



# GATEWAY

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

## **February 2015 From The President**

It never surprises me just how generous people can be especially when we think of amateurs having deep pockets and short arms.

Local amateur Warren, VK3SXW from Narre Warren contacted the Club to donate some books and a test set to the Club.

He would even deliver if we gave him an address. My address was given to Warren and within an hour or two he arrives on my door step with an arm full of books and a fully functional Systron and Donner C1200-A Motorola communications test set, plug in modulation oscilloscope (and spare part unit), service manual, dummy load with monitoring output, and all the leads you need to use it.

To say that I was amazed would be an understatement. What a fantastic asset for the Club. For someone like me that spent many years operating test equipment, I could see many uses that such a device can be used for. The primary one would be education of our keen members that want to learn about this device. This will keep us very busy at Prac nights for many months to come.

The year has started with a big effort during our working bees to prepare for an enjoyable year. There is only one thing left to fix and that is the OCF Dipole. Looks like some hungry cockies took a bite out some wires so that should be a quick fix.

Our ANZAC commemoration has been booked with the WIA in for the 2nd to 8<sup>th</sup> of May so I will be asking for members to put their name down on a roster to use the V13ANZAC callsign. Some planning will be needed to work with the RSL to see if we can set up a station on a Saturday or Sunday on their property, assuming they are willing to participate.



Don't forget that the April General Meeting is our Annual General Meeting. All committee positions will be vacated and all full members will have the opportunity to nominate for a position on the new committee. If you have strong views about how the Club should be run, then this is your opportunity to show what you are made of.

*Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT*

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## 2015 Event Queue

### February

Tuesday 3rd	Committee meeting
Friday 6th	Prac Night
Friday the 20th	General Meeting
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> & Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Foundation Classes
Saturday 21st	Working Bee to fix the OCF dipole - 11:00 AM

### March

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Amateur Radio Operating day at the Clubrooms 11:00 AM onwards.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Committee Meeting
Friday 6th	Prac Night
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> – Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day Camping weekend – See article by Helmet, Page 9
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	DF Hunt

### Coming events

April/May	Pub Night with EMDRC members (Venue and date to be confirmed)
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Midyear Dinner at Arthurs Seat – To Be Confirmed.
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	2015 Hamfest
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	VI3ANZAC special callsign for GGREC.Bike Ride – TBA

### Note

In view of the fact that the schedule is fairly packed in March, the pub night has been deferred until later in the year

## From The Editor

How are you all going with the magazine in its current format?

I see my version as almost identical to Mark VK3PKT's version, minus the whole page text boxes.

It was mentioned to me that one of the club members read the magazine on his mobile phone.

Unfortunately, pdf's are a very rigid thing, you can resize them, you cannot easily re-format them, unless of course you convert the magazine back to a word processor document and have a good play with it. This is a bit of a problem when it comes to small screens, either the pdf page fits on the screen – where you cannot read it, or you zoom in so the text is legible, but then you have to constantly move the page left and right as you read it. I have a very small Android phone and reading pdf's is painful. On an iPad, no problem, it's just the smaller screens.

I recently bought myself a Kindle e-reader, and I wondered about getting the magazine onto it, but after reading about it, I think I'll pass as the instructions on the Amazon website (the Kindle makers) revolve around an Apple Mac computer, so it's going to get very expensive very quickly.

I think I'll just keep reading the bible on my Kindle, and use something larger for the Magazine.

Unfortunately this issue is only going to get bigger and won't go away. Larger screens are tending to give way to smaller screens that fit into your pocket. Just look around, it's amazing how many people have one permanently attached to their hands/face.

So what are your thoughts on this one, let us know.

*Paul VK3TGX*



Maybe I should give up on selfies!

If you have something for the magazine, that is too big for email, let us know, I can give you a link to my DropBox account. This works extremely well, assuming you are happy to load the DropBox app onto your computer,

Also, if you think you've missed the cut off date for articles, don't worry, Send it anyway. You may be lucky – or I will put it in next month's magazine.



# EMDRC Hamfest 2015

Sunday 29 March 2015

Great Ryrie Primary School  
51A Great Ryrie Street, Heathmont, Victoria

<http://www.emdrc.com.au>

\$6pp including one Raffle ticket and bottomless tea & coffee.

Doors open at 10 am.

Breakfast and morning tea available at the famous BBQ.

