



GATEWAY

March 2009

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GD95? 9F : Albert VK3BQO or Geoff VK3ZGW—more on the Antenna Analyser



We have two learners and one fully trained belly dancer, among GGREC radio amateurs who will collaborate for a special club performance before too long! Pat VK3OZ and Dianne VK3JDI are having lessons. The third is new member Barbara Medhurst. *Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX*

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

To all GGREC members,

1. The response regarding the Club repeater and controller was overwhelming with at least 3 members sending input. Thankyou to those who took the time to say a few words. I trust there won't be others at the completion of the project suggesting how things could have been done. I will send an email to those interested parties soon.

2. If you paid me a deposit for one of the 12 Antenna Analyser Kits at the last meeting, please bring the balance of monies owing and I will present you with your kit. We will run through the kit's construction if time allows at the end of the meeting. This will give you a briefing on some of the tricks we learned while putting ours together.

Albert Hubbard VK3BQQ

WORDS WORDS WORDS

Deuce --This is the expletive, as in "What the deuce!" It has come to be synonymous with "the devil," and is often used euphemistically for the stronger expression. But there is every reason to believe that originally it meant the throw of two dice, the lowest throw that one can make. In Low German that would be "de duss." A player after a series of such unlucky throws might become sufficiently irritated to exclaim, "De duss!" or "Wat de duus!" The English expletive, "the deuce," now three hundred years old, is believed to have come from this Low German exclamation.

From Harper Collins

GGREC SURVEY RESULTS

By Ian Jackson VK3BUF

In November 2008 we conducted a survey with Club members to ascertain their thoughts and opinions about the future of the Club. While the raw information is available to members upon request, we have provided a synopsis here of the more significant results.

RADIO TOPICS:

About one third of respondents don't use Amateur Radio at home and only find time to attend meetings. Another third only get to use radio while they are driving around. The remaining third spreads their activity fairly evenly across the HF/VHF/UHF spectrum.

When we asked about repeaters, one third referred to repeaters as 'not applicable' to them. Only about one quarter of members actually get to use the repeaters on a regular basis. Our 70cm repeater is presently more popular than the 6 metre repeater.

AT CLUB MEETINGS

What people wanted here was to keep the existing mix of guest speakers at General Meetings 7-8 times per year if possible, pretty much as we do it now. In fact the general consensus was that we have to keep meetings with exactly the same formula. The most popular mix of topic material was a blend of technical and non-technical presentations.

TRAINING

About 20 percent of respondents said that training was not important and that they didn't do courses. The remaining 80 percent said that they would be happy to do a training course over several weeks if it was the right one. Predictably almost half wanted to do this on general Amateur Radio topics, (transmitters, receivers, antennas etc) but about one third showed an interest in robotics and servomotors. The same number of people wanted more training on basic electronics and the rest was an even spread of around 20 percent wanting to do everything from soldering, programming, telephone technology and defensive & 4wd driving. On instructors, about half were content with the best efforts of Club Members, but the remainder were content to pay \$50 or more per night to the instructor/organiser. *Cont'd page 8*

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 Photographer : Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

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 : HF on 28.325 MHz, USB, VHF 145.450 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 magazine items 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*

The annual Hamfest Sale is only a few months away, but we still need a coordinator as Albert VK3BQO shall not be doing it this year. Over the past 4-5 years we have evolved a concise manual describing what things must be done and at what time. This greatly simplifies the task but we still need the essential Coordinator to make it happen. If you think you can do the job, don't wait for the next meeting, ring Albert now and he can help you to get started.



It scarcely needs mentioning (but I shall anyway) that the sale produces essential income to keep the Club running. One of the mandatory tasks of February committee meetings each year is for the Committee to set upcoming membership fees enacted after the April elections. This year we were in a quandary. If the Coordinator position is filled and the Sale goes ahead as intended, then the fees will remain the same: \$37.00 for full members. If an event coordinator is not selected by the AGM in April, the event shall be cancelled and the Committee will trigger a fee increase to \$80 for full members and a (proportional) fee increase of approximately double for all other members. This decision has not be taken lightly, but the income from the Hamfest Sale event is absolutely essential to cover the cost of running the Club, so that if the event does not proceed, then the membership fees must make up the difference in lost revenue.

