



# GATEWAY

January 2011

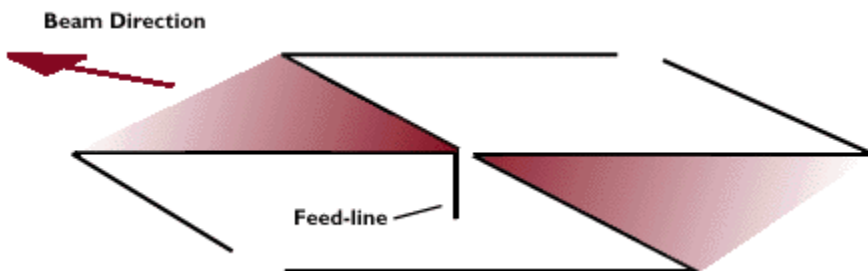
**NEXT MEETING:** Friday January 21 2011 at 8 pm

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

**TOPIC :** Building a Hexbeam HF Antenna

**SPEAKERS :** Chris Chapman VK3QB, Brian Smith VK3BSN

Brian and Chris are planning to present members with the materials and design for a 5 band (20-10mtrs), 2 element Hexbeam HF antenna. This will be a club project, so anyone interested in getting involved please come along. Brian VK3BSN has made up the critical component, which is the spreader base plate.



*More details on page 2*

**DON ' T MISS! DON ' T MISS! DON ' T MISS!**

**AUSTRALIA DAY BARBECUE AT THE CLUB JANUARY 26**

**BYO EVERYTHING**

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

## 2011 PROJECTS FOR THE CLUB

The club is looking at a number of projects for 2011.

One will be to build a 2 element 5 band Hex Beam (20-10mtrs). The base plate is the critical component to making these antennas successfully and Brian VK3BSN and Chris VK3QB are looking at getting a base plate for the hex beam manufactured locally.

For more info on this antenna go to <http://www.hexkit.com> or just type hex beam into google.

DXEngineering make another good product for this purpose (about US\$160 inc P&P)

These base plates can be purchased from the USA for circa \$110 plus p&p which is another \$50-60 – so say \$160. We are investigating a local supplier who can make them to spec. The price will depend on the number we get manufactured, but is likely to be in the range \$90-100.

This includes the laser cut hex plate with stainless steel bolts, washers and nuts plus 6 aluminium saddles to support the 25mm fiberglass rods. It does not include the fiberglass rods or wire.

The total cost to make one of these antennas will end up being as follows:

Base plate: \$90  
6 fibreglass rods: \$100  
Wire: \$10  
Misc hardware: \$20

Estimated total: \$220-240

To buy the finished product from the USA is in the order of \$550-650 plus postage. So this project is a significant saving compared to purchasing commercially as well as being a fun construction project.

Please email or speak to Chris if you are interested or need more details.

## CHRISTMAS BARBECUE GAMES RESULTS

*Thanks so much to Naree and Mike VK3KTO, and to Jenny and Reg VK3UK, for the trivia quiz, and the "PUT A BALL" respectively. Thanks to Maree VK3FSAT for two truly delicious pots of soup. And to Henry VK3FHTV for making the multiple salads. And to all those who generously brought dessert or nibbles to share. And to the wonderful washers up—what a marathon!*

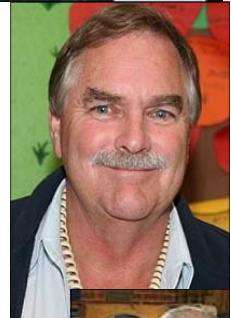
The Quiz was won by the team of Doug VK3KMN, Brian VK3BSN Bruno VK3BFT and Michael VK3GHM. They tipped the Jackson teams. Mike KTO had added some pretty tricky radio questions.

The "Put A Ball" in between uncontrollable hilarity was won by Albert VK3BQO with Naree a close second. Reg, you are so clever!!

22 people won pass the parcel!



Photos by Paul Stubbs  
VK3TGX



Doug  
VK3KMN had  
a good day. He  
also won the  
Hamper!



