



GATEWAY

November 2009

NEXT MEETING : Friday Nov 20 2009 at 8 pm

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

SPEAKERS : Bruno VK3BFT and Phil VK3YB

TOPIC: Ins and Outs of our new club radio, the Yaesu FT-950

INSIDE

GGREC Christmas BBQ Breakup



On Friday the two OMs will be giving members a thorough demonstration of the FT-950. Both the presenters are well known to members and really require no introduction; however, Phil has been the proud owner of the Yaesu FT-950 for a year or two now and is very well versed in its functions and capabilities. Bruno, our new Equipment & Facilities Officer will be co-ordinating any required training and operational support for members. At the meeting they will provide members with an overview of the radio, its features and then provide a basic "how to" overview and answer questions from the floor. Following the meeting the radio will be relocated to the club rooms for use by the members.

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

A-NONY-NONY-MUS

Bob Hill and his new wife Betty were vacationing in Europe... as it happens, near --Transylvania . They were driving in a rental car along a rather deserted highway. It was late and raining very hard. Bob could barely see the road in front of the car. Suddenly the car skids out of control! Bob attempts to control the car, but to no avail! The car swerves and smashes into a tree. Moments later, Bob shakes his head to clear the fog. Dazed, he looks over at the passenger seat and sees his wife unconscious, with her head bleeding!

Despite the rain and unfamiliar countryside, Bob knows he has to get her medical assistance. Bob carefully picks his wife up and begins trudging down the road. After a short while, he sees a light. He heads towards the light, which is coming from a large, old house. He approaches the door and knocks. A minute passes. A small, hunched man opens the door. Bob immediately blurts, "Hello, my name is Bob Hill, and this is my wife Betty. We've been in a terrible accident, and my wife has been seriously hurt. Can I please use your phone?"

"I'm sorry," replies the hunchback, "but we don't have a phone. My master is a doctor; come in and I will get him!" Bob brings his wife in. An older man comes down the stairs. "I'm afraid my assistant may have misled you. I am not a medical doctor; I am a scientist.. However, it is many miles to the nearest clinic, and I have had a basic medical training. I will see what I can do. Igor, bring them down to the laboratory." With that, Igor picks up Betty and carries her downstairs, with Bob following closely. Igor places Betty on a table in the lab. Bob collapses from exhaustion and his own injuries, so Igor places Bob on an adjoining table. After a brief examination, Igor's master looks worried. "Things are serious, Igor. Prepare a transfusion." Igor and his master work feverishly, but to no avail. Bob and Betty Hill are no more. The Hills' deaths upset Igor's master greatly. Warily, he climbs the steps to his conservatory, which houses his grand piano. For it is here that he has always found solace. He begins to play, and a stirring, almost haunting melody fills the house. Meanwhile, Igor is still in the lab tidying up. His eyes catch movement, and he notices the fingers on Betty's hand twitch, keeping time to the haunting piano music..

Stunned, he watches as Bob's arm begins to rise, marking the beat! He is further amazed as Betty and Bob both sit up straight!

Unable to contain himself, he dashes up the stairs to the conservatory. He bursts in and shouts to his master:

"Master, Master! The Hills are alive with the sound of music!"

GGREC Christmas BBQ Breakup

It's that time again. This year Chris VK3QB will host the Christmas BBQ. The date is Saturday 5th December from 12:30pm onwards. The QTH is 5 Freelands Drive, Mt Eliza, Ph 9708 8320, or 0429 187 593.

We'll have 145.450 running for anyone needing directions.

The club website has the map and reference details, or for those who don't have a GPS unit (like him), the old fashioned method is - Melways Ref Map 106 A5. The QTH is at the end of a long driveway - there is some parking on-site, but please park out on the road if you are able, and leave the on-site parking for members who require it. As usual, please bring a small table and a chair or two, as well as your selection of BBQ fare. The club will provide a selection of salads and bread. Please call or email Chris if you are intending to



come along so that we can plan the numbers.

