GATEWAY

The official journal of the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club inc.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

October 2011

From the President ... *Dianne Jackson VK3JDI*

I'm writing this report from the veranda of a beach hut in Vanuatu. The sun is shining and the water is nice and cool. By the time you read this I will be safely home back in VK, but at the moment I am enjoying the tropical conditions.

At this months meeting we are looking forward to hearing from Andrew Martin, VK3OE who will be telling us about his Remote Control amateur station.

A working Bee at the Peter Pavey Clubrooms was very successful. A general cleanup was carried out, some tree pruning and the installation of our new gas bottle storage cabinet which we have recycled from the old RDD repeater.

We are still looking for a venue for our annual Christmas Breakup Party. If you are interested in hosting this event please contact one of the committee members soon. As usual we will be drawing the Christmas Raffle Prize at the party and I always look forward to that. We will be starting to take donations for the Christmas hamper at this month's meeting. We will begin selling tickets to the hamper as well. $1 per ticket or 6 tickets for $5.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the October meeting

In this Month's Edition of Gateway:

GGREC Event Queue from October 2011

October 15 – Saturday. JOTA at the Club Shack.
Operators needed. Please contact Graeme VK3BXG on secretary@ggrec.org.au if you can help out for a few hours during this afternoon.

October 21 – Friday Night. General Meeting at the Cranbourne Guide Hall
Our Guest Speaker will be Andrew Martin VK3OE on how he has successfully set up a remote control Amateur Station some distance from his home.

November 4 – Friday Night. Prac Night at the Club Shack
Theme to be announced.

Oct 29 to Nov 1 – Melb. Cup weekend in Yarra Valley
Some Club Members will be camping and enjoying themselves on this long weekend.

November 5 – Saturday Night. Pub night at the Cardinia Hotel
This is a pleasant venue just a little north of Beaconsfield. We will take $5 booking deposits for this one at the October General Meeting.

November 11 – Friday Night. Committee Meet at the Club Shack, 8:00pm

November 12,13 – Saturday & Sunday. Foundation License Exam Event
For persons wishing to get an Amateur license, here is a great opportunity. Some introductory training, followed by an examination. Positions are still available. Contact Graeme VK3BXG on secretary@ggrec.org.au for details.

November 18 – Friday Night. Gen Meeting at the Cranbourne Guide Hall
This will celebrate 40 years of the Yaesu 101 HF radio. See a range of early Yaesu equipment. Bring along your own early Yaesu radio.

December 10 – Saturday Afternoon. Christmas Break-up BBQ
Venue is yet to be confirmed, but put it in your diary now…

– There is no General Meeting or Club Magazine in December –

No shack is complete without a pen toad

2011 Remembrance Day Contest

By Glenn Corrie, VK3GC

The weekend of the 14th & 15th August saw a group of intrepid and somewhat enthusiastic bunch of amateur radio operators activate the club station of the GGREC for the 2011 Remembrance Day Contest. Operators included Brian (VK3BSN), Max (VK3TMK), Michael (VK3GHM), Ross (VK3ZAP), Yarn (VK3NOV) and myself Glenn (VK3GC), With 3 stations setup, a fridge full of drinks and snacks, plus the kettle on continuous boil, we were well equipped to tackle the 24 hours that lay ahead of us.

We setup the station using Brian's FT-950 configured for the HF bands, connected to the OCF wire, also Michael's IC-7000 configured for 2M and 70cm FM & SSB and the club's FT-950 for 6M FM & SSB and occasional use on HF using the log periodic beam. About 10 minutes before the contest commenced we noticed that the long-wire connected to the TS-520s had separated from the isolator on the outside of the shack and looked a little second hand so the decision was made to leave 160m alone this year, which was a shame as 160m is worth double points.

The contest commenced at 6pm without the flood of activity we were expecting, all HF bands were very quiet and only a few operators on 2 & 70. As the evening progressed 2 & 70 were slow but consistent. 80 meters started to become really busy and before too long we were logging contacts at a great rate. It must have been close to 9pm before we heard anyone respond to our CQ call on 6 meters and the only other contacts we made throughout the event on 6 were those who we convinced to QSY from either 2m or 70cm. The contacts slowed to almost non existent after about 3am, this allowed us to re-group, re-caffeine or re-energise with some sleep.

