



GATEWAY

June 2009

NEXT MEETING This Friday June 19 2009 at 8 pm

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

SPEAKER : Chris Chapman VK3QB

Gilligan's Island? Not quite. Chris VK3QB recently went to Lord Howe Island with the Oceania DX Group and a bunch of amateurs from Australia, the US and Europe.

Cont'd over



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

Cont'd from Page 1

At Friday's general meeting

Chris will give an account of the intrepid team's trials and tribulations on this South Pacific outpost. Chris has been licensed since 1984 and has always wanted to go on a DX-pedition. Portable operation and chasing DX have been the major drawcards that have kept his interest and passion for the hobby. He has been "involved" with GGREC since the late 1980s but only recently rejoined the club after 4 years working abroad and travelling Australia. This presentation will include some basic information about the Lord Howe Island, its flora and fauna, as well as a first hand account of a "first timers" Dx-pedition as VK9LA - late night operating, sleepless nights, pileups, "performance assessment from international hams" and a perspective of 10 days on a beautiful South Pacific island from the inside of a radio room. Lots of photos and anecdotal stories should make this an interesting evening. //

StopPress

**This Saturday June 20 is GGREC's
2009 Midyear Dinner.**



Celebrating the shortest day, ie winter solstice, on June 21/22 and therefore the coming spring, our midyear dinner already has 40 bookings.

If you would like to attend this event (tradition?) but have not yet booked, please contact Albert ASAP. The event is catered and will be held at the Guide Hall. \$10 deposit pp BYO plates cutlery, glasses, drinks.

AN INVITATION TO STALLHOLDERS

On Saturday 18th July 2009, the Club shall be conducting its annual HAMFEST SALE for the sale of new and used electronics and radio equipment. As per last year, the venue will be the **Cranbourne Community Hall** on the corner of Clarendon and High streets, Cranbourne. High Street is part of the Sth Gippsland Highway. Melways 133 K4.

The club takes pleasure in offering you the opportunity to become a Seller at our 2009 event. Forty tables will be available for stall holders, but demand will be high as usual. Please book asap to avoid disappointment.

Table hire will be \$20 per table. This fee provides access for TWO persons to operate the stall. It will also include *two* tickets to the door prize and free tea/coffee throughout the day.

The \$20 fee must be paid in full to the Club at least 14 days *before* the event in order to reserve a table. Cancellations made more than 14 days prior to the event will be given a full refund by cheque.

To make a booking contact **Dianne Jackson** on **(03) 5625 2545**. Or email details to hamfest@ggrec.org.au Payment may be made by sending a cheque or money order (payable to 'GGREC') to Post Office Box 1098 Cranbourne 3977 or by direct payment to: **BSB 633000 ACC 134761279** with remittance advice to Dianne upon transfer.

When making a table booking, Stall Holders will be asked to provide a **Name, Postal address and Contact phone number**.

Upon receipt of the \$20 fee and contact details, a **Booking Number** will be posted with a receipt of payment. **IMPORTANT! No booking is confirmed until this number has been received by the Stall Holder.**

Access to the Hall shall be from 8:30am for Stall Holders (not later than 9:30 am unless by arrangement).

The doors will open to buyers at 10am with a \$6.00 entry fee.

Each year, this sale is a great success with many hundreds of people through the door in our large Cranbourne venue making it a premier event for radio markets in this state.

We look forward to working with you again!

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**

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 ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

Dipoles, fishing line, sinkers and trees. These have been the topics consuming my time the past week as I have been preparing these notes (my life is fairly simple). About 3 weeks ago a decent storm brought down my 80 metre dipole, which obviously wasn't high enough anyway, so I've been busy building a new one and firing fishing lead sinkers up into a 60 foot gum tree with a sling shot.

Putting dipoles up in trees always gets me thinking about the fascination of radio and my early days (this year I will officially be an old timer!) with an FT-101E, a home-brew antenna tuner and a simple wire dipole. The same principles apply today – I think that sometimes we forget the basics and get caught up with the zip-bang new latest equipment – and whilst none of us can but be impressed with the latest gear, it does detract from the origins of our hobby, and what I suspect attracted most members to radio in the first place. So, it's great to hear Albert VK3BQO reporting the continued progress that many members are having with the Antenna Analyser kits.



Albert reports the recent Antenna Analyser prac night at the club rooms was a great success. Some members upgraded software to enhance features, whilst others conducted tests with the club's antennae. There was considerable discussion on assembly and continued development and I understand from Albert that some mathematics was covered as well.