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 VK3UMM  
Magazine Photographer : Paul VK3TGX [www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net](http://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](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)

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Incorporation Number A0016893M

## LEARNING ABOUT MICROPROCESSORS IN 2011

At the General Meeting in November Ian gave a general introduction into modern one-chip microprocessors and the sort of things that can be achieved with them by hobby electronics enthusiasts.

GGREC is intending to stage an entry level course into the AVR family of microprocessors. This course, will take people from a very basic knowledge in electronic components to the point where they will be able to construct microprocessor based projects of their own and write programs for them.

This course is to be similar to the one conducted in 2007, but it will contain new material and run on Tuesday nights at the Guide Hall for 10 weeks spread from February 15 to May 17.

The course will include a USB style programmer for home or portable PC and an AVR development module for testing out designs programs. (This is in kit form and class members get to assemble it for themselves.) The course also includes a lot of notes and study materials.

Fee will be \$180 for all items. (People who already have access to an AVR serial programmer of their own can have the course fee reduced by \$65.)

Candidates will learn things like Assembly language programming, electronic motor speed control, serial communications, working with model servo motors, using LCD displays, electronically measuring analog voltages and sensors, scanning numeric keypads, driving relays and much more.

Each session will include elements of prac. and experimentation. Access to a portable pc is desirable, but you may be able to share with others during class sessions. Candidates completing the course will receive a class Certificate of Achievement. *More on Ian's talk page 8.*



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

I'll rehash my words from the November newsletter: "*What would you like to be doing with the club in 2011? Please give it some thought and let a committee member know. We are also madly looking for topics and presenters for the monthly meetings. 2010 became a bit of a struggle – cast your net wide and see what ideas you can come up with.*"

On the 26<sup>th</sup> January we'll be having our traditional Australia Day BBQ at the club rooms. This is always a fun day, so mark it in your calendar and bring along a snag or chop as well as a couple of extra chairs, and a beer.

At the November meeting the committee asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate the Hamfest. The GGREC Hamfest is our main revenue raiser and always receives good feedback from buyers and sellers alike. But like all such ventures, it needs a coordinator/leader, and if we don't have a volunteer by the end of January we'll be forced to cancel the event this year. Cancelling the Hamfest will require an increase in club membership fees this year. Please speak with a committee member if you think you may be able to help.

Major initiatives on the card for this year so far include:

- Rollout of the new RDD Controller
- The Microprocessor Course
- Remembrance Day Contest in August
- ILLW Weekend in August

We'll hope to add some more contests and projects to this list early in the year, and of course, some good social events.

On behalf of the committee I wish you and your family a successful, safe and healthy 2011. And, as usual, please refer to the Club's website for the most up-to-date calendar of events and news. I look forward to catching up with as many as possible at one of the events in January.

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

## From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

*Photo by Paul VK3TGX*



Well, I trust everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and I hope that, unlike me, you did not eat too much. And now it is time for the New Year resolutions list; the first being that I must try to do at least half the things I put on my list last year!

As a closing note to 2010, I would like to thank Susan for hosting a wonderful Christmas BBQ at the Coleman's house in Warnet. In spite of it being a somewhat windy and wet day (with a few rays of sun here and there) I think I can safely say that the day was enjoyed by all those who were able to

attend. Thanks Susan! Congratulations also to Doug VK3KMN who won the Christmas Raffle Hamper.

The club gets off to a flying start in January with the Summer VHF/UHF Field Day over the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> – if you would like to know more about this event, or to join us please drop me an email.

Our first club meeting for the year is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. Brian and I are planning to present members with the materials and design for a 5 band (20-10mtrs), 2 element Hexbeam HF antenna. This will be a club project, so anyone interested in getting involved please come along. Brian VK3BSN has made up the critical component, which is the spreader base plate. It will be a very short presentation just covering the components and a few design notes.

The remainder of the January meeting will be open forum for you to present and discuss what you'd like the club to be doing in 2011. Please give this some serious thought and share your ideas at the meeting, or if you'd prefer, send me an email. Let's make 2011 another fun and active year for the club with some new and interesting events; both technical and social.

