

GATEWAY

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO
AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

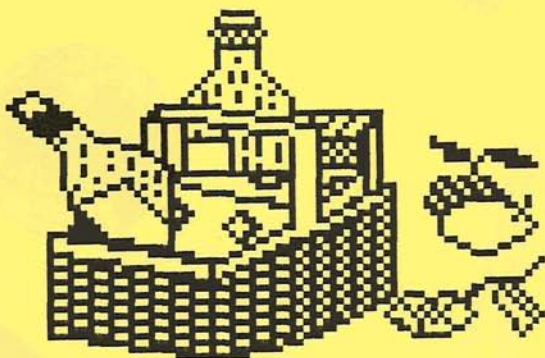


NOVEMBER 1997

EVENT QUEUE from October 97

FRIDAY	21/11/97	8:15	VISUAL BASIC LECTURE POSTPONED TO 1998. Our guest speaker, Colin Baker, has been called away on an interstate job with Telstra. We may do something on Visual Basic anyway...
SATURDAY	12/13/97	12:00	Xmas break up BBQ/Party Cranbourne Botanical Gardens at Midday
JANUARY	24,25,26		Australia Day Weekend at Warnambool, Surfside Holdiay Park. Ph. 0355612611

NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER AND NO PRAC NIGHT
IN JANUARY. THE FIRST MEETING FOR 1998 WILL BE ON JAN THE 16th
WHICH IS THE 3rd FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.



**THIS FRIDAY NIGHT WE ARE ASSEMBLING
THE CHRISTMAS HAMPER. BRING ALONG SOMETHING
NICE TO THROW INTO THE BASKET**

(MAKE SURE THAT ITS USE BY DATE IS *AFTER* DECEMBER 97)

THE PRESIDENTS REPORT

A while ago I found myself on downtown Frankston and as I wondered past a fast food outlet my stomach gurgled and sent a FEED ME POTATO CHIPS interrupt to my brain. So I ambled into the shop and was immediately confronted by a sign with the message 'MINIMUM SERVE OF CHIPS \$2'. Hmmm I said to myself, I'm hungry, but I'm not *that* hungry. So I turned to the shop assistant and said "I'd like **half a minimum serve of chips please**". She stared vacantly for about three seconds while her brain was getting a handle on the math before replying: "**That'll be a dollar.**"

It goes to show that when you get people in a position where they are in a *routine* situation, they become reactive and predictable. Next year we will be looking for a new Club committee, so when we start looking around in earnest don't be reactive and groan on principle, think about getting involved. Its only six committee meetings per year.

Our trip to Rubicon earlier this month was a great success. I wont go through he names here but it was good fun and sked's were well attended each night on 80 metres

You may have noticed from our event queue that the proposed guest speaker was unable to attend because of interstate work commitments. (He works in Langwarrin, but his boss is in Rockhampton) I am keen to give our members a bit of an intro in simple programming and we may be able to re schedule this for early in the new year.

Don't forget to bring some goodies along THIS FRIDAY NIGHT for our Christmas hamper. The winner will be drawn during the breakup party at Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. No out of date tins of anchovies please.

Both of our ATV transmitters are now operational and available for loan. The Club has purchased a pair of 13 element UHF beams to compliment these transmitters. If you are interested in doing some experiments, all you will need is a mast of some kind and a 240V power point. Give me a call if you are interested.

If you are interested in attempting any of the Amateur Exam subjects this year, the December 6 exam in Tooradin will be your last chance! You MUST bring money and fill out an application form at or before this Friday night's meeting or you will miss out. Peter VK3VB will accept applications. Theory exams \$25, Regs \$20, Morse TX \$20, Morse RX \$25. Give it a go!

This is our last edition of Gateway for the year, I wish all a merry Christmas and look forward to more Amateur Radio fun in the new year.

Ho.. Ho.. Ho., de VK3BUF



GGREC

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

By Dianne Jackson

Twelve people from the GGREC enjoyed a fantastic weekend of camping and fun at Rubicon during the Melbourne Cup four day Weekend.

Ivan VK3ARV was the first to arrive. he set up camp and raised a multi band HF wire antenna between two tall trees.

Bobbie and Colin VK3HR came up the next day. They arrived a few minutes before Pauline and Eric. (Ian's parents) who had just driven down from Corowa.

Ian and I arrived at the camp at about seven O'clock and quickly set up our tents before it got too dark to see.

