



GATEWAY

June 2010

NEXT MEETING Friday June 11 2010 at 8 pm

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

Photo shows *KOO WEE RUP AWA ' Shack ' during the 1921 QSO .



*BE THERE!! JUNE 16-18 IN *"BLACKFISH SWIMMING" TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST DIRECT PRESS MESSAGE FROM CAERNARFON, WALES*

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

LATE FINAL EXTRA

The club's plans for the historical re-enactment of the first direct press message received by Australia from the UK in 1921 and the WIA's centenary celebrations are progressing very well

Some dates for inclusion in your calendars.

- The clubs use of the VK100WIA callsign commences on Wednesday 16th June and concludes at midnight on Friday 18th June. We will continue to operate the station over the weekend (National Museums Weekend) using VK3BJA – we expect to have the station set-up and operational by mid morning on Wednesday 16th and will commence take-down mid afternoon on the Sunday.
- On Friday 18th June we will be unveiling a commemorative plaque in co-operation with the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society and the WIA. The actual unveiling will take place at 3pm and will be followed by tea and coffee at the Historical Society rooms. The local Mayor and Member of Parliament will be in attendance as well as the WIA President, Michael Owen, VK3KI.

On Saturday 19th June we'll have a celebration dinner with the Historical Society at the Koo-Wee-Rup Royal Hotel, commencing 6.30pm. Could any members who wish to attend this dinner please let me (Chris VK3QB) know so that we can finalise the numbers. All meals and drinks will be at normal pub prices. A lot of effort has gone into planning this event – however, the one element we cannot plan or control is propagation – but we certainly hope that we have success with the re-enactment. We'll have IRLP as a backup. The sub-committee invites all members to participate in this event, even if its just attending the plaque unveiling or the celebration dinner on Saturday night. If anyone has any questions please contact Graeme, VK3BXG, Steve VK3EGD or Chris VK3QB.

A-nony-nony-mus

Last night my friend and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of life at all. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." So she got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out my wine. What a witch!

Photos by Pat Pavay VK3OZ who accompanied our intrepid president on his recent row down the



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 Brenton Vowles VK3CBV (5944 4258)
Committee Members: Nev VK3ADG and Bruno VK3BFT

Magazine Editor : Susan Coleman VK3LOV
Magazine Photographer : Paul VK3TGX www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net
Magazine Printer : David Wright VK3FW
Distribution Snail Mail : Rosalind Wright
Distribution Email : Stephen Harding VK3EGD
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 GGREC Inc and GGREC Inc cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

Box
of
ra-
dio's.
Anyone?



Words and photos Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

The Real Junk

Bruno VK3BFT with some candidates for a computer museum.

Don't try to outsmart your Dad

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.' The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut. The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair...and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.' To this his father replied, 'Did you also notice they walked everywhere they went?' A-nony-nony-mus

WEARY BONES UNDER A MURRAY RIVER RED GUM



photo

Pat

Pavey

VK30Z

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

Photo by Paul VK3TGX

Before I forget. **The General Meeting this month will be on Friday 11th June – not the 18th June.** This change in date is due to the scheduling conflict with our 1921 re-enactment and VK100WIA activities at Koo-Wee-Rup.

A quick reminder to members – annual membership fees were due at the AGM in April. If you have not yet paid your membership fees please bring along some cash to the June meeting, or pay via internet banking – and don't forget to put your call-sign on the transaction details so Brenton knows who the money is from!

As you all know June is a very busy and exciting month for the club. We will be re-enacting the first direct press communications between the UK and Australia which took place in 1921 in Koo-Wee-Rup. This re-enactment is coupled with our involvement in the WIA's centenary celebrations and use of the VK100WIA callsign. Plans are almost finalised and we'll go over the details at the June meeting.

