



GATEWAY

March 2010

NEXT MEETING Friday March 19 2010 at 8 pm

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

SPEAKER: Brenton Vowles VK3CBV

TOPIC: Communicating through low earth orbit birds; and astrophotography.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself . I have been licensed for 20 odd years and started with the call sign VK5ZBV. After 12 months I upgraded to VK5KCG then shortly after achieved my full call - but back then I was VK5CBV, yes I am a South Aussie and proud of it. My interest in radio started when I was around 9 or 10 years of age when I built my first crystal radio and was amazed at hearing radio stations in the crystal earpiece. My interest in astronomy also developed around this period as well. At age 13 I joined the Sacred Heart Amateur Radio Club where my passion for home brew construction was developed. I was also fortunate to have a couple of amateurs living close by who fed my passion for the hobby, they were VK5AG and VK5NY. Both of these friends helped me with the construction of my first transmitter using a single 6CM5 valve crystal locked on 7.007 mhz, guess that way they could keep tabs on my operation on air – yes like a lot of the old timers I was a pirate. My first introduction into satellite operation was with VK5NY one evening but I cannot remember if it was thru one of the Russian... *con'd p 13*



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

Do you remember when...

All the girls had ugly gym slips

It took five minutes for the TV to warm up

Nearly everyone's Mum was home when the kids got home from school

Nobody owned a purebred dog

You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny

Your Mother wore nylons that came in two pieces

All male teachers wore ties and female teachers had their hair done every day and wore high heels

You got your windscreen cleaned, oil checked and petrol served, without asking, all for free, every time..

It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents

They threatened to keep children back a year if they failed the school year. . . And they did!

When a Ford Zephyr was everyone's dream car...

And people went "steady"

No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked.

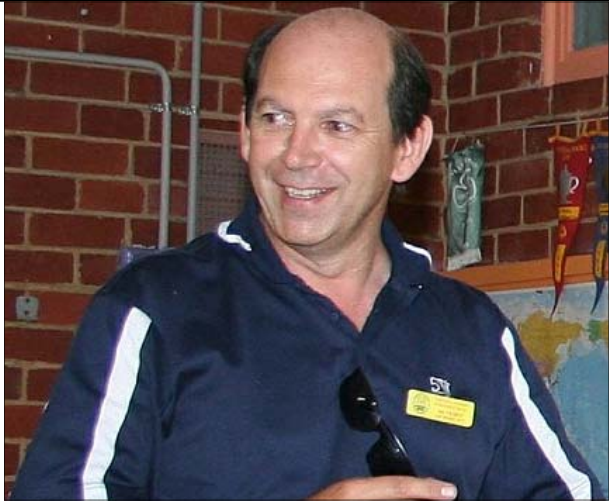
Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was a cause for giggles?

Playing cricket with no adults to help the children with the rules of the game

Bottles came from the corner shop without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger!

And with all our progress, don't you wish, just once, you could slip back in time and savour the slower pace, and share it with the children of today. **Anonymus**

Ian VK3BUF, life member, despite a few technical challenges, showed his home constructed back-yard solar system which moves with the sun, via some fancy electronics.



GGREC's February meeting



Anyway it was a great talk by Ian, he has me thinking about putting up some solar panels. Pity I don't have a job to pay for them!

*Photos and words
Paul Stubbs
VK3TGX*

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*



This month my thoughts are a reflection of the many activities currently underway at the club. It's getting close to the business end of the year for the club. This means the committee is busy preparing for the AGM as well as on-going management of club affairs. Nominations for committee positions must be lodged with the secretary seven days before the AGM - which is held following the April General Meeting- so please keep this in mind. Don't be shy. If you would like to contribute to the running of the club, but are not sure what is involved please contact any one of the committee.

Planning for our annual Hamfest is now well underway - mark the date in your diary - 17th July 2010. Information is up on the club's website, and any members wishing to book a table should contact hamfest@ggrec.org.au or give me a call. Get in quick to secure your preferred table.

By the time you read this a small group of members will have undertaken a practice walk for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend coming up in August. This practice walk will be from Punchbowl to Kilcunda (14km return) and should give the group a fair idea of just how ready we are for the event in August.