Commercial and second hand traders, new & used bargains, Raffle prizes donated by our commercial traders, raffle drawn 12 noon.

Plenty of space for a chat with old and new friends.



## Expiration of Amateur Licences



Dear Colleagues,

The following notice has been received from the WIA. Could I suggest that all members check the expiration dates on their licences (including the club repeater/beacon licences) in order to ensure that no Club member or entity has inadvertently failed to renew their licence before the due date.

Regards,

Bryan VK3FOAB

Admin. Sec.

Subject: Expiration of Amateur Licences

Date: 9 Feb 2015 17:25:22 +1100

From: memnet@wia.org.au

To: secretary@ggrec.org.au

Dear President,

There are currently over 180 amateur radio licences that have not been renewed this year. This includes some club licences and repeater licences. This may be as a result of ACMA not having renewals available. Please ask club members to check that licences are current and paid.

WIA Office

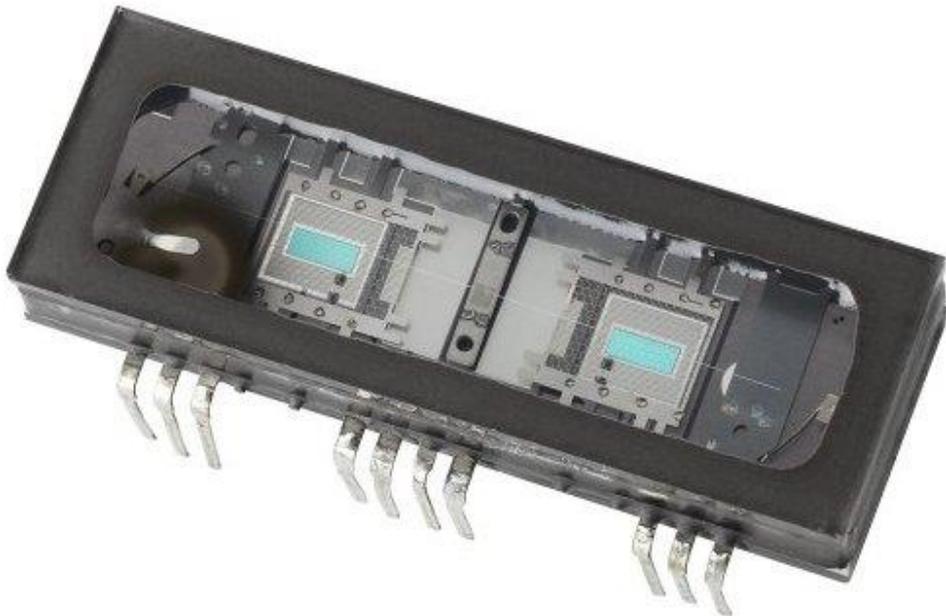
## Modern spin on valves

From: Mark Clohesy VK3PKT

<http://blog.adafruit.com/2015/01/30/nutube-miniaturized-high-performance-vacuum-tube/>

JANUARY 30, 2015 AT 2:36 PM

### Nutube: Miniaturized High Performance Vacuum Tube



No you're not reading a headline from the 40's and 50's, the **Nutube is a brand new spin on vacuum tubes** that's in development in 2015. Created by Korg and Noritake, the Nutube is a tiny vacuum tube that looks somewhat similar to a large DIP package microchip. Along with the smaller size the Nutube claims to have better power consumption and reliability compared to traditional vacuum tubes. Vacuum tubes are surprisingly still in common use with many audio electronics like amplifiers and synthesizers because they add rich and pleasing distortion to music. The Nutube aims to make these devices smaller and more reliable without sacrificing the charm and character of vacuum tubes.

**KORG INC and Noritake Co., Limited Release Innovative Vacuum Tube: the Nutube**

# VASTROC 2015

**What is happening:** Bendigo to Host Astronomy Convention.

**When:** Friday April 17th to Sunday April 19th.

**Where:** Discovery Science & Technology Centre, 7 Railway Place, Bendigo.  
(adjacent to Bendigo Railway Station & Bendigo Marketplace).

**Cost:** Choice of registration options.

**Contact:** Joy Vinnicombe, 0407 058 279.

## **Bendigo to Host Astronomy Convention.**

The 2015 **Victorian Astronomical Convention** will be hosted by Bendigo District Astronomical Society. The convention will be held from Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, at Discovery Science & Technology Centre Bendigo.