PLEASE NOTE

The usual games, quizzes and activities are planned, and if the weather is nice and you're keen, there's a swimming pool.

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

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

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*

Here we are at the last issue of Gateway for 2009. I have now concluded that time has indeed increased its speed of progress and that there is absolutely nothing I can do about it. Speaking of time, it's time to remind everyone that November is the last General Meeting for the year. This meeting should prove to be interesting with Bruno VK3BFT and Phil VK3YB giving an informative and hands-on presentation and demonstration of the club's new FT-950 HF and six metre radio. Michael VK3GHM will also give a short talk on the upcoming bush-fire season and provide members with an outline of what we should all keep in mind as summer approaches.



Now is also time to remind everyone that THERE IS NO DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING nor is there an issue of Gateway. Friday 15th January 2010 will be the first General Meeting for the New Year and the next issue of Gateway will also be January 2010.

Last month I touched on the possibility that Solar Cycle 24 may actually be starting to wake up; and continued observations and reports support this assertion. October saw numerous sunspots with a significant sunspot appearing during the last week of the month and being reported as the most active so far this year. Some good DX has been reported on 15 metres, so it might be time to start spinning the dial up to the higher bands, especially with summer approaching.

I'd like to finish up the year with a brief summary of achievements and progress of club initiatives:

- Completion and active use of the antenna analyser kits

- Morse code classes currently underway with great progress from participants

- Basic electronics class well into the planning phase

- Antenna and transmission line theory day by Tim VK3IM

- Various other antennae and prac sessions at the club rooms and off-site

- A small but dedicated band of contesters re-commenced operation in 2 recent contests – more planned for next year

- News broadcasts have recommenced

- Another successful hamfest in spite of the GFC

- Another successful JOTA event

- VK3RLP 70cm award program – designed to generate *Cont'd page 11*

JOTA/JOTI 2009

Saturday 17th October and another JOTA was fun for the Cranbourne Guides and GGREC members alike. GGREC has continually supported Cranbourne Guides now for nigh on 20 years.

The afternoon started with Bruno VK3BFT playing the governor-general's address to the Scouts and Guides officially opening JOTA for 2009.

Albert, VK3BQO then took charge of the "fox hunt" assisted by Max, VK3TMK and Russell VK3MWR. This event was extremely popular with the girls last year and it proved so again this year.

Yarn, VK3NOV set up his CW training computer program and started teaching Morse code to those children who were interested – again very popular as in previous years. Meanwhile there were those who preferred to make contacts on the keyboard over the internet – JOTI, and they logged many international contacts during the course of the afternoon.

Out in the GGREC radio room, operating under the club call sign VK3BJA, Brian

VK3BSN, Michael VK3GHM and I started with finding contacts on HF, VHF and UHF for those who wished to speak on air. I had made sure of an assured contact *cont'd opposite*



JOTA *cont'd*

by prearranging Eastern Zone, VK3BEZ to give a call on VK3RLV if either of us were stuck for a contact. This worked out very well until we were in-



invited to go to UHF which subsequently threw the fox hunters into confusion out in the yard.

Later in the afternoon Steve, VK3EGD paid a visit briefly to see all was going well and about the same time Brenton VK3CBV arrived to help with the evening session.

By about 5pm the younger children were starting to leave whilst the older ones for the evening events were starting to arrive for their campfire event and sleepover.

Meanwhile we had our evening meal put on by the Guides followed by an hour long prearranged QSO with Peter ZL2IK, Whangarei. Peter had visited a club prac-night last March and was keen to speak to Brian, Max and me again as well as helping give the Guides an overseas radio contact.

The on-air contacts continued into the evening on HF and 2 meters finishing at 9pm.

Words and photos by *Graeme VK3BXG*



VHF/UHF/Microwave DXpedition to Norfolk Island

(OC-005) (RG30XX).

3rd January – 14th January 2010.

