



GATEWAY

July 2009

NEXT MEETING This Friday July 17 2009 at 8 pm

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

SPEAKER : Graham Jost VK3QB

TOPIC: My Babbage Difference Engine No 1.

By Geoff Clifton VK3HGG

Graham Jost has impressed the Meccano world over and over again with his ability to interpret and model the most complex mechanisms in Meccano. I have seen his clocks, knitting looms and novelty devices but his working Babbage Difference engine is a mechanical masterpiece, even more so because the original, designed by Charles Babbage, despite enormous effort and cost, was never actually completed.



If you're male and over 40, there is a good chance you had a Meccano outfit as a child in one form or another be it genuine Meccano or similar compatible system such as Ezybuilt or Buzz Builder. Most of the Meccano that came to Australia was manufactured in England at the Binns Road factory in Liverpool. There was also a factory in France that manufactured Meccano for a few years after the English factory closed in 1979.

During its peak Meccano also made Hornby Dublo trains, Hornby speed boats & Dinky toys.

Cont'd over

Cont'd from Page 1 RE FRIDAY'S TOPIC

For most boys this hobby started with a small basic set as a Birthday or Christmas present that could grow (provided you had wealthy parents) with a seemingly endless range of extra parts and accessories such as conversion kits to take your outfit up to the next level set, a range of clockwork and electric motors, a steam engine, gear mechanism sets and electromechanical sets to name a few.

Meccano was created by Frank Hornby who in 1901 took out a patent for a constructional toy he called Mechanics Made Easy which later evolved into the famous Meccano system we know today. During my childhood the Meccano range started with outfit No 1 consisting of only a few basic parts in a cardboard box. At the other end of the spectrum was the prestigious No 10 outfit in a four drawer oak cabinet with enough parts to make some very detailed and complex models. The price of the last French-made No 10 set in 1991 was around \$2500.

There was the fabulous Meccano magazine that ran from 1916 to 1981. This was an engineering journal that showcased major engineering achievements from all over the world. At its peak it came out monthly with regular articles on the latest aircraft, trains and cars as well as general topics of interest including science and nature. On the front cover would be a magnificent colour photograph of the featured article for that month.



As a note of interest, all volumes of Meccano magazine are available as a PDF on the following website and if you are remotely interested it is well worth a look. Thanks go out to Tim Edwards for putting it together. See <http://www.meccanoindex.co.uk/> Today the Meccano name is owned by a Japanese company called Nikko which will hopefully manufacture Meccano for many years to come.

Geoff VK3HGG

STOP PRESS HAMFEST THIS SATURDAY BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!

Don't forget Chris' little challenge this month. Email (or phone) him with your guess as to how many attendees (that's paying customers, not sellers) we'll have at the Hamfest Saturday. The closest guess will win a prize - entries to be emailed by 16th July at the latest!!!
[\[cmchapman@bigpond.com\]](mailto:cmchapman@bigpond.com)



Sell the Club!!

I bet that got your attention. The Committee has come up with a novel idea to get you all thinking. For the next 2 months, you have the opportunity to add your suggestion to our list of Amateur Radio slogans for use on a car bumper / window sticker. The slogans need only to be several words which will make readers notice it and maybe want to know more. Something like "Amateurs twiddle their knobs" or "Amateurs pound brass". The idea is to get as many of these slogans as possible and they will be judged on several things such as stand outability (you know what I mean), cleverness of the play on words, amusement and most profound meaning. The idea is to promote the Club by promoting Amateur Radio. A considerable prize[!] will be awarded for the best entry. All of these are deemed to be freely usable by the Club in whatever means it sees fit such as advertising etc. Entries to be lodged with the Secretary by email or other means no later than midnight on the 14th September 2009. There is no limit to the number of entries you can send so good luck and start writing.
GGREC Committee.

Hint!!!!!!

When sending email to multiple addressees, please consider where and who will be able to see the email addresses listed in either the "To" or "Cc" fields. Addresses entered into these fields are visible to every other recipient of that email. It is more appropriate in these days of SPAM and other hacking tricks to not show these addresses to others as they may use them for the wrong purpose. So use "Bcc" [blind copy] field only.

Electronics Course If you are interested in helping out, please email or otherwise contact the Club Secretary outlining where you could assist. We need to know if we have the necessary resources before doing any advertising. More page 11.

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

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Incorporation Number A0016893M

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

It seems like yesterday I was writing copy for the June issue of Gateway. Is it just me or is time actually speeding up?

I think the mid-year dinner was another great success and enjoyed by all present. On behalf of all members I'd like to give special thanks to Dianne Jackson VK3JDI who with her usual low profile, high efficiency approach co-ordinated the event with Reddy Roasts and took charge of the table and hall decorations. For fear of missing someone out I won't name all the other helpers who contributed to making the evening a success – from serving meals and supplying desserts through to mini-golf entertainment and tidying up at the end of the night!