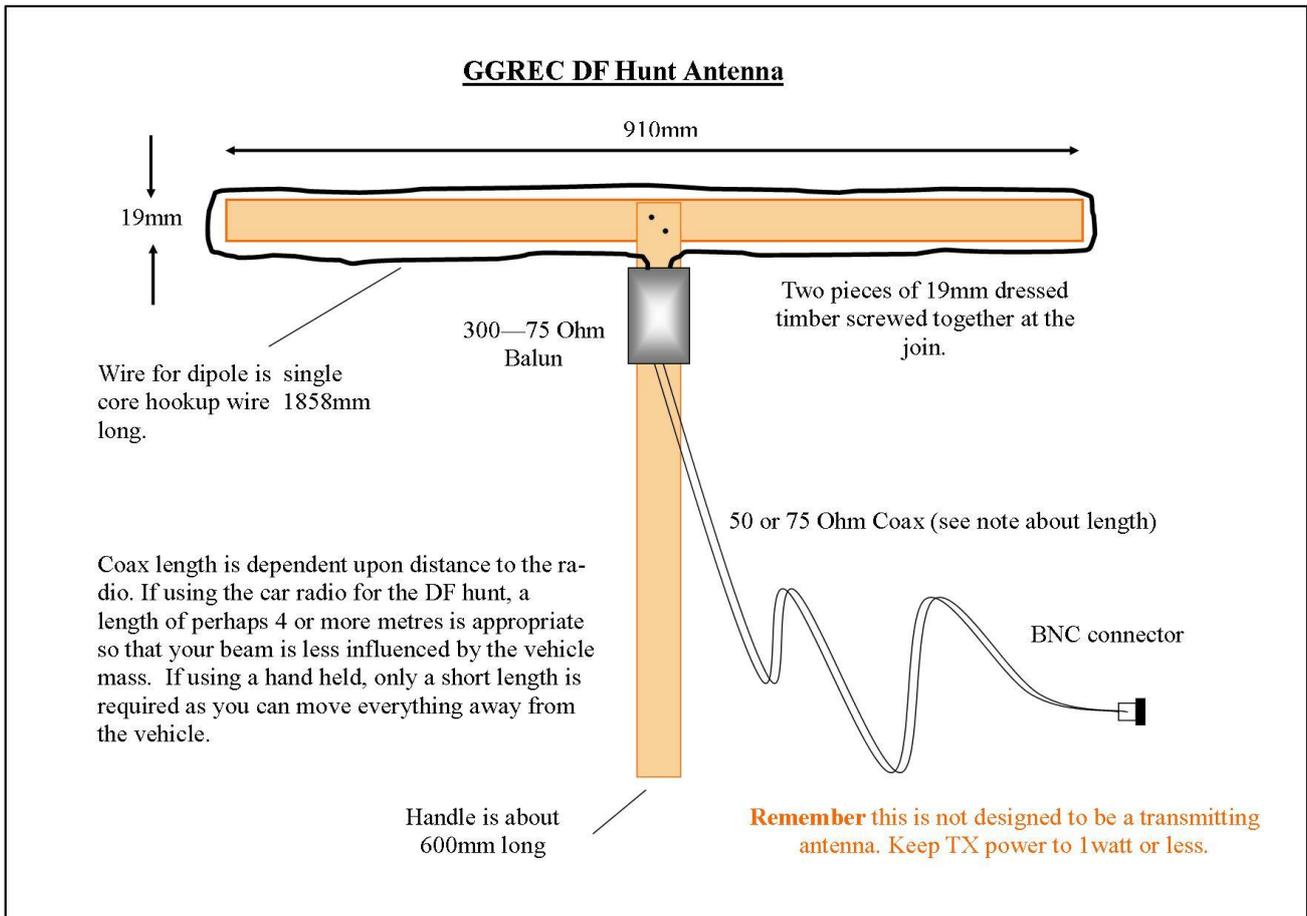
A variety of topics will be covered such as Night Sky Photography, Solar Astronomy, Black Holes, Radio Astronomy, the World's First Astronomers, and much more.