Last weekend (30 May) a few members arranged an impromptu get together at Albert's place to test mobile HF antennae. Doug VK3KMN, Ivan VK3ARV, Ray VK3CEO and Helmut VK3DHI all made the trip to Nyora to experiment and compare mobile antennae. Hege (my wife) and I dropped down for about an hour – but as I don't have HF mobile anymore I was an onlooker. There were some surprising results with tests conducted between the Yaesu ATAS screw-driver, Famparc whip, Turlin and home-brew antennae. All this was augmented with a few sausages on the BBQ and I am sure the guys would be more than happy to tell any interested members more about the outcomes from this session.

Thanks Albert for those updates.

Cont'd over

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

I have a lot to cover this month so please bear with me.....

Pub night

On Friday 29th May, a very pleasant evening was spent socialising with members – 20 members came along and I think a good night was had by all.

Event Queue

We continue to have a broad range of speakers and topics at the general meetings, and a few ideas for social events – but the event queue is not a bottomless pit. We have presentations covered for the next 2 months and a couple of potentials on the sidelines, but please keep the ideas coming, and if you, or someone you know has an interesting topic or experience please drop me an email and we can look at adding it to the event queue. Check out the web site for the latest updates and to see what is planned.

Hamfest

Preparations are well underway for the annual Hamfest. I extend my thanks to Pat VK3OZ who has agreed to take on the role of kitchen co-ordinator and the hoard of helpers who will make this part of the event another great success. I have received feedback from a number of people that the GGREC Hamfest is one of the best – and this is in large part due to the social aspect of the event and the manner in which we provide kitchen services and a sit down area.

Tables are almost fully booked, so if you want one get in quick and contact Dianne VK3JDI – details on the web site and in this issue of Gateway. If you are able to volunteer to help on the day please contact me. Also, please continue to publicise the Hamfest.

Mid-year dinner.

The last time I checked with Albert we have about 40 people confirmed for the mid year dinner. If you would like to attend this event (tradition?) but have not yet booked, please contact Albert ASAP. **Do not wait until the next club general meeting – this is one day before the dinner and is too late** – we have to book the catering 2 weeks before the event and prepare the hall facilities.

Cont'd page 8

ALARA ' s NEWEST AND ITS VETERAN HAM CELEBRATE



From left: Jean VK3VIP, Marilyn VK3DMS, Monique VK3FWPZ, Mavis VK3KS
On June 6 at the Alara [Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association] lunch, Mavis VK3KS, was formally recognised for 70 [!] years operating as a radio amateur. Mavis got her Full [Advanced] licence at age 17 in 1939, the beginning of the second last wave of feminism!
Also at the lunch was ALARA ' s youngest member Monique VK3FWPZ who is 11 [!], and retiring president Marilyn VK3DMS at her last official function after 27 years as president and committee member. Jean VK3VIP is Alara ' s Victorian State Representative.

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

Avoid missing out and book now with Albert - \$10 per person deposit required.

Internet & Web Site

Steve VK3EGD has hit the ground running – he has been busy tidying up the club website and making administration easier which involves a lot of behind the scenes work – so thanks very much Steve - check out the website and please provide any feedback and/or ideas direct to Steve.

As time marches on things change, and the committee will be leveraging much more off the internet and the benefits it offers. As we prepare for this I ask that if you have not yet registered your email address with Steve please do so. Only about 65% of members have an email address registered with the club – but I suspect that nearly all members will have access to email. Over the coming months we'll be looking to automate many of the activities and services that have until now been manual, time consuming, inefficient and not particularly responsive. Where appropriate, we will provide information sessions on these changes as they take effect. Please support this initiative and provide your email address.

A CHALLENGE TO ALL GGREC MEMBERS!!

I will leave you with a little challenge this month. Email me with your guess as to how many attendees (that's paying customers, not sellers) we'll have at the Hamfest this year. The closest guess will win a prize – entries must be emailed to me by 16th July at the latest.



Now I have an 80 and 160 metre antenna back in the air maybe I'll hear you there... or on 145.450.

Til next month 73,

Chris VK3QB

DINNER AT BEACONSFIELD MAY 29 photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



THE JACKSONS NEW GUARD "DOGS"



"The critters arrived on schedule. They make a lot of soft beeping sounds all day. I'm keeping them penned up for the first week or so until they become used to us.

