

# GATEWAY



*Gracious Ghosts Roam Empty Castles*

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

**June 2007**

Next General Meeting:  
**15<sup>th</sup> of June**

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 Club- rooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made most welcome.**

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT (9700 4526)
Secretary	Phil Pavey	VK3YB (5995 7484)
Treasurer	Andrew Clinkaberry	VK3HFA (5942 5396)
Committee Members:	Reg VK3UK, Max VK3, Pat VK3OZ, Mike VK3KTO	
Magazine Editor:	Ross VK3ZAP	

**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 123Hz 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](http://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:

Ross Jackson email [editor@ggrec.org.au](mailto:editor@ggrec.org.au)

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

or Email :  
[secretary@ggrec.org.au](mailto:secretary@ggrec.org.au)

## The Pres Says...

The Club year has started off with a flurry of activity. The Working bee at the Peter Pavey GGREC Club Rooms was well attended by the regulars and they were rewarded with a day filled with good laughs (don't mention the TV) and a good feed for lunch. How many amateurs does it take to fit a PL259 connector?? Hint - if you guessed less than 5 you are wrong! Graeme Wheatley fitted the second air-conditioner to the radio room, his efforts and contribution to the Club should not be taken for granted. All Club members owe him a big thank you for his donation two days of hard labour.

The trip to Mt Cannibal was also well attended with the fitter members of the Club tackling the steep walk to enjoy the fantastic views from the top. Once again the Club BBQ was fired up to feed the members that took advantage of a warm autumn day to through another snag on the barby. Thanks to Ian & Dianne Jackson for organizing this Club outing.

By the time you read this edition of Gateway, the AVR course will have concluded. All that attended enjoyed the classes and study nights with Ian Jackson at the helm. We are now equipped with new skills that can be applied to solve just about any electrical task we might want to do. I know that this is really the beginning of the next phase where we are let loose to write our own soft ware and solve the problems we encounter.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mid Year Dinner is fast approaching, this will be a good time to sit back and relax while enjoying the company of friends. I'm sure that many stories will be told of the multitude of Club events that have been held over the last 30 years. This will certainly be a case of the more the merrier!!

During this Club year, the committee will endeavor to provide you with the opportunity to get the most out of your GGREC membership, all you have to do is come along and have fun.

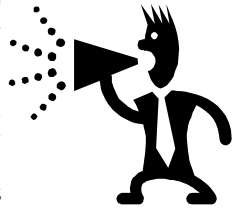
See you at the GM,

Bruno Tonizzo  
VK3BFT

## Huge crowds, ticker-tape parades, young and attractive women...

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed

...were most unfortunately absent from the reception I received for last month's mag, much to the disappointment of the editor. Maybe I should've set my ambitions slightly lower. On the positive side though, there wasn't an angry mob waiting for me either, so I guess I have something to be thankful for. Anyways, this is my second crack at the magazine, and given the positive response I got from the last one I did, I am confident I can pull it off again. There is one slight problem though, as you can see, this little article is so far only a short paragraph long, and in order to make it look as if I am making lots of valuable and interesting points about the club to the casual observer, I have to add a few extra lines of rambling text. I probably should've just tried to think of something that was worth saying, but I couldn't think of anything, so I decided to be honest and rant on for a while. Anyways, I think this article is long enough for now, so I'll conclude this message with a couple more GGREC's, just in case you didn't get enough of them from last month.



Grass Grows Rapidly Every Christmas  
Giant German Rabbits Eat Carrots  
Gentle Giants Remain Extremely Cheerful

## Two Vacancies for the Foundation Class



If you are interested in earning your foundation license, or you know of somebody else who would like to get one, then you should contact Mike VK3KTO as soon as possible in order to guarantee a spot for the next class. Its fun, it's interesting and you don't need to be a nuclear physicist in order to attend, you don't even need to know anything about electronics (the very first lesson is: How Not To Put Your Fingers In The Power-Point) or maths ( $2 \times 2 =$  use the calculator), so don't be afraid to sign up!

## Upcoming Events

23rd June, Saturday	Anniversary Dinner
30th June/ 1st July	Foundation Course
21st July, Saturday	Hamfest
28th July, Saturday	Pub Night – Cardinia Hotel, Beaconsfield
11th & 12th August	RD Contest
31st August, Friday	Foundation Night

*There are a lot of fun and interesting events in the upcoming months, so make sure you attend as many as you can!*

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

This is just a reminder to all members using the club rooms that you should ensure that the shack is locked and secure when you leave it for the night. Please make sure that both doors are closed and that the gate is shut.

## Happy Birthday to you.....

The birthdays for June are:

Reg Goddard VK3UK

Tom Wilson VK3DTW

Bill Connelly VK3DOU

Not on the list? Then contact the treasurer and update your information. Happy Birthday to you all.





