



# GATEWAY

September 2009

**NEXT MEETING** This Friday Sept 18 2009 at 8 pm

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

**SPEAKER** : Albert VK3BQO

**TOPIC**: The Joys of Owning An Antenna Analyser

## *PART 1*

*The first session will deal with the concept of the analyser and how it does what it does. Hopefully I will have time to show some of its tricks. If all goes well, we can try to complete it all in one evening but I am not hopeful of that especially if questions are asked as would be expected and appreciated. Albert VK3BQO*



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

## Jackson's obscure amateur radio slogans

*by Ian Jackson VK3BUF*

NOT SO CLOSE! YOU'LL OVERLOAD MY FRONT END  
EVERY DAH HAS THREE DITS  
I'LL SHOW YOU MY PL259 IF YOU SHOW ME YOUR  
SO239  
BALANCED OR UNBALANCED - WHICH IS BETTER?  
ISOTROPIC RADIATORS DO IT FROM ALL ANGLES  
I PLAY BAUD GAMES AT NIGHT!  
IT TAKES A LOT OF GUYS TO MAINTAIN AN ERECTION  
SHORT WAVES FOR LONG FRIENDSHIPS  
HOW HIGH IS YOUR MUF TODAY?  
ALL OF MY GUYS ARE HIGHLY STRUNG  
ARE MY SIDEBANDS TOO WIDE?  
ICOM IS AN ICON  
DIODES ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND  
GOOD SHIELDING MEANS FEWER HARMONICS  
OHM SWEET OHM  
IF THE CAP FITS - SOLDER IT!  
RESISTANCE ISN'T USELESS  
QTH SWEET QTH  
SUPPRESSORS OF THE LOST ARC!  
COILS AIN'T COILS  
YOU DON'T NEED BALLS TO HAVE A LONG OVER  
RECTIFY YOUR PROBLEMS - USE MORE DIODES  
BBROYGBVGW  
NO CONTACTS - NO CONTEST  
IF IT DIDN'T FALL DOWN IN THE LAST STORM, IT  
WASN'T HIGH ENOUGH!

**STOP PRESS**

1. Pine Grove Hotel, Upper Beaconsfield is the venue, October 24.
2. Cup weekend camping trip is off due to low numbers.

**CALL TO ARMS FOR JOTA**

JOTA/JOTI is on Saturday 17th October. The Club needs your help to operate radios. We do have a long standing obligation to provide support on the day as a way of thanking the Guides for their cooperation in sharing their facility from which we all benefit, and in return the Guides really appreciate our assistance.

This year the event will run from 3pm until 9.30pm. Between 3pm and 5pm will be for the younger children followed by dinner and a campfire. The older children will arrive for dinner and then use the radios up until 9.30pm.

As in previous years, food and drink will be provided for us throughout the day by the Guides.

Please let me know by email at [VK3BXG@ggrec.org.au](mailto:VK3BXG@ggrec.org.au) if you are available to assist on the day.

*Graeme VK3BXG*

**REMINDER QSL BACKGROUND DESIGNS WANTED**

The committee thought it would be a good idea to get the members to join in an effort to redesign the new QSL card. To this end, I invite any interested members to submit a photo that would form a watermark or background to our QSL Card. The club's callsign and the usual set of basic QSO info etc will still be placed on the front and we have that part of the design in hand.

Please provide your pics/photos (or ideas) by the end of September to the secretary@ggrec.org.au or at the meeting. The committee will decide on the most appropriate submission and arrange to get a quantity of cards printed in due course. To help you with motivation, the "winner" will receive a \$30 gift voucher from a toy-store of choice. Ideas for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting Melbourne and/or Gippsland and surrounds
- GGREC Club events

Relevant topical images of radio or club related projects. Please keep in mind that the photo or image needs to work well as a background to QSO information, club callsign and related information, and should, of course, be appropriate and fit for the intended purpose. All submissions become the property of GGREC for potential use in our QSL card design.

*Chris VK3QB*

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne Girl Guide 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 VK3LOV  
 Magazine Photographer : Paul VK3TGX [www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net](http://www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net)  
 Magazine Printer : David Wright VK3FW  
 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)

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*

Here we are into Spring already – I am convinced that time is actually accelerating. Hopefully the worst of the winter storms are now behind us and we can start enjoying some milder days and perhaps some more outdoor activities. Although having said that, I note that our water supplies are only at about 29 per cent, which is not a promising sign as we head towards summer.