In addition to the 5-6 Club members who have already assembled an Antenna Analyser kit, about twelve more have been purchased for those who placed deposits at the last meeting. These kits have arrived here in time for the March General Meeting, so we will spend some time at the meeting going over some of the tricky bits and pitfalls in the process of putting these units together. *Cont'd over*

From page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

On **Friday, March 27th** we will have a special prac night at the Club shack where members can come along and actually get involved with their kit construction. Bring a soldering iron if you have one. On **Friday 13th March** we should have had a special antenna installation night at the Club shack where we had hoped to optimise one of the HF wire antennas. On **Sunday 29th March**, in the afternoon at about 3:00pm we would like as many members as possible to be at home and close to their 70 cm rigs. Some members will be at the Cockatoo repeater site to do some signal tests. We want to see what sort of performance we would get if the Club's 70 cm repeater was moved there, so we will take up a 70 cm rig and antenna and set up a temporary station just to get some signal reports from the top of the water tower. Don't be late, as because of the RF radiation hazard up there, we will only be operating a short time. (Aluminium foil underwear makes too much noise when you walk and climb ladders!)

See you all on the **20th** .

Ian Jackson, VK3BUF

GGREC BRAVES THE BUSHFIRES TO CAMP AT YARRA JUNCTION



Now, where is the pub?

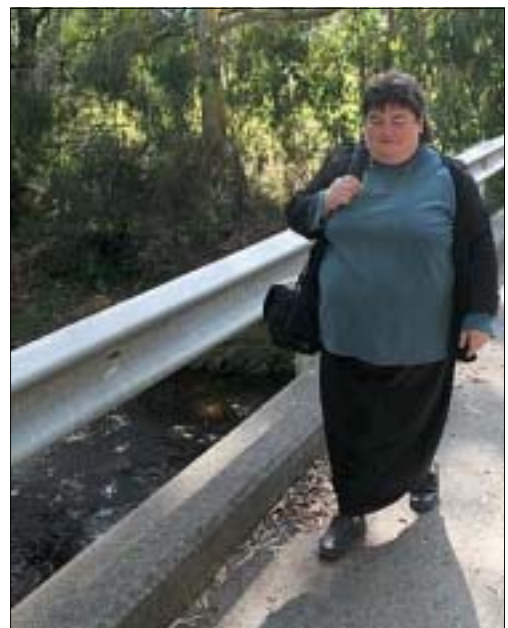


Words/Photos Paul Stubbs VK3TGX
Last meeting: Reg in drag!
and Megan doing a multi-
variate analysis. Also
Albert VK3 BQO, giving a

talk about his method of learning to
program AVR processors to make an
antenna rotator controller.



Camping: no fire, yes water



From page 3 **GGREC SURVEY RESULTS** cont'd

Just over half wanted members to pay in full, but a good quarter thought that the Club should fund half of the course costs.

INTERNET

Only two respondents of the survey had no internet access (you know who you are!) two more were limited to dial-up-only, but everyone else had broadband access in some form. This is a valuable indicator because it shows that it is a medium that we can safely use more than we do now.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP SIZE

About one-third thought that capping the membership to 40-60 members was appropriate, whereas about two-thirds wanted higher or unlimited numbers of members.

ADVERTISING

More than half those responding thought that we should advertise the Club in a local newspaper once or twice per year, so we will probably give that a go and see what happens.

CLUB MAGAZINE CONTENT

There was an enthusiastic response here with nearly everyone asking for articles on technical topics and adventures of Club members and Club events that are in progress. (This spread is pretty much what is being done anyway.) More than half respondents only wanted the club mag by internet, but about one third wanted it by internet and by post.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)

Around one-third of respondents are still willing to help out at a JOTA event, with the remaining two-thirds not interested at all.

RADIO CONTESTS

Only 25 percent showed an interest in attending on-air contests. Still, this remains significant enough for the Club to continue to host some of these events.

DF COMPETITIONS

Over half liked the idea of DF competitions in parks once or twice per year, with about 20 percent being interested with higher profile fox hunts involving cars.

Cont'd page 10

Words & Photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



And I an didn't even lose his hat!



Another weekend not to be missed!

