



# GATEWAY

**The Official Magazine of the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Inc.**

## ***May 2013 From The President***

Being President of GGREC is an honour that I gladly accepted at the AGM. Dianne did such a great job and I hope that I can continue to facilitate fun interesting meetings.

Life without GGREC is not something that I would enjoy. I am blown away with the talent that is in our Club and the experience that newer members bring with them. Prac nights are a great way to really get to know people while chatting with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Take the VK3RDD 6 meter repeater as an example. Working quietly over the last year or two, Albert and Geoff have produced a repeater that is comparable (superior!) to any commercial controller available. Geoff has, and is still is adding and improving the software when he is located here in Melbourne or overseas. Hundreds of hours spent writing and reviewing lines of software would normally cost tens of thousands of dollars but we at GGREC are getting it all for free. So to Geoff and Albert, thanks for all the hours of work that you have and are still doing for GGREC.



*Bruno Tonizzo*

So, what sort of year are we going to have? Well, that depends on what you; the members of GGREC want to do. The committee can organise outings and events but if the members are not interest in turning up, it will be a wasted effort. So, let the committee know what you want from the Club and we will endeavour to deliver it.

The Mid Year Dinner (lunch) on the top of Arthur's Seat sound very exciting and I look forward to having a sunny day (fingers crossed) to complement the great views of Port Philip bay.

See you at the May General meeting,

*Bruno VK3BFT*

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## ***Event Queue from May 2013***

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday Night. General Meeting at the Guide Hall  
From 2000hrs Tuning Cavity Filters VK3BRS

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Saturday. VK3RWD Working Bee Drouin  
from 0930 hrs at Graemes VK3BXG

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday Night. Prac Night - Peter Pavey Clubrooms  
From 1930 hrs come along for a chinwag or a QSO

June 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday Night. General Meeting at the Guide Hall  
From 2000hrs

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sat - Sun. Winter VHF/UHF Field Days  
Head for the hills and see how far you can work

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday . GGREC Hamfest  
From 1000hrs \$6 entry see [www.ggrec.org.au](http://www.ggrec.org.au)

July 29<sup>th</sup> – Saturday . GGREC Midyear Lunch  
Details in magazine Held at Arthur's Seat \$10 deposit required

## **PURCHASING COMPONENTS IN CHINA**

My business requires the sourcing of a wide range of electronic components for the construction of circuit boards. There is no single supplier that can provide what is needed, so we buy from a lot of regular suppliers in Australia, such as Altronics, Electus (Jaycar), Element 14 and a range of others. In recent years we have placed small orders to brokers in China who can source exotic parts, or Chinese manufactured parts at good prices and short lead times.

Usually, by Skype messaging I make contact with an agent in Shenzhen, provide a wish list of items, often accompanied by pictures and data sheets. Within hours they go to a nearby electronics market, find the parts, confirm prices and package quantities and provide a reply.

Shenzhen is a large, modern city in Mainland China, immediately to the north of Hong Kong. It forms a part of their Special Economic Zones that encourage trade and manufacture with the rest of the world.

*A partial view of Shenzhen from our hotel room*



While travelling in China for much of April, Dianne VK3JDI and I decided to see for ourselves what these Electronic Markets were like. From another city 1100km to the north, a four hour high-speed train ride delivered us to Shenzhen. We were greeted by the lovely 'Ava' of the Sunshun Electronics Co., who introduced us to her boss and her place of business. After a few rounds of Chinese tea we were taken on a tour of the marketplace nearby. You must appreciate that we were at the centre of one of the busiest metropolises of the world. Surrounded by modern tall buildings and a throng of pedestrian flow. The markets consist



of entire floors of activity, perhaps the lower 3-4 floors of many buildings. Each vast room is a hive of hundreds of people, all taking at once, all selling their wares from stalls with barely enough free room for their chairs. Everyone has a phone in their hand. It is like a Victoria Market where fruit and vegetables have been replaced with semiconductors LED's and relays.

There are many specialist stalls, that trade in connectors, small screws, LCD displays and hand tools for manufacturers. It was very loud and the only words of English heard were our own.



*Semiconductors by the bag or reel*

As we moved from floor to floor and building to building, we saw an ongoing repetition of the same products on counters. If you want five or ten of anything, then no problem. Folding money changes hands and the parts are yours. If you want 10,000 items, also fine, just come back in a couple of hours and they will magically appear from god knows where. I'm sure there is order and protocol in this mayhem, but I felt more than happy to leave it to the professionals.