As reported at the last meeting, the Remembrance Day Contest was a great success with 6 or 7 members manning the microphones and Morse keys for the 24 hour event. A lot of fun was had by all and I think we are well committed to our next contest effort, the Oceania DX Contest in October. Please let me know if you'd like to join in this event.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the pub night at the Carindia but from all accounts it was another enjoyable evening with about 20 people in attendance. Our next social will be on 24<sup>th</sup> October at Pine Grove Hotel, Upper Beaconsfield. Watch the event calendar on our website for further info as it comes to hand.

I trust that everyone enjoyed the presentation on Digital ATV by Peter Cossins. It's an area of the hobby only a few people dabble in, but it certainly got my interest level up, and I hope that perhaps some members will investigate further and can report back to the club in the coming months. Coming up this month our very own Albert VK3BQO, ....

*Cont'd over*

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

will give a presentation on the Antenna Analyser that many members will have constructed – but even those who have not should find this interesting.

The speaker for October will be Chris Long VK3AML, who will be presenting on DX Atmospheric Optical Communications. This promises to be a fascinating topic and I refer you to the club's website for more information.

Also on the calendar for this month is an antenna and ATU day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, hosted by Tim VK3IM. Morse code classes begin on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month and I am pleased to report that we have a full class booked – it should be fun.

Unfortunately, the committee has decided to cancel the planned club event for the Cup Day Weekend. There was simply insufficient interest and the limited support we received had such differing requirements for accommodation that it was not possible for us to arrange a venue that met peoples' needs or expectations. We'll try again over the coming months, and perhaps the warmer weather will entice more people to register an interest?

I'd also like to remind everyone that we'll kick off the annual Christmas Hamper this month – so if you are able please bring along a non-perishable contribution and buy a ticket or two. Max will be the front man for this initiative this year.

And finally, as we come to the home straight of 2009 and start thinking about 2010, please consider what activities and/or presentations you'd like to see and do as a club and let me know. If you have a story to tell or project to demonstrate let one of the committee members know.

Our events queue is busy but we need to start thinking about the new year. That's about it from me for this month, but as usual please refer to the Club's website for the most up-to-date calendar of events. Til next month 73, /Chris VK3QB



Amateur TV—Peter Cossins VK3BFG

Analog frequencies

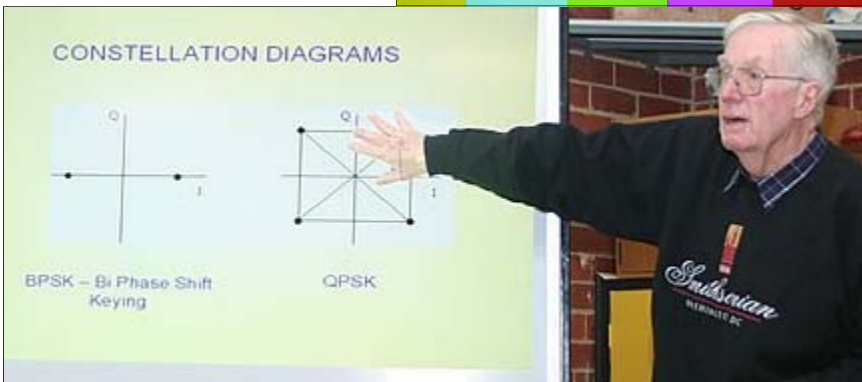
Words & photos by Paul VK3TGX

**OPERATIONAL FREQUENCIES**  
**TRANSMIT:** 444.25 MHZ A5  
 449.75 MHZ F3  
**RECEIVE:** 1250 MHZ F3 MLWEST  
 1283 MHZ F3 ML  
 10.41 GHZ  
 6.0 MHZ SOUND  
**LIASON:** 147.4 MHZ FM

**DIGITAL OP FREQUENCIES**  
**TRANSMIT:** 446.5 MHZ  
**RE-TRANSMITS** 1250 MHZ  
**VK3RTV1** **RE-TRANSMITS** 1283 MHZ OR 10.41 GHZ  
**VK3RTV2**  
**LIASON:** 147.4 MHZ FM

Digital frequencies

Digital Modulation





*Cont'd from opposite*

from the local government telecommunications department over there, going by the name Tchilumba walked me through the process once I made contact with him via email. The process was very logical and straightforward and cost about 500 vatu (about AUD\$6.25). On arrival at the aforementioned department in Port Vila I was presented with a very professional licence certificate.

Propagation conditions into VK3 were patchy, and when present, were very poor. I managed to work VK3s GK, HJ and EW. Pat VK3OZ reported hearing me one evening but was not able to make the contact. Phil saw reports of my activity was but unable to hear me due to his local noise levels. The local internet facilities were extremely slow so I was not able to come up on Echolink which was a shame.