Thanks everyone!

We've got a fair bit on in the coming 2-3 months as you'll see in other parts of the magazine – so please refer to the Event Calendar either in the mag or online at our website.

It's looking very much like we'll put in a club effort for the Remembrance Day Contest this year (15th & 16th August), so if you are interested in this please let me know. We'll need 3-4 weeks to decide how we want to operate and in which categories, as well as some time to consider various radio and antenna options. Any members who have not operated in contests before are very welcome to come along and see what this part of the hobby is all about. I'll get more info out as we get closer to the date.

Personally, I find the next two topics rather exciting and the committee is very enthusiastic to see these initiatives come to fruition; they are both aimed at continuing activity and enthusiasm in our club and hobby.

Morse Code training

Following on from the VK9LA Lord Howe Island presentation last month I was really pleased to have a number of members register an interest in Morse code classes.

Cont'd over

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

At present the committee is busy facilitating a class itinerary and schedule – in the meantime, if you are interested in attending the class please register your interest directly with me. We expect the course will run over 8-12 weeks and will comprise both classroom sessions as well as on-air sessions. We're also investigating the possibility of offering the class to other clubs and radio amateurs who may be interested. Even if you are a regular CW fan, you may want to come along to help out and enjoy the social aspect that goes along with such a venture.

Basic Electronics Classes

By now most of you will have seen the email in relation to this topic. The committee has been having a lot of discussion recently how we can generate more interest and activity in the hobby and our club; as well as targeting a broader audience. The idea here is to provide a simple relaxing class environment in which people from all walks of life can obtain a basic introduction into the world of electronics - with a hook into amateur radio and the club of course. What we need are some volunteers to put together and deliver the course training. More details on page 11.

This training can then lead on to further activities such as general kit building and perhaps even some new members wanting to progress from electronics into radio. We hope to have some further kit building projects to put to members in the next couple of months.

Hamfest

We are now on the home straight. I am very pleased to report we have a "full dance card" of volunteers to help make the day a success. Please continue to promote the Hamfest to your friends via radio, email and word of mouth so we can get as many as possible coming along and achieve a record attendance. Don't forget to email me with your guess to the question: "How many people will come through the front door?"

GGREC Website

Steve VK3EGD has continued to further develop the website and we now have a solid foundation....

Cont'd over

GGREC'S MIDYEAR AND WINTER SOL-

STICE DINNER JUNE 20 AT THE GUIDE HALL



Toasting
the shortest
day in style!



style

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB* from page 6

on which to leverage for future initiatives. We'll be coming back to members in the coming months to communicate the various proposals and initiatives that we have in the pipeline. Again, on behalf of the committee and club I extend our thanks and appreciation to Steve who has devoted many hours of his time and expertise to making this possible.

Well, that's about it from me – I look forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting and of course, at the annual Hamfest on 18th July.

Til then 73, *Chris VK3QB*



Photos by
Paul
Stubbs
VK3TGX



GGREC MIDYEAR / WINTER SOLSTICE DINNER



Dianne VK3JDI organised this stunning event and with the Jackson family and others, decorated hall and tables. Birthday boy, Reg devised and made up a popular game of skill using golf balls a putter/hand tube dispenser and a row of 'holes', scored the participants, and



awarded the winners. President Chris VK3QB organised the door prize plus the 'amateur radio history/general knowhow trivia quiz' won by the Pavey/Medhurst table.

Photos
by
Paul
Stubbs
VK3TGX

JUNE GENERAL MEETING



*Photos and words by Paul Stubbs
VK3TGX*



Oh no he's got his hammer back!



EVENT QUEUE

Upcoming Events

Jul 3rd	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Shack
Jul 17th	8:00pm	General Meet-	Guide Hall
Jul 18th	10:00am	GGREC Ham-	Cranbourne
		fest	Public Hall
Jul 27th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Aug 7th	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Shack
Aug 15th	12:00am	Rememberance Day Contest (24 hour)	TBA
Aug 21st	8:00pm	General Meet-	Guide Hall
		ing	
Aug 31st	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Dec 5th	12:00pm	Christmas BBQ	Chris VK3QB's QTH

PROPOSED ELECTRONICS COURSE Discussions at a recent Committee meeting revolved around ways of expanding our membership, especially in the school age to young adult range but by no means forgetting about the mature age person as well. One concept that took favour was a "Basic Electronics Course". This would not be an Amateur Radio course but instead would be aimed at those people who want to know about simple electronics such as kit building etc. It would go over several evenings perhaps and hopefully would attract the general public including parents wishing to help their kids (or themselves) to get a start in electronics and don't know where to begin. There would be a nominal charge to pay for overheads. Naturally this could not go ahead without support from the members. As per the Foundation Course, we would need several instructors to pass on their knowledge. This worked well for the Foundation course which was held over 2 consecutive days. It is not envisaged that this be a rushed course in electronics but a relaxed introduction into what could be for some young person, a career. Of course we would introduce Amateur Radio along the way but it will not form a priority in any way.