Don't forget the social outing to the Aeronautical Museum on 28th March. Brian VK3BSN has gone to considerable effort to arrange this event and make the bookings, arrange the community bus etc - we had at least 12 people put their hand up for this event and Brian is still waiting for those people to pay the \$15 and confirm their attendance. So far only 2 people have done so.....

The club commenced a fortnightly news broadcast in September *contd over*

Cont'd from opposite There would have been at least 1400 or more people attending. Some had slept overnight (Saturday) to be there at sunrise. Amateurs had arrived from Victoria and Queensland and I think every club in New South Wales. The patience of some just to ask a question was amazing. People were 2 and 3 deep at tables most of the day. Wyong has to be seen to be believed and is well worth the trip.

Brian VK3BSN

NBS Antennas and Masts

Cont'd from previous page

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

of last year. We are starting to get some regular listeners and the committee hopes it is of interest to members. However, to keep this going we need members to support the service by participating in broadcasting as well as by submitting news items – I know many of you are busy working on various projects or doing “stuff” – why not turn it into a news item and we can share it with members.

I am particularly interested in our speaker this month; Brenton VK3CBV is quite a new member, but has been very active and a regular at club events. If you don't yet know Brenton, you'll get to hear about what he's been up to in his 20 odd years on air, as well as his particular passions with radio. And fishing.

As I noted last month, DX on the HF bands is definitely improving. A number of sources have reported that conditions are really improving, with some very good DX being reported on 21Mhz and even a few opening on 24Mh and 28Mhz. Make a point of spending some time in front of the radio and let members know what you hear.

Lastly, a somewhat presumptuous request on my part to all members to visit my site www.vk3kha.org or www.paddleforkidneys.net if you did not attend the January meeting to hear my presentation on this important topic – please read about kidney health and the importance of not only registering to be an organ donor, but discussing your wishes with your family. If you are able, please support this event by telling your friends about the issues and making a donation to Kidney Health Australia. Thank-you in advance.

That's it from me for now. As always, please refer to the Club's website for the most up-to-date calendar of events and news. Til next month, vry 73 /Chris VK3QB -.- -.- . . .



MY TRIP TO WYONG HAMFEST

By Brian Smith VK3BSN

At the Kyenton Hamfest I was asked by four fellows if I was going to Wyong. Peter said that he would buy a mast if I came as it would not fit on the plane back to Sydney. That made up my mind - after all a customer is to be helped. Also Tom from Albury wanted another mast and aluminium for his antennas. On Thursday I checked the van over, oil water and fuel then proceeded to weigh it down. I struggled home for an early night's sleep and an even earlier rise on Friday. However that changed as I now had to collect brochures from Coburg at 10am on Friday.

By 2pm I had arrived at the Ettamogah Pub and met Tom. The van was running well. Fuel stops on the New South Wales side were few and far between. Gundagai and the Dog on the Tucker Box were closed. Fuel was low and Yass was still 60Km away so off the highway into a small town where Harley riders did not wear helmets and looked on with suspicion at the servo without gas. Quickly filling with petrol and back onto the highway north.

Night was falling and the lights of Sydney could be seen in the distance. The freeway appeared and the traffic increased, there was no stopping now. Soon it was on to the M7. There was no way of slowing down and then we were on the other side, Sydney had been conquered and the freeway sped north to Wyong. Heather at the friendly Central Coast Motel gave us a room for the night. There were lots of interstate vehicles that had descended upon the town. In the morning there were questions like: What frequency is the repeater? Do you have a call book? Do you have 2 and 70 in your car?

I set off to the racecourse to see where it was and to get the layout for Sunday.

Mark from Cowra was there in the bus, with antennas all over it, radios on the big dash and guard dog. It was nice to meet him again. The clan was gathering.

Down at Chitaway Bay more traders were gathering, Peter and Jan Brennan were doing their shopping. The Yaesu crew was in town in 5 motel rooms. Sunday morning was just starting when we left the motel. I wanted an early start. Arriving at The Wyong Racecourse at 6.30 am everything was humming. The flea market was in full swing. Hams were after the early bargains and I had just arrived. I was trying to set up. Hams were checking out the newcomer. With the help of Col and others from the Central Coast club I was able to set up some of the display, 3 out of 6 masts anyway.

