



# GATEWAY

May 2009

**NEXT MEETING** This Friday May 15 2009 at 8 pm

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

**SPEAKER** : Richard Robbins Details on page 3



**THE 'NEW' COMMITTEE** from left Albert VK3BQO, Steve VK3EGD, Chris VK3QB, Max VK3TMK and Graeme VK3BXG.

*Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX*

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

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2009 – 10**

All GGREC memberships become payable as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.  
Please fill in the form below and post it to the address in the header. Your membership is important and your opinions are valued. Please take this opportunity to renew your membership to stay part of the team.

If you wish to pay by EFT, the details for our account are as follows:

BSB = 633000 ACCT = 134761279

Please insert your callsign or other identification in the reference field when paying by EFT. This page will appear in the email version of the magazine for those paying by EFT.

Please fill it in and email it to : [treasurer@ggrec.org.au](mailto:treasurer@ggrec.org.au) after making your payment.

**PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO THE TREASURER. P.O.Box 1098 Cranbourne 3977**  
**(Note that the fees have NOT changed from last year)**

**NAME**.....

**CALLSIGN** .....

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE : (Tick appropriate line(s))**

**FULL (\$37.00)** .....

**FAMILY (\$17.00)** .....

**PENSIONER (\$22.00)** .....

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Feel free to copy this page if your family membership requires the space.

## FRIDAY'S GUEST SPEAKER

by Geoff Clifton VK3HGG

The American Press Announced in October 1957 that the Radio club of St Josephs High School, Radio Club in Cleveland along with MI T Lincoln Labs, the Naval Observatory in Washington, and the Bureau of Standards in Boulder Colorado had located the proof signal of the Russian pioneer satellite Sputnik.



A friend of mine namely Richard Robbins (VK3RR), who I first worked with on the VK3REC 2M repeater and later met in person at an anti aircraft gun demonstration at the Royal Australian Navy's West Head firing range, has kindly offered to give a presentation of his involvement as a student at St Josephs High School, tracking and listening to the Russian Sputnik satellite.

Richard visited GGREC on our last prac night for the purpose of familiarization. He brought along his laptop computer *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	Chris Chapman	VK3QB (9708 8320)
Secretary	Stephen Harding	VK3EGD (9791 3182)
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](http://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](mailto:editor@ggrec.org.au)

All other Club correspondence to P.O. Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977

or Email : [secretary@ggrec.org.au](mailto:secretary@ggrec.org.au)

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Incorporation Number A0016893M

## From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

Well, here we are, another year and new committee. I'll start this month by thanking the outgoing committee for their hard work and dedication to the continuing benefit of the club as a whole. This time we have a new President and Secretary, with Albert, Graeme and Max kindly agreeing to take on another term. This is very good as it will provide some continuity and support for those of us who are new to club committee responsibilities and protocols (ie. me).



Thanks also to Dave VK3XMF who has been looking after the clubs' web presence since the dawn of time. After many years Dave has now handed the reigns to Steve VK3EGD who has already been making some updates and has some great new ideas – so check out the web site. Thanks again to Dave and Steve for this work. The committee has some plans for further leveraging the web to improve member services.

As an incoming Committee (as with any management team) it is always a challenge to decide what priorities and focus areas the committee should address for club members, not to mention the ongoing administrative responsibilities and activities. However, with the forethought of the previous team we have the findings from the Members' Survey conducted in 2008, and I have read – and reread – this document a number of times over the course of the last few weeks. At the first committee meeting of the new team, we discussed the findings of the survey and propose the following as being the club's priorities for 2009/2010. I would like to consider this as being our “2009/2010 Strategic Plan”.