The convention will kick off on the Friday evening with Sidewalk Astronomy and Planetarium sessions! Participants will also enjoy a dinner and speaker on the Saturday evening.  
Register today at [www.vastroc.net](http://www.vastroc.net) **Early Bird tickets are available until February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

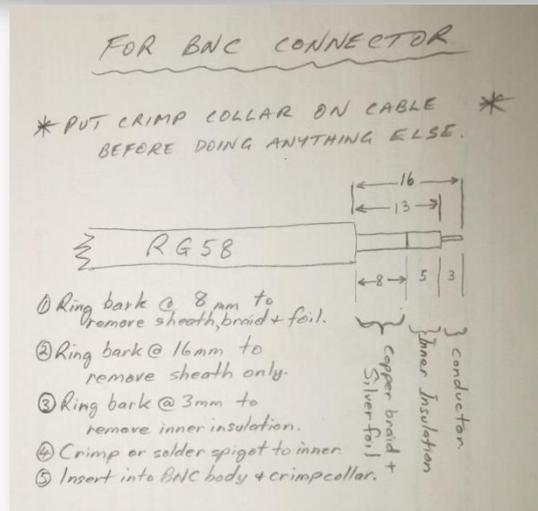
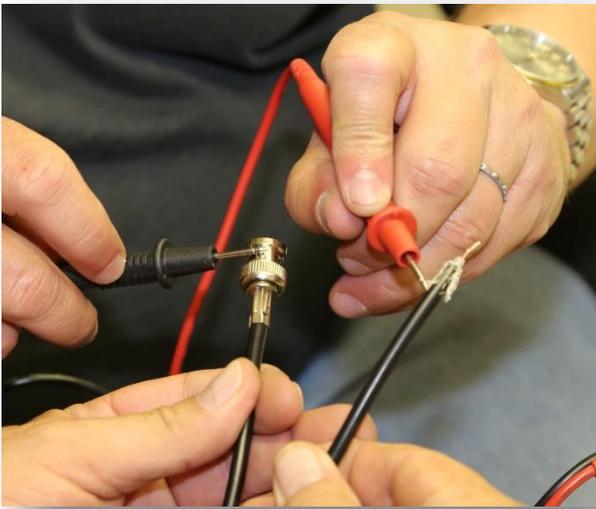
Bendigo  
17-19 April  
[www.vastroc.net](http://www.vastroc.net)



# Fox Hunting Antenna Construction



Spot on – near perfect!



## Australia Day





## Lake Eildon Camping - Option for Labour Day Weekend

A suggestion by Helmet VK3DHI as a destination for the Labour Day Camping weekend 7/3/2015

(Note, NO AMENITIES! – toilets only)

Driving direction:

Melbourne to Yarra Glen

Yarra Glen via Melba Hwy. to Yea

Yea via Maroondah Hwy to Mansfield

Mansfield to Goughs Bay

Before entering Goughs Bay turn half right into Walshs Road.

Follow Walshs for abt. 7 km

Turn right in to **BLUE GUM FLAT CAMPGROUND**  
(3rd camping spot on the right hand side of the road.)



## What A Great Light Show (Albert VK3BQO)

Most of us will remember the afternoon / evening of January 7th, 2015 when some serious lightning storms passed across Victoria.

Being aware that the storms were on their way, I was lucky enough to be home beforehand and disconnected all radios from their respective antennas. I did not know how important this was to be until late the next day when I started to count the dollars worth of equipment that needed either replacement or repair.

At around 2pm, I hear the Club's 6m repeater VK3RDD announce that it was reinitialising possibly from a fault or power hiccup. It did this twice in quick succession then remained in transmit mode for about 10 minutes before releasing the carrier. The controller has inbuilt safeguards against transmitter lockups but if my suspicions were correct and the installation had been upset by lightning, then not much was going to stop the thing from doing what it wanted to do. I rang Bryan VK3FOAB knowing that he lived in the vicinity of the repeater site only to be told that he was not at home and was not going to attempt to drive home in the storm that was passing overhead at that time.

There was no way that I was going to venture to the top of Mt Majestic (VK3RDD site) in this weather to see if anything could be done so the smoke would have to simply let itself out until the weather improved - possibly next morning so I thought.

