

GATEWAY

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

March 2006

Incorporation Number A0016893M

Club Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant Street. Prac nights are held on the first Friday night in the Clubrooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made most welcome.**

President	Andrew Clinkaberry	VK3HFA (5942 5396)
Secretary	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT (9700 4526)
Treasurer	Mike Ide	VK3KTO
Committee Members :	Reg VK3UK, Helmut VK3DHI, Dave VK3XMF Ivan VK3ARV	
Magazine Editor(s):	Andrew VK3HFA, Albert Hubbard VK3BQO	

Club Station VK3BJA located in the clubrooms.

6M Repeater **VK3RDD** : Freq. In 52.575, out 53.575 MHz

70cm Repeater **VK3RLP** Freq. In 434.475, out 439.475MHz

CTCSS 88.5Hz IRLP Node Number- **6794** (Using **VK3RLP**)

Call in Frequencies are: HF on 28.325 MHz, USB VHF on 146.225 MHz, FM and UHF on 438.850 MHz,

Visit our internet site at: www.ggrec.org.au

Current GGREC inc. Membership Fee Schedule

Full Member \$37.00, Pensioner Member \$22.00

Junior Member \$22.00, Extra Family Member \$17.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

The deadline for articles is TWELVE DAYS before each General meeting.

Please direct magazine correspondence to:

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Phone: **5942 5396** or email clinks@dcsi.net.au

All other Club correspondence to **P.O. Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977**

or Email : secretary@ggrec.org.au

It costs lots of cents to produce and send each copy of Gateway.

Disclaimer- The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official view of the GGREC inc and the GGREC inc cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.

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Sci Fi Quote(s) of the Month

"How does it work, Professor?"

"You're too dumb. You wouldn't understand" Harry Harrison's 'Technicolour Time Machine'

The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not Eureka! (I found it!) but 'That's funny ...' - Isaac Asimov

'Discworld.'

"A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof, is to under-estimate the ingenuity of complete fools." -- Douglas Adams, 'Mostly Harmless'

President's Ramblings

Seems quite a lot is happening around the club at the moment so keep an eye on the event queue so you don't miss anything.

Just a reminder that next month is the Annual General Meeting when all committee positions are declared vacant and elections held as necessary. It would be great to see a few new faces "having a go"! You will find a nomination form in this issue. You can either rip it out or photocopy it. There will be some available at the March meeting as well for those that forget! They need to be with the Secretary two weeks before the Annual Meeting.

We had a bit of an interesting time on the prac night with me working at the Cranbourne Harness and using my

handheld back to the shack. I tipped you one trifecta did you have your money on it??? My partner was quite amused by all the banter going on. Next time it happens we might try and set up an ATV network. That could be interesting!

With school holidays coming up and Easter just around the corner there will be a number of members out and about at various parts of the State so keep your ears open and your radios tuned I am sure they would love to make contact with you.

See you all at the meeting on Friday, it would be good to see some faces we have not seen for a while!



Working Bee Saturday 18th March

We need your help to secure some poles and other things. Be there!

Pub Night - Tooradin Sports Club

A great evening of food and fellowship was had at the Tooradin Sports Club on a recent Saturday night (sorry about the late change of venue folks!).

Over 20 members and family were in attendance and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

There was one moment of some mirth

when our Treasurer tried to inhale some red wine instead of drinking it (mind you I don't think he was laughing at the time!). It seems he could not quite get his head around the concept of a ride on goat!

All in all another pleasant GGREC evening out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	WHO/WHAT
Friday March 17th	General Meeting	Guide Hall/ Tentec Demo
Saturday 18th March	Working Bee	Club Shack
Monday 27th March	Committee Meeting	Club HQ
Friday 7th April	Prac Night	Club HQ
Saturday April 8th	Fox Hunt	Philip Island
Easter Friday 14th	El'Dorado Caravan	See Helmut
Friday 21st April	Annual General	Guide Hall 8pm
July 22nd	HAMFEST	Cranbourne Hall
October ?	JOTA	Guide Hall/Club Shack

The committee will be asking the club to approve the sale of some surplus items at the next general meeting. This includes some left over timber and rubber mats from the building of the ramp and some items of antenna gear from the Colin Santos estate (poles x 2 and a discone antenna). It was suggested that we have an auction night for members to clear some junk in May and that these items be included then.