A team of experienced VK amateurs is heading to Norfolk Island this January to operate bands from 6 metres to 10GHz. The team from the VK uWave Group, will be Alan VK3XPD, Kevin VK4UH and Michael VK3KH. Preparation and preplanning is progressing well with accommodation and airfares already booked. As with most remote operations the airfare cost and arrangement are the most difficult part, particularly as the group plans to take a 1.2 metre dish for all bands from 1296MHz through to 10GHz.

A group of VK5 and VK3 operators has organised to travel to Port Macquarie on the NSW coast, with full microwave gear, to take advantage of the opportunity. A number of ZL operators have also indicated their interested in setting up at favourable locations on the NZ North Island.

It is hoped to use 2 metres as the main propagation indicator, and then move up the bands as propagation/conditions permit. The group will have internet access, and will use the VKlogger (www.vklogger.com) as the main method of liaison. Operation will be SSB, CW and where possible digital modes for meteor scatter and tropo. paths.

6 Metres will be part of the operation, and we are hoping for opportunities on the "magic band" in all directions. As this is the main Sporadic E season, anything is possible. *"We will have HF capabilities, but these will be limited as VHF,UHF and microwaves are our prime focus. The group is excited about this venture, and we hope we receive support from VK and ZL operators to make it worthwhile. We will post updates as we get closer to the time."* For further information, contact Michael VK3KH at mdc@cranbournemusic.com.au

QSL CARDS

Oceania DX Group (ODXG) has secured a good deal on QSL Cards. I hope to have a sample at the November meeting, but in a nutshell here are the details:

* 2,000 Standard size QSL cards

* Front side in full colour as per image provided by you with artwork, callsign placement etc

* Back side in one colour only with room for QSO details and the usual station info.

I understand they will be printed on 250gsm paper.

Price is \$135 for the 2,000. If anyone is interested please let me know. This is not a club initiative – but I know that some people have had trouble sourcing cards in the past and if you are interested I can pass your details onto ODXG/ *Chris VK3QB*

1. My husband and I divorced over religious differences.....

He thought he was God and I didn't.

2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

3. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

4. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive. A-nony-nony-mus



The Spring VHF/UHF field day

This is taking place on the last weekend on November. Some of you may have participated in the club's efforts 2 seasons ago when we operated in the 8 hour category in Spring from Albert's QTH and then did a slightly more serious 8 hour section from Camp Hill, near Drouin. I would be interested in feedback on whether the interest is for an 8 hour operation on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, or whether you would like to do the 24 hours. This will be a factor in choosing a location. I will then be looking to people to provide a station - basically this would consist of either 2m ssb, 70cm ssb, 1.2ghz ssb or 6m

ssb. Antennas need to be horizontal beams (or dipole for 6m) and will need to be able to be set up outside of vehicle so they can be operated by club members.

There are a few things we can improve on from previous efforts.

1. Paper logging is still the way to go for this contest - but we need to make sure we fill the logs out with enough information to claim the points.
2. When you have had enough of operating on a given frequency make sure you find someone else to take over.
3. This is the real killer for points. When a station is worked on one band (say 2m) you need to get them to also work our stations on the other bands that they have (70cm, 6m etc etc.) this takes some coordination, and is part of the fun of the contest.

So there it is! All feedback welcome, but be aware that it may be impossible to please everyone. Thanks *Phil VK3YB*

The Club's New Radio has Arrived!

Since the October GM when members voted unanimously for a new HF radio the club has purchased the Yaesu FT-950 HF and 6 metre radio. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Graham and Carol from G&C Communications who looked after us with great service and an excellent deal. I won't bore you all here with the sales pitch from the various Yaesu brochures, but I do invite everyone

to read the reviews of the radio on the internet <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/6923> and start familiarising themselves with it and its features. Perhaps most importantly, the sophisticated receiver section utilizes DSP filtering, incorporating



features such as variable bandwidth, IF shift, and passband contour tuning. Digital noise reduction and digital auto-notch filtering are also provided, along with a manually-tuned IF notch filter. The radio should also give much improved access to 6M for the upcoming summer 6M DX-season. Maybe someone wants to consider a 6M antenna project? *Chris VK3QB*

A-NONY-NONY-MUS

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends...

