bing Crosby, although the answers are believable. The last line of the above mentioned poem is not "and they lived happily ever after". Nor is it "The End"

A tannenbaum is actually a Christmas tree in German - Not a tanned bum, or a drum or paint. The three wise men were very happy to know that almost everyone remembered they brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. You see Icom, Yeasu and Kenwood were not around in those days but it was a good answer.

Now the best is last:

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me;

Twelve multimeters a measuring,

Eleven transmitters a smoking,

Ten fuses a blowin',

Nine diodes a rectifyin',

Eight bytes a shiftin',

Seven volts a dropping',

Six antennas a beamin',

Five switches a clickin',

Four circuit board tracks a vapourisin',

Three Amps a flowin',

Two 555s a clockin',

Cont'd over

Cont'd from previous page **GGREC's Christmas**

AND a soldering iron!

This person got it wrong because he forgot the "partridge in a pear tree."

So now that everyone is a bit wiser as to how Christmas really goes, you will realise how much fun we had at the breakup. Sorry if you missed it but there is always next year.

Hope you have a brilliant New Year!

Congratulations to this year's winners of the coveted hamper, Joy and Russ White VK3MWR. 73s.....Albert VK3BQO.



PROFILE

Dianne Jackson VK3JDI

“I much prefer cross stitching, but I do like the convenience of being able to talk between cars.”



When I was about 8 years old, my grandparents gave me an AM transistor radio for my birthday. I used to listen to it all the time. I'm sure it cost my parents a small fortune in batteries.

Ian taught me everything I know about amateur radio. He convinced me to go for my radio licence.

I didn't know anything about radio or electronics before I met Ian. I was working as a sales assistant in a men's wear shop when we met. Ian taught me to solder. I enjoy soldering, and I have been soldering for Alian Electronics ever since.

I sat for my first novice theory exam in 1998. Peter and Pat Pavey were conducting the exams at their home in Tooradin. I passed on my second attempt. My call sign was VK3HDI. I was very excited. My first contact on 2 metres was to Albert VK3BQO. Next, in 2001, I did the 5 words per minute Morse code exam. That elevated me from Novice Limited, to Novice. My new call sign was VK3NDI. Then in 2003, after about 5 attempts, I finally passed my full theory exam. At the time, it entitled me to have a Limited (now called Advanced) call sign, which I still have, VK3JDI.

I met Ian in 1982 and he took me to all the committee meetings and general meetings at the GGRC, then based in Dandenong at a Scout hall. It wasn't until 1989 that the GGREC allowed the wives to join as family members! So although I had been attending meetings *Cont'd over*

PROFILE Dianne Jackson VK3JDI

for seven years, I wasn't officially a member of the club until 1989!

I have never built any aerials/towers/radios, although I am very handy with a soldering iron.

When I passed my Novice exam, Ian bought me a Yaesu 2 metre handheld.

I don't have a favourite radio but I use the one in the car the most.

No favourite aerials either.

I use 2 metres in the car on the GGREC chat channel. If Ian is away, I talk to him on 80 metres.

Amateur radio is not my main hobby. I much prefer cross stitching, but I do like the convenience of being able to talk between cars. I don't talk on the radio much, maybe once a month.

I once wrote a poem about my efforts in trying to pass my AOC exam. [see page 1] Dianne VK3JDI

Cont'd from page 2

Be Deaf!!

It turned out.... that the winner was DEAF!!!!

The wisdom of this story is: Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic....because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you -- the ones you have in your heart! Always think of the power that words have. (*There's life and death in the power of the tongue - Proverbs 18:21.*) Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions!

Therefore: ALWAYS be.... POSITIVE!

And above all: Be DEAF when people tell YOU that you cannot fulfil your dreams! Always think: God and I can do this!

Pass this message on to "tiny frogs" you care about. Give them some motivation!!!

A-nony-mus

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 2008

Date: 21st November 2008

Start time: 08:00 PM.

Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.

Chairperson: Ian Jackson VK3BUF

Minute Taker: Phil Pavey VK3YB

Present: See Attendance Sheet

Visitors and Guests:

Apologies: Helmut VK3DHI & Dorothy, Albert VK3BQO, Reg VK3UK & Jenny, Steve VK3EGD & Maria, Elizabeth VK3FLIZ, Graeme VK3BXG.

Correspondence Received: Altronics , EMDRC mag, FAMPARC mag

Correspondence Sent: nil

Treasurer's Report: as tabled. **Moved by:** Russ VK3MWR **Seconded by:** Dave. **Carried:** Yes

Income: \$23 **Expenditure:** \$0 **Balance:** \$23 Total \$6501.51

New Call Signs:

Previous Minutes: As printed in Gateway. moved. Russ VK3MWR Sec-
onded Doug VK3KMN. Approved.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Christmas breakup 13th December at VK3BXG's south of Drouin. Bbq's etc
No GM in December

Raffle at Christmas breakup – donations needed for hamper

New Business:

Ron has PRM80 for sale. \$40 including \$10 donation

Ian VK3BUF discussed survey that will be completed tonight

Mike VK3KTO demonstrated RCA Hollywood projector, similar to one the
club purchased 30 years ago

Phil has squidpoles for sale. 7m heavy duty and 9m . \$35 each

Noel VK3CJJ reported 6m repeater being interfered with. Ian mentioned
controller needs updating

Pat VK3OZ reported 2010 is centenary of Guides. Alara asked to put on
station and in turn they have asked clubs. Early January.

Meeting closed at around 8:30 PM.

Guest Speaker: Ian showed film.

Next Committee Meeting: Contact Ian Jackson.

Next Prac Night: Friday February 6th 2009

Next General Meeting : January 16th 2009.