July is our annual Hamfest. Preparations for this event are also moving along very well, and if you want a table you better get in quick smart. As of 1st June there are only 8 tables left. I am very pleased to report that we have some excellent door prizes on offer too – from Yaesu and Jaycar – but you'll have to be there to win! On behalf of the club I extend our thanks to Jaycar and Yaesu for donating significant prizes.

Where will GGREC be in 12-24 months?

Last month I asked members to provide me with some ideas or wishes as to where you would like to see the club going over the next 12-24 months. At the recent committee meeting we spent a considerable amount of time discussing how we, as a club, should formulate such a strategy. The committee agreed that it is not necessarily the job of the committee to set the strategy – the committee's job is to implement and manage the strategy.

Continued next page

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

At the June meeting I would like to take some time for members to discuss and present ideas for this strategy. To help with this process the committee proposes the following as a starting point (these are just examples), as well as posing some questions that I hope will get the grey matter agitated.

1. Radio and electronic activities

- Contest participation and station capability (currently HF and somewhat limited).
- Improving operating skills & procedures
- Kit construction activities
- Projects to improve club facilities

2. Use of our sites

GGREC has 3 main sites.

1. Cockatoo – where our 6 metre repeater is located
2. Cranbourne – our club room and location of our 70cm repeater VK3RLP and HF station.
3. Frankston Water Tower – 1.2Ghz and 2.4Ghz beacons - currently not functioning to spec and not maintained

As a supplementary, our IRLP node (node 6794 connected to VK3RLP, our 70cm repeater) is hosted by Steve VK3EGD at his home QTH as the club rooms do not have internet connectivity.

How would members like to see these sites and facilities used in the future?

3. Potential use of new and complimentary technologies

Should the club invest in a new computer that can control the FT-950 and provide more functionality for other purposes?

Would members like to lead/participate in a club project or initiative to investigate and implement technologies we currently don't use? Eg. D-Star, digital TV, data communications (eg. JT65), SHF communications, UHF/VHF DX, construction of a 2.4Ghz link for internet connectivity at the club rooms etc

4. Social activities

At present our social activities primarily revolve around:

- Natter nights

Cont'd page 10

CELEBRATE 100 AMATEUR YEARS

By Steve Harding VK3EGD

On June 16th to 18th 2010 GGREC will be re-enacting the historically important reception of the very first direct press message sent from the UK to Australia, which was received at 5am on the 5th December 1921 by a Mr. T. W. Bearup at an AWA experimental receiving station established at Koo Wee Rup ["abor. Blackfish swimming" or "Plenty of Blackfish"]

With the highly appreciated cooperation of the Dragon Radio Club in Wales, it is intended that the re-enacted message be transmitted from the original Marconi MUJ station buildings at the original Waunfawr location in Caernarfon, Wales, UK, to the original location of the AWA manned Experimental Station site in Koo Wee Rup.

This first message and the many that followed it over the next six months proved that direct radio communication between the UK and Australia could be reliable and therefore commercially viable.

It would also lead to the crucial discovery of long path transmissions, and then the effect of ionospheric propagation that varied between day and night. These fundamental principles that were discovered in Koo Wee Rup are still used by radio amateurs and professionals to this day to predict the best signal paths for radio transmissions around the planet.

We will be using the special event call sign VK100WIA for the duration of the re-enactment to align the activity as part of the WIA celebrations. Contacts and QSL will be made by the station at Koo Wee Rup to all callers, with a concentration on UK stations. The station will be listening and calling on several bands, and will be coordinating activities through IRLP Node 6794. *Steve VK3EGD*

STOP PRESS We need to get our operator roster for VK100WIA finalised. If you would like to be an operator, or man the information/display table during this event, please contact me or Graeme VK3BXG to indicate your availability.

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB* *Continued from page 8*

4. Social activities cont'd

- Club meetings
- Regular pub nights
- Mid-Year dinner
- Christmas BBQ

Do members have any other forums or ideas on the social front? Meeting with other clubs?

