



# GATEWAY

April 2010

**NEXT MEETING** Friday April 16 2010 at 8 pm

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

**TOPIC:** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**SPEAKER:** Chris Chapman VK3QB

*Photo: Paul Stubbs*

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



## Brenton VK3CBV's Satellite Talk

I'm not sure what the connection was between working satellites and the Black Ad-der. Give Brenton VK3CBV a call on 2 and ask him! A hand held 70cm & 2m crossed Yagi antenna will yield excellent results. Brenton also mentioned having success using just the rubber duckie antenna on a hand held. LEO stands for Low Earth Orbit. Open your radio's mute, when the satellite approaches you should hear a change. Don't just wait for voices. *Words and photos*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEO SATELLITES

- June 23 1987 Russia launched RS-10 RS-11 aboard COSMOS 1861
- Within hours of launch G3IOR had a QSO using the new bird W0CY soon followed
- Early LEO's used 15 meters up 10 meters down
- The new birds also had 2 meters



Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club

## **AN INVITATION TO STALLHOLDERS**

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the Club shall be conducting its annual HAMFEST for the sale of new and used electronics and radio equipment. As per last year, the venue will be at the **Cranbourne Community Hall** on the corner of Clarendon and High streets, Cranbourne. [NB High Street is part of the Sth Gippsland Highway. Melway 133 K4.]

The club takes pleasure in offering you the opportunity to become a Seller at our 2010 event. Forty tables will be available for stall holders, but demand will be high as usual. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

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

The \$20 fee must be paid in full to the Club within 7 days *of booking your table*. Cancellations made more than 14 days prior to the event will be given a full refund by cheque.

To make a booking contact **Chris Chapman VK3QB** on **0429 187 593**. Or email details to [hamfest@ggrec.org.au](mailto:hamfest@ggrec.org.au) Payment may be made by sending a cheque or money order (payable to 'GGREC') to Post Office Box 1098 Cranbourne 3977 or by direct payment to: **BSB 633000 ACC 134761279** with remittance advice to Chris upon transfer. If you do a direct transfer please include your callsign/name and "Hamfest" on the transfer.

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

Upon receipt of the \$20 fee and contact details, a **Booking Number** will be posted with a receipt of payment.

**IMPORTANT! No booking is confirmed until this number has been received by the Stall Holder.**

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

Transfer of your booking to another person is not permitted. Please contact Chris if you cannot attend or wish to discuss your booking.

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

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*



This month is the Annual General Meeting (16<sup>th</sup> April). It will follow the normal monthly General Meeting and as usual, all committee positions will be declared vacant. We have nominations for a number of positions already with the secretary, but please consider how you may be able to help the club, and whether a role on the committee is for you. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Steve Harding VK3EGD for further information at least 7 days before the AGM.

Each year I believe it's important to take stock of what we've done and where we are going and I wanted to take a little time this month to reflect on what the club has ac-

complished in the past 12 months.

*[Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX]*

Here is a list of items from May 2009.

- \* Provide 2-4 education sessions
- \* Investigate internet connectivity at the rooms
- \* Grow the membership
- \* Have 4-6 social outings
- \* Continue to encourage kit building
- \* Continue with club room maintenance and improvement

I think it's fair to say that as a club we did pretty well against these items. We could have done more with education but the opportunities simply did not present themselves. A thorough investigation on internet connectivity was undertaken and it was decided that we would not proceed with this proposal.

We have had a growth in membership and we welcome the new members who have joined GGREC in the last year – I hope that you have found the club interesting and welcoming.

From the feedback I have received I think the social activities

*Cont'd over*

**From the president ...** *Chris Chapman VK3QB* *from page 5*

have been about right – and having a social secretary (thanks Brian VK3BSN) has assisted the committee no end in making social events a success; and this includes the “radio events” which in more ways than one double up as good socials. We could probably do more kit building, but again, like education, the opportunities and interest levels have not presented themselves.