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL!

If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Cont'd from page 5*

Consolidation and further development of the club's website www.ggrec.org.au

Purchase of a new HF radio for the club

Appointment of two additional roles to assist with the running of the club

Social Secretary & Equipment & Facilities Officer (more on this later)

The last point provides a neat transition for me to announce that Bruno VK3BFT has agreed to take on the role of Equipment & Facilities Office for the club. I'll provide more information about this role at the November meeting and early in the New Year, suffice to say that Bruno's key responsibilities will be to: Act as a focal point for club facilities and equipment – reporting status and issues to the committee as required;

In co-operation with the committee and members, coordinate any maintenance requirements for club facilities and/or equipment (working bees etc);

In co-operation with the committee and members arrange/assist with any operational training in the use of the club's radio or related test equipment;

On behalf of the committee and the club as a whole I extend my thanks to Bruno for taking on this role.

Now to our plans for 2010 – much of this is aligned with the outcomes from the Survey conducted by the previous committee:

Brian VK3BSN (our Social Secretary) intends to have dates marked in the calendar with a 3-6 month outlook allowing members to plan accordingly; and please continue to provide suitable ideas to Brian for social events and outings

The event queue for general meeting presentations and prac. sessions is healthy but requires continued input from members – so please send through your ideas

A list of club projects (some maintenance, some operational) is already well into the planning phase and will be presented early in the new year,

More short training courses at the club rooms are being planned

Continued contest and award participation by VK3BJA is planned

Activation of the VK100WIA callsign – special event long weekend

Well, it's been a thoroughly enjoyable 2009 radio-club-wise, and I hope we can all make 2010 even better! As always, please call or drop any of the committee an email if you have any ideas, feedback or comments, and I hope to see everyone either at the November meeting or the Christmas BBQ or both.

Finally, a few quick reminders: *The GGREC news broadcast* is now on every 2nd Tuesday evening, (10th & 24th Nov and 8th Dec restarting 19th Jan 2010). 145.450 and 3.670 + QRM.

General meeting is on Friday with Bruno VK3BFT and Phil VK3YB presenting on the new FT-950. *Christmas breakup BBQ* - Saturday 5th December 12.30pm onwards at my QTH.

If you are able, please bring along yr contribution for the Christmas hamper – see Max at the meeting – and buy a load of tickets! And that's about it from me for this month (cripes, year!), but as usual please refer to the Club's website for the most up-to-date calendar of events and news. Til next year, vry 73, /Chris VK3QB

“Worked QSOs through VK3RLP Award”.

cont'd from last month's Gateway

[NB this contest has now started!]

Rules cont'd

3. Aeronautical QSOs are not permitted for Geoff VK3ZGW J or any other member who may get the pleasure of going for a fly with Geoff (too easy).

4. All applications must include some form of supportive evidence. Refer to the “Making an Application” section of this document.

5. Non-member QSOs can be direct via VK3RLP or IRLP. The committee will take into account all characteristics of the application when assessing each award.

6. There is no limit to the number of applications that members or non-members can make – in fact, the more the merrier – the objective of this Award is to encourage activity and have some fun.

The Award commences on 1st November 2009 and finishes on 31st March 2010. This program is intended to be fun and to promote the hobby and the club, as well as generating more activity on the VK3RLP IRLP Club repeater.

The club will provide small business-card-style brochures for members to hand to interested/confused members of the public which directs them to our website to learn more about the hobby and our Club.

Status updates will be provided on the club's website, magazine, fortnightly news broadcast and at the monthly general meeting. Awards will be issued at the GM in May 2010.