The Philips PRM8040 project



PRM8040 Series

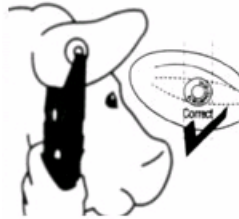
These radios are now available for purchase. The committee has decided that we will allow until the Annual General Meeting for Club Members to put their name on the list. If we have more names than available radios we will have to work out a way of cutting down the list. Hopefully this will not happen! If you don't know how much they are ask a committee member . **SPECIAL CLUB MEMBER ONLY PRICE.** Any left over radios will be sold at a different price. See Pauls TGX article on page 10.

Why not listen to the WIA news each week on the VK3RML repeater. It is on Sunday nights at 8pm and Wednesday 11am

RFID Access to Clubrooms

The system is now up and running smoothly. Thanks to Ian BUF and all the time and effort he has put into this project.

You can now purchase a key tag to allow you access they are \$10 each and last as long as you are a financial member of the club. You are required to sign an agreement binding you to the regulations governing use of the shack (as circulated in an earlier



No you don't have to have your ears pierced. Well not yet anyway!!!!

magazine with some slight modification).

The whole idea is that members can access the shack whenever they feel like it and make use of the facilities therein. In the main it is based on trust but by signing an agreement everybody knows where they stand.

Amateur Radio ID Badge

Ian VK3BUF has designed an ID badge (similar to a car license) that he proposes that the club make available to members (for a small fee for the club).

The idea being that you would be able to identify yourself as a holder of an Amateur Radio License. This might be useful when purchasing gear etc.

We will get Ian to showcase it at the March general meeting.

IRLP Repeater

Our new IRLP repeater had been sent up to Andy Beales in Queensland for some modifications. Thanks Andy!. At the committee meeting Albert reported that the repeater has been programmed and tests OK. Output has been boosted to 25 watts. It is on the way back to us.

We will also be sent a manual for us to copy and return to Andy.

Discussion took place about trying out the repeater at Alberts place to see what

the coverage is. Access tone is to be changed to 123 Hz, to fall into line with the other repeaters. WIA & ARV (that's Amateur Radio Victoria not Ivan) to be notified of the change to 123 Hz.

Hopefully we can have it all up and running soon.

Any concerns/comments should be made at the next meeting.

Some late Limericks....

These are the ones I can print (Thanks Reg!)

A man known as 3ARV
Bought a boat to go out to sea
One day while out fishing
He found something missing
With his anchor at the bottom of the sea

There was a young man called Dave
Who found an old rig in a cave
He said "isn't it disgusting
It only needs dusting"
And look at the money I'll save

There was a man called Helmut
Who was riding his bike with no helmet
The cops said "you fool
You should know the rule
Your booked for not wearing your helmet"

Our president you all know as Andy
Who went in the pub for a shandy
With the flick of a cloth
He wiped off the froth
And the barmaid said "blimey that's handy"

There was a young man called Mike
Who went in the bush on a bike
But I'm sorry to say
His back wheel gave away
And the only way home was to hike!



The joke is on us....

With thanks to Russ MWR...

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy: "So I hear you're getting Married?"

"Yep!"

"Do I know her?"

"Nope!"

"This woman, is she good looking?"

"Not really."

"Is she a good cook?"

"Naw, she can't cook too well."

"Does she have lots of money?"

"Nope, poor as a church mouse."

"Well then, is she good in bed?"

"I don't know."

"Why in the world do you want to

marry her then?"

"Because she can still drive after dark."

Three old guys are out walking. First one says, "Windy, isn't it?"
Second one says, "No, it's Thursday."
Third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer."

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect." "Really," answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty."