Vanuatu is a beautiful island nation, and a bonus that it's in the top 100 most wanted DXCC entities (about number 88), making it the ideal holiday experience for the intrepid radio amateur. Winter temperatures ranged between 18 C overnight and 28 C through the day – perfect for us southerners looking for a dose of sunshine and warmth.

Radio was down the list of priorities a bit. Having said that I probably spent an average of 1-2 hours a day behind the radio and thoroughly enjoyed the time on air. Next time (sometime in 2010) we'll go back and now I know the lie of the land over there I'll be better equipped antenna-wise. *To page 10*



## Tales of the South Pacific

by Chris VK3QB

*(with apologies to James A Michener)*

We got home from YJ0 (Vanuatu) on Monday 27th July 2009. It was a great holiday – very relaxing and just what my wife and I needed.

Radio work was a lot of fun but conditions were far from ideal. I worked 150 stations (all CW) from 9 different countries on 20 and 40 mtrs.

Most (almost 100) QSOs were with NA stations followed up by JA, VK and ZL. A few other OC in there for good measure and very satisfying to get XE (Mexico) and PY (Brazil) as well. Only 1 EU station which was rather disappointing.

I am not sure why the lack of EU – how much of it was just bad luck with propagation and how much was influenced by my antenna – a 40 mtr vertical with a single counterpoise pointing NEE – which interestingly enough would have been about bang-on short path NA.

Every afternoon about 4pm local time (0500z) I got some propagation into NA on 20. That was followed up with Happy Hour and a Gin & Tonic to ward off the possibility of malaria (medicinal purposes you see!) and about 1-2 hours after that I moved with alcohol fuelled confidence to 40mtrs.

I tried one or two early mornings just before sunrise and could hear some very weak EU stns but alas, no cigar.

I only had one afternoon with a “proper pileup” on 20 with NA and it was a load of fun; worked about 40 stations in 45 mins – reminiscent of VK9LA Lord Howe Island last March.

Vanuatu, formally New Hebrides, gained independence from Britain and France in 1980 and is now a Republic and part of the Commonwealth. The local Islanders mostly speak English, French and their local lingo, Bislama, a kind of pidgin English. They seem an extremely happy and contented people, enjoying the title as “the world's happiest people”.

If you can conjure up a mental image of the ideal South Pacific Island then you have pictured Vanuatu; stunningly clear blue waters, 83 small islands of thick tropical jungles, free flowing rivers, waterfalls and even some passively active volcanoes (is that possible?).

Quite interestingly, Vanuatu has aspirations to be the first nation to achieve a carbon neutral status, and I was led to understand that they may reach this goal within the next 5 years. It makes one reflect on our rather feeble efforts and excuses here in VK-land.

Getting a YJ0 licence was very easy once I found the correct contacts – not much info on the www about this. A very helpful gentleman *Cont'd opposite.*



*Cont'd from p8*

## Tales of the South Pacific

by Chris VK3QB

**Upcoming Events**

Sep 12th	10:00am	<a href="#">ATU Construction Day</a>	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Sep 17th	7:00pm	<a href="#">Morse Code Class</a>	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Sep 18th	8:00pm	<a href="#">General Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Sep 28th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Oct 3rd	6:00pm	<a href="#">Oceania DX Contest (phone)</a>	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Oct 10th	6:00pm	<a href="#">Oceania DX Contest (cw)</a>	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Oct 16th	8:00pm	<a href="#">General Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Oct 17th	2:00pm	JOTA	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Oct 24th	6:30pm	Pub Night	TBA
Oct 26th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Nov 20th	8:00pm	General Meeting	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Nov 30th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Dec 5th	12:00pm	Christmas BBQ	<a href="#">Chris VK3QB's QTH</a>
Jul 17th	10:00am	<a href="#">GGREC Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Cranbourne Public Hall</a>

While on holidays I dreamt up an idea for a mobile phone/radio patch box a fairly simple one that plugs into your mobile's headset connector and contains an amplified speaker for Rx and a connector for a standard radio mic (with remote PTT control). Anyone interested?

*Paul VK3TGX*

**PROPOSED ELECTRONICS COURSE**

This would not be an Amateur Radio course per se, 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.



**CARDINIA PARK  
HOTEL AUG 22**

HMMM seafood  
basket [apologies  
for the wrong colour  
liquid in the glass!!]