Lastly to club room maintenance and improvement initiatives: overall I believe we have made positive progress, and on behalf of all members I thank Bruno VK3BFT for taking on the role of Equipment and Facilities Officer.

We purchased the new FT-950 HF and 6 metre radio – and it’s been very pleasing to see this getting some use on many bands – including 6 metres. Maybe in the upcoming year we can construct a better antenna for the “magic band”?

Financially the club has had a very good year. We are closing the year with about a 15% increase in cash assets; this comes on top of a major expenditure of \$2,300 for our new FT-950 radio. This strong financial position enables the club to provide good facilities and equipment for members, and perhaps most importantly, we can keep our annual membership fees at \$37. We are able to achieve this through sound financial management (thanks Albert VK3BQO) and the active involvement of many members in our major fund raiser, the annual Hamfest. Another good fund raising event this past year was the Bunnings BBQ – and on behalf of all members I thank Brian VK3BSN for organising this and also to the members who helped on the day.

I hope that as you read this you reflect on the year gone *Continued page 9*



## STRAYS

By Graeme Brown VK3BXG

### “I give you the boy, you give me the man”

Lee Marvin, from “Paint your Wagon”

“Come with me kid and I’ll show you the real world!” was often my first words when being introduced to some poor innocent who was about to spend some work-experience time with us.

I realised that they were there to learn and let them know that and too much physical work was not expected and that they would not ever be put in a dangerous situation or expected to do anything they were not comfortable in doing.

But being with animal health and welfare with Primary Industries we used to get a fair share of girls who only wanted to be vets so they could be around horses – however a morning at the abattoirs soon fixed that! Nevertheless it was offered to all as it was the only occasion where a little bit of help with specimen collection was appreciated by me.

Apart from this, working from the Dairy Research Station at Ellinbank, students were there for other reasons, some for dairying, and some for laboratory experience – with various aptitudes.

So it happened one day that the laboratory senior approached me. She told me of this boy they had for work experience. He was hopeless, useless and could I take him for a day or two. I agreed, met the boy and then arranged to pick him up outside his front gate at 6am for a 7am start at the abattoirs.

All was fine I thought, until I received a phone call from him that evening complaining it was “too early, too dark and too cold” and he did not want to go. Not a problem I can manage. About half an hour later I received a ‘phone call from his father and at first thought I was in trouble. The father was quite abrupt. “About tomorrow!” he said, “he **is** going! Right! And will be at the gate at 6 o’clock. Right!” So it was that I picked him up in the cold predawn winter morning and we proceeded to the job for specimen collection.

In the predawn twilight we were outside doing an identification check to see that all our victims were present when out through the door steps Tonga Tony – a solid muscular Polynesian who would rather have a fight than a feed. “Eh boy,” he taunts “you should be at schule!” “He is!” I replied, “he’s learning how the other half live.” “Yes,” interrupted the meat inspector, “and after we’re finished here I’m taking him down to a massage-parlour.” With that a smirk went up on everyone’s face – even our student’s. *Cont’d page 9*



### PAM VK3NK WOWS THE ALARANS

At the recent ALARA lunch, hostess Pam McDiarmid VK3NK, a very talented artisan [painter, sketcher, sculptor, wood carver and turner, and musician] as well as radio amateur, showed her latest creation, a copy of a 10th century French/Hungarian hurdi-gurdi, a musical instrument which has strings and wooden keys as well as a brass handle. It also has a carved woman's head for the prow, and it sounds a bit like bagpipes. Here Alara junior, Teagan, tries her hand.

Pam used marine ply as well as walnut, and another finer timber, and cut the brass handle herself using an angle grinder. *EDITOR [Photo Jean Fisher VK3VIP]*



## 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](http://www.vk3kha.org) or [www.paddleforkidneys.net](http://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 .

### STRAYS *Cont'd from page 7*

But he worked well for me over the next day or so and I had no complaints. The day after I returned him to the laboratory I was asked by the laboratory staff "what did you do to him? He is totally different! And all in one day!"