- ~ Prepare and facilitate the delivery of 2-4 Education/Training sessions per year
- ~ Investigate and propose the installation

*Cont'd over*

**From the president ...** *Chris Chapman VK3QB cont'd from previous page*

of internet connectivity at the club rooms

- ~ Promote targeted membership growth – via advertising/ awareness in appropriate outlets and word of mouth.
- ~ Organise 4-6 major social outings per year (from daily events to 3-5 day road/camping trips)
- ~ Continue to organise and support kit building activities
- ~ Continue to maintain the club room facilities (radios, antennas, repeaters etc)

Of course, for the above strategy to be effective we need members' input at the pointy end. As a committee we can only do so much. Please let us know your thoughts and desires when it comes to training and social events, and how you can contribute. One idea that was floated was that we conduct short "how to" sessions after club general meetings. Such topics may include:

- ~ how to correctly solder a PL259 to coax
- ~ how to construct open wire feedline
- ~ how to solder properly
- ~ how to handle a pileup and chase DX
- ~ how to automate backup of critical files on your computer
- ~ how to connect your radio to the computer for digital modes and/or computer control

The above are just thought provokers. Please let me know your ideas – and equally as important, we need people to deliver these short education sessions. So if you have a particular passion and skill and think others would benefit from a short education/hands on training session (say 30-60 mins) then let your committee know.

Please let me know your thoughts on all the above – have we correctly interpreted your feedback from the Survey?

To more immediate activities, the annual

*cont'd page 8*



**Deep thinking at the AGM** *Photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX*



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

Each year at this time, the Treasurer sends out all kinds of reminders to get the message across about renewing your Club membership. This year is no different so please locate the Membership Renewal form elsewhere in this edition of Gateway and send in you annual fees to ensure you get your membership entitlements. This edition of Gateway will be the last one you will receive until your membership is renewed, so don't delay; pay it soon so you don't forget. 73s Albert (Treasurer)

**From the president ...** *Chris Chapman VK3* from page 6

Hamfest (18 July) is fast approaching. Arrangements are proceeding to plan and I hope this year can be even more successful than last year. One of the key ingredients to making this event a success are the volunteers. Please consider how you could help – even if it is just an hour or two on the door – it all helps. Please let me know if you can be available on the day to assist. Any other feedback on how we could make this event even more successful is always welcome. More on the Hamfest next month.

Don't forget the general meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May where we have what I expect will be a very interesting talk from Richard Robbins VK3RR on "Listening to the Sputnik Satellite in the 1950s". Also, May is a big month for the contestants among us; with the VK/Trans Tasman 80 metre contest on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and not forgetting the WPX CW Contest on the last weekend of May - time to polish up the CW in preparation for that one – does anyone want to join me in making a club effort for this contest?

The mid-year club dinner: as many members requested, this years dinner will be held at the club rooms in Cranbourne and we will arrange catering. Mark the date Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June in your diaries – the date is tentative at this stage as we are awaiting confirmation that the hall is available. Lastly, 29<sup>th</sup> May will be a social night at Beaconsfield Pub – dinner and drinks. As I have not been overly active with the club for many years, I hope to meet many of you at this event, if not before. Check out the web page to stay up-to-date with the club calendar.

Well, that's more than enough for this month. I look forward to seeing you at the next club event or floating around on 145.450.

*Chris VK3QB*

**FRIDAY'S SPEAKER** *cont'd from page 3*

to make sure it interfaced correctly with our projector and in the process, giving us a preview of his presentation. On behalf of GGREC I would like to welcome Richard to our meeting.

*Geoff VK3HGG*



## A remote controlled gate opener for under 300 bucks

by Geoff Clifton VK3HGG

Last year Rebecca and I discussed installing a remote controlled opening device on our front gate. We searched around but couldn't really find one that suited our requirements.

Models started from about \$700 in basic form with remote control and solar at extra cost.

As I love making my own stuff, I decided to and without regret, build my own just for the fun of it.

Although it wasn't wholly constructed from junk lying around the yard it was satisfying to use parts that were locally available and cheap to repair or replace if needed. One of the major requirements was that visitors could still open the gate manually. Others were remote control and solar charging.