From page 8 **GGREC SURVEY RESULTS** cont'd

CAMPING TRAVELLING

Around one third of respondents favoured bush camps and caravan park camps, with a smaller number wanting to stick to overnight stays in hotels. Of great note is that a full 50 percent responding would like to do longer trips where we visit several towns over 5-10 days and another 50 percent wanted adventure style bush camps of a similar duration. (but we need the state to stop burning first!)

KIT CONSTRUCTION

Only 25 percent responding did not want to build kits of projects, but nearly half wanted to participate in major kit constructions. This sounds like a strong mandate for getting out the soldering irons.

COMPETITION PROJECTS

The question was put: *If the Club were to stage a competitive construction project where small teams of 3 or 4 get together and build some kind equipment or device over say 4-5 months, then have the equipment do challenges for 'First Place', would you join one of these teams?* Just on one-third was not interested, with nearly half the respondents interested, but wanting to know more before committing themselves. Submit your suggestions!

CLUB VENUE

Almost unanimously, those responding want to stick with our present venue of the Club Shack and Guide Hall combination. The solution here is easy, don't change anything.

HAMFEST SALE

Around 75 percent enjoy the events and are also willing to attend as a helper.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Also around 75 percent are content with the present arrangement for General Meetings

MEALS OUT AT PUBS AND CLUBS

The great majority like the idea of having a big meal out somewhere 2-4 times per year.

CLUB SHACK USE

There was much strong feedback here. Half want to attend training sessions there, half want to build things there and half want to use the building for radio operating! (I suspect

Cont'd page 12

GGREC EVENT QUEUE

EVENT	DETAILS
March 13	Friday Prac Night at the Club Shack (antenna service)
March 20	3rd Friday General Meeting (Antenna Analyser construction briefing)
March 27	Special prac night in the Club Shack for members constructing their analyser.
March 29	Call in on 438.850 for repeater site performance check. (as many members as possible at 3:00pm please!)
April 03	Friday Prac Night at the Club Shack

**PLEASE BE NEAR a 70cm
RADIO on SUNDAY 29th
MARCH at 3:00pm**

We want to do some UHF performance tests from the same site where the 6m repeater is located, near Cockatoo. This involves a brief signal report call-in

on: **438.850 MHz simplex.**

From page 10 **GGREC SURVEY RESULTS** cont'd
that there must be some overlap between these various 'halves'.)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Just over 50 percent of respondents said that committee members should pay the same fees as everyone else. Fifty percent also said that the committee should regularly be showered in rose petals too. There was no feedback to say whether that was by way of honouring the committee or an attempt to manage body odour!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Almost unanimously respondents said that the membership fees are fine where they are now. The committee is happy to do this, but this is also contingent upon our being able to coordinate and stage the annual Hamfest sale.

So there you have it. There is a lot of material here for committees to work with over the next few years. Much of what can be done will depend greatly on the willingness of members to actually participate when the various options are being exercised. If you said that you wanted to participate in these different things, then when the time comes put up your hand and get involved! Ian Jackson VK3BUF



AN-
OTHER
RECRUIT?

Photo
Paul Stubbs
VK3TGX

PROFILE

Megan Woods VK3HOP

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Apparently I used to be fascinated with the power outlets, extension leads at about 18 months and then I guess it rolled on from there. I assembled a lot of the Dick Smith Funway stuff with average success. I inherited my grandmother's shortwave radio which has a massive antenna on it which I remember because I was always scared of breaking it. I also inherited a lot of ancient audio gear, which I used to like plugging together. Strangely enough the kit I had the most fun with from Dick Smith was an FM transmitter and you could obliterate Channel 2 reception in the house with it, no problems.

I ended up discovering computers in 1981, I remember this because it involved a long consultation with a computer sales person, and several visits to Sale to purchase the device. The computer in question was a TRS-80 CoCo which we expanded to 32Kb of ram and was a lot of hard work, but as I couldn't play computer games, and still can't, I ended up learning to program Basic and later on 6809 assembly language. When I got a bit older I used to like plotting functions.

I got involved in amateur radio through JOTA. It was the significance of being able to communicate with people thousands of kilometres away, without using the telephone, it struck a chord at the time, but once again I drifted back to computers as they were more accessible.

