



GATEWAY

April 2011

NEXT MEETING: Friday April 15 at 8 pm

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

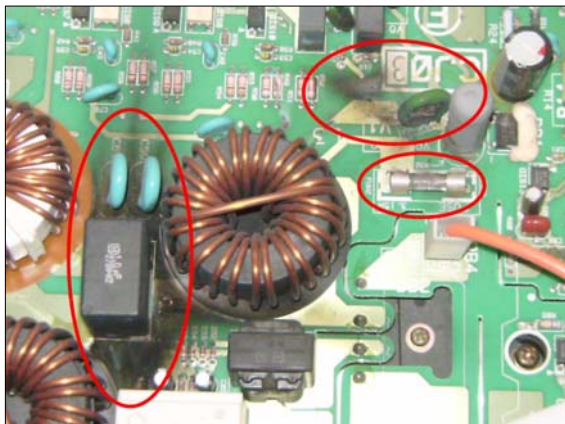
TOPIC : AGM

STORM WARNINGS – NOT ALL DAMAGE IS OBVIOUS

Some of the storm damaged hardware

by Ian Jackson, VK3BUF

At the beginning of February a serious storm-front passed through southern Victoria. Many people got their feet wet and unwittingly pushed the limits of their insurance policies. From our home on the ridge that forms a part of Old Sale Road, I peered out of the lounge room window at this deluge and lamented that yes indeed, it was wet outside. I listened to the



thunder and watched Gum Scrub Creek at the bottom of the hill grow wide and a little later, grow skinny again. We were lucky and no harm was done. That, I thought, was the end of that. The following day, about dinner time, the cry went out 'Daaad...the range-hood won't work.' That's a helluva thing I casually thought, someone ought to fix it. Then with a sinking feeling, I realised that in all likelihood I would probably be that someone. No panic. It's just a range-hood. I mentally tagged it as one of the many things in our technological lives to spontaneously expire and mostly dismissed it from my mind for the time being as it looked like being a fair mongrel to work on. *Cont'd page 3*

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

Believe It or Not

If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on the right side of your mouth. If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left side of your mouth.

To make half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers.

Heroin is the brand name of morphine once marketed by 'Bayer'.

Tourists visiting Iceland should know that tipping at a restaurant is considered an insult!

People in nudist colonies play volleyball more than any other sport.

Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952, but he declined.

Astronauts can't belch - there is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.

Ancient Roman, Chinese and German societies often used urine as mouthwash.

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. In the Renaissance era, it was fashionable to shave them off!

Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds.

The night of January 20 is "Saint Agnes's Eve", which is regarded as a time when a young woman dreams of her future husband. *A-nony-nony-mus*

CAMPING WEEKEND

Come along and enjoy a fun camping weekend at Walkerville.

The caravan park at Walkerville has plenty of vacancies after Easter, so there is no problem booking powered or non-powered sites.



Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

We will be going for two nights,

Friday and Saturday night. The 29th and 30th of April.

On Saturday night we will have dinner at the local pub..

The phone number for the Walkerville Caravan Park is 5663 2224.

Tell them that you are with the club and they will try to keep our sites close together.

Looking forward to seeing you there. *Di VK3JDI*

STORM WARNINGS.....

continued from page 1

Two days later the sun came out and the house grew warm. I pushed the button on the trusty remote of the air conditioner, and nothing happened. Not yet associating this problem with other events, I believed this fault to require the skills of specialists. A call was made to Warragul Air Conditioning and a technician skilled with Dakin systems was to be despatched in a couple of days. On the day of his arrival I attempted to activate the second air conditioning system in the workshop at the far end of the house and alas, it too did nothing. This was the extra bit of information needed. *Cont'd page 5*

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

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

Photo by
Paul
Stubbs
VK3TGX



Steve VK3EGD enthralled members with his talk on the origin and significance of the www.