Police in uniform and plain clothes roamed the vast area. Dick Smith VK2DIK arrived by chopper, at least he beat the traffic jam.

At 9am the trade area was officially open to the hundreds of cashed up amateurs. Sales were brisk and enquiries came in fours and fives. The pace continued then started to slow. I was feeling hungry and thirsty. It was now 3.30pm the last 8 hours were a blur and I was exhausted. I ate the lunch Margaret had bought me and had a drink as I still talked to amateurs. At 4.30 I started to pack up but still had enquiries. By 7 pm I was back to the motel and takeaways. An exhausting day. Monday morning it was back south and home. Wyong is the largest hamfest in Australia that I have seen. *Cont'd opposite*

THE MOUSETRAP

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed this warning :

"There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him,

"There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray.. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said,

"There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose.." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap

.. Alone..

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught.

In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail was caught in the trap which bit the farmer's wife... The farmer rushed her to the hospital.

When she returned home she still had a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup. So the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient: But his wife's sickness continued.

Friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. But, alas, the farmer's wife did not get well... She died.

So many people came for her funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them for the funeral luncheon.

And the mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness and said:

[*A special prize for the best punchline!*]

A-nony-nony-mus

Murray River Weekend and Paddle

As many members will be aware, Chris VK3QB will be paddling 160kms along the Murray River between 27th April and 3rd May. Details about this event can be found at www.vk3kha.org or www.paddleforkidneys.net - members are welcome to participate in this event – and you don't even have to paddle!

The long weekend prior to this event (24-26 April) will be a camping weekend along the River at Echuca. It will be "bush camping" in the state park along the edge of the Murray close to Echuca. Members are able to stay in camp grounds or other accommodation should they wish – Echuca has much to offer with tourist facilities, paddle steamers and fishing etc. Any members interested in attending either the camping weekend 24-26 April, or the paddle event 27 April – 3 May should contact Chris VK3QB direct for more info.

All members are encouraged to visit the websites and read about the critical issues of Kidney Health and Organ Donation. Please direct any questions to Chris VK3QB.

Airways Museum at Essendon March 28

On the 28th March 2010 the staff at the Airways Museum at Essendon have agreed to open this unique facility only to our members. This is an aircraft museum without aircraft as it specialises in communication and what it takes to keep these aircraft flying. The bus will leave the club rooms at 10am and then pickup at Hungry Jack's car park Cranbourne North and head along the South Gippsland highway then Dandenong Rd to the city. We will visit areas around Tullamarine and then have a BBQ lunch before visiting the museum at 2pm. Afternoon tea is provided and it is expected that we start home about 4pm and will be returning along the same route.

Payment of \$15.00 is required to secure your seat on the bus as seats are limited. This includes bus fare, the museum admission, lunch and afternoon tea.

For more information www.airwaysmuseum.com

A camera will almost be a necessity for this club trip and it is highly recommended that one be taken. There is a surprise location you will not want to miss.

SPARE RADIOS WANTED FOR GGREC 6 m REPEATER.

As you may be aware, there has been ongoing work involving the upgrading of the Club's 6m repeater at Cockatoo. This repeater has been in operation for 20 years and has served well. However as part of its upgrade, we are looking for some radios to install in the new repeater. If you have any radios that you think may be suitable for this project, and are willing to part with them for a price or as a donation, we would greatly appreciate knowing about them, as we are at the stage with the project that requires interfacing with the RF section. The processor driven controller is working on the bench and is in its final testing phase but without the radios, the last design work has to wait.

Cont'd page 14

No, he's
not drunk
it's
passion!!

Chris with
the club's
just ac-
quired
Bencher
keyer.



A complicated looking critter, with lots of exposed 'live' bits hopefully they won't come in contact with anything nasty. This one is not the iambic version, you only press either key for a string of dots or dashes. The iambic version allows you to press both and generate a string of di-dah's

*[Words and photos by Paul Stubbs
VK3TGX]*



Reg VK3UK & Ian VK3BUF receive their life membership certificates.