## AN INVITATION TO STALL- HOLDERS



On the 21st of July 2007, the **Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club** shall be conducting their annual HAMFEST SALE for the sale of new and used electronics and radio equipment. As per last year, the venue will be at the **Cranbourne Community Hall** on the corner of Clarendon and High streets, Cranbourne. High Street is part of the Sth Gippsland Highway. Melway 133 K4.

Some 40 tables will be available for stall holders, but demand will be very high. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

### Note the following details regarding bookings:

- €# Table hire will be \$20 per table. Table hire provides access for TWO persons to operate the stall. This will also include *two* tickets to the door prize and free tea/coffee throughout the day.
- €# The \$20 fee must be paid in full to the Club *before* the event in order to reserve a table. Cancellations made more than 14 days prior to the event will be given a full refund by cheque.
- €# To make a booking contact **Dianne Jackson** on (03) 5625 2545. Or email details to [hamfest@ggrec.org.au](mailto:hamfest@ggrec.org.au) Payment may be made by sending a cheque or money order (payable to 'GGREC') to Post Office Box 1098 Cranbourne 3977 or by direct payment to: **BSB 063607 ACC 1015 7247** with remittance advice to Dianne upon transfer.
- €# When making a table booking, Stall Holders will be asked to provide a **Name, Postal address** and **Contact phone number**.
- €# Upon receipt of the \$20 fee and contact details, a **Booking Number** will be posted with a receipt of payment. **IMPORTANT! No booking is confirmed until this number has been received by the Stall Holder.**
- €# Access to the Hall shall be from 8:30am for Stall Holders (not later than 9:30 am unless by arrangement).

### The doors will open for buyers at 10 am with a \$6.00 entry fee.

Last year, the sale was a great success with many hundreds of people through the door in our large Cranbourne venue, making it a premier event for radio markets in this state. Proceeds from the sale will contribute to the upgrading of facilities at our new GGREC Club Radio Shack and to help promote Amateur Radio in the region.

# 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER



*Reprinted from an email by Andrew*

Just a friendly reminder that the 30th Anniversary Celebration is on 23rd of June. If you have not told me that you are coming then you will not be fed!!! We need definitive numbers very quickly, at the moment there are 41 on the list.

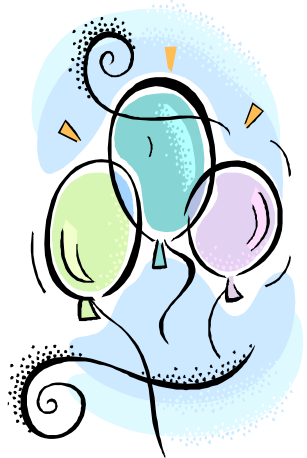
Please mention this on air if you are chatting to anybody and get them to ring or email me by Friday.

**JUST TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR, IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID A DEPOSIT OR IF YOU HAVE NOT TOLD ME YOU WILL PAY A DEPOSIT BY NEXT MEETING, YOU WILL NOT GET FED.**

**This is a catered event we will be booking food for those that have paid/will pay a deposit.** If you can't remember paying a deposit it would be best to check with me if you want to come.

The final price per head will be \$15. Balance payable on the night.

Hope to see you all there.  
Regards,  
Andrew Clinkaberry  
Treasurer - GGREC



## The Million Dollar Question!

**Question:** Who has the right of way when four cars approach a four-way stop at the same time?

**Answer:** The pickup truck with the gun rack and the bumper sticker saying, "Guns don't kill people. I do."

## The Club Wants You!



As I'm sure you are all aware, our club Hamfest is rapidly approaching, and to ensure that this year is as successful as every other year, we need some volunteers to help out. Super heroes, giant meat-cleaver wielding robots, Harry Potter wizards, magic Elves, and super-intelligent globes of energy would be mostly preferred, however we might settle for somebody who can turn over some sausages, hand out small change or point out the direction to men's toilets. In fact, we need anybody and everybody that's a club member to come down and lend a hand. The more people that help, the better the Hamfest will be, so if you would like to come down and give some assistance to the club, and have a lot of fun at the same time, on Saturday 21st July, contact Albert VK3BQO and volunteer.

## Proposed licence fees increase

*Reprinted from Amateur Radio Victoria website.*  
<http://www.amateurradio.com.au/>

The cost of an apparatus licence for amateur stations is likely to increase by at least \$3 pushing this annual charge to \$60, unless the ACMA can be convinced otherwise.

The ACMA in its first review in three years of its recovery arrangements for the services it provides, including licensing and regulation, has proposed the new fees to apply from 1 July, 2007.

In mid-2006 when the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was removed from apparatus licence, amateur licences were reduced by \$2 and

are currently \$57.

Increased charges are also expected from the next financial year for amateur repeaters and beacons frequency assignments and licensing.