*Continued opposite*

IAN'S MICRO COURSE INTRODUCTION at the November meeting



Before his talk, Ian gave us a demo of his new toy, A pen camera.

The other end of Ian's pen camera was a USB plug, so



it took almost no time to show us the picture, of us.





## IAN'S MICROPROCESSOR COURSE INTRO cont'd

Session 1: Binary, Hex and Decimal

Session 2: A guided tour of hardware within the AVR micro.

Session 3: Development board checks (assembly finalisation & test night)

### A-nony-nony-mus

Dispatcher : 9-1-1 What is your emergency?

Caller: I heard what sounded like gunshots coming from the brown house on the corner.

Dispatcher: Do you have an address?

Caller: No, I have on a blouse and slacks, why?

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What's the nature of your emergency?

Caller: My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart

Dispatcher: Is this her first child?

Caller: No, you idiot! This is her husband!

## A-nony-nony-mus

Two brooms were hanging in the cupboard and after a while they got to know each other so well, they decided to get married. One broom was, of course, the bride broom, the other the groom broom.

The bride broom looked very beautiful in her white dress. The groom broom was handsome and suave in his tuxedo. The wedding was lovely.

After the wedding, at the wedding dinner, the bride-broom leaned over and said to the groom-broom, "I think I am going to have a little whisk broom!"

"IMPOSSIBLE!" said the groom broom. "WE HAVEN'T EVEN SWEEPED TOGETHER!"

Testing children in a Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. I asked them, 'If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?'

'NO!' the children answered.

If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden, and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven?' Again, the answer was 'NO!'

By now I was starting to smile. 'Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?'

Again, they all answered 'NO!'.

I was just bursting with pride for them.

I continued, 'Then how can I get into heaven?'

A six year-old boy shouted out: "YUV GOTTA BE DEAD...."

## NEWS FROM QST

*In a December ex parte filing with the Federal Communications Commission, the ARRL made the case for the Commission to require mandatory notching of the amateur bands by companies providing Broadband over Power Line (BPL) services.*

*In another FCC filing concerning BPL, the ARRL documented ongoing harmful interference and egregious rules violations by systems installed by IBEC, Inc. in three US states.*

*The average daily sunspot numbers were up nearly 24 points this month [Jan 7] to 50, while the average daily solar flux rose more than 9 points to 89.5. The lagging three month average of daily sunspot numbers was down 3.5 points from last month 's average.*

*2011 started with "one of the most enjoyable contests on the calendar: " The ARRL RTTY Roundup, January 8 and 9. The goal was simple: make as many contacts as possible! " While any digital mode can be used in during the Roundup (including PSK31), radio teletype, better known as RTTY, is the undisputed king of this event. " Hams didn 't need to shout into a microphone or master high-speed CW to participate. They could type – even slowly – on a computer keyboard, to be qualified to try the RTTY Roundup.*

## A-nony-nony-mus

A man wakes up one morning in Alaska to find a bear on his roof. So he looks in the yellow pages and sure enough, there's an ad for "Bear Removers."

He calls the number, and the bear remover says he'll be over in 30 minutes.

He arrives, and gets out of his van. He's got a ladder, a baseball bat, a shotgun and a mean old pit bull.

"What are you going to do?" the homeowner asks.

"I'm going to put this ladder up against the roof, then I'm going to go up there and knock the bear off the roof with this baseball bat. When the bear falls off, the pit bull is trained to grab him and not let go. The bear will then be subdued enough for me to put him in the cage in the back of the van."

He hands the shotgun to the homeowner. "What's the shotgun for?" asks the homeowner.

"If the bear knocks me off the roof, shoot the dog."

A politician is seated next to a little girl on a plane and he turns to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replies to the total stranger,

"What would you want to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," says the congressman.

"How about global warming, universal health care, or stimulus packages?"

And he smiles smugly.

Continued next page

## A-nony-nony-mus cont'd

"OK," she says.

"Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a kangaroo all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a kangaroo excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps.

Why do you suppose that is?"

The legislator, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, Thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To this the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss global warming, universal health care, or the economy, when you don't know shit?"

The little girl then goes back to reading her book.