GGREC Committee Nomination Form

I _____ being a financial member of Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club (GGREC) nominate the following for committee positions for 2006-7:

1. Name _____ Position _____

Seconded _____ Accepted _____

2. Name _____ Position _____

Seconded _____ Accepted _____

3. Name _____ Position _____

Seconded _____ Accepted _____

4. Name _____ Position _____

Seconded _____ Accepted _____

Signature of nominator _____

Date __/__/__

All completed forms must be with the Secretary two weeks prior to the Annual General meeting.

Further UP the Creek with a paddle.....

Red Cross Murray River Canoe Marathon 2005 (Graeme VK3BXG)

Along the route each day are four check points – “Alpha”, “Bravo”, “Charlie” and “Delta” and a prerequisite for these is that they have road access. At these points we in Wicen set up our portable communications both on HF and VHF (2 meters) to communicate up and down the course and to the official boats. Red Cross also sets up a first aid post here and Lroc sets up their checkpoint and account for all competitors as they pass through. Half way between the main land checkpoints another patrol boat is positioned for safety and communications whilst behind the last canoe follows the “Water Safety Officer’s boat which technically reopens the river behind it to other river traffic

Because of the distances and no repeaters in the area HF is used to establish communication between “Start”, “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” and Finish and HQ (VK3AWI). This is a controlled net and formal messages are the order of the day whilst the VHF net is for communication with the official boats and maybe the next checkpoint and is therefore not a controlled net. At each Wicen checkpoint a minimum of two operators is needed – one on HF and one on VHF. I have done both on my own but it is hard work keeping track.

My Day 1 location was at “C” on the Victorian side of the river at Cobram. I shared the day with Ian VK3DVO and

primarily looked after the 2mx net.

Day 2 again started with “Morning has Broken” at 5am with the day’s start from Cobram. My assignment for the day was Bravo – the next point west of Tocumwal (Alpha). As a result of the heat the previous day, two of our operators were stood down for day 2 in the interest of their health so I found myself on my own having to run two nets. For a couple of hours though I had the help of YL, Cherrie, my “message runner” who was of great help but had burnt and blistered her feet running across the river sand the previous day.

It was a particularly hot day and getting hotter and I think every Land Rover must have had an electric car refrigerator in it. The electronic noise generated from them on HF was horrendous in what should have been a very low noise or noise-free area. But other than to make note of this, signals were still above this noise level and stayed that way for the day.

Day 2 finished in the Millewa State forest about 8Km south of Moroco West on the NSW side of the border and that afternoon we all moved camp to Echuca to the football oval.

We will continue this intrepid adventure next month. I have some pictures as well that I will slot in somewhere!!!
Andrew

2 Metre Radios

The Philips PRM8040 project

Currently I am over half way through re-programming all the radios. Almost all the “complete” radio sets have been done, and I am now well stuck into the “incomplete” radio sets. Don’t worry about the “incomplete” tag, it just means they are missing a speaker mounting bracket etc. Of more concern is the faulty pile that now stands at 5. One of these is an easy fix, a new protection diode as someone either connected the radio to reverse polarity, or more likely connected it to a 24V truck without a 24 to 12V converter.

As we only received 48 heads, not 52, we have 4 spare radio’s so to speak, so hopefully we will have 48 usable radio’s to cover the list of requests, that now sits at 33 (last I heard). Lets just hope for no more faults, especially heads.

The channel programming I have been using is largely based on Ian VK3BUF’s FM92 program he devised several years ago, so if you are familiar with certain channel numbers, they stay the same. I have added a lot more simplex channels, so you can continuously tune from 144.500MHz all the way to 147.975MHz.

If the radio is run in “text” mode (default) then all the simplex channels of Ian’s original ’92 ROM and my additions are all sorted in order, with the exception being 146.225, because I labelled this channel as “GGREC CLUB”.

All the radio’s are basically programmed the same, except for some minor tweaks I have made along the way. Involving the labelling of multi-repeater frequencies etc.