STORM WARNINGS.....

continued from page 5

Is it likely that two air conditioners spontaneously die at the same time after eight years of operation? I think not, unless a common event caused this failure. So, the technician arrives and we lift the lid on the air conditioner. This revealed a big black patch in the centre of the main circuit board where a device had exploded and vaporised some copper track. A trip to the far side of the house to lift the lid on the second air conditioner revealed another dark patch of vaporised parts. So why had nothing else in the house been damaged? Surely several PC's, TV's, refrigerators etc are all equally susceptible to a monumental power surge needed to cause this damage.

The answer is *not necessarily*. The power that feeds our home is a 480V, single phase supply, or more accurately, two 240V supplies that share a common neutral. One circuit supplies power

Cont'd page 6

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

Receive income and arrange payments to suppliers and reimbursements to members for approved expenses; Provide reports to members; Provide access to financial records; Manage the annual audit of the clubs finances. So – that covers the committee members and the role of the committee. Something is missing – this is where all members have a role to play.

All members (not just committee members) are responsible for initiating and organising club activities. It is not the sole responsibility of the committee to organize prac nights, general meeting presentations, courses, social events, camping weekends, contests, education, technical projects, JOTA, repeater maintenance, club room maintenance etc – this list goes on. It is the job of the committee to endorse and support such ventures, but all members need to make these things happen.

Please don't think that if you nominate for a committee position that you need to arrange everything. It's not that hard, and it's not expected –there are people who will help you get up to speed with the administration. All that formal stuff aside, it's a nice get together with fellow committee members and you get to help decide what happens at the club.

That's it from me this month.... See you at the AGM on 15th April and as usual, please refer to the club's website for news and info on what's planned. Til next month, vry 73 /Chris VK3QB -...-

STORM WARNINGS.....

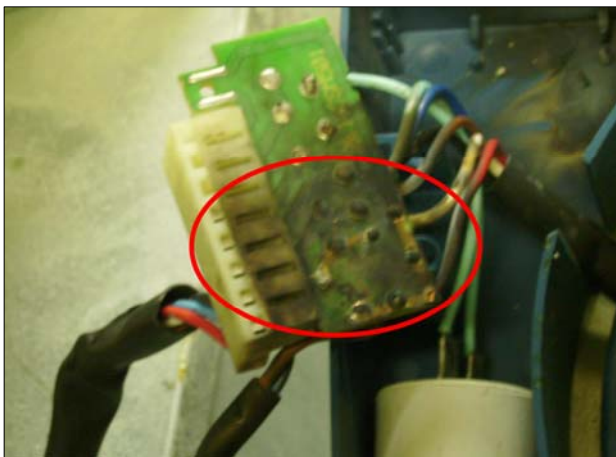
From page 5

to lights and power points. The other supplies a hot water service, an electric cook top, two air conditioners and (wait for it...) a range hood.

Only one of the two 240V circuits had experienced the power surge and fortunately, most of the household was unaffected. Back to the air conditioners. The boards were expensive ones and there may not be much change out of a couple of thousand dollars should new ones needed to be ordered in. Fortunately one of the several things that we do in our workshop is work with circuit boards. We don't normally work with appliances, but we do service what we build. Placing the boards under a strong light we observed that most of the problem revolved around blown fuses and vaporised devices called Varistors or

'MOV's. These little coin sized jiggers absorb any energy or spikes over 275V. As we kept stock of these parts for projects of our own, we were able to clean up the black mess, repair the blown tracks and fuses and slip in a few new 'MOV' devices. *Cont'd page 12*

Inside the damaged range hood...



From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

I want to start this month by thanking Steve VK3EGD for an extremely informative and well delivered presentation on the Internet at the last General Meeting. Some of the material was reasonably complex but Steve did a great job of explaining it to the rest of us in a clear and concise manner – thanks Steve.

The microprocessor course continues with excellent progress. I think I can speak on behalf of all 20 students when I say that Ian is doing a sterling job and over the coming weeks I expect that there will be many interesting projects getting off the ground. It is quite likely we'll see some presentations coming out of AVR projects later in the year.