Activity on the bands resumed again early Sunday morning and by early afternoon, 20 meters was well open across Australia with healthy contacts across to VK6 & VK5 and also north into VK2 & VK4 and east into ZL. By mid afternoon 20 meters was open into Europe and the USA which made the band more crowded with stations that did not contribute points to the contest.

At the time of writing this article, our logs were yet to be collated and submitted to the WIA's Contest Manager , however we are confident that the effort put in by the team that once again the GGREC should be well represented in the final results of the Multi-Operator category.

Cheers. Glenn Corrie, VK3GC

DX Station YJ0VK Activated for 2011

For the first two weeks of October 2011 the Oceania DX Group (OXDG) activated the Vanuatu call YK0VK just outside of Port Vila. Of the team of 8 operators four were GGREC members and two travelled from the USA. The venue was a small resort with a collection of 12 well appointed huts on the beach. The four of these fronting the ocean only 20 metres away were made available to the DX group. While there were some

The YJ0VK team on the beach below the WARC Beam antenna

other guests coming and going from time to time, the resort owners were very accommodating in letting the team scatter the beachfront with coax, antenna wire and HF beams. They even supplied some bamboo poles and enthusiastic staff to scale the 15 metre palm trees with our antenna wires. Three meals a day were prepared for us in a wall-less central pavilion with a grass roof.

The four team members who are also GGREC members were Chris VK3QB, Michael, VK3GHM, Dianne VK3JDI and Ian VK3BUF. Other team members were Luke VK3HJ, Lee VK3GK, with Ben N6MUF and Tom NQ7R from the USA.

Vertical antennas were a 20 metre vertical on the beach, plus a 12m squid pole with an automatic antenna tuner. A bamboo mounted 3-element beam looked after the WARC bands, plus there were a couple of long wire antennas to choose from. Three of the transceivers were the 200W Kenwood TS480's which worked really well. The fourth unit was a K2 transceiver operated largely by Ben and Tom. (Although there was much shuffling of operators between the four stations.)

Power supplies, headsets, foot switches, CW paddles and RTTY interfaces made up the rest of the hardware. All of this travelled with the team on the plane under the label of 'Sporting Goods', which was treated with some scepticism until Chris VK3QB, the team leader, showed the rules of the Oceania DX Contest to the customs officials. Chris had spent some months in preparation for this, compiling detailed spreadsheets of equipment and their respective weights.

Chris VK3QB operating Station #1

Conditions were pretty good, with around 14,000 contacts made over 126 countries, with much of this on CW and about 1050 contacts on RTTY. This sounds

like an awful lot of contacts in a short period of time but it's what can transpire when you have multiple radio's, multiple operators and multiple HF pileups. It is a very peculiar dynamic. You find a clear spot on the spectrum, put out a couple of calls that attract some polite attention and all seems very casual and gentlemanly. Then someone posts your callsign & frequency on one of the DX sites and there is the instant mayhem of a hundred stations calling at once. At this point you need to work split. This, is where you must call on one spot and ask every one else to reply a few KC's up, otherwise the DX station's calls are lost in the bedlam. Coordinating the callback of these stations more closely resembles the conducting an orchestra. The SSB pandemonium sounds like the floor of a stocks trading room where the price pork bellies have just crashed. The RTTY pileups resemble a thousand bicycle bells being rung at the same time. The CW scramble is reminiscent of ...I don't know... lets go with 'a container load xylophones in a cement mixer' until something better comes along.

The ubiquitous Kava (the colour says it all)

It wasn't all CQ this and QRZ that, there was ample time for a bit of shopping and exploring the islands. Of course there are also the Kava bars. This is a mildly narcotic concoction that everybody agrees tastes like crap. Even the locals who have been drinking it for all their entire lives think it tastes like crap. The principal topic of conversation is therefore which brew is the most potent and tastes the least crappy. It numbs the tongue, thickens the lips, makes your eyes light sensitive and makes one not care about very much at all. While it does not actually turn you into the walking dead seeking brains to devour, it is perhaps the next best thing.