The next day, Paul, Melinda, Gavin and Rufous (the dog) arrived. We all pitched in to help raise a four element beam antenna on 20 metres. It was hoisted up over Ian's van and tied securely by four guy ropes.

There had been some rain overnight and the water level in the river had risen. We all agreed that this would be a great chance to see the Rubicon Falls at its best. The road was a bit rough and Bobbie and Colin decided to turn back, but just a little further along we saw the falls from the road and it was very spectacular. On the way back from the falls we found some fire wood and loaded it onto the roof of Ian's van.

That night most of us went to the Pub at Thornton for dinner. The meal was delicious, even though we had to wait until everyone else had finished *their* meals, before ours was served.

When we returned to camp we lit the camp fire and sat around it talking until midnight.

On Sunday we went for a drive to Eildon where Eric tried his hand at fishing. He dangled his line in for a while but without much success. We went on to Jerusalem creek and looked at the Caravan Park, where Bobbie and Colin used to camp many years ago.

There were a lot of very fancy looking house boats moored on the banks of Lake Eildon. We even saw double and triple deck house boats.

Back at camp we held our Melbourne Cup Sweep draw. The prize was to be a box of Cadbury chocolates.

Later that night we sat around the camp fire and ate cream cake, barbecue shapes and baked potatoes. YUM!

Ron VK3EXJ and Judy came for a day trip on Monday. We all sat in the shade and talked while Ross and Hal went down to the river to play.

Pauline went to check on the boys and shortly afterward Judy and I walked down to the river to see what they were up to. We arrived just in time to see Pauline's foot slip on a rock and watch her fall into the icy water. Fortunately, only Pauline's pride was hurt as she squelched back up to the camp in wet cloths and shoes.

Most of us went home the next day, only Ivan, Bobbie and Colin stayed for another day. We listened to the Melbourne Cup on the radio as we drove home. I was still looking for my tally sheet to find out who had drawn number '3', '*Atight and Glory*', when Ian presented me with his winning ticket. It was a terrific way to end a great weekend away.

I need some assistance with my software.....can anyone help me??

I'm currently running the latest version of GirlFriend and I've been having some problems lately. I've been running the same version of DrinkingBuddies 1.0 forever as my primary application, and all the GirlFriend releases I've tried have always conflicted with it. I hear that DrinkingBuddies won't crash if GirlFriend is run in background mode and the sound is turned off. But I'm embarrassed to say I can't find the switch to turn the sound off. I just run them separately, and it works okay. GirlFriend also seems to have a problem coexisting with my Golf program, often trying to abort Golf with some sort of timing incompatibility...

I probably should have stayed with GirlFriend 1.0, but I thought I might see better performance from GirlFriend 2.0. After months of conflicts and other problems, I consulted a friend who has had experience with GirlFriend 2.0. He said I probably did have enough cache to run GirlFriend 2.0, and eventually it would require a Token Ring to run properly. He was right - as soon as I purged my cache, it uninstalled itself...

Shortly after that, I installed GirlFriend 3.0 beta. All the bugs were supposed to be gone, but the first time I used it, it gave me a virus anyway. I had to clean out my whole system and shut down for a while...

I very cautiously upgraded to GirlFriend 4.0. This time I used a SCSI probe first and also installed a virus protection program. It worked okay for a while until I discovered that GirlFriend 1.0 was still in my system. I tried running GirlFriend 1.0 again with GirlFriend 4.0 still installed, but GirlFriend 4.0 has a feature I didn't know about that automatically senses the presence of any other version of GirlFriend and communicates with it in some way, which results in the immediate removal of both versions...