After an hour or so, I think we went into component overload and had to sit down for a while.

It is an amazing resource. It is the eye-of-the-needle with component manufacturers on one side and equipment manufacturers on the other. I guess at some level I had been aware that there were specialised trade areas, but my mind had been polluted with images of Harry Potter visiting wand and owl shops in Daigon Alley. It was great to see first hand how my parts were being sourced.



*Capacitors anyone?*

Now, more than ever, I am content to let my agents do the walking for me, while I sit in the green hills of Drouin West, half a world away, listening to the sound of cows mooing while tapping out my Skype messages. Just a few more clicks to Pay Pal, and five to seven days later a delivery truck rolls down my driveway, hands me a package, talks about the weather and ambles off again.

My agent earns their commission, haggling prices, talking down minimum-order-quantities and making sure that parts are genuine. It is very much a grey market and is not always right for the parts we need. One must still do their sums, as the cost of freight still affects the great prices that are being quoted, but it remains an amazing resource to tap into.



*Relays...um have you got these in blue?*

The remaining day and a half in Shenzhen was taken up with sightseeing, Chinese banquet meals (that's another story for another day) and zigzagging across the city on their vast underground network of immaculate subway trains.

On the last day our new friends escorted us to the Fujian Checkpoint, where we (slowly) walked across the river into Hong Kong and onward to the next adventure. These are the important experiences that help to place the good and bad parts of our own culture into a fresh perspective. I recommend it to all.

*Ian VK3BUF*

# **TREASURER NOTES**

Greetings GGREC Members. We are at that time of year once more where the AGM has passed and membership fees are due to keep your Club going.

At the last meeting a vote was passed to increase the fees by a small amount. Unfortunately I could not attend that night, and so could not speak for the motion. It is important to understand that this increase was necessary. It is the first increase in eleven years, which still only puts it at under *one-third* of normal increases of the Consumer Price Index.

During this eleven year period we have seen quite a shift of members paying the full rate, slowly shift into the concession membership rate. At the same time the cost of power and water that has supplied our Clubrooms have risen significantly.

It is of great importance that the annual costs that are incurred by the Club are met by annual income to the Club, and that we do not draw upon our savings for day-to-day expenditure.

It is true that in 2012 there was a significant bequest to the Club from Ron VK3EXJ that boosted the Clubs savings. It is also true that the Club could last a long time by drawing on these funds for its daily expenses.

I know from Ron and Judy that the motivation behind this was to further the aims of the Club for the long-term benefit, and not given as a means of subsidising membership fees for individuals.

It is my duty as Treasurer today, and for Treasurers to come, to ensure that the budget is sound, its annual income meets its annual expenditure, and to ensure that the Club is then free to pursue its aims for the future.

From April 19 The GGREC membership fees for 12 months are as follows:

- Full Member \$40
- Concession (Student, Pensioner, Concession Card Holder) \$25
- Additional Family Member \$20

This can be paid in cash at a meeting, by cheque/money order to the Club P.O. box, or by EFT transfer to the Club Account (BSB: 633000 Acc: 146016746).