### Event Queue

#### Upcoming Events

Sat	Jan	15th		<a href="#">VHF/UHF Field Day</a>	<a href="#">Mount Buggeree</a>
Fri	Jan	21st	8:00pm	General Meeting	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Wed	Jan	26th	12:30pm	Australia Day BBQ	<a href="#">Club Rooms</a>
Mon	Jan	31st	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Rooms</a>
Fri	Feb	4th	8:00pm	Prac Night	<a href="#">Club Rooms</a>
Tue	Feb	15th	7:30pm	<a href="#">Microprocessor Training</a>	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Fri	Feb	18th	8:00pm	General Meeting	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Tue	Feb	22nd	7:30pm	<a href="#">Microprocessor Training</a>	<a href="#">Guide Hall</a>
Mon	Feb	28th	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Club Rooms</a>
Fri	Mar	4th	8:00pm	Prac Night	<a href="#">Club Rooms</a>
Sun	Jul	17th	10:00am	<a href="#">GGREC Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Cranbourne Public Hall</a>
Sat	Aug	13th		<a href="#">RD Contest</a>	<a href="#">Club Rooms</a>
Sun	Aug	21st		<a href="#">ILLW</a>	

**New Business continued** from opposite.

*2011 Call books* - should the Club buy some? - 7 hands went up - Club will buy a box of 10.

*Monthly speakers* - Chris asked members to think about presenters.

*ZL8X* - DX is currently on air for 10 days.

*ODXG* - organising a DXpedition. Members interested should contact Chris.

*Club expenditure* – Chris spoke - no solid ideas from membership.

Committee recommended spending up to \$3,000 on education. Each expenditure set to be further approved. **Moved** VK3QB Seconded VK3EGD “that in principle \$3,000 be spent on education, with perhaps subsidy for members attending external courses”. Motion **carried** - one against. Appeal for ideas for courses. One night lectures.

Antenna analyser.

*ILLW* - on again for 2011. 6 showed interest.

*RDD* - antennas not healthy. Requires new coax and J Pole installation. Call for volunteers. VK3BFT, VK3QB, VK3GHM, VK3TGX indicated willingness. Bruno to coordinate.

*RD Contest* - Third place – Certificate was issued but not received.

**Meeting closed** : 9:05 pm

**Next Committee Meeting** : Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

**Next Prac Night** : Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January

**Next General Meeting** : Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 2010**

**Date :** 19 November 2010

**Start time :** 8:16 pm.

**Location :** Club rooms.

**Chairperson :** Chris VK3QB

**Minute Taker :** Steve VK3EGD

**Present :** Attendance sheet

**Apologies :** Brenton VK3CBV, David VK3XMF, Ron VK3EXJ, Naree, Grahame VK3XK, Susan VK3UMM, Phil VK3YB

**Correspondence received :** listed and tabled

**Correspondence sent :** listed and tabled

**Treasurer's report :**

**Read :** VK3QB **Moved :** VK3QB **Seconded :** VK3UK **Carried.**

**Income :** nil **Expenditure :** \$160.83 **Balance :** \$-160.83 **Total :** \$7,622.69

**New Callsigns :** nil

**Previous Minutes :**

**Read :** as distributed **Moved :** VK3QB **Seconded :** VK3KTO **Approved.**

**Business arising from the previous minutes :**

*RDD* - Receiver still has interference. **Moved** VK3ZGW, seconded VK3ARV *"that a formal complaint be made to ACMA"*. **Carried.**

*Cup weekend* - Good weekend had by all that attended.

*Hamper* - filling up nicely. See Nev for tickets.

*JOTA* – Bruno reported that it was quite enjoyable - afternoon start - good rollup by members. Kids had a great time. Best behaved. Excellent 4 course dinner. Contacts simplex OK especially on HF and repeaters.

*XMAS Breakup* - All set - bring the usual. Bring mozzly repellent.

**New business :**

*Hamfest 2011* - 16 July tentative. New coordinator needed. Final decision in January. Chris spoke about the need for income. Also looking for another Bunnings. Ian VK3BUF spoke about mixing up the formula. Procedural document is available.

*Continued opposite.*