A friend of mine who has a professionally built gate opener told me that even with the open button clearly marked and in full view, some people will still try to force the gate open against the mechanism sometimes causing damage.

Repeco had a Christmas special on 12 volt electric boat winches for \$99.



I figured that at that price I could afford to wreck one or two during the development process and still be ahead. Because this winch was primarily intended for pulling boats up onto trailers, it had a couple of mechanisms that didn't suit my requirements.

The first thing was a one way clutch that prevented the cable drum from unwinding after the boat has been winched onto the trailer.

The second thing was a friction clutch normally used

*cont'd over*

From previous page [A remote controlled gate opener for under 300 bucks](#)

to release the cable. The one way clutch had to be machined out of the main reduction gear and replaced with a bronze bearing. This would allow the winch to run freely under power in both directions. I have pre-loaded the friction clutch with a coil spring so that it will slip if the gate becomes jammed or for some reason does not contact one of the limit switches.

The motor feed also has a circuit breaker primarily for the same reason.

The remote control device is a Garrison LK-102R that comes complete with 2 remote switches and a control box with two switching relays. I have used a waterproof enclosure to house the controller, latching relays and fuses.

The solar panel is a ZM-9026 12volt 2 Watt Amorphous unit in conjunction with an external charge regulator. My gate controller has been in use now since Christmas and has been very reliable. The only other thing I hope to do is fit a sensor bar along the bottom opening side of the gate to shut the mechanism down if there happens to be an obstacle in the path. Our carport is about 50m from the front gate and we no longer have to mess about in the rain or dark. It will also give our dog less opportunities to run off when someone hasn't bothered to close the gate. The pictures were taken just after I got it working during my Christmas holidays; hence I hadn't finished tidying up the wiring or painting it. Come to think if it I still haven't found time to finish it properly. *[more pics opposite]*

Anyone after construction information is free to ask. *Geoff VK3 HGG*



## GGREC EVENT QUEUE

May 15th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Girl Guide Hall
May 22nd	8:00pm	Prac Night-Analyser Kits	Club Shack
May 25th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
May 29th	6:30pm	<a href="#">Pub Night</a>	Beaconsfield Hotel
Jun 5th	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Shack
Jun 19th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Girl Guide Hall
Jun 20th	6:00pm	Mid Year Dinner	Girl Guide Hall
Jun 29th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Jul 3rd	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Shack
Jul 17th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Girl Guide Hall
Jul 18th	10:00am	<a href="#">GGREC Hamfest</a>	Cranbourne Public Hall
Jul 27th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack



Geoff's gate opener pics



### Antenna Analyser Workshop.

The second workshop for builders of the Analyser kits is to be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at around 8.00pm onwards. If you have finished your kit, you are especially welcome to help other builders but if not, we would like to help you get it going. Some kits are already being used by their owners so bring along all your components and let's get them going. *Albert VK3BQO*



Birthday gal Pat VK3OZ who celebrated with a caste of thousands at Tooradin Sports Club on Saturday May 3 finally gets a certificate for her all-day 1 contact 'contest'. Half the radio club was there at the birthday bash, along with Alara members, plus Pat's church group and family from all over Victoria. Rumour has it that Pat had to hire a semitrailer to take home all the loot from her devoted fans!

[Another Paul Stubbs VK3TGX pic]

She's actually admitting to 65 which we believe is a tactical error but Pat who actually likes to be known as Granny [groan] is quietly confident.

Meanwhile Pat's still planning her GGREC belly dancing debut with Dianne Jackson VK3JDI and Barbara Medhurst—though apparently no bellies will be actually on display—the trio assures us this is quite acceptable to the belly-dancing fraternity! It seems that such serious devotees of radio reserve their boldest displays for radio contests! They are denying the no-belly demo will be at the mid year dinner.

## PROFILE

Steve Harding VK3EGD

**‘The first radio I constructed was a crystal set when I was around 10 years old.’**



My first technical memory of a radio was an AWA portable transistor radio with a big round tuning dial, compound PCB, and an old pillar style smelly and leaky battery.