All he needed was to spend a morning with real men and the "other half" of society. And what has this to do with Amateur Radio? Absolutely nothing, but it has helped me relate with the kids at JOTA if that helps. *Graeme VK3BXG*

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

and like me, feel that the club has had a successful and enjoyable year. If this gives you time to pause and think about what you would like to see in the upcoming year then please, put your hand up and let the committee know your thoughts. Or, better still, volunteer to help the committee by organising or participating in the events that you enjoy.

In closing, HF conditions continue to improve – since the last month I've only spent limited time on-air, but have been very pleased to hear a lot more activity on the higher bands, and have also worked 2 new countries for my DXCC. I am looking forward to the contest season and hope that VK3BJA can put in some good results again! 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. I look forward to seeing as many as members possible at our AGM.

Til next month, vry 73 /Chris VK3QB -...- --

### Yes, it's that magical time of year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honouring the least evolved among us!

Here is the glorious winner: When his 38 calibre revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked! *A-nony-nony-mus*



### IAN JACKSON'S SOLAR ROTATOR

Ian VK3BUF originally used an antenna rotator, but it didn't last long, stripping a gear.

He is a bit puzzled by the oil leak from the bolt on the top, one would assume the leak would be in the bottom, weird...

Opposite: The gear box in Albert's hand was a second option, Ian went for the larger unit.



More from  
Brenton  
on satellite  
Amateur  
radio

## FM bird etiquette

- Work out when bird is over your location using one of the many tracking programs
- Listen, listen and then listen some more
- Doppler will affect your receive signal
- The most important thing is make sure you can hear the bird
- If you cannot hear the bird **DO NOT TRANSMIT**



# Moorabbin and District Radio Club.

# HAMFEST

**10 am Saturday 8th May 2010**

**Location - BRENTWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE**  
Watsons Road, Glen Waverley. Melways Reference 71 D7 (Enter via Heath Street.)

- \* GREAT VENUE
- \* PLENTY OF SPACE
- \* MELBOURNE'S BIGGEST
- \* DOOR PRIZES
- \* MAJOR PRIZE RAFFLE

The Moorabbin & District Radio Club have much pleasure in inviting you to participate in VK3's BIGGEST ANNUAL HAMFEST  
Snacks and hot food will be available.  
Talk in via VK3REC 2M repeater on 147.175MHz and on 439.900 70cm VK3RSE

**Lots of prizes to be won**

*www.mdrc.org.au*

## Event Queue

### Upcoming Events

Mon Mar 29th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Fri Apr 2nd	8:00pm	Natter Night	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Thu Apr 8th	8:00pm	<a href="#">Morsecodeians</a>	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Tue Apr 13th	8:00pm	<a href="#">GGREC Broadcast</a>	145.450 & 3.670+QRM
Fri Apr 16th	8:00pm	General Meeting	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Fri Apr 16th	8:00pm	Annual General Meeting	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Mon Apr 26th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Shack</a>
Tue Apr 27th		<a href="#">Murray River Paddle for Kidneys</a>	<a href="#">Murray River 27 April – 3 May</a>
Fri May 21st	8:00pm	General Meeting	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Wed Jun 16th		<a href="#">VIA Centenary Event</a>	Koo Wee Rup - June 16-18
Sat Jun 26th		Mid-year Dinner	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Sat Jul 17th	10:00am	<a href="#">GGREC Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Cranbourne Public Hall</a>
Sat Aug 21st		<a href="#">ILLW at Wilsons Prom</a>	<a href="#">Wilsons Prom Lighthouse</a>

### APRIL PUB NIGHT 17<sup>th</sup> April

Following the AGM we'll have a pub night on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April at the Highway Pub in Sandown. Arrive 6.30pm for 7pm meal. Please direct enquiries to Brian VK3BSN or contact a committee member for more details.

### ARE YOU A FOUNDATION LICENSEE WANTING TO UPGRADE?

If you hold an "F" call and would like to update, please contact a committee member and we'll see what we can do to assist with mentoring and support from more experienced club members.