Four of the team members took a two-day trip to the island of Tanna, about 180km to the south. Only an hours flying in a six-seater, yellow 'Air Taxi' After establishing the overnight accommodation in a resort there, the group were escorted on a two hour 4wd trip across the island jungle that would have made Indiana Jones proud. At the end of this journey was the active volcano Yasur, This is a black-ash cone that rises above the forrest with an aperture of

Dianne VK3JDI (YJ0ADI) and Ian VK3BUF (YJ0AUF) at Mt Yasur Volcano, Tanna

One of the frequent lava explosions we saw

about one kilometre. At the bottom of this protruding crater is a bubbling cauldron of raw lava that explodes and showers fireworks every few minutes. The shock waves reminiscent of the Mythbusters cement mixer exploding over and over again. Fortunately it was only at Level 1 during the visit. Apparently, at Level 2 rocks the size of photocopiers land in the car park. (At Level 5 you'd want to be on a different continent).

It is important to include a reference here to the 'Data Collection Process' associated with all of these radio contacts. This is a far cry from the traditional scrawling of callsigns in an exercise book with a pencil stub under dim light. With contact times, dates, signal strengths,

First QSO: **2011-09-30 03:26:14**
Last QSO: **2011-10-12 00:07:27**

Total QSOs: **14246**
Unique Calls: **7451**

Band/Mode breakdown

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	PSK	FM	Total
160	4	2	0	0	0	6
80	48	11	0	0	0	59
60	18	0	0	0	0	18
40	884	748	252	0	0	1884
30	0	902	42	1	0	945
20	1379	965	527	0	0	2871
17	307	1441	122	0	0	1870
15	35	1493	0	46	0	1574
12	111	2704	107	79	0	3001
10	698	1317	0	0	3	2018
Totals	3484	9583	1050	126	3	14246

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	PSK	FM	Total
160	2	2	0	0	0	2
80	9	3	0	0	0	10
60	2	0	0	0	0	2
40	37	33	18	0	0	53
30	0	62	11	1	0	63
20	80	63	50	0	0	94
17	42	67	24	0	0	75
15	11	74	0	10	0	77
12	9	74	18	9	0	74
10	47	41	0	0	1	59
Totals	94	111	53	13	1	126

Some of the data now viewable on the YJ0VJ web site

bands and modes to be recorded and officially authenticated for thousands of contacts, a higher level of organisation needed. Each station has a PC equipped with logging software. In Vanuatu this was the 91MM program, with the MMTTY package supporting Radioteletype logging. Each day Michael, VK3GHM (YJ0AHM) would do the rounds with a memory stick between pc's, merge the files and upload them by internet to Allan VK2CA, who would then publicly list the results and generate statistical reports.

This is another important measure of performance of a DXpedition, as the operators around the world want updates on which bands and modes are successfully being activated. The YJ0VK web site was accessed more than 20,000 times while the station was active.

A screen fragment of a RTTY contact

One question the reader may be asking themselves is *Why?* What is the point of flying into the middle of the Pacific Ocean simply to exchanging signal strength reports with 14,000 amateur stations? The context for the answer is important. There are around 150,000 active Amateur DX'ers around the world. For them it is a collectors hobby. Getting acknowledgement from 100 countries, then doing it again for a specific RF band, then doing it again for a specific mode like Morse or Radioteletype; this is the challenge. For them, getting access to a rare country prefix on several bands and modes contains the same thrill of the hunt present in game fishing, treasure hunting or stamp collecting. It is a symbiotic experience. A DX Expedition is a service to the greater Amateur community, with standards, conduct and

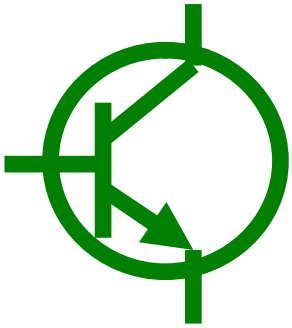
performance being measured and discussed on email postings around the world. In doing so, it provides the participants with a genuine need for organisation, preparedness and training. It is a collective challenge – and a lot of fun along the way.

Beware of the Man Eating Crab!

The YJ0VK team with the resort owners & staff

The Green Transistor

By Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



No doubt you may have heard there is a movie doing the rounds called the Green Lantern, one of those super hero style movies. Anyway, it reminded me of a story from many years ago.