Radio as my career?, Everything brings you to now, so I suppose with me it's more electronics and computer programming. Amateur radio is probably more this decade's interest as I have never had access to it before My main areas of interest have been computer programming and electronics and then more in the micro-controller domain, although I am doing J2EE at the moment.

I have considered a career in radio and electronics but have never really been able to find a pathway into it. As I get older I would like to find a balance between indoor and outdoor technical work, I would also like to travel a bit. *Cont'd over*

From the previous page **PROFILE** Megan Woods cont'd

My first radio exam was in February 08, Standard Licence, and now I need to get going and do my full call.

I joined GGREC , end of 07 I think, because it was nearby to Pakenham and looking at the photographs online it seemed like a club of friendly people.

I used to string wire between trees, which I would connect to my inherited shortwave radio, but more recently I have just mounted a dipole antenna on the house which features remotely switched coils which are adjustable in powers of two, but it hasn't worked as I had expected, it tunes 10 megs really well but I am having trouble getting it to remotely tune on 7, 14, 21, 28 Mhz bands. Which is ironic, as I can't use the 10Mhz band.

I am going to re-purpose the two arms of the dipole antenna into a 40m and 80m somewhat loaded pair of omni antennas. I ended up assembling a MA5B from Cushcraft, which reduces my station to a wired together purchased bits "pea pod" shack but I am seriously out of space to work and have no actual area to drill and cut things - except on the kitchen table which I now need to resurface.

I also have a buddy pole which I intend to take on my, fantasy BMW R1200GSA inspired round-Australia trip and on field days.

I own an IC706 transmitter and an IC7200, I am just starting to get things set up to be able to work bands. I like 20m and 40m with UHF/VHF for local chit chat, I also have a Yaesu VX-7R which is labelled as 'submersible'.. go figure..

I don't have a favourite radio although I am interested in the Elecraft K3.

Aerial-wise I am interested in the Hex Beam. And the StepIR appeals to my mantra on uncompromising design. I actually started build a Hex beam but stopped when I realized that I would soon run out of space to assemble the antenna or work on it if I needed to take it down.

I don't think I have a favourite frequency yet, I do like 14.100 Mhz CW. I like seeing how many beacons I can get. When I was younger I used to listen to the time standard, and using the CRO my uncle gave me I used to like watching the sine wave(s). I am still interested in time standards, keeping clocks in sync has always fascinated me, it presents quite an interesting set of problems.

Radio is good because I get to build things, I have ideas every second of the day and it keeps me grounded. I have spent some money on ham radio books and now have lots to read and learn.

Megan VK3HOP

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 2009

Date: 20 February 2009

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: **Wayne Cook ZL2WC (now VK3ZWC)**

Apologies: Phil Pavey VK3YB, Ross Jackson VK3ZAP

Correspondence Received: MDRC mag, FAMPARC mag

Correspondence Sent: nil

Treasurer's Report: as tabled. **Read by:** Albert VK3BQO **Moved**

By: Albert VK3BQO **Seconded By:** Russ VK3MWR **Carried:** Yes

Income: \$xxx **Expenditure:** \$xxx **Balance:** \$xxx Total

Worth \$5xxx

New Call signs:

Previous Minutes: As printed in Gateway. Moved Ian VK3BUF

Seconded Doug VK3KMN Approved

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Club 6m repeater malfunctioning. Dry joint in cavity filter, fixed by Albert, Geoff & Doug, but still suffers from noise interference. Lots of discussion

Labour day Weekend March 7,8,9 march. Need safe bush block.

Doone caravan park in Yarra Junction suggested by Russ

VK3MWR.

Antenna Analyser. Order yours now! See Albert

Hamfest – coordinator needed

Jota 2009. Until 9pm this year. Graeme Brown to coordinate.

New Business:

Honour roll. Motion by Brian to have an honour roll in hall. General discussion about motion. Details as per Reg's example. Seconded by Noel VK3CJJ at the quoted cost up to \$200. Carried 14-8.

Meeting Closed at around 8:30 PM.

Guest Speaker: Albert spoke about antenna analyser.

Next Committee Meeting: Contact Ian Jackson.

Prac Night: Friday April 3rd 2009 **General Meeting** : March 20th