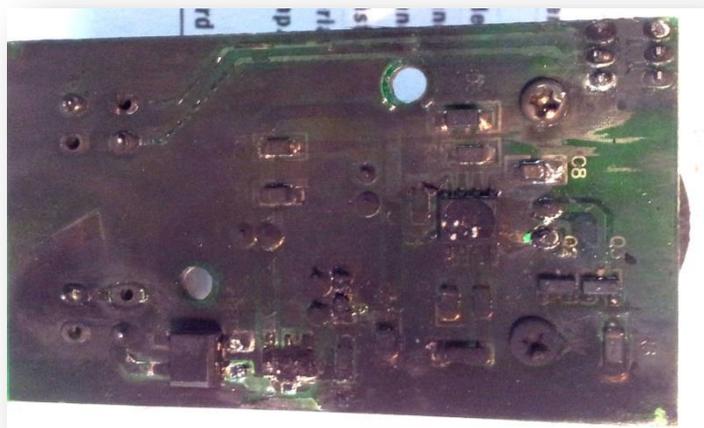
That was the beginning of events that followed for the remainder of the night. It was timely that our 2 year old grandson was staying with us for the night and I tried to make him keep watch out the front window to see the lightning strikes that were occurring but as always happens, as soon as you look away, the best ones light up the sky. He was fascinated and strangely knew the correct sound to make when he saw a flash. No it was not the sound of thunder; it was a kind of sizzling sound such as what an electronic device would make as it fries itself. I don't know where he learnt that, but I will turn him into an Amateur one day. It was possibly 2am when I heard the loudest clap of thunder I have ever heard. Obviously this was a close one but the 2 year old slept right through it. The 60 year old didn't.

I figured that if there was no smell of smoke and the lights still worked, then anything else could wait until the morning. The new morning did not show anything wrong until I looked at my mobile phone which had an email from my alarm system (yep an email from my alarm system - modern technology) letting me know that the alarm had a problem. Upon opening the alarm panel, it was obvious due to the heat being generated by one particular module that the same sizzling sound mentioned before had occurred inside this box during the night. Luckily cost wise this is an easily replaced module built from one of the AVR / Arduino modules that have been presented to the Club for possible projects. One down, how many to go?

We then noted that a vehicle had driven in our driveway without setting off the sensor which alerts us to incoming vehicles. This sensor comprises an Infrared Beam which is broken when a vehicle passes between the transmitter on one side of the drive to the receiver on the other side. The status of the sensor is transmitted to the house. The LED was still glowing in the receiver but not in the transmitter so that made it obvious for fault finding. Upon opening the module that housed the transmitter module, it became pretty obvious where the lightning had found a path to earth. (refer to the photo of the rather black PCB). No way was this going to be repaired even if I could find and identify the bits that had disappeared from the PCB. So on to Ebay where another beam sensor was quickly ordered from VK4. By now it was well into the afternoon and the good wife informs me that the Internet has "gone down". Even though it was working fine to order the sensor only a short while before, the ADSL modem now decided it was time to go to ADSL heaven. Talk about delayed reaction. I did not even bother to open it up for attempted repair. It was simply replaced.

So the tally so far:

One repeater on the hill, one alarm system module, one driveway sensor and one ADSL modem. Not including the repeater repair which is owned by the Club and was an unknown at this time it was not enough yet to make a claim on insurance. Could there be any more issues. Well you know the answer to that because there is at least another paragraph under this one. It wasn't until a week later that I remembered once before losing two security cameras to a strike, so it warranted checking as these things usually just sit there recording and not being viewed. Yep - scratch another one camera. Now we are getting closer to an insurance claim. As a finale, I found later that the other two Club repeaters (VK3RWD and VK3RLP) had also gone off air. Luckily RLP was simply a bad DC connector problem and RWD came alive again on its own but with possibly reduced output. All in all, it was a pretty nasty storm that passed over Melbourne that night and I just copped my share of the damage. But that's alright, lightning never strikes twice in the same place - or does it?



## From the shack of Mark VK3PKT.



What have you been up to in your shack? Send us a picture & a few words  
We need input for the magazine - Paul VK3TGX

# General Meeting Minutes 16/1/2015

**Start time :** 8:00 pm.

**Location :** Club rooms.

**Chairperson :** Bruno VK3BFT

**Minute Taker :** Bryan VK3FOAB

**Present :** As per attendance sheet

**Visitors:** Nil

**Apologies :** As per attendance sheet

1. Bruno VK3BFT extended thanks to Paul VK3TGX for an excellent first edition of the club magazine. Upcoming events will be listed in the magazine, and members are encouraged to keep an eye on this. The next event will be our Australia Day BBQ on the 26<sup>th</sup> January at the back of the guide hall. Thanks to those who helped with the removal of the downed tree and associated debris.