Back then I was working for Telstra in a repair shop, repairing many things, including computers and their video monitors – the old CRT type, long before those newfangled LCD flat panels came to be. At that time we usually had quite a few trainees coming through.
It seemed that management thought all new trainees (to the Telegraphs and Data department) would benefit from doing a stint in the repair shop. One day a computer video monitor came in for repair, unfortunately it had been poorly packed and the couriers had done their worst to it, dropping the box from too higher a height. The end result was that the tilt and swivel base had been driven up through the bottom of the case and the main circuit board was broken into four pieces – How the picture tube survived I don't know. So the owner was duly given the bad news and it was duly written off and left in our hands for disposal etc. One of the trainees boded it off us for his own use and set about patching the main board back together using lots of glue and jumper wire. We as a repair shop would not do this type of work, it is just not worth the effort, and you could never trust it again, who knows what other damage may have been done. All went well for the trainee, until he discovered one of the transistors had had a leg torn off at its plastic case – darn. He however noted it had one peculiar attribute; it was made of green plastic. So he cast his eye over our box of scrapped boards and noticed a board that also had a green transistor, so he duly ripped it out and fitted it to his pet project, WITHOUT any regard for part numbers, device type, polarity etc etc, all he cared about was the fact that it was green! Then to everyone's amazement he turned on the power and the darn thing worked!
Everyone wandered off shaking their heads.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE DOWNLIGHT

A brief assessment of home lighting methods

by Ian Jackson

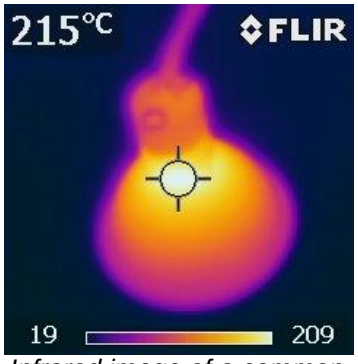
If you have lived in or visited a home built within the past ten years, there's a good chance that the lounge and dining areas were elegantly lit by a fine array of down lights fitted within the ceiling. A bright-yellow incandescent source that illuminates the important parts of the room, without bathing too much intensity on the ceiling and walls. They look great! A big room may have six or eight of these lamps blazing away. But how much does it really cost? How viable are the alternatives and what are the risks? These were questions in my own mind and the results are a little surprising….

First lets examine the standard down-light. It is usually has a 12Volt, 50 Watt lamp in it called an MR16LV (The LV stands for Low Voltage). This means that in the roof there is a 240 volt to 12 volt adapter next to the lamp that will deliver the necessary energy. There are two types of voltage adapter in use. One is an earlier style 'iron core' transformer which has no electronic parts in it. The other type is a smaller electronic unit called a 'switch-mode' regulator that efficiently converts the voltage at a much higher frequency.

Typical iron core transformer

Typical Switch-mode converter

Before going into details, lets look at some of the risk factors with common down-light installations. The 50 watt lamps get hot. Really hot! They sit in the roof space generating quite lots of light, but also lots of heat. Because of their small surface area, the rear of the lamp will often reach 220º C. There has been a lot of problems where home insulation has been placed on top of down lights and the accumulated heat has started fires in the ceiling space. (There should be at least 200mm clearance gap between any ceiling insulation and the lamp fitting and its transformer.)



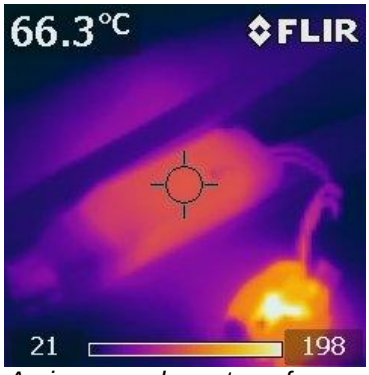
Infrared image of a common 50W halogen down light

A lot of the light is wasted and radiates into the ceiling space. This can attract bugs that get into the ceiling, particularly in homes with tile roofs. These bugs kill themselves against the rear of the down-light and slowly build up inside the fitting. When enough of them gather, they can ignite.

Here are some images showing dry, dead insects that have accumulated around a lamp in just 12 months. On some occasions the build up has been much worse.

As unpleasant as dead bug removal seems, lamp fittings should be cleaned regularly to prevent the possibility of a fire in your roof space..

The lamps are not the only heat source. The iron transformers also waste a lot of heat energy in the roof space. The adjacent infrared image shows a transformer driving a 50W halogen lamp in a ceiling. It reaches over 66º, even on a cool night. In the summer, much higher temperatures would be reached. Should it reach 115º an internal temperature fuse will blow and permanently shut down the transformer.