*Photos, words PaulVK3TGX*



## GGREC auditor Tom VK3DTW's lifetime membership presentation



*Photos and words by Paul VK3TGX*

Don't ask "what can the club do for me?"... instead ask "what can I do for the club?" - **Oceania DX Contest** - a special note to those bitten by the contest bug. We have the Oceania DX Contest coming up in October. The phone contest is Saturday 3rd Oct 0800Z through Sunday 4th October 0800Z with the CW contest being the following weekend (11th & 12th October). If anyone is interested in joining me to put in a club effort pls drop me an email. Full details about the contest can be found at the following website.<http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/>

It should be another fun radio/social event - this time we'll endeavour to be a little more organised, but I don't think the "fun bit" will need much effort!

I hope to hear from interested members very soon and we can meet at the club and draw up our plan of attack. *Chris VK3QB*

*cont'd from page opposite*

The ALARA contest is on a week tomorrow.

*Morse code classes*

Will be held Thursday evenings 7pm starting on 10th September. Albert, Brenton, Megan, Brian VK3BSN, and Paul VK3TGX showed interest. Chris will send out an email with details.

*Xmas hamper* Max is coordinating this year. Tickets will go on sale in September.

*Slogan competition* The deadline for the competition was extended one week to next Friday.

*Pub night* Show of hands to see how many would come. A table of 20 is booked.

*Badges* Steve will send out an email next week.

*Bowling* Reg needs show of hands to see if enough people are interested. Those who are interested should talk to Reg after the meeting.

*Cup weekend away* Chris overviewed suggestions. He will reconnoitre and give firmer details by email during the week.

*ATU construction day*

Chris outlined the idea for the session. 10 or 12 showed interest. Sat 13th Sept 10am was set. Chris will email the details.

*Bridging course*

Info on a Foundation bridging course to be held by ARV in September was given for those who may be interested.

*QSL Cards*. Chris spoke about "QSL Maker" software.

*Items for sale*

Coffee mugs - Albert announced that there are still 11 for sale. See Albert to purchase. Foundation manuals - Some manuals still available. 2008 call book - one still available (sold).

*Blog* Megan spoke about her blog at <http://vk3hop.net> in case members were interested.

*Allocation at VLF*

Mike spoke about the Morse class and the usage of the allocation - perhaps a competition for a small Morse TXCVR and contacts.

**Meeting Closed** : 10:13pm

**Next Committee Meeting** : Monday 31st Aug 2009 **Next Prac Night** : Friday 4th

Sep 2009 **Next General Meeting** : Friday 18th Sep 2009



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 2009**

**Date :** 21 Aug 2009

**Start time :** 09:25 pm.

**Location :** Guide Hall.

**Chairperson :** Chris VK3QB

**Minute Taker :** Steve VK3EGD

**Guest Speaker:** Peter Cossins VK3BFG who presented on ATV and the repeater VK3RTV

**Present :** Attendance sheet

**Visitors and Guests :** New Member Brenton VK3CBV

**Apologies :** Michael VK3GHM, Ron VK3EXJ, Helmut VK3DHI, Bill VK3DOU, Phil VK3YB, Bobbie, Ross VK3ZAP, Wayne VK3ZWC

**Correspondence Received :** Listed and tabled

**Correspondence Sent :** nil

**Treasurer's Report :**

**Read :** BQO **Moved :** BQO **Seconded :** QB **Carried :** yes

**Income :** \$2973.65 **Expenditure :** \$702.16 **Balance :** \$2271.49 **Total :** \$8851.19

**New Call signs :** Susan VK3LOV (was VK3FXXX)

**Previous Minutes :**

Correction – Mike VK3KTO was not an apology – Naree only

**Read :** as per magazine **Moved :** EGD **Seconded :** KMN **Approved :** yes

**Business Arising from the previous Minutes :**

*Hamfest*

Chris expressed thanks to those that assisted and reported - numbers were 20 per cent down on last year, similar to other hamfests held this year by other clubs. VK3FW won the estimate of 360 entries. Congratulations to Gateway printer, David. Profits were about the same as previous years, as a result mainly of higher prices for food and a donated first door prize. Albert gave details of the income and expenditure for the event. Positive feedback was received from many regarding the mobile food and drink sales. Thanks to Maree VK3FSAT. Trader feedback was appreciative as well. Chris asked for any further member feedback by email.

*RD Contest*

Chris reported on the participants and activities. A great time was had by all. He estimated the points results would put GGREC in the top 2 or 3 of clubs. First timers improved well during the period. Thanks to Pat VK3OZ for the special munchies on Sunday morning. 160m was the only contact for a while and all had turns at trying their hand. Participants feedback was "we had a ball".

*cont'd opposite*