## Correspondence received

1. Notice from Energy Australia re price changes from 201/01/2015.
2. November 2014 Breakout magazine.
3. Email from John Remington re. hamfest booking for 2015 and possible donation of prize for same.
4. Email from VK3BRS re. update on status of Hands Free Kit.
5. November 2014 WIA Board Report
6. Email from Bruno re. response received so far from Cranbourne RSL re. Anzac Centenary celebrations in 2015.
7. Email from Rob VK3BRS seeking permission to purchase 2 rack mount cases for the GPS board and exciters for the beacons project.
8. Notice from Casey Council re. club entry in Active Adults Guide 2015.

## Correspondence sent

1. Email sent (by Mark) following up our request for APRS listing of our assets. (Nil response.) To be held over for the time being.
2. November 2014 Breakout magazine from NZ.
3. Email to John Remington re. his participation (and possible donation of prize/s) to 2015 Hamfest.
4. Email to members re. progress on development of Hands Free Kit.
5. Email to members re. timing and location of 2014 Christmas Party.
6. Email to members re. prac night on 2 January 2015.
7. Email to members containing Test magazine.

### **Treasurer's report :**

Graeme VK3BXG presented a report covering the period November 2014 to January 2015. He noted that our largest expense for the period was the cost of electricity, although our Christmas hamper returned a good profit. Graeme circulated a copy of the accounts for the period. Members wishing to receive a copy should contact the Treasurer.

**Read :** Graeme VK3BXG    **Moved :** Graeme VK3BXG    **Seconded :** Russ VK3MWR    **Carried :** yes

### **New Callsigns : Nil**

### **Previous Minutes :**

1. Christmas Party: Thanks to Dave and Cathie for the use of their home for the party, and to those who attended on the day. An enjoyable day was had by all.
2. Australia Day BBQ: This will be held on Australia Day, 26 January. The Guides have been appreciative of our help in clearing the fallen tree at the back of their premises, and we are free to use the area on the day.
3. Labour Day Holiday: Unfortunately, Wilson's Prom is booked out, but Helmut has suggested Lake Eildon on Delatite Arm. (Photos of the area were circulated.) There is no power available, and no running water, as the area is for campers only. There are newly-built toilets. Lake Eildon is 80% full, and Mansfield is only 15 minutes away.
4. Pub Night: Another pub night is being organised by Wayne VK3XF, with the Lynbrook Hotel being considered at this stage.
5. Fox Hunt: Albert VK3BQO spoke briefly about the staging of a Fox Hunt/DF activity later in the year, and the building of suitable antennas, to gauge interest. Construction of antennas will take place at the February prac night.
6. Hands free kit: Rob VK3BRS gave an update on the hands-free kit, and demonstrated the prototype which has been developed so far. Further development work is ongoing.
7. Repeaters: Albert VK3BQO advised that following the recent storm, VK3RDD is off the air, while VK3RLP is working (after minor repairs.) VK3RWD is working, but is down on sensitivity and output.
8. 2015 Hamfest: Wayne VK3XF and Albert VK3BQO will be meeting with Bruno VK3BFT tomorrow to undertake further planning for the event.
9. Anzac Commemoration 2015: A message has been sent to the local RSL sub-branch, and Bruno VK3BFT will follow it up tomorrow. As noted previously, two callsigns are available, with one being used for specific military events of significance, while the other can be used for local events in coordination with RSL branches. We need to register our interest before February 2015. Russ VK3MWR indicated that Naval cadets from HMAS Cerberus may be available to participate on the day. This will be further explored with the RSL to see whether they could be used on the day.
10. Working bee: The new gate has been installed in the perimeter fence, and the shed placed within our enclosure so that the BBQ can be secured and protected. The working bee revealed that another asset the club needs is an Esky, so that cool drinks are available for club functions.
11. Belly dancing: Bruno VK3BFT reported on the recent performance by Diane VK3JDI and her belly-dancing group. An enjoyable day was had by those who attended and performed, and Diane was thanked for inviting us to attend.