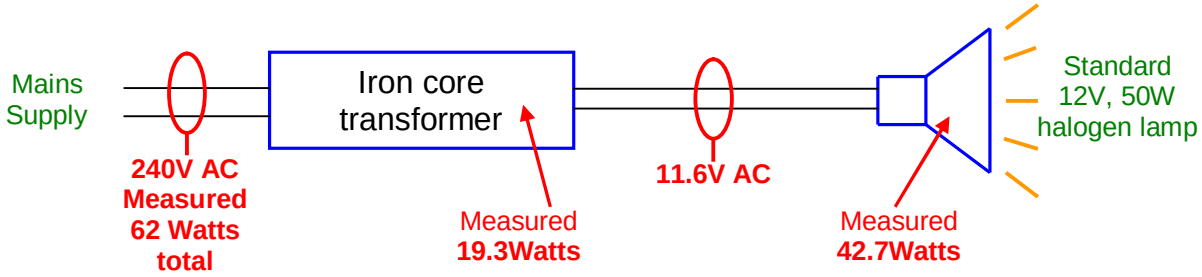


An iron core lamp transformer heating up in the roof space.

While these older iron core transformers are inefficient and become quite hot, the cooler running switch-mode converters often make electrical noise that can badly interfere with AM radio and other services.

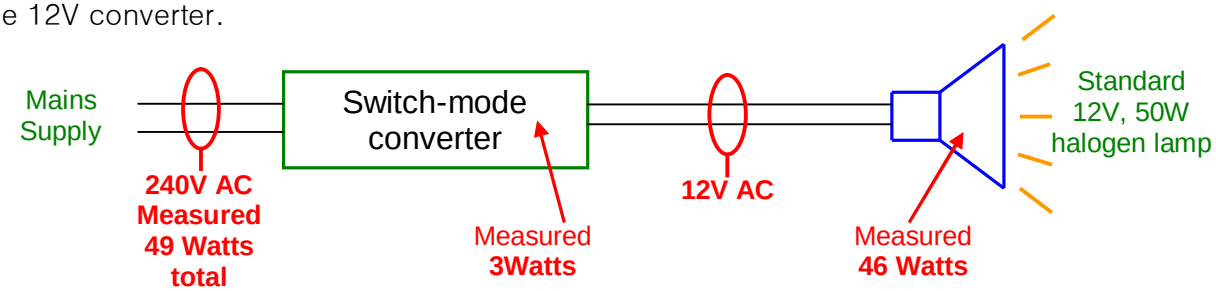
How much is it costing to run Halogen lamps?

This is an important question where every lamp that is operating can have a multiplying effect on power bills around the home. The common lamp may be stamped '50 Watt' but how true is that? I conducted some actual tests on a simple installation to find this out.



This diagram showed that while the lamp only used about 43 watts, the total power consumed was 62 Watts, so *around one-third of the energy was lost inside the power transformer.* If you were running eight such lamps at home on the peak tariff of 21 cents per kilowatt hour, then it would cost approximately 72 cents per day for lighting your lounge (including gst) which is about $65 per quarterly power bill.

Below is the same calculation, but the iron transformer was swapped for the electronic switch-mode 12V converter.



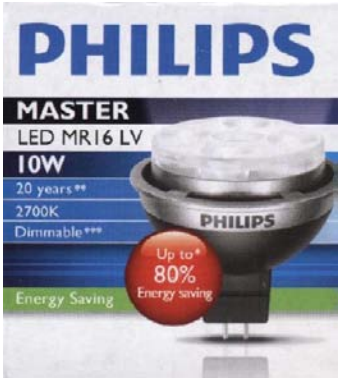
Just by changing the transformer for the newer electronic version, the light increased slightly, the converter ran much cooler and had a 16 watt power saving over the old transformer. If all 8 lamps were changed for electronic converters, the quarterly power bill would fall to about $50 for this room alone. This is better, but remember, as before, similar fire risks exist for the halogen lamps.

What if I change my lamp for a modern LED lamp?

This is an important question, but there are a lot of factors surrounding the LED lamps to consider. While LEDs may last 30,000 hours and the halogen lamps may only last 2000 hours, many of the so-called MR16 substitutes are pretty weak and don't produce any more than about 25-30 watts of equivalent Halogen lamps. Some of them cheat by having a narrow angle of light, so that a spot on the floor may be bright, but the room is still pretty dull. Another important variable is the colour temperature. If you like your lounge in the warm 'yellow' light that is produced by halogen lamps, you may be disappointed if your new LED

lamp produces a sterile blue-white light. The 'warm-white' LED lamps with a colour temp of 2,700K are nicer in the home than the whiter 5,000K blue-white, even though the blue-white leds are 15% more efficient than warm-white.