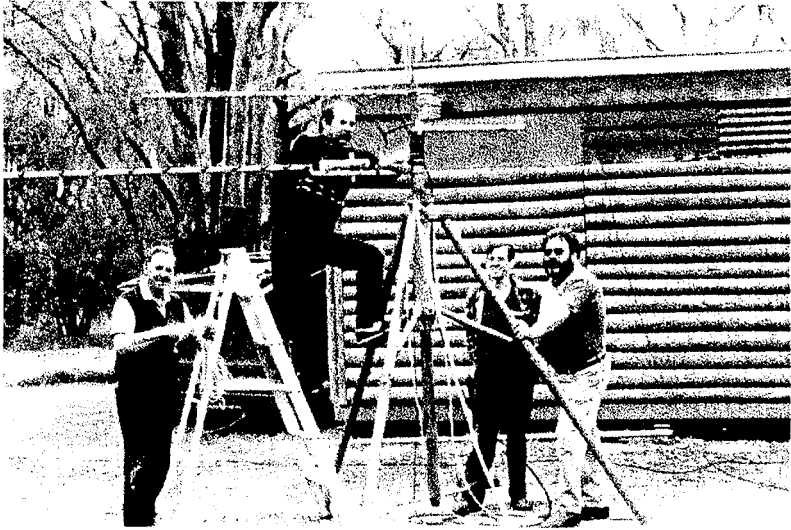
The version I have now works pretty well, but there are still some problems. Like all versions of GirlFriend, it is written in some obscure language I can't understand, much less reprogram. Frankly I think there is too much attention paid to the look and feel rather than the desired functionality. Also, to get the best connections with your hardware, you usually have to use gold-plated contacts. And I've never liked how GirlFriend is too "object-oriented."

A year ago, a friend of mine upgraded his version of GirlFriend to GirlFriendPlus 1.0, which is a Terminate and Stay Resident version of GirlFriend. He discovered that GirlFriendPlus 1.0 expires within a year if you don't upgrade to Fiancee 1.0. So he did, but soon after that, he had to upgrade to Wife 1.0, which he describes as a huge resource hog. It has taken up all his space, so he can't load anything else. One of the primary reasons he decided to go with Wife 1.0 was because it came bundled with FreeSexPlus...

Well, it turns out the resource allocation module of Wife 1.0 sometimes

prohibits access to FreeSexPlus, particularly the new Plug-Ins he wanted to try. On top of that, Wife 1.0 must be running on a well warmed-up system before he can do anything. Although he did not ask for it, Wife 1.0 came with MotherInLaw which has an automatic pop-up feature he can't turn off..

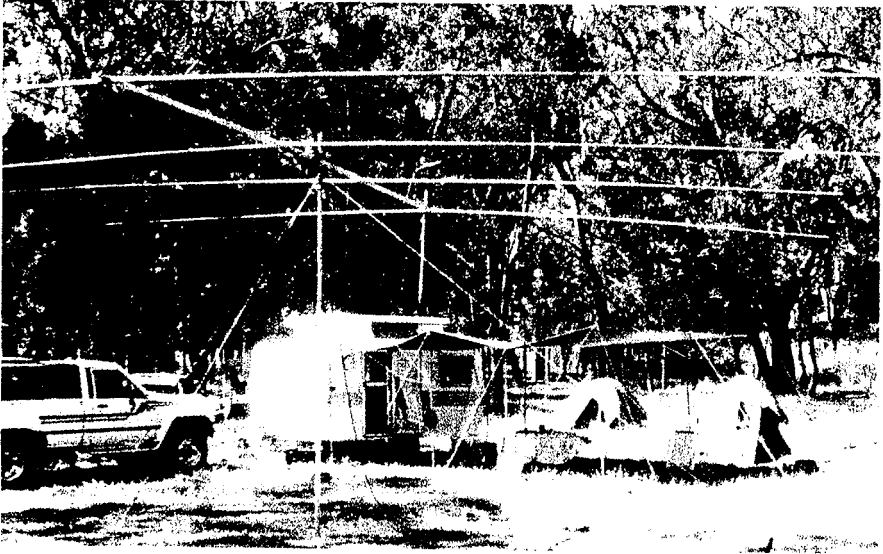
I told him to try installing Mistress 1.0, but he said he heard if you try to run it without first uninstalling Wife 1.0, Wife 1.0 will delete MSMoney files before doing the uninstall itself. Then Mistress 1.0 won't install anyway because of insufficient resources.



ABOVE: Setting up the ATV beam for JOTA at Police Paddocks



LEFT: Slow Scan pics Received from by Reg VK3UK from Townsville during the JOTA event at Cranbourne.



Ivan VK3ARV's portable clothesline



The following information supplied by Peter Pavey (VK3VB) may be of interest.

HYRL is QSL manager for BZ4DHI, VU2TS, 3A2LF,4U1TU.

Luc Glarey via San Martino 11-0091 Alpignano (to) - Italy. He will be active as 4U1TU and from Monaco (3A) November to December 1997.