## **New business :**

1. Letter received from City of Casey as to whether the club wished to be included in their Active Adults Guide 2015. It was agreed that we should provide details for inclusion in the guide.
2. Service awards to members: Following discussion at committee, the award of an Honorary Membership of the club to a member of long-standing was proposed by Bruno VK3BFT, and unanimously approved by the meeting. Discussion also took place about the award of a Letter of Appreciation being made to another member of long-standing for their work for the club. From the floor, a proposal was put forward that service awards be considered Committee, on an annual basis, at the meeting prior to the AGM. To be discussed further by Committee.
3. Bruno advised the meeting that Steve and Maria Harding will not be continuing as members of the club in 2015 after their current membership expires. As Steve has been involved in the hosting of the club website, the IRLP repeater, email and the hamfest table allocation, alternative arrangements will have to be put in place. We will need to secure a host for the ggreg.org domain name. The membership list could be maintained as is.
4. Reg & Jenny Goddard: A query was raised as to whether they need assistance at home. Reg's tower will be removed shortly, and they are both managing with the help of neighbours; however, they both appreciate the offers of assistance that have been made.
5. Antennapalooza 2015?: Ian VK3BUF asked whether the club wanted to pursue an Antennapalooza activity this year. If so, how do we build upon the last two events? What should be the theme? Should we invite more clubs? Should we try another site? Wayne VK3XF indicated that he is in discussion with a number of members from EMDRC/Drive Time operators about a joint activity, with a view to something being done in March/April 2015. At the last Antennapalooza, we had attendances of approx.. 33 per day, and invitations were extended to SPARC, EMDRC and Eastern Zone. Perhaps a competition could be arranged for clubs within the metropolitan area. Further consideration to be given to these options.
6. Licence classes: In 2014, these tended to operate on an ad hoc basis. In 2015, the first weekend in every second month will be set aside for Foundation classes and exams. The next round will be 7/8 February. In April, the classes will be held on the second weekend, so as to avoid clashing with Easter on the first weekend. The classes will be advertised in groups on Facebook and possibly VK Ham. Upgrades will also be available. Thanks were extended to Graeme for his continued assistance in this endeavour.
7. Mid-Year Dinner: What do we want to do? Where do we want to go? The suggestion that we return to Arthur's Seat was offered by Pat VK3OZ.
8. Bullying: The issue of bullying was raised, following the segment by Onno VK6FLAB on the WIA Sunday morning broadcast. Resources about dealing with bullying on the airwaves, and how to report it are available on <http://ftroop.vk6.net/>

**Meeting closed :** 9:00 pm

**Next Committee Meeting :** 03/02/2015

**Next Prac Night :** 06/02/2015

**Next General Meeting :** 20/02/2015



# Club Information



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

## Office bearers

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT	Repeater Officer	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO
Admin Sec	Bryan Simm	VK3FOAB	Web Master	Stephen Harding	VK3EGD
Treasurer	Graeme Brown	VK3BXG	Magazine Editor	Paul Stubbs	VK3TGX
General 1	Mark Clohesy	VK3PKT	Property Officer	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT
General 2	Wayne Cooke	VK3XF	Secretary	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF

## Call in Frequencies, Beacons and Repeaters

The Club Station VK3BJA operates from the Cranbourne Clubrooms.  
 6m Repeater Cockatoo VK3RDD In 52.575, Out 53.575 CTCSS 91.5  
 70cm Repeater Cranbourne VK3RLP In 434.475 Out 439.475 CTCSS 123Hz  
 VK3RLP Repeater supports Remote Internet access (IRLP) Node 6794.  
 70cm Repeater Drouin VK3RWD In 433.575 Out 438.575 CTCSS 91.5Hz  
 Simplex VHF - 145.450 MHz FM • Simplex UHF - 438.850 MHz FM  
 VK3RLP Beacons 1296.532 MHz & 2043.532 MHz

## Membership Fee Schedule

Pension Member rate \$25.00 Extra Family Member \$20.00

Standard Member rate \$40.00 Junior Member rate \$25.00

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 [vk3tgx@gmail.com](mailto:vk3tgx@gmail.com)

All other Club correspondence to: [secretary@ggrec.org.au](mailto:secretary@ggrec.org.au)

or via Snail Mail : PO Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977

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Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/GippslandGate](http://www.facebook.com/GippslandGate)