"Before we can give them names we need a way of telling them apart, perhaps colour coding is in order." *Ian VK3BUF*

Cont'd from opposite **THE BOTTLE OF WINE**

for another moment or two.

She looked at her Navajo companion and then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder,

she said: "Good trade....." They both nodded in agreement.//

EVENT QUEUE

Jun 19th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Jun 20th	6:00pm	Mid Year Dinner	Guide Hall
Jun 29th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Jul 3rd	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Shack
Jul 17th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Jul 18th	10:00am	GGREC Hamfest	Cranbourne Public Hall
Jul 27th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Aug 7th	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Shack
Aug 21st	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Aug 31st	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack

THE BOTTLE OF WINE

by A-nony-mus

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw two elderly Navajo women walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo women if they would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the women got into the car.

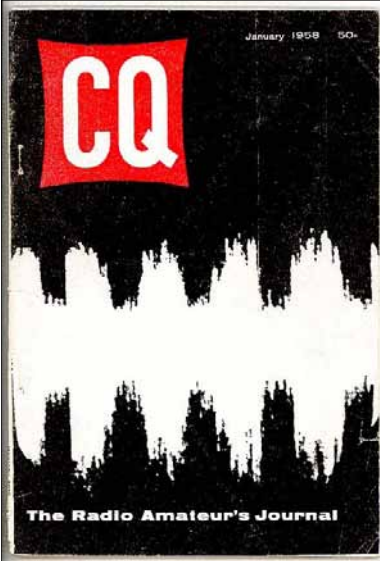
Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk. The Navajo women just sat silently, looking intently at everything they saw, studying every little detail. Sally's briefcase, some boxes of samples, etc. One of the women noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

'What in bag?' asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, 'Oh, it's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.'

The Navajo woman was silent.....

Cont'd opposite



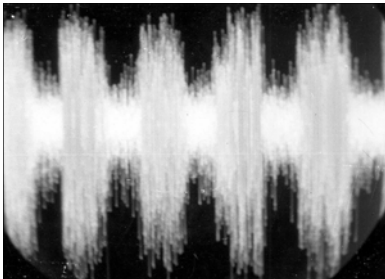
Photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



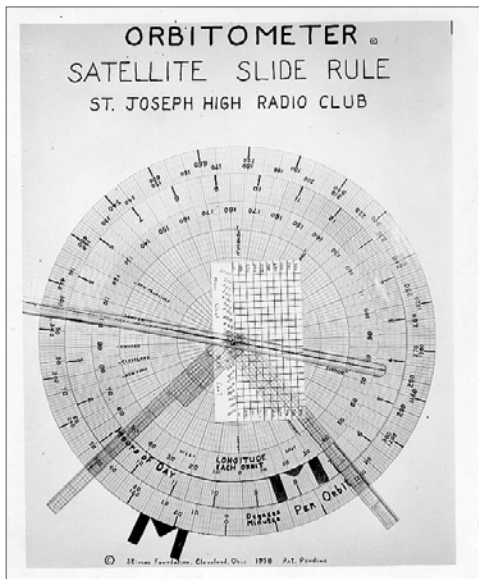
St. Joseph's High Radio Club listening to Sputnik.. Standing was speaker Richard VK3RR

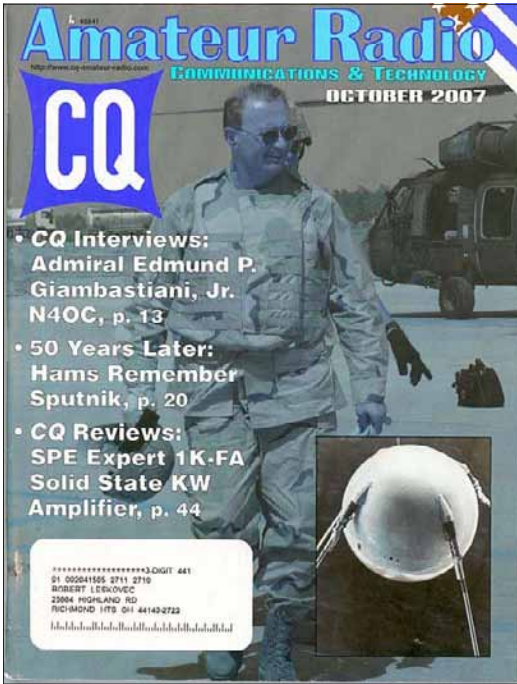
Kids' Sputnik writeup in CQ 1958

REPORT OF OUR MAY GM -
SPEAKER RICHARD ROBBINS
VK3RR

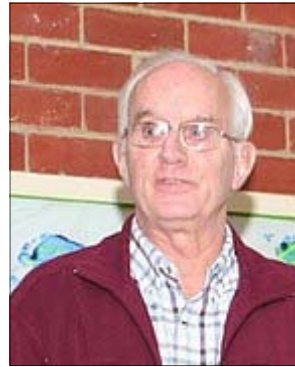


Sputnik Beep representation





Hams remember Sputnik 50 years later in CQ 2007 edition



Richards Robbins' talk prompted lots of questions from members.