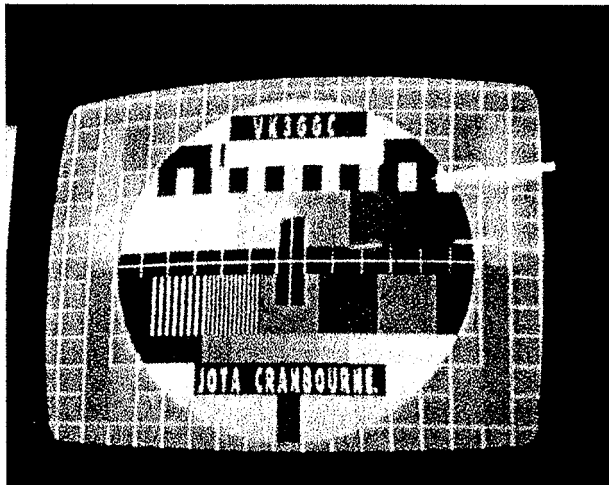
Also he asks for Australian phone cards if any members have any to give away, I am happy to collect them together and post them on. See me at a club meeting.

Noted from a British CB Mag, Just introduced on UK Market , ALINCO 6 Mtrs FM mobile rig. DR-M06TH Cost 249.95 Pounds . Cost in Aus \$?. Covers 50 -54 Mhz @ 20 watts, 100 Memory Channels, will tune in steps of 5,10,12.5,15,20 or 25Khz. Pity it's not all mode, will it come to VK?.

DECEMBER EXAMS

If you intend sitting an exam with GGREC on DEC 6th 1997, application forms and cheques payable to GGREC must be with Pat & Peter at PO BOX 7 Tooradin 3980 or at the club meeting by 21st NOV 1997.

Peter Pavey VK3VB.



FUNNY CUSTOMERS

Following my article last month it appears the magazine is still badly in need of articles, so I will bore you with a bit more 60's nostalgia.

As a teenager I worked at a small electrical appliance shop in Dandenong, where we sold and repaired "everything". A lot of our customers were elderly farmers from Gippsland.

On one occasion I was presented with a faulty transistor radio. The customer unscrewed the back, took a small sliver of steak from his pocket, and pressed it into the middle of the printed circuit board. The radio burst into life. "It only works with the meat in it", he said. Actually it had an open circuit capacitor and the meat was providing a leakage path, but I was intrigued. "How did you discover that meat would fix it?" I inquired. "Arr well, I tried everything else" he said, "potato dried out too quick and cheese would stink after a while, meat's the only thing that did the trick!". Sorry I asked.

A customer asked one of the salesmen "Do you have 100pf capacitors?" I saw the salesman looking through the spare parts and asked what he was after. He said "I'm looking for "poof capacitors", there's a guy out the front who wants a hundred of them".

A slightly deaf farmer from Lang lang traded in his old valve radio for a new u-beaut transistor model. The early transistor car radios were only capable of about 3 watts audio output (maybe they should have stayed that way), compared to some of the valve monsters which were about 15 watts. He brought it back and said "It works OK when I'm stopped but it's no good when I'm driving". We checked it and couldn't find anything wrong. "Well it's no bloody good to me" he said, "When I get over 90 miles per hour with the windows down I can't hear it over the car noise!". We returned his old valve radio.

A television was brought in with the complaint, "It was making squeaking noises for awhile when it stopped working". On investigation the mains fuse was found to be blown and 3 very stiff and black mice were found under the power transformer.

Car radio installations were a pain on some imported cars. We spent an entire afternoon dismantling a dashboard searching for a 12 volt cable to power the a car radio. We finally completed the installation just as the customer arrived. He was very happy with the job until he shut the car door to drive off. The radio stopped. We had connected it to the interior light circuit.

My boss had a unique way of charging for TV repairs. He would note how much fluff had gathered around the EHT transformer. If there was lots, he reasoned the was probably rich with expensive carpets and should be able pay more. If there was no fluff the customer probably had bare boards or Ling. and was charged at the standard rate.

1997 GGREC CHRISTMAS BREAK UP PARTY

This year it is at the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. There are Barbecue facilities there, but BYO everything else.

The entrance to the gardens is via the South Gippsland Hwy and Ballarto rd. (Melway map 133-K10)

12:00 Midday onwards..

Be there for the Hamper Draw!



AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND 1998

JAN 24, 25, 26 at Warnambool

**IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT, YOU MUST BE IN JAIL
AND IF YOU'RE IN JAIL ...BREAK OUT!**

Powered sites are still available at the Surfside Holiday Park. Ring 0355 61 2611 for reservations.

The park is between the Main Beach
and the Adventure Playground