Now we come to April – Annual General Meeting time. The President says this every year, so I shall continue the fine tradition... now is the time to think how you can contribute to the running of the club. As always, GGREC needs a core committee team to keep the engine room ticking over. For those who may be uncertain, I would



like to explain what the committee is responsible for – it's not as onerous as you may think. It is getting more and more challenging for the outgoing committee to prepare for and know that there will be willing and able volunteers to run the club for the following year. In my two years as President I have had many people say to me "the club should do this, the club should do that, the club wouldn't be the club without....." and so on and so forth – you get the idea. Who makes all these things happen? Many people have suggested to me that it is a committee who should do this. This means that the club requires active, interested people to be on the committee; people who are prepared to not just say what the club should be, or do – but people who are prepared to co-ordinate events, organize presentations – ie. Not just look after the business of running the club, but also look after the facilities, events and activities that all other members expect from the club. Maybe the above is not a fair expectation of a committee. In order to set the scene so that you can consider what it means to be on the committee I have summarized what is required as a minimum for an effective GGREC committee: In a nutshell, the role of the committee is to oversee the operation of the club and ensure that it complies with the Constitution and Incorporations Law. It really isn't that hard, but it is critical to the ongoing operation of our club. As a minimum the committee must:

Promote the Objects of the Club; Hold an Annual General Meeting; Hold 6 General Meetings per year Hold meetings to discuss and decide upon matters within the Committee's powers; Publish a quarterly newsletter; Manage the assets and finances of the club in a judicious and responsible manner.

As a minimum the committee members have the following responsibilities:

The President: Chair all meetings; Exercise leadership to ensure compliance with the Objects, Constitution and Incorporation Laws. **The Secretary:** Maintain the membership list; Record attendance at all club meetings; Record minutes of meetings; Manage correspondence; Provide access to club records. **The Treasurer:** Maintain auditable records of club funds; and arrange payments to suppliers and reimbursements to members for approved expenses; *Cont'd opposite*

Cont'd from opposite

An intrepid band of workers

Graeme got to use his chain-saw on a tree to remove a rotting branch at ground level, and needed concerted convincing that no more was to be cut down. Bruno and others used a menacing looking extendable cutter to trim low hanging branches around the place. Nev, once we found him a ladder, cleared the roof of rubbish, and checked for damage and potential leaks.

Along with much clearing of rubbish, Megan and Dave even did some weeding out the front of the Guide Hall.

When the BBQ came out we all had some sausages, except Nev who had brought his own chops, along with some bread, onions, noodle salad, coleslaw, and sauce. The club has lots of sauce. Bruno showed his epicurean expertise and cooked the snags and onions to perfection. A good nosh and a beer later I was feeling very contented, as we cleared away and left the Rooms and their grounds in a much better state than we found them. Many thanks to all those that turned up. *Steve VK3EGD*

Upcoming Events

Tue	Apr 12th	7:30pm	Microprocessor Training	Guide Hall
Fri	Apr 15th	8:00pm	Annual General Meeting	Guide Hall
Sun	Apr 17th		WIA National Field Day	
Tue	Apr 19th	7:30pm	Microprocessor Training	Guide Hall
Tue	Apr 26th	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	Club Rooms
Fri	May 6th	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Rooms
Fri	May 20th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Mon	May 30th	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	Club Rooms
Fri	Jun 3rd	8:00pm	Prac Night	Club Rooms
Fri	Jun 17th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Sat	Jun 25th		Mid Year Dinner	Guide Hall
Mon	Jun 27th	7:30pm	Committee Meeting	Club Rooms
Sat	Jul 16th	10:00am	GGREC Hamfest	Cranbourne Public Hall
Sat	Aug 13th		RD Contest	Club Rooms
Sat	Aug 20th		ILLW	

An intrepid band of workers

By Steve Harding VK3EGD

On the 13th February an intrepid band of workers gathered at the Peter Pavey Club Rooms to cut grass, trim bushes, remove rubbish, generally clean up and check for any damage from the violent storms and downpours a week or so earlier.

The forecast had been for "showers" on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, but thankfully the BOM got it wrong again, and the day was fine and the grass was dry enough to cut.