The Clubs postal address is GGREC, P.O. Box 1098 Cranbourne 3977

**Please identify all payments with a name or callsign  
and a receipt will be supplied to you.**

# GGREC MID YEAR LUNCH



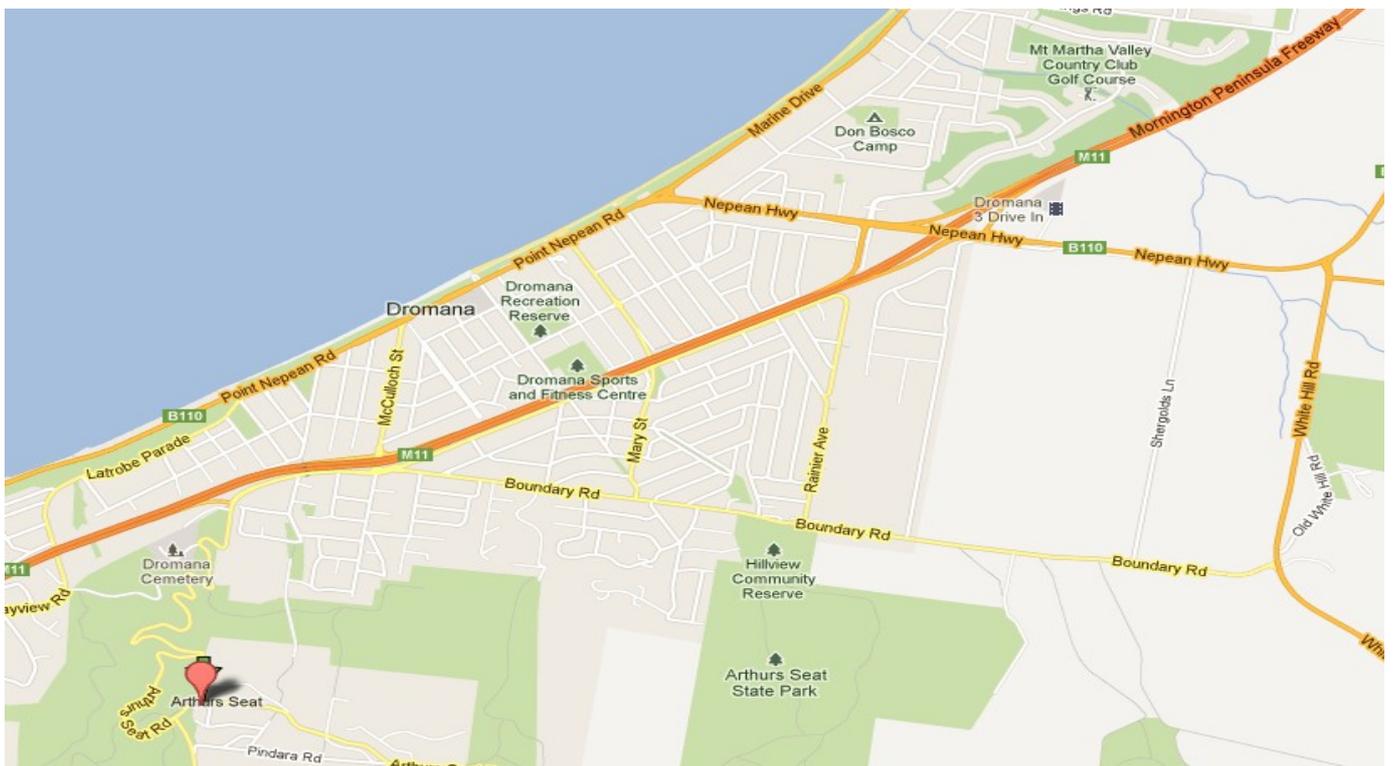
This year we are doing something different. Instead of the traditional dinner at the Guide Hall in Cranbourne, we are going to have a long-lunch at Arthur's Hotel at the top of Arthur's Seat above Dromana. One of the best VHF sites in the state!  
(bring a hand-held and see for yourself)

This event will commence at midday on **Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June**

For more information on the venue visit the link:  
<http://www.arthurs.net.au/>

If you want to join us, we will need a \$10 deposit per-person to be made to the treasurer at the upcoming MAY or JUNE general meeting.  
(This deposit will be returned on the day as you arrive.)

The venue is Arthur's Hotel, 790 Arthur's Seat Scenic Road. A map of how to get there is below



## ***Oxfam Trail Walk 2013*** ***our small part in its success.***

Yet again I volunteered to be a small part in this year's radio communications for the Oxfam event over the weekend from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The Oxfam Trailwalker is an endurance event in which teams of four attempt to complete a 100 kilometre trail within 48 hours and this involves real teamwork and personal endeavour. It is not a relay and individual teams must start and stick together, and as a fund raiser the teams pledge a minimum level of fund



raising when entering and the money raised goes towards international community development work. This year just on 750 teams entered and with their support crews, the logistics and safety volunteers, that is a lot of people – more than 6,000 was estimated.

As with other recent years, the event starts at Jells Park, Wheelers Hill, with the start times staggered over three hours to cater for the volume of teams. There are seven check points ahead roughly every 13 kilometres along the trail.

From Jell Park, the trail passes south east through the Corhanwarrabul wetlands to Churchill Park – check point 1. Then on to Lysterfield Lake, check point 2, Ferntree Gull Picnic ground 3, Olinda 4, Mt Evelyn 5, now on the Warburton trail to Woori Yallock 6, Warburton 7 and then a loop back over Mt Little Joe to the finish at Wesburn Park which is also event HQ including all the safety and logistic services.