GGREC NEWS BROADCAST Next broadcast is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. NOTE \*\* Now on Club repeater and 3.670 +QRM \*\*

Please get your news items in to [news@ggrec.org.au](mailto:news@ggrec.org.au)

### And now, the Darwin awards honourable mentions:

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and after a little shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved. A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

*A-nony-nony-mus*

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2010**

**Date:** 19 Mar 2010

**Start time :** 08:10 pm.

**Location :** Guide Hall.

**Chairperson :** Chris VK3QB

**Minute Taker :** Steve VK3EGD

**Guest Speaker:** presented on working satellites

**Present :** Attendance sheet

**Visitors and guests :** nil

**Apologies :** Maria, Ron VK3EXJ, Phil VK3YB, Geoff VK3ZGW, Henry VK3FHTV & Maree VK3FSAT

**Correspondence received :** listed

**Correspondence sent :** listed

**Treasurer's report :**

**Read :** Albert VK3BQO **Moved :** Albert VK3BQO **Seconded :** Bruno VK3BFT **Carried. Income :** \$303.00 **Expenditure :** \$950.10 **Balance :** \$-647.10

**Total :** \$6236.48

**New Call signs :** nil

**Previous Minutes :** **Read :** as per magazine **Moved :** Steve VK3EGD **Seconded :** Brian VKBSN **Approved.**

**Business arising from the previous minutes :**

*VK100WIA* - Chris overviewed the current timeline & cut-off dates. Pat asked about the plaque. Chris asked for a volunteer to organise the display. No takers.

*Event queue* – After April meeting need speakers schedule - For May Megan will present on WIA AGM in Canberra.

*Call books* – There are still two available

*Club badges* – Place orders with the Treasurer - Megan and Brian indicated they require badges.

*Airways Museum* - Bus now not going - 12 showed interest - meet at museum 2pm.

*6M Repeater* - Bruno reported on the current status. Receiver seems deaf, but still picking up interference. He needs to go back and investigate further.

*Frankston Water Tower* - Bruno reported on survey. The Antenna looks like a pelican hit it and needs a working bee to tidy up the site.

**New business :**

*Hamfest* – Chris reported bookings coming in - details on the website.

*3GDR* - Chris asked about interest for a tour - some takers.

*Cont'd opposite*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 2009**

**Date:** 17 APR 2009

**Start time:** 08:30 PM.

**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne.

**Chairperson:** Ian Jackson VK3BUF

**Minute Taker:** Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

**Present:** See Attendance Sheet

**Visitors and Guests:** Nil

**Apologies:** Grahame Coleman VK3YCG and Susan Coleman VK3FXXX, Ron and Judy, Time Morgan VK3FTIM, Henry Vandeligt VK3FHTV & Maree Vandeligt VK3FSAT.

**Correspondence Received:**

**Correspondence Sent:**

**Treasurer's Report:** (preliminary) **Read by:** Albert VK3BQO **Moved By:** Albert VK3BQO **Seconded By:** Helmut Inhoven VK3DHI **Carried.**

**Income:** \$ 7585.88 **Expenditure:** \$7812.87 **Balance:** \$-226.99

Club Auditor Tom Wilson will shortly audit books

Assets – bank \$5589.95, fixed \$47,555 total \$53,144.95

General discussion about assets.

**Previous Minutes:** As printed in Gateway were read by Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

Moved: Brian Smith VK3NBS Seconded: Geoff Clifton VK3HGG: approved.

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

**New Business:**

All committee positions were declared vacant

Nominations

President – Chris Chapman VK3QB, Treasurer – Albert Hubbard VK3BQO, Secretary – Steve Harding VK3EGD, Member – Max Hill VK3TMK, Member – Graeme Brown VK3BXG. All elected unopposed

**Meeting Closed at around 9:05 PM.**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2010** *Continued from opposite*

Meeting closed : 8:35 pm

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 29th March

Next Prac Night : Friday 2nd April

Next General Meeting : Friday 16th April