5. Attracting new members

The future of our club and our hobby lies with attracting new and young members. This is a challenge that all clubs and the WIA must step up to if we really want to be enjoying our hobby for years to come. How can we approach this challenge?

I encourage all members, and especially the newer members to participate in this process. What do you want to get out of the club over the next 12-24 months?

Please have a think and let me know president@ggrec.org.au.

As always, please refer to the Club's web site for the most up-to-date calendar of events and news. See you at the June meeting (don't forget, Friday 11th) – and don't forget to wear your silly shirt! Til next month, vry 73 /Chris VK3QB -...- -- . . .

A-nony-nony-mus

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers....

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business.

He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?" From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

My Sundays at the Melbourne Museum

By Graeme Brown VK3BXG

I am certainly not the best Morse code operator in the world and I was taken back recently

when I was offered a Sunday job by the Senior Public Programs officer at the

Melbourne Museum.

My "Working with Children" registration, I also learnt, secured me the job.

It proved to be a



Courtney and her dad learning the theory. (Photographed with dad's permission)

promotional activity in conjunction with the Titanic Artifacts Exhibition now currently on display at the Museum. Children or anyone for that matter are given an A5 size card with a detailed coloured picture of the Titanic on the front. They are then invited to write their names on the back of the card from top to bottom and then format it into the dot and dashes with a little help from the code printed on the side – a Morse code activity. *(I showed one of these cards to Yarn, VK3NOV who takes the Morse code classes at our JOTA and he agreed it is exactly the way he does it).*

Nevertheless, at the beginning I asked what I was expected to do and the job description was "demonstration of Morse code and telegraphy equipment" – mainly to the volunteers and assist with children on Sundays. The problem was there was **no** telegraphy equipment; plenty of volunteers though!

So it was I started off with my own key and

Cont'd over

Cont'd from previous page [My Sundays at the Melbourne Museum](#)

my very quiet tone oscillator. This is fine for a one on one but proved inadequate among four or five volunteers. We also agreed that it would also add some fun to the children if they could attempt to send their names in Morse code, and no matter how terrible it might sound.

So it was agreed we needed five keys and five tone units.

With budget constraints I searched the net but could only find two keys in Australia that were within price so bought them to keep the programme moving. For tone oscillators I put together three piezo-buzzers and a battery in small cases but ultimately I was not happy the quality of the sound— we needed something more professional especially for an international class museum.

Meanwhile my web-searching had bought up a supplier in Colorado USA who specialised in Morse equipment – keys and tone oscillators and all could be shipped out within seven days and well within budget. So I decided on five K4 Ameco straight keys and five Ameco code practice oscillators which upon arrival proved to be of very good quality and very professional in appearance.

When I demonstrated these at the Museum for the first time on 9th May all involved commented on how nice it all looked with a comment that the tone oscillators seemed to have that 60's look about them. Also the set of ex-military 1960's headphones now looks the part if parents wish to take a photograph of their child.

As we all know there is no easy way to learn the code – weeks, months and even years of monotonous repetitious listening. I decided in this case to teach the volunteers the theory of the correct timing of the characters, the spacing of the letters and words as most important and the correct hand position on the straight key – the same as Yarn does at JOTA. Finally I point out to them that the Morse code was not just randomly drawn up; it follows a pattern of letter usage as we all know.

In observing the volunteers and the permanent staff showing the children they have learnt well and I hear my words being echoed constantly and the volunteers always conclude with the important part Morse code played in the final call for help in the Titanic disaster.

This whole experience has been very humbling for me; that is to be given a free rein by the senior staff without question and except for the printed cards, to set up the whole practical demonstration for the public to participate.

Graeme VK3BXG

MID YEAR DINNER SATURDAY 26TH JUNE 2010.

Hot Roast Meats & Veggies Night



Yes folks it's that time of year again, time to get together in the Guide Hall and party.

Last year's dinner was such a success we have decided to do it again.

The 2010 Mid Year Dinner is one month away so get those imaginations working.