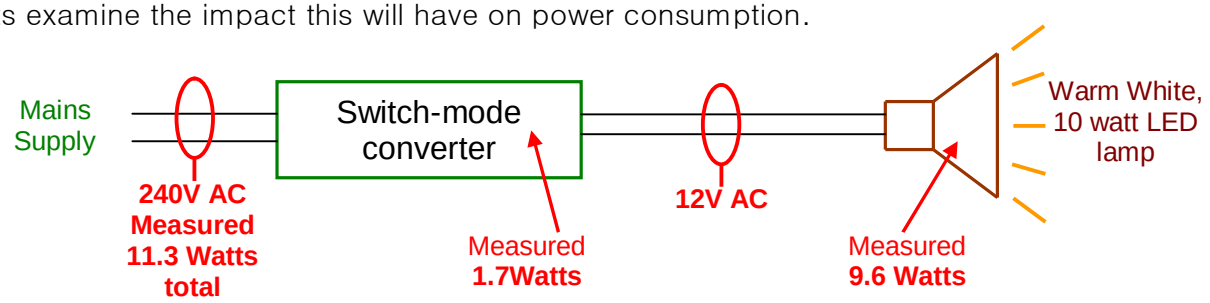
For the exercise, the 50 watt halogen lamp was swapped with a Phillips 12V, 10 watt LED unit. These are a good quality 4-led lamp with a 50Watt equivalent output and good light colour. They are a direct plug-in replacement for the MR16LV and cost about $50 each.



The Philips LED substitute

The first advantage is that very little light shines behind the lamp, up into the ceiling space, reducing the insect problem. They also run much cooler at only around 48º which pretty much eliminates the fire hazard aspect. Consuming only 10 watts also ensures that the 12V transformer or converter will run cooler too.

Lets examine the impact this will have on power consumption.



The energy use has fallen greatly and of course the fire risk is significantly reduced. Quarterly power consumption for 8 lamps would fall to about $12. (assuming the lamp fitting was already driven by an electronic converter.) However at $50 for each LED unit, it would still take ten years to reach the break-even point if expense is the only consideration.

What about other alternatives?

The Compact Fluorescent lamps are quite a popular down-light substitute that can be purchased at a supermarket for about $8 to $10 and they work directly from 240V. These consume only about 11 watts, but they have issues. Full brightness is only about 60% of a 50 watt halogen and they can take five to ten minutes to reach that intensity. They may last four times longer than the halogen, but only if they are not turned on and off too often. They don't work well with lamp dimmers, but they can still perform a useful role in some situations.

Larger multi-LED light fittings are now obtainable that have an integral 240V converter. These have greatly increased in popularity. To fit these, the entire light fitting must be replaced and the ceiling hole enlarged. A 12 x 1 watt LED unit will produce a lot of attractive light, operate at a low 55º and can spread to wide angles. The unit shown here consumed a total of 30 watts.

At present retail prices these units may cost anywhere from $60 to $100 each, which would make for a long payback time if replacing an existing lighting installation.

So there are many pros and cons with home lighting. If a lighting shop sales rep tries to convince you that spending $120 on a 'quality' LED fitting makes good commercial sense, then think again, as even on peak power tariff's the payback time would easily exceed the life of the lamp. We're presently in a transition stage and the cost of LED lighting is still likely to fall. Still, the best saving can be achieved when some or all lights are turned off when they're not in use.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SIGNALS

A progress report on our VK3RDD 6 metre repeater interference

Last month we reported the need to track down the source of interference that has been interrupting the 6 Metre repeater VK3RDD. The interference comes and goes at odd intervals thruought the middle of the day and occasionally at other times, this causes the repeater to transmit until its safety timer shuts it down. The ACMA is only in a position to deal with such an issue if solid information on the interfering source is provided. With so many transmitter sites in the region, this is a difficult thing to find out.

The VK3RDD site at Cockatoo

Possible sources considered were an external mixing of two or three unrelated transmitters nearby where the sum or difference of these transmissions were producing a signal on the repeater input. A lot of calculator time was spent exploring this. Previously we had tried to listen for this interference from a car near the repeater site, but even with the repeater being held up, we could hear nothing on an adjacent mobile whip on 52.575 MHz.