The first radio I constructed was a crystal set when I was around 10 years old. My first serious radio foray was a valve AM receiver I designed and constructed when I was 16.

My transition into amateur radio was a natural progression from my comms activity in what was then Civil Defence in NSW (now SES).

I had been using and maintaining HF and VHF gear for some years and somebody said something like "why don't you get your amateur licence" - so I did.

All of my careers have been electrical or electronics technology related in one way or another, but only one phase had a direct relationship to radio transceivers. During that time I designed interface and performance accessories for the commercial two way radio industry, particularly for Philips equipment.

I sat for my AOCPE in Newcastle in NSW in 1978. That's the only Amateur class exam I have experienced as a student.

I spent some time with a club near Newcastle called Westlakes, but only a short time. The next club I joined was GGREC after I moved to Victoria the second time. It had the right feel about it. *Cont'd over*

## 2009 Annual [midyear] Dinner.

Our well renowned Annual Club Dinner has been tentatively arranged for June 20<sup>th</sup>. At this stage please pencil this date only as we need to check the venue plus other details to be sure all is ok for the date. As the food is to be catered, there will be a booking fee so please be sure to bring a spare \$10 per person to the May general meeting otherwise you will not be catered for.

*From the previous page* **PROFILE** Steve Harding VK3EGD  
Because I moved a lot in the early times I mostly erected guyed telescopes with commercial sticks. Old habits die hard.

My first amateur transceiver was a converted STC 52 on 2m. I quickly moved to an IC22S and a converted CB rig (Johnston I think) for 10m.

My favourite radios are the ones that work reliably and easily.

I have nearly always used commercial sticks and dipoles. Never been much of an aerial tinkerer. Again, my favourite ones are those that keep working well.

Sadly, my favourite frequency at the moment is 2.8GHz, which is the speed of my quad core CPU!

I joined GGREC in 1988 when it looked like I would be here for a while. I'm still here.

I have always enjoyed the social aspect more than the operating. I have been quite inactive - but that might have to change now.

Steve VK3EGD

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 2009**

**Date:** 17 APR 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:** Nil

**Apologies:** Grahame Coleman VK3XK and Susan Coleman VK3FXXX, Ron and Judy, Tim Morgan VK3FTIM, Henry VK3FHTV & Maree VK3FSAT Vandeligt

**Correspondence Received:**

**Correspondence Sent:** Nil

**Treasurer's Report:** as tabled. **Read by:** Albert VK3BQO **Moved By:** Albert VK3BQO **Seconded By:** Helmut Inhoven VK3DHI **Carried:** Yes

**Income:** \$ 937 **Expenditure:** \$1666.10 **Balance:** \$-729.10 Total Worth \$5589.95

**New Call signs** – VK3FAAB Ravi Radhakrishnan

**Previous Minutes:** As printed in Gateway.

Moved Ian VK3BUF Seconded Russ VK3MWR Approved.

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

6m repeater – cavity filter – as seen in magazine

70cm tests from Cockatoo – thanks to all who called in with signal reports. Recommend we look at raising repeater antenna higher at Cranbourne

Repeater frequency was clashing with our echolink. Repeater frequency has now been changed

6m repeater controller. Geoff brought along his prototype module. Other modules are still being constructed. Geoff is hoping to source a new cabinet

Hamfest is progressing thanks to Chris

Coming Guest Speakers. Sputnik Satellite and difference engines.

**New Business:**

Hamfest Hall hire. Cost has increased and we now require public liability insurance. Ian to investigate.

Call books and F Manuals for sale

Moorabin Hamfest coming soon – flyers available

David Campbell asked date of our hamfest – 18<sup>th</sup> of July

Meeting Closed at around 8:30 PM.

**Next Prac Night:** Friday May 1st 2009 **Next General Meeting :** May 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Contact Chris Chapman.