At check points there are teams of volunteers electronically checking each teams in as they arrive and checking them out as they leave – so as to account for everybody, some arrivals have “had enough” and pull out at. A team is allowed to move on with three but no less and part teams even amalgamate, which is permissible, to make up a team's numbers.



So it is that WICEN as in previous years supplied the safety and logistics communication if and when required during the event. But because the first few check points are on the western side of Mt Dandenong and latter ones are to the east there is no direct link; that is in the past HF has been tried and even the VK3REC or VK3RCR local 2 meter repeaters but all have presented their inevitable problems. Nevertheless tests in recent years have proved our 6 meter VK3RDD repeater to be ideally located to cover all the course but in the interest of good manners, a simplex 6 meter frequency is used when the last walkers reach Olinda so all goes quiet on VK3RDD after that.

This year on Friday 19th I was assigned first up to Check point 1, Churchill Park near Endeavour Hills; a check point known for poor signals out, but using an 8 meter NBS telescopic mast which I made to be self supporting, a 5/8 ground plane antenna and an IC706Mk2G, I had no difficulty accessing our repeater with good results despite being in a tent in the bush and using a battery only for power. I spent the whole day at check point 1 only – that is I set it up and I closed it down.

The next day, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> I assisted at Woori Yallock Primary School, check point 6, until close. The set up here was already in place upon my arrival there, but being there until its closure at 10 pm my extra job was also to dismantle and return all the equipment to HQ at Trailwalker finish. Being much closer to HQ however there was less to dismantle, the antenna being only a ¼ wave on top of a basketball ring.



In conclusion radio traffic was very light and this is a good indication that all went well with few or no incidents this year. The weather was very kind to all this year too unlike other years with the main radio traffic this year being only the hourly wind speed and temperature reports back to HQ.

Ian Morris, VK3IFM the WICEN coordinator for this event asked me to thank GGREC members for allowing the use of VK3RDD. But I would also like on behalf of us all to thank Albert VK3BQO and Geoff VK3ZGW for their tireless work in upgrading and maintaining our VK3RDD repeater for all our use.

*Graeme VK3BXG*

## ***VK3RWD Working Bee 25<sup>th</sup> may***

If you are available for the working bee at Graeme's on the 25<sup>th</sup> May at 0930hrs please email Albert VK3BQO [repeaters@ggrec.org.au](mailto:repeaters@ggrec.org.au) we need firm numbers no tools or equipment is required just bring your self

## **General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne  
**Start Time:** Meeting commenced at 2002 hrs  
**Chairperson:** Albert VK3BQO  
**Minutes taken:** Graeme VK3BXG  
**Present and Guests:** As per attendance sheet.  
**Apologies:** As per attendance sheet  
**New Callsigns:** None

**Correspondence in:** EMDRC news letter, Wansarc news e-mail link, Nerg news e-mail link, An E-mail from Ian Morris VK3IFM requesting use of VK3RDD 6 meter repeater today for the OXFAM charity walk safety and logistics, Shire of Casey regarding a Social Media training evening on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. (Although not club specific, individual members may be interested.)

**Correspondence out:** Email to Ian Morris from the committee agreeing to the use of VK3RDD for the OXFAM walk

**Treasurers Report** given by Albert VK3BQO from information handed on by Ian VK3BUF.

Balance in Bendigo investment account: \$9221.34

Balance in Bendigo cheque account: \$2831.74

Balance of Quick books cheque account: \$1979.16

Difference \$852.58.

Yearly income was \$11,152.87. Expenses were \$5,693.00 with a net income of \$5,459.87. Moved accepted, Russ VK3MWR, seconded Leigh VK3FACB, all in favour, carried.

**Previous general meeting minutes** of 15<sup>th</sup> March, as per April Gateways; moved Mark VK3FWSP, seconded Russ VK3MWR, all in favour, carried.

**Business from the Previous Minutes.**

**Repeaters** report from Albert VK3BQO that a working-bee put back the beacons back on air last Saturday. VK3RDD was used for the OXFAM charity walk this day with good results and served the purpose for which it was intended.

**Hamfest** Wayne VK3ZWC reports that all is on schedule although a bit slower than usual. A food handler is yet to be organised and a door prize idea is needed.

**Helix**, Rob VK3BRS reports has now been ordered and the quantity will be supplied to those who ordered it.

**October Antenna Weekend** Albert **VK3BQO** reports that two people are now needed to organise others to give a talk on their special antenna presentation. Test gear will also be available for demonstration and use but it will also be a social weekend.