The theory then became that the interfering signal is weak, perhaps some distance away, out of range of a mobile at ground level. so that only the repeater antenna on top of the water tower can hear it.

DF'ing on 6M in stealth mode

Whenever the tower was climbed while monitoring with a portable transceiver, the interference could not be found. This was hard to prove conclusively because of the way in which the interference comes and goes. Perhaps the interference *could* have been heard, but it had just stopped while the tower was being climbed.

We concluded that the best chance of gathering information about this interference was to have a high gain portable antenna at the repeater site that could be hooked up and rotated while the repeater was experiencing its interference.

Albert VK3BQO and Ian VK3BUF visited the site late September prepared with everything, (including hot coffee) and waited for the interference to show up. The theory was, wait for the repeater to be held open, get a direction heading with the quad beam, chase down the source quietly and inconspicuously, then report it to the ACMA.

Using a VHF test set & Cro as a spectrum analyser for tracking the noise source

After a slow hour, the interference spontaneously appeared. Careful scanning and antenna turning proved that the source signal could not be heard, even with a high gain antenna. This now meant that the interference signal *must* somehow be generated on-site. While the repeater was still being held up, a ground search was conducted with a 6m hand held. Suddenly, a low-level signal was found emanating from an electrical cabinet. It stayed on 52.575 for a few minutes then drifted off. It seems that there is a transmitter inside a Yarra Valley Water cabinet generating some kind of spurious radiation, but not from its antenna on top of the tower. The GGREC cabinet was only a few metres away and it was picking up the interference *directly at ground level*. Some more investigation showed that the interference would be present for a long period, but it would wander up and down the spectrum from 51 to 53 MHz as the cabinet

heated up and cooled down. There seemed to be a correlation between the RF drift and the sun intermittently shining on the cabinet as it panned through the large trees which surrounding the site. When the noise passed through the repeater input frequency, it would hold up the repeater for a while.

Locating the signal source is not the same as fixing it. The club must now liaise with the authority that services the site and try to have the problem rectified. The chances are that a re-tune or introduction of some well placed ferrite beads would squash the VHF parasitic oscillation that has been giving the repeater so much grief for such a long time. When the GGREC first installed their equipment at this site, nearly 20 years ago, there were no other radio services at this location. Now it is one of about six different systems that co-exist there. Dealing with the issue is as much about diplomacy as it is about the RF. Keep watching this space for the final chapter on this saga.

If you would like to try and access this repeater, you will need a 6 Metre FM transceiver that can transmit on 52.575 and receive one-meg up on 53.575. No sub-audible tones are needed to access RDD. Many modern HF transceivers stretch to operating on the 6 Metre band. Another alternative is to find an ex-commercial 'LOW BAND' VHF mobile and convert it from the normal 65-80Mhz working range, down to 52-54 MHz.

The nature of 6 Metres is that it has good cover over rolling terrain within the service area, better than 2 metres and much better than 70cm. Plus there is the added spice of getting long-range access in the warmer months when *Tropospheric Ducting* takes place and the repeater may be accessed from hundreds or even thousands of kilometres away. It is an interesting part of the spectrum.

Next month: Look for the design notes for the 4-element cubical quad used for these tests.

General Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2011

Date : 16th September 2011
Start time : 20 : 00 pm.
Location : Guide Hall Club rooms.
Chairperson : Dianne Jackson VK3JDI, president.
Minute Taker : VK3BXG
Present : As per attendance sheet
Apologies : As per attendance sheet
Visitors: Mark Clohesy SWL

Correspondence received :

- FAMPARC news.
- EMDRC news
- WANSARC e-mail link news.
- " Amateur Radio" mag.
- Steve VK3EGD, an e-mail re the "hamradioisfun" website.
- Phone call from Andrew Martin confirming his talk to us on 21stOctober.
- WIA Clubs e-mail regarding the WIA National field day weekend of 14th &15th April 2012.

Correspondence sent :

- RD contest logs to WIA

- Phone call to AR Vic. Requesting information on their foundation course weekends.(Next will be next weekend 10th & 11th September and then again 3rd & 4th December 2011).