Two of the radios have been loaned (not given) to Adam so some real world testing could be performed. (After all, if he didn’t open his mouth, we would have no radios). Anyway, all seems good so far, my programming has not confused him and his audio sounds, well, “Philips”. The last thing I wanted was to have 48 radios handed back to me with the comment of “they work, BUT”

At work, I found a service manual for a Philips PRM8030, same radio, different head. So, apart from the head, we have full schematics and alignment procedures.

Also in the kit of bits were GPS receivers – Hmm, hook up a display and bung them into your car, or how about use on fox hunts, or set up an APRS system. DC power converters, 9-18V in, 15v (13.8) out, charge car battery from another battery! Radio modems – not sure yet – maybe just bung them onto eBay. *(Please note that no decision has been made on these extra items as yet. However, we will be looking to sell most of them given that we ended up a few heads short! A decision should be made at the next meeting. If you are interested in some please let us know. Andrew)*

Paul VK3TGX

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 17th February 2006

Start time: 08:00 PM.

Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.

Chairperson: Andrew Clinkaberry VK3HFA

Minute Taker: Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

Present: As per attendance sheet.

Visitors and Guests: John VK4HJS

Apologies: Peter VK3VB & Pat Pavey VK3OZ, Colin VK3HR & Bobbie Bishop, Grahame VK3YCG & Susan Brown, Max Hill VK3TMK, Andrew Brown VK3HJK, Ian VK3KSJ & Val Benson.

Correspondence Received:

Email correspondence from:

Amateur Radio Victoria, requesting operators for the VK3GAMES roster.

AR Industries, asking if they can set up a stall at our Hamfest.

NERGs, informing us of the passing of Alan Marr VK3JPK.

Letter from AMA containing our VK3RDD Licence.

Correspondence Sent:

Letter to CCIS outlining the contact details of GGREC for the City of Casey information magazine.

Treasurer's Report: As tabled.

Read by: Mike Ide, VK3KTO **Moved by:** Mike Ide, VK3KTO **Seconded by:** Russ White VK3MWR

Carried: Yes

New Call signs - Nil

Previous Minutes: As printed in the February 2006 GATEWAY magazine.

Read by: Andrew Clinkaberry VK3HFA **Moved by:** Ian Jackson VK3BUF **Seconded by:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO **Carried:** Yes

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Ian Jackson has installed the RF ID access system in the shack. Committee will be trialling the system to see if there are any bugs.

Limerick Competition.

IRLP repeater – Repeater is with Andy Beales for programming.

Russ White pointed out that there is a mis-print in the February Gateway magazine.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

The next Hamfest is in 2006 not 2206.

Australia Day BBQ went well, a good time was had by all.

Members to note that both Graeme Wheatley & Reg Goddard are disposing of radio equipment.

New Business:

Mid Year Dinner – members voted to go out for this festive occasion.

Philips radios – Mike & Albert went to Theis and collected 48 radios & accessories.

11 have been programmed to date. The members that loaned the Club cash will get first preference. Programming of marine frequencies may be possible. Albert to see if he can get one of the GPS units working.

HAMFEST – Dianne Jackson has agreed to take table bookings. Cranbourne Public Hall booking has been confirmed.

A special thank you is to be conveyed to Peter & Pat Pavey for organising the Clubs 25th Anniversary QSL cards into 2 photo albums.

Bowling night has been postponed as the notice to Club members was too short.

Working bee was discussed and members encouraged to come and help out.

Bruno asked members to consider becoming trainers or examiners for Amateur radio licences.

Tentative date for the Fox Hunt will be the 8th of April 2006.

Easter at Eldorado Caravan Park. See Helmut for details.

Tonight's guest speaker is Ian Jackson presenting the Design, construction & operation of the Club's RFID access system.

Meeting Closed at around 9:00 PM.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 27th February 2006, at the Club Rooms starting at 8:00pm.

Next Prac Night: Friday 3rd March 2006.

Next General Meeting: Friday 17th March 2006.

Quotable Quote

The typewriting machine, when played with expression, is no more annoying than the piano when played by a sister or near relation.

Oscar Wilde

GGREC
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CRANBOURNE
3977