Today's Richard meets GGREC



cont'd from page opposite **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 2009**

please email Steve at secretary@ggrec.org.au

Steve has also set up mailboxes for members. Contact Steve for more details.

There is interest from Club members about constructing a VHF / UHF antenna analyser kit. Please let the committee know if you are interested in this or any other construction activity.

Albert informed the members of the passing of Garnet Bowen VK3MTA. GGREC members that were able to attend went to the funeral service.

The Club thanks Tom Wilson for auditing the Club's books for the 2008 – 2009 financial year. Albert paid in kind but would like the committee to consider a more formal recognition for Tom as he has been our Auditor of 20+ years. It was suggested that an honorary membership would be appropriate. Any suggestions?

An antenna analyser kit construction / alignment / firmware upgrade night is scheduled for Friday 22nd May 2009. Come along if you need assistance.

The Club members thanked Pat Pavey for (again) cleaning the clubrooms. Doug mentioned that he repaired the Club antennas again and they tuned up well for the bands they operate on.

Chris mentioned that the WXP Contest is coming up at the end of May 2009. It is a 48hr contest and Chris would like to hear from anyone interested in trying out this contest.

Post Office Box keys: Mike Ide needs to hand the P.O. Box keys to the new Secretary - Steve Harding.

Brian Smith said that he is looking for a spectrum analyser up to 2.4 Gigahertz. Contact Brian if you can help.

Meeting Closed: around 10:20 PM.

Next Committee Meeting: 25th May 2009 **Next Prac Night:** Friday June 5

Next General Meeting: 19th June 2009.

A-NONY-NONY-MUS

We present here complaints made by holiday makers to their travel agents in a recent survey:

1. "The beach was too sandy."
2. A guest at a Novotel in Australia complained his soup was too thick and strong. He was inadvertently slurping the gravy at the time.
3. "Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women."

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 2009

Date: 15 May 2009

Start time: 09:45 PM—speaker first.

Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.

Chairperson: Chris Chapman VK3QB

Minute Taker: Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT (standing in for Steve Harding)

Guest Speaker:

Meeting was preceded by a talk by our guest speaker Richard Robbins VK3RR Subject – The Sputnik Satellite.

Present: See Attendance Sheet

Visitors and Guests: Nil

Apologies: Phil Pavey VK3YB, Ron VK3EXJ & Judy Robertson, Steve VK3EGD & Maria Harding, Russ White VK3MWR, Henry Vandelight VK3FHTV and Maree Vandelight VK3FSAT, Ivan Blezard VK3ARV, Geoff Williams VK3ZGW

Correspondence Received:

EMDRC & FAMPARC Newsletters

Correspondence Sent: Nil

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

Moved By: Reg Goddard VK3UK, **Seconded By:** Helmut Inhoven VK3DHI

Carried: YES

Income: \$977.00 **Expenditure:** \$850.00 **Balance:** \$5716.35

New Call signs : nil

Previous Minutes: As printed in Gateway.

Moved By: Reg Goddard VK3UK, **Seconded By:** Brian Smith VK3BSN

Carried: YES

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Hamfest: Preparations are on track. 23 of the 40 tables already booked.

Pat to co-ordinate the food and kitchen helpers. Brian Smith has offered to publicise our Hamfest at forthcoming Mt Gambier. Lee Moyle has offered to print labels etc. for our Hamfest if required.

Our public liability insurance policy covers the Hamfest as well.

Discussion took place about internet access for our Clubroom and what Melbourne radio has to offer.

Mid Year Dinner: \$10.00 deposit needed at the May GM for those wishing to attend.

Pub night FRIDAY 29th May: Venue is the Beaconsfield Hotel. See the event queue for details. Email for bookings.

New Business:

Steve Harding wants Club feedback about having a blog area on our web site. If you have any comments / ideas, *cont'd page opposite*

GGREC
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