**Annual Fees**, at Ian **VK3BUF** suggestion, Albert **VK3BQO** reports, have not been increased for 11 years due to Hamfests and barbecues. We have not been making big profits but we have a surplus we were reminded. Discussion arose as to if fees should be increased – by \$3.00 was the suggestion. A motion had been moved by Ian **VK3BUF** that we increase fees by \$3.00. Seconded, Leigh **VK3FACB**, majority (but not all) in favour, carried. Annual fees are now due.

**New Business.**

**Speaker for May** will be Rob **VK3BRS** talking on tuning cavity filters.

**Mid Year Dinner** suggestion is for Arthur's Seat Hotel on 29<sup>th</sup> June for a midday meal. From discussion there was a consensus on the venue, but a \$10 deposit would be required.

**Dummy Load Kits** might be available on line if there was enough interest. Rob **VK3BRS** reports he has purchased one and it seems to work well. Members were advised to see Rob if interested in acquiring one and payment of \$25 in full first.

**Traction batteries**, available second hand and see Brian **VK3BSN** if interested.

**Web-site "zilch"** Russ **VK3MWR** reports, is a site where items are for free and people are giving away computers.

**Next Prac-night**, Michael **VK3GHM** reports there will be a dx-pedition on Norfolk Island which may be of interest.

In "**Silicon Chip**" Paul **VK3TGX** reports there are details of a USB radio stick. 472 kHz contact cross band Mike **VK3KTO** reports he recently made.

**2 GHz band loss**, Geoff **VK3ZGW** queried as to if it required discussion? But because it had already happened it was felt that nothing more could be done.

**Discrete components**, Russ **VK3MWR** reports could now be purchased at a Jaycar store now in Hallam.

**VK3RWD**, Albert **VK3BQO** reports has come to a standstill at the moment but it will continue on. A working bee is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Meeting closed** at 8:50 pm

Annual General Meeting to follow.



## **Club Information**

Meetings 2000 on third Friday of the month at the Cranbourne Guide Grant Street Cranbourne, Prac nights first Friday in the Peter Pavey Clubrooms Cranbourne 1930 Visitors are always welcome to attend

### **Office bearers**

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT	Repeater Officer	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO
Admin Sec	Graeme Brown	VK3BXG	Web Master	Stephen Harding	VK3EGD
Treasurer	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF	Magazine Editor	Mark Clohesy	VK3FWSP
General 1	Mark Clohesy	VK3FWSP	Property Officer	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT
General 2	Wayne Cooke	VK3ZWC	Secretary	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF

## **Call in Frequencies, Beacons and Repeaters**

- The Club Station **VK3BJA** operates from the Cranbourne Clubrooms.
- 6m Repeater Cockatoo **VK3RDD** : Freq. In **52.575 MHz**, Out **53.575 MHz**  
The 6m Repeater requires CTCSS tone access of **91.5 Hz**
- 70cm Repeater Cranbourne **VK3RLP** In **434.475 MHz** Out **439.475 MHz**  
The 70cm Repeater requires CTCSS tone access of **123 Hz**  
The 70cm Repeater supports Remote Internet access (IRLP) Node **6794**.
  - Simplex VHF - **145.450 MHz FM**
  - Simplex UHF - **438.850 MHz FM**
- **VK3RLP Beacons** **1296.532 MHz** & **2043.532 MHz**

## **Membership Fee Schedule**

Standard Member rate \$40.00 Junior Member rate \$25.00  
Pension Member rate \$25.00 Extra Family Member \$20.00

- Fees can be paid by EFT to **BSB 633000** - Account **146016746**.
  - Always identify your EFT payments.
- Membership Fee's Are Due at each April Annual General Meeting.

Magazine Articles to [editor@ggrec.org.au](mailto:editor@ggrec.org.au) or [pockets@twistedsouls.com](mailto:pockets@twistedsouls.com)

All other Club correspondence to: [secretary@ggrec.org.au](mailto:secretary@ggrec.org.au)  
or via Snail Mail : PO Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977

GGREC Web Site & Archive may be viewed at: [www.ggrec.org.au](http://www.ggrec.org.au)  
Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/GippslandGate](http://www.facebook.com/GippslandGate)

The deadline for magazine items is the Tenth day of each month.  
Commercial Advertising is \$10 full A4 Page or \$5 ½ A4 Page per edition

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