Words and photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



HAMFEST HAMFEST HAMFEST HAMFEST HAMFEST

It's that time of year again. Table bookings are open for our annual Hamfest – get in quickly before we publicise the event more widely. If you'd like a table please refer to the attached document and get your booking & payment in smartly. Payment of \$20 (no change to last year) is required up front to secure your table.

Scout Radio & Electronics Service Unit, Victoria

is conducting a

Field Activity Readiness Test

When = Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 - March 2010

Where = Camping ground at Upper Yarra Dam.

(http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources05/05_0481.pdf)

Purpose = To test the ability of Amateur Radio Operators to deploy into the field and supply health and welfare communications for an activity.

The scenario is a hiking event over a forty three (43) hour period. Distance is usually under twenty (20) Kilometers square in mountain country. Friday 2000Hrs to Sunday 1500Hrs would be the normal Scouting format. Forests being fickle places for communications the usual system is VHF 2M via our own repeater as the primary system, with 80M as the backup.

Because UHF CB is a very popular communication medium amongst Scouts and the Leaders, this is also to be monitored. For the F.A.R.T. Camp weekend those who are available can arrive Saturday and make two days of it, for those who are short on time, arrive early Sunday set up, join in the activities, have a BBQ lunch and leave late Sunday afternoon.

Why = Amateurs are being called upon to provide communications expertise for all manner of events and emergencies.

= to see how other operators are set up.

= discuss the pro's and con's of each idea being used.

= raise the operational capability level of all.

= and to SOCIALISE, remember that???

Costs, nearly forgot, camping fees are under \$10.00 per day per person.

Toilets and showers on site. BYO food. See the Parks Vic website above for fire policy.

Further camp information from the phone numbers below or the Email address above.

SRESU information available at www.sresu.asn.au

Yours in Scouting and Amateur Communications.

Arthur Greaves.

Scout Radio & Electronics Service Unit.

03 9808 0731 A/h 0418 331 368 Mob

Event Queue

Upcoming Events

Tue Mar 2nd	8:00pm	GGREC Broadcast	145.450 & 3.670+QRM
Mon Mar 8th	9:30pm	ILLW Practice Walk	Punchbowl to Kilcunda
Fri Mar 19th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Sun Mar 28th	2:00pm	Visit to Aeronautical Museum	Essenden Airport
Mon Mar 29th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Fri Apr 16th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Fri Apr 16th	8:00pm	Annual General Meeting	Guide Hall
Mon Apr 26th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Tue Apr 27th		Murray River Paddle for Kidneys	Murray River 27 April – 3 May
Wed Jun 16th		VIA Centenary Event	Koo Wee Rup - June 16-18
Sat Jul 17th	10:00am	GGREC Hamfest	Cranbourne Public Hall
Sat Aug 21st		ILLW at Wilsons Prom	Wilsons Prom Lighthouse

Cont'd from page 1RS satellites or AO7, from that point I was hooked but being young and at school and not much money these desires would have to wait. My first commercial piece of equipment was a Yaesu FRG7 receiver which I saved for from selling papers. I still have this radio and enjoy using it from time to time. About the age of 15 I discovered girls and radio took a huge back seat only to pick it up again in my early twenties. When I got my first call my passion for homebrew was rekindled and I constructed a DSE Commander 2m transceiver and had a lot of fun with it. After getting a "K" call I started constructing a polyphase transmitter for 40m and a CW transmitter on 80m. With these I had many fine contacts around Australia and with the 80m CW tx I also had a contact with a state side station and all on 5 watts. The polyphase TX had an output of 3 watts and with it I worked all states of Australia and into NZ. My second piece of commercial gear was a second hand Yaesu FT 102 so I could work international stations which I also still have and enjoy using. My passion for satellite communication was rekindled when I built a 2m converter that I used on my FRG7 and used my FT 102 for the uplink on 21mhz on RS15. With this set up I worked all of Australia and NZ. Over the years I have built other pieces of equipment and purchased more commercial equipment.