Making an Application:

It is preferred that all applications be accompanied by a photo of the member on location, and some form of confirmation of the QSO (be it an email or QSL Card confirming the QSO).

Applications can be made by email or in hard copy to any committee member and must include:

Name and callsign of the operator

Category of award being applied for

Details of the QSO (date, time, location (inc details such as HASL, Gridsquare, Lat/Long etc where available), station worked (name and QTH), mode (RF or IRLP, signal report etc) – relevant to the award category

Any supportive evidence of the event/QSO (eg. Short story, QSL Card, email, photo etc).

Applications will be assessed by the club committee and will be judged on the objectives of each category and the details provided by the applicant.

The committee may at its discretion request further information in support of the application.

The committee reserves the right to undertake independent verification of any applications and its decision will be final.

An open letter to all GGREC Members

From Ian Jackson, VK3BUF

Something that I have been thinking about for several months now, and quietly discussed with other members, is that I would like to propose that Albert Hubbard, VK3BQO be nominated for Life Membership of the GGREC. This is not something I

would recommend lightly or whimsically, but I believe this is something which most other members will feel is highly deserved. Albert joined the Club around 1981. Since that time he has either served on the committee or has been working very closely with it.



Albert at Jota, helping out as usual.

But this is more than about serving in an executive role for a long time, it is about his consistent hard work in promoting Club activities and Amateur radio in general throughout much of his life. Were I to list the working bees, documents prepared, the fresh initiatives and many projects organised by Albert during this time it would be a very long list indeed.

At the next meeting I shall put this motion forward from the floor and if others feel as I do at this time, I recommend that we all endorse this motion. Ian VK3BUF

Club Rules Update

Changes to the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 that came into force in April this year require some changes to our Rules. As a result, and because it is a good opportunity to clarify some ambiguities and increase transparency, I will be drafting a restructured Club Rules for consideration by the Membership.

I will be giving a short summary of the requirements and reasoning behind this activity at the November general meeting. If the membership agrees I will proceed to present new rules with a set of explanatory notes at the January general meeting and will table a special resolution so that the new rules can be adopted at the March meeting. / *Steve VK3EGD*

At a recent meeting it was suggested that the committee should maintain a list of those members who have current Working With Children cards. As a result, the Club membership database has now been updated to include the facility for recording those members who have cards. I would be grateful if each member who has a current Working With Children card could let me know, and also tell me what their card expiry date is./Steve VK3EGD

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

VK100WIA – Chris gave a short explanation of the item. The committee will review the information and recommend whether the Club should be involved. If anyone has any ideas please contact the committee.

Web portal – Steve announced that the web portal was now open to the general membership. He gave a short description of the facility, and asked that any member who wanted access should email him for an initial user name and password.

Badges – Steve handed around a card with the new badge layout. Badges will be \$12 each and will be available by ordering through the Treasurer.

Pub night – Steve reminded everyone about the Pub Night and asked for a show of hands of those that would be attending.

WWC Cards – Steve outlined the likely future need for members to have Working With Children cards and explained the simple free process for obtaining them. Bruno recommended the membership records be expanded to include those who had WWC cards.

JOTA - Graeme outlined the times and activities.

Synchrotron – Steve mentioned the Synchrotron Open Day and encouraged members to go along.

HF Radio - Chris outlined the history and what investigations and considerations had occurred. Introduced discussions - shortcomings of existing rig - benefits of newer technologies. **Moved** Chris VK3QB Seconded Albert VK3BQO *"that the Club purchase a new HF radio at a value of up to \$2,500, with a possible offset from the sale of the existing 440"*. Bruno spoke in support – asked if DStar Inc. had been considered. Megan spoke in support – asked if a rotator had been considered. Chris said that would be a separate consideration. Russ asked a question about the equipment. Chris showed two examples of an FT950 and an IC7000, and answered questions on capabilities and differences. Ian VK3BUF commented on more knobs being better as it would reduce the difficulty of learning. Yarn - agreed with Ian and asked about alternatives. Brian - supported the choice of an FT950. Chris closed discussion on the model of the equipment. Russ asked about manuals, in particular about text size. Michael spoke in support - Prefers a base style radio. Albert confirmed finances were well able to make the purchase. Chris talked about education and mentoring on the new equipment.