**This year's theme is
"Favourite TV Show Character"
so get dressing up.**

BYO Drinks, glasses, nibbles, metal cutlery if you don't like plastic.

Cost per person is \$15.00 payable in advance to our new treasurer Brenton VK3CBV



Upcoming Events

Thu Jun 3rd	8:00pm	Morsecodeians	Club Shack
Fri Jun 4th	8:00pm	Natter Night	Club Shack
Sun Jun 6th	10:00am	Working Bee	Club Shack
Tue Jun 8th	8:00pm	GGREC Broadcast	145.450 & 3.670+QRM
Fri Jun 11th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Wed Jun 16th		WIA Centenary Event	Koo Wee Rup - June 16-18
Sat Jun 19th		International Museums Weekend	KWRSHS Rooms Koo-Wee-Rup
Sat Jun 19th	6:30pm	Pub Night	Royal Hotel Koo-Wee-Rup
Sat Jun 26th		Mid-year Dinner	Guide Hall
Mon Jun 28th	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Fri Jul 16th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Sat Jul 17th	10:00am	GGREC Hamfest	Cranbourne Public Hall
Mon Jul 26th	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Sat Aug 21st		ILLW at Wilsons Prom	Wilsons Prom Lighthouse
Sat Sep 25th	6:30pm	Pub Night	TBA
Sat Nov 27th	6:30pm	Pub Night	TBA
Sat Dec 11th		Christmas breakup	TBA

You think English is easy???

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. .

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row...
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it..
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend? *A-nony-nony-mus*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES May 2010 *cont'd from opposite*

at the Highway Tabaret on the 29th.

Next meeting – Members were reminded that the next meeting is a week early on the 11th June.

Meeting closed : 20:36 pm

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 11th June (because of VK100WIA activities)

Next Prac Night : Friday 4th June General Meeting : Friday 18th June

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 2010

Date : 21 May 2010

Start time : 8:08 pm.

Location : Guide Hall.

Chairperson : Brenton VK3CBV (Chris VK3QB was absent)

Minute Taker : Steve VK3EGD

Guest Speaker: None due to Auction.

Present : Attendance sheet

Visitors and guests : Macca (Clinton) VK3FCJM.

Apologies : Chris VK3QB, Maria, Ron VK3EXJ, Judy, Tim VK3FTDM, Henry VK3FHTV, Maree VK3FSAT, Michael VK3GHM.

Correspondence received : incompletely listed and tabled

Correspondence sent : listed and tabled

Treasurer's report :

Read : Brenton VK3CBV **Moved :** Brenton VK3CBV **Seconded :** Albert VK3BQO

Carried. Income : \$978.70 **Expenditure :** \$40.75 **Balance :** \$937.95 **Total :** \$6,758.13

New Call signs : nil

Previous Minutes :

Correction – a verbal apology by Graeme VK3BXG was not presented or recorded.

Read : as per magazine **Moved :** Steve VK3EGD **Seconded :** Bruno VK3BFT **Approved.**

Business arising from the previous minutes :

VK100WIA - report from EGD on the progress of the event. Friday the 18th is the focus day. Graeme is managing the roster. **Moved** VK3EGD that the club expend up to \$500 on the purchase of a commemorative plaque. **Seconded** VK3BFT **Carried.** Graeme outlined the publicity efforts including the ABC. The Leader group was suggested. General discussion and questions followed.

VK3RDD – Is not performing well. Albert received his replacement antenna.

Hamfest – Only a few tables left.

Mid Year Dinner – Bruno reported on numbers. 20 booked so far. Theme is favourite TV character.

New business :

Kidney paddle – Pat VK3OZ reported on the activities. Chris paddled a full 160K, but had to slow down often to let the houseboat catch up!

ALARA – Russ VK3MWR noted the ALARA picture in the latest AR.

Pub night – Nev VK3ADG reminded members about pub night

Cont'd opposite