Now that I have given you a snapshot of my love of amateur radio and from this you can see that I enjoy homebrew and satellite communication I will lead into what I will talk to you about at the March meeting. I will give you my experiences using a hand held 2m 70cm transceiver to communicate through some of the low earth orbit birds past and present. I hope that I can generate some interest in how easy it can be to have your first contact through one of the birds with equipment you currently own and also describe a handheld yagi that is easy to construct. I will also describe how easy it is to work one of the satellites just using your vertical at home. The second part of my talk if time permits will be on my other *cont'd over*

Cont'd from previous page BRENTON VOWLES VK3CBV

hobby amateur astronomy, and my entry into the very dark hole of astrophotography, pun intended. I will describe my equipment and how I turn my digital data into the images I will show you. Oh and yes the photo shows me doing my other "other" hobby flyfishing but that's another story. Look forward to seeing you all.

Regards from *Brenton VK3CBV*.

Cont'd from page 9 **Radios Needed**

If you can help with equipment or information regarding where we might obtain some gear, please let either Geoff VK3ZGW or myself know and we will take it from there. Thank you. Albert VK3BQO

cont'd from page opposite **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2010**

Payments to Treasurer.

Bunnings BBQ - Brian reported on the activity, and thanked those who were involved. He received a call from Bunnings inviting us to do more days. We are now on a standby list. The event raised \$865.01 profit. Chris asked for thoughts on the regularity of the event. Discussion ensued around a 6 monthly involvement, maybe January and August. The Secretary will write a letter to Bunnings requesting a January date repeat and one in August.

Centre Victoria Hamfest – Chris reported that some club members attended. There were lots of bargains and old faces recognised.

New business :

ARV Radios - Chris read out email from ARV about Motorola Syntrex radios that are available to clubs and asked if members were interested. No real interest.

6M Repeater – Albert reported on a working bee two weeks ago. The 6M antenna was raised but sadly the interference is now stronger. A good contact has been made with a technician for a phone carrier at the site. Please send an email to Albert VK3BQO or Geoff VK3ZGW any time a member hears interference.

Life membership Certificates - were presented to Ian VK3BUF and Reg VK3UK marking their 2004 investiture.

Appreciation certificate – was presented to Steve VK3EGD for his work on the web-site.

VK3KHA - Chris reported on status of his project and answered questions.

New paddle – the new Morse paddle has arrived and was shown to members.

Meeting closed : 9:00 pm

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 22nd March Next Prac Night : Friday 5th

March Next General Meeting : Friday 19th March

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2010



Date : 16 Feb 2010

Start time : 8:10 pm.

Location : Guide Hall.

Chairperson : Chris VK3QB

Minute Taker : Steve VK3EGD

Guest Speaker: Ian VK3BUF presented on his solar power project.

Present : Attendance sheet

Visitors and guests : nil

Apologies : Brenton VK3CBV, Russell VK3MWR, Grahame VK3XK, Susan VK3LOV, Geoff VK3ZGW, Maria, Ron VK3EXJ, Ray VK3CEO, Phil VK3YB, Henry VK3FHTV, Maree VH3FSAT.

Correspondence received : listed

Correspondence sent : listed

Treasurer's report : **Read :** Albert VK3BQO **Moved :** Albert VK3BQO **Seconded :** Reg VK3UK **Carried :** yes **Income :** \$2,354.65 **Expenditure :** \$2,217.02 **Balance :** \$83.63 **Total :** \$6,783.58

New Call signs : nil

Previous Minutes : **Read :** as per magazine **Moved :** Mike VK3KTO **Seconded :** Pat VK3OZ **Approved**

Business arising from the previous minutes :

ILLW - all monies have now been paid – Those partaking to meet after this meeting.

VK100WIA – Graeme VK3BXG outlined the activity in June and reported on progress of planning including the UK involvement and the Historical Society at Koo Wee Rup. Chris asked for feedback on alternative plans, and asked who would be willing to operate from Koo Wee Rup. 12 hands went up.

Event queue - Chris asked for ideas from members.

Call books - still a couple left for sale.

Club rules - no progress.

Club badges – the new badges are now available and the first lot have arrived - \$13 each from the Treasurer.

Aeronautical museum - Brian reported on the planning for Sunday 28th March. A