Albert VK3BQO, Bruno VK3BFT, Megan VK3HOP, Yarn VK3NOV, Graeme VK3BXG, Nev VK3ADG, Steve VK3EGD and Dave (son of Steve), all busied themselves doing one or more of the required tasks from about 10am for a couple of hours before the BBQ was brought out to much acclaim.

Albert brought along his ride on mower which made the grass cutting much easier and quicker. He also cut the grass in the enclosed Guide Hall "back-yard", and Yarn whipper-snipped like there was no tomorrow. Just a few minutes after Albert finished the Guide's back-yard, a Guide Leader's father turned up with his ride-on to do the back-yard and looked really bemused when he found it already cut!

The 80m dipole was found to be down in the Guide's back-yard, so Steve proceeded to relocate the termination to a more stable point on top of one of the shade support masts. The insulating cord had been stretched and snapped. That stuff is not easy to stretch, so it must have been a strongish blow!

Cont'd opposite



How is RDD going?

by Albert VK3BQO

Finally there is light at the end of the tunnel. Geoff and I have made it to the finishing straight and can see how the repeater is going to look when it is all together. I have even included a pic or two so others can see it too. While Geoff has been away in 4W6 land, I have spent a few weeks modifying the new cabinet that will house the new setup. This comprises a decommissioned traffic control unit. (Note: I did say decommissioned not confiscated).



The insides were gutted and a new mounting rack installed to mount the repeater equipment into. The new modules were built to suit this cabinet and were put together with the drilling of umpteen thousand countersunk holes and associated bolts and nuts. A coat of paint on the front panels of the new modules completed the look with the job now of installing the inter module wiring. Hopefully I will have completed this task ready for Geoff's return to Aus' after which we will do some completion testing just prior to moving the whole shebang to Cockatoo. It will be a glorious day with much celebrating and dancing around the camp fire. (Well maybe just an ale or two).

1. The picture above shows the Controller Shelf containing the CPU and interface boards in the centre rack. The front panel has local controls for the repeater on the right hand side and monitoring facilities on the left.

2. The picture opposite shows the new cabinet almost ready for installation.

RETARDED GRANDPARENTS

From Paul Mitchell VK3TPM

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house with a big garden but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Batemans Bay, to a special Retardment Village, where everyone lives in nice little houses, and so they don't have to mow the grass anymore! They ride around on their bicycles and scooters and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck centre, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll-house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts! Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll-house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked centre for pot luck. My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll-house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

STORM WARNINGS.....

Cont'd from page 6

Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

Luck remained with us and within a few minutes both air conditioners were up and running again. The air conditioning technician was quite competent and familiar with his systems. Between us we were able to solve the problems and put it all back together again. Buoyed by this success, I stripped down the range-hood on the following day and observed a similar blackened mess within its electronic control unit. That too was repaired in the same fashion and the range-hood again sucked in an appropriate way.



So what is the point of this story? Essentially, it is one of observation and the need for consultation with neighbours. When one thing fails it is a misfortune. Where several things fail, there must be a common event causing it. I called a few immediate neighbours to see if they had experienced electrical difficulties. The answer was a partial yes. Those that had split supply circuits as we did had experienced some damage at exactly the same time. This included a refrigeration pump in a small dairy, some downlights, ceiling fan and an electric fence system. Each of three nearby neighbours had considered themselves to be the only ones affected by this power surge. Whether this was caused by a high voltage power line briefly shorting to a lower voltage line via some wet flying bark, or by direct interference of a lightning strike is not yet known. (Fortunately the Drouin West school nearby was spared, as they have a separate 3-phase connection installed as a part of the recent school building upgrade.)

Staying in contact with neighbours during adverse events can work on many levels and it need not take something as great as catastrophic bush-fire to make the effort worthwhile. We now had some convincing proof that damage to shared infrastructure had caused the destruction of our property. The responsibility for such problems is not the domain of the power provider to the home as they only manage power contracts and meter readings. In this case the responsible authority is SPAusnet as they maintain the power infrastructure. Once damaged equipment has been repaired or replaced, it is possible to make a claim for costs to this authority where sufficient evidence of the cause exists and proof of expenses documented. In our case, such a claim has been made and we now await the outcome. *Ian VK3BUF*

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date : 16 Apr 2010

Start time : 21:18 pm.