Treasurer's report : (Copy attached).
Moved : Ian VK3BUF. **Seconded:** Doug VK3KMN All in favour.
Income : $107.00 **Expenditure :** $392.45 **Balance :** $6196.85

Previous Minutes :
Read : as per Sept Gateway **Moved :** Dianne VK3JDI **Seconded :** Michael VK3GHM
Approved : yes

Business arising from the previous minutes :

Cup weekend at Yarra Junction Dianne VK3JDI reports that deposits have been paid and the camp site has been booked. Four members are going as confirmed.

Prac. night for Friday 7th October for Vanuatu Dx sked, Ian VK3BUF reports that the frequency to try will be 7.170 Mhz at 7.30pm. all being well.

Repeater VK3RDD Albert reports that the source of the interference appears to have been tracked and the owners of the equipment will be approached diplomatically. He further reports that the beacons at Langwarrin are next on the list to be repaired

Foundation course planned for 12th 13th November, I, Graeme VK3BXG report that although it will not clash with AR Victoria events, it was pointed out to me that the dates are not suitable for senior secondary students, the demographic for which we were aiming, as they will be involved with exams at that time.
The dates therefore may be best advertised and used for licence upgrades with a foundation course set for school students in April.

JOTA/JOTI. Will be the weekend before our next meeting, that is 15th October. Those volunteered tonight were Max VK3TMK, Michael VK3GMH, Albert VK3BQO, Yarn VK3NOV and Wayne VK3ZWC.
Times will be 1pm until 6pm Saturday only 15th October.

New business.
Certificates of appreciation, a presidents award, was awarded to Susan VK3UMN in appreciation for her work as editor of our "Gateways" magazine from 2008 until now 2011.

Pub. night at the "Cardinia" Beaconsfield has been set for Saturday 5th November and a deposit will be needed on or before our next general meeting 21st October. Dianne VK3JDI reports.

Christmas Party, 10th December Dianne VK3JDI reports that a host and premises is needed for the event. There were no volunteers at this stage.

Old VK3RDD former cabinet was proposed by Ian VK3BUF for club gas bottle storage. Consensus agreed.
A concrete slab will be procured to sit it on.

Club membership lists in hard copy are now available as a hand out to members.

A "working-bee" I, Graeme VK3BXG proposed and it was agreed needs to be done before JOTA weekend in order to tidy up before the event. Consensus and agreed to be 8th October at 10am at the club shack.

RTTY compatible Ian VK3BUF reports what Chris VK3QB hopes to make of the clubs FT950 transceiver.

Meeting closed : 20:38 pm.

Information for Club Members

General Club meetings are held at 8:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the **Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant Street, Cranbourne.**

Prac. nights are held on the first Friday night in the **Peter Pavey clubrooms**, (at the rear of the Guide Hall) commence from around 7:30 PM.

Visitors are welcome to attend.

Office bearers:

President:	Dianne Jackson	VK3JDI
Secretary:	Graeme Brown	VK3BXG
Treasurer:	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF
Gen. Comm Members:	Paul Stubbs	VK3TGX
	Russ White	VK3MWR
	Michael Van Den Acker	VK3GHM
Public Officer:	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF
Distribution Email :	Graeme	VK3BXG
Property Officer:	Bruno	VK3BFT
Repeater Officer:	Albert	VK3BQO
WebMaster:	Stephen	VK3EGD

- **GGREC Web Site** & Archive may be viewed at: ***www.ggrec.org.au***
- Club Station is **VK3BJA** which operates from the Cranbourne Clubrooms.
- 6M Repeater at Cockatoo is **VK3RDD** : Freq. **In 52.575, out 53.575 MHz**
- 70cm Repeater Cranbourne is **VK3RLP** Freq. **In 434.475, out 439.475MHz**
  This 70 cm Repeater requires **CTCSS** tone access of **123 Hz.**
  It also supports Remote Internet access (**IRLP**) using **Node Number 6794**.

Call in Frequencies :

- VHF **145.450** MHz, FM
- UHF on **438.850** MHz,

Membership Fee Schedule: (due after each April Annual General Meeting)

Standard Member rate	$37.00	Junior Member rate	$22.00
Pension Member rate	$22.00	Extra Family Member	$17.00

- Fees can be paid by EFT to **BSB 633000 - Account 134761279**.
- Always identify your EFT payments.

The deadline for magazine items is the Tenth day of each month.

Please direct magazine articles to: ***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 the Club cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.*