Hoots

A young Scottish lad and lass were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, gazing out over the loch.

For several minutes they sat silently.

Then finally the girl looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin'... perhaps it's aboot time for a wee kiss." The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek.

Then he blushed.

The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

Minutes passed and the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's noo time aboot time for a wee cuddle."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds.

Then he blushed.

And the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

After a while, she again said, "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's aboot time you let me put my hand on your leg."

The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her knee.

Then he blushed.

The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch before the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

The young man glanced down with a furled brow.

"Well, noo," he said, "my thoughts are a wee bit more serious this time." "Really?" said the lass in a whisper, filled with anticipation.

"Aye," said the lad, nodding.

The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush, and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request.

Then he said, "Dae ye nae think it's aboot time ye paid me the first three pennies?"



Chris VK3QB's talk at June's GM, re his DX sojourn on LORD HOWE, got 'rapt attention from the members.

Photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



cont'd from page opposite

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 2009

Feedback on the website – the floor agreed the website had improved. Questions about security and members access were raised. Suggestions regarding content were also made.

VHF-UHF analyser kit – No progress. No suitable project yet found. Investigations are continuing. The project is still a good idea. No feedback yet on last analyser kit. Time is a problem with getting them going. Mentoring is available. Organise another construction night. A session on usage and techniques. Construction night set for 26th June 1800 onwards.

Thanks to Tom Wilson (auditor) – The Committee nominated Tom VK3DTW for Life Membership. Moved Noel VK3CJJ seconded Ian VK3BUF carried unanimously.

New Business : Thanks were carried by acclamation for Albert VK3BQO donating the 70cm repeater equipment.// *Roll a golf ball at the midyear dinner*

An RD contest is coming up. Email Chris VK3QB if you are interested.

Interest has been expressed in a **Morse code class**. 6-8 indicated interest by raising hands. Email to Chris VK3QB if interested.

Some **2 letter call signs** are coming up. Suggestions were made from the floor regarding methods for getting onto the queue.

Guessing competition - email entries to Chris VK3QB - guess the number of entry stickers handed out to buyers and sellers at the Hamfest. Judges decision is final.

Suggestions were made from the floor regarding identifying paid buyers. A meeting about management of the Hamfest is TBA.

The **VK3RDD cavities** are back and they came up OK. There will be an attempt to get it back on air perhaps on Friday.

More locations are required for **Hamfest flyers**. Suggestions for G&C Communications and perhaps high schools.

Meeting Closed : 10:10 pm. **Next Committee Meeting** : Monday 29th June. **Next Prac Night** : Friday 3rd July. **Next General Meeting** : 17th July.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 2009

Date : 19 Jun 2009

Start time : 09:23 pm.

Location : Guide Hall Cranbourne.

Chairperson : Chris Chapman VK3QB

Minute Taker : Steve Harding VK3EGD

Speaker:

Prior to the meeting Chris 3QB presented on his VK9LA DXpedition to Lord Howe Island.

Present : See attendance sheet.

Visitors and Guests : Jim.

Apologies : Bruno VK3BFT, Grahame VK3XK, Tim VK3FTDM, Geoff VK3HGG, Ron VK3EXJ and Judy, Helmut VK3DHI and Dorothy, Ross VK3ZAP, Elizabeth VK3FLIZ .

Correspondence Received : Itemised.

Correspondence Sent : Itemised.

Treasurer's Report :

Read : Albert VK3BQO

Moved : Albert VK3BQO

Seconded : Dianne VK3JDI **Carried :** YES

Income : \$1481.00

Expenditure : \$320.70

Balance : \$6337.65

Total : \$6876.65

New Call signs : Congratulations to Michael VK3GHM

Previous Minutes :

Read : as per Gateway **Moved :** Brian VK3BSN **Seconded :** Max VK3TMK **Approved :** YES

Business Arising from the previous Minutes :

Hamfest - all tables sold - congratulations to Dianne. Flyers to go to Jaycar Hallam. Volunteers sought to hand out flyers to other likely businesses. General advertising required. Pat is kitchen coordinator. Bruno and two others are doing BBQ. Other general duties volunteers required. A suggestion was made for helping unload exhibitors. Floor can be swept but not mopped.

Mid year dinner - food arrives at 1830 so members and guests should arrive at 1800 - BYO drinks and glasses. Everything else is catered. Door prizes will be provided. A trivia quiz will be held. Chris confirmed there are enough tables and chairs.

Pub night - enjoyed by the attendees.

Internet at the Club Rooms – Chris VK3QB requested more feedback on potential uses before recommendations can be made.

Continued on page opposite