Location : Guide Hall.

Chairperson : Bruno VK3BFT

Minute Taker : Steve VK3EGD

Present : Attendance sheet as for GM

Visitors and guests : nil

Apologies : Maria, Ron VK3EXJ, Judy, Phil VK3YB, Ian VK3BUF, Dianne VK3JDI

Treasurer's report :

Read : Albert VK3BQO Moved : Albert VK3BQO Seconded : Chris VK3QB Carried.

Income : \$10,496.50 Expenditure : \$9805.08 Balance : \$691.42 Total : \$53,533.18

New Call signs : nil

Previous Minutes : Read by Bruno. Correction of 'Time' to 'Tim'.

Read : Bruno VK3BFT Moved : Steve VK3EGD Seconded : Michael VK3GHM Approved.

Business arising from the previous minutes :

Bruno spoke about Bunnings BBQ.

Elections :

Nominations received in writing by the Secretary were read by Bruno:

President - Chris Chapman – elected unopposed

Secretary - Steve Harding – elected unopposed

Treasurer - Brenton Vowles – elected unopposed

Committee member - Nev Kidson – elected unopposed

Nominations received from the floor

Committee member - Bruno – elected unopposed

Bruno welcomed the new Committee and declared the AGM closed.

Meeting closed : 21:32 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2011

Continued from opposite

QSL Cards – The newly printed VK3BJA and VK100WIA QSL Cards were tabled and shown around.

Mid Year Dinner – Bruno VK3BFT asked about the dinner for this year. **Consensus:** that the dinner be in the same format as the previous dinner. A date of June 25th was set.

Meeting closed : 8:41 pm

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 28th March

Next Prac Night : Friday 1st April

Next General Meeting : Friday 15th April.



Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2011

Date : 18 March 2011

Start time : 8:12 pm.

Location : Club rooms.

Chairperson : Chris VK3QB

Minute Taker : Steve VK3EGD

Present : Attendance sheet

Apologies : Henry VK3FHTV, Marie VK3FSAT, Geoff VK3ZGW, Ron VK3EXJ, Noel VK3CJJ, Nev VK3ADG, Naree.

Correspondence received : listed and tabled

Correspondence sent : listed and tabled

Treasurer's report :

Read : Brenton VK3CBV **Moved :** Brenton VK3CBV **Seconded :** Michael VK3GHM **Carried**

Income : \$429.00 **Expenditure :** \$3,360.09 **Balance :** \$-2931.09.00 **Total :** \$7,065.74

New Callsigns : nil

Previous Minutes :

Read : as distributed **Moved :** Steve VK3EGD **Seconded :** Michael VK3GHM **Approved**

Business arising from the previous minutes :

Grounds check – Bruno VK3BFT reported it was done before this meeting.

Corrections – Russ VK3MWR advised his apology was not minuted. Brian VK3BSN advised his callsign was shown incorrectly.

VK3RDD – Albert VK3BQO reported that 6 attended the working bee. The antenna was changed but made no appreciable difference although the SWR was better. Interference is still there. A new cabined has been procured. The proposed filter should not be fitted. A complaint to ACMA should be made. Bruno VK3BFT will action.

Hamfest – Bruno VK3BFT reported on progress. PK Loops want 2 tables, and will donate an antenna. 4 tables have been booked so far.

ILLW – No action since last meeting.

AVR – Ian VK3BUF reported that the course is progressing well, in its 4th week.

Museum Weekend – for discussion at the next meeting. The committee is looking for somebody to lead the event.

Library display – Russ VK3MWR reported that the new library will not open until mid-year and the display case type is unknown. Possible dates were discussed. **Consensus:** That the event be not continued with.

New business :

2m Band Pass – Albert VK3BQO spoke about a filter from APC that could be useful for pager interference. He will report at the next meeting.

Cont'd opposite