Amendment *"that the motion be changed to not include the 440 sale"*. Amendment carried by consensus.

The motion *"that the Club purchase a new HF radio at a value of up to \$2,500"* was **carried unanimously**. Chris asked if all agreed that an FT950 be purchased. A single dissention by Steve VK3EGD.

Cadburys - Reg asked members to notify preferences for chocolate buys to the Secretary.

Nylon Cord - Brian spoke about the nylon cord on display, gave pricing and offered some for sale.

ATV - John spoke about a German ATV stream on the internet via Shoutcast.

Meeting closed : 10.35 pm

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 26th October

Next Prac Night : Friday 6th November **Next General Meeting** : Friday 20th November

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 2009

Date : 16 Oct 2009

Start time : 9:24 pm.

Location : Guide Hall.

Chairperson : Chris VK3QB

Minute taker : Steve VK3EGD

Guest Speaker: Chris VK3AML who presented on DX Atmospheric Optical Communications.

Present : Attendance sheet

Visitors and guests : nil

Apologies : Pat VK3OZ, Susan VK3LOV, Geoff VK3HGG, Grahame VK3XK, Max VK3TMK, Ron VK3EXJ, Helmut VK3DHI, Graham VK3KCS, Roland VK3NYV.

Correspondence received : listed and tabled

Correspondence sent : listed and tabled

Treasurer's report :

Read : Albert VK3BQO Moved : Albert VK3BQO Seconded : Russ Carried.

Income : \$180.00 Expenditure : \$347.20 Balance : \$-167.20 Total : \$8,879.33

New Call signs : Neil VK3GI

Previous Minutes :

Read : as per Gateway Moved : Bruno VK3BFT Seconded : Michael VK3GHM Approved.

Business arising from the previous minutes :

Xmas Hamper - More contributions of non-perishable goods are needed. Tickets are for sale at \$2 each or 3 for \$5. See Max VK3TMK for tickets.

Club mugs - there are still mugs available.

Oceania contest - Chris VK3QB reported that the event was quiet but exhausting. He is assembling a lessons learned list so that better preparations can be made next time. A contesting email list will be set up as contesters@ggrec.org.au. Chris noted the interesting arrangements on band selection and points system. Chris will be coordinator for contesters group.

Social Secretary - Chris thanked Brian for taking on the role. Brian is currently planning for 2010.

Please go to Brian with/for ideas. Brian outlined his ideas for social events and appealed for people wanting to run trips to contact him. Some ideas for Club visits were floated.

Club broadcast - has kicked off OK. We are now changing to Tuesday night to avoid conflicts with other broadcasts. Items from other clubs are expected to come in. Reg VK3UK suggested advertising in the AR magazine. Chris asked those interested to help with the broadcast or to just observe.

New business :

Worked through RLP award - Chris outlined the objects and details of the award. He listed the categories and limitations. It will run from 1 Nov 2009 to 31 Mar 2010. The rules will be emailed out to members. Information will also be placed on the website. Hard copies of the rules are available to members. *Member services* - Chris reminded members that a core activity of the Club is to assist other members. The committee can coordinate your requests if you don't know anyone in the club.

QSL Cards - Many cards have come in and are now available for collection.

Lighthouse on the Air - A group of Brian, Graeme and Chris are interested in going to Wilson's Prom for the contest. Anyone interested should see one of them after the meeting. Getting to the site is only by hiking and is 18km in and 18km out again. The group will report back at the next meeting. It is intended to operate both Saturday and Sunday and stay overnight. The event is in mid August.

Cont'd opposite

GGREC
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3977