Interestingly the ACMA has reviewed the costs of administering amateur examinations and if it were conduct these, rather than the WIA Exam Service and volunteer accredited assessors.

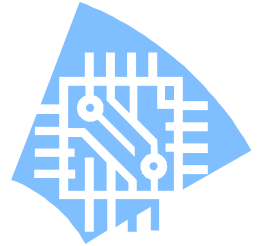
The cost of each individual theory, regulations and practical assessment for an amateur licence would be \$68 that is more than double what it now costs candidates. The WIA Exam Service intends maintaining its current amateur licence assessment fees.



# AVR CLASS FINISHES

By Ian Jackson, VK3BUF

Last Thursday evening saw the end of our series of AVR Programming classes. The course remained well attended throughout the 8 fortnightly sessions and a vast amount of material was covered. Everyone constructed their own demo board and went on to explore many features of the AVR device. This included analog measurements, digital keypad locking, motor speed control serial communications and servo motor control. Equally important, the class came together as a group and helped each other out with many of the projects.



I thoroughly enjoyed the process and through the preparation of the material I was able to improve my own knowledge of these devices. I was also surprised and grateful to receive the bottle of Jim Beam as a gift by the group at the end. I'm sure it will be a great software development aid in the late nights yet to come this winter.

All those who completed the course received a certificate to highlight their accomplishment of assembly language programming.

This course has represented something of a milestone for the GGREC as it is the first time that we as a group have moved beyond the technological boundaries of the Amateur Radio syllabus to explore state of the art technology. I have been greatly impressed by the huge progress achieved by everyone in a relatively short time and a whole bunch of new words can now be heard in on-air discussions. The next step will be to keep the ball rolling somewhat and introduce some microprocessor based projects within the Club and see what can now be done.

We will continue the alternate Thursday night tradition for a little longer on a more informal basis at the Club Shack and see where else we can take these new skills. If anyone has a few ideas that may help the Club as a whole to become involved with future programming projects, bring them along to a meeting and see what develops. Well done GGREC,

Cheers, Ian VK3BUF

## Large Gnawing Teeth...

By Ross Jackson, ZAP-ed

...Were distinctly absent on the day we went to Mt Cannibal, much to the relief of all concerned. Had some cannibals actually turned up, though, they probably would've settled for some spare sausages, a cold beer, a comfy seat, and a quiet chat with the people who hadn't yet moved their canvas chairs quietly away from their newly-found friends (you'd hate for them to be your newly-found enemies). On the



whole, it was a good thing that they didn't turn up, it left whole lot more food/beer/chairs for the rest of us, not to mention the conversation was a lot more relaxed, I can't imagine "So...err...you're a cannibal... hows that working out for you?...do you always lick your lips like that?" is a conversation anybody looks forward to having.

Anyways, despite the eerily descriptive yet thankfully inaccurate name, it was quite an entertaining day. Those that braved the steep and perilous walkway to the top of the hill enjoyed fantastic views of the local area (after having a quiet sit down to catch their breaths back, of course), as well as fantastic, and most importantly, ground level views of the picnic area once they came back down. Games of Frisbee, radio contacts, lethal exercise and quiet relaxation were enjoyed by all those who participated on this wonderful day out.



## VK3 Repeater Report

*Reprinted from Amateur Radio Victoria  
amateurradio.com.au*

The Mt St Leonard 70cm repeater VK3RMU north-east of Melbourne is now on its new frequency of 439.800MHz.

Amateur Radio Victoria made the very recent QSY was mainly due to persistent interference from a suspected low interference potential device (LIPD).

The Sunday VK1WIA broadcast will also adopt the new frequency later this month.

In south-west Victoria at Warrnambool the VK3RWL repeaters on 2m 147.050MHz and 70cm 439.650MHz are getting plenty of use by locals.

While the repeaters are up and running there's still a little bit more work to do before the project is complete.

With the arrival of the winter rains and cold weather access to the site is becoming difficult.

Many thanks to Russell Lemke VK3ZQB who with others have worked to restore the repeaters, that were required to meet rigid and costly commercial site requirements, borne by Amateur Radio Victoria.

Early indications are that the range of VK3RWL is excellent with reports from Ballarat, Horsham, Hamilton and Portland being received.

## Headline News!

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

## Foundation Night

It's a problem facing many amateurs in these modern times, people study hard for their radio license, learning about all sorts of useful things like impedance, superheterodyne receivers, bridge rectifiers and such-like, but they never actually learn how to use a radio, wouldn't have a clue on how to send a QSL card, and have had their final words as "what happens if I turn this knob?". Instead of having your ashes remain being swept away by the ham that knew better, why not turn up to the Foundation Night. Whilst there you can rack up some contacts, send some QSL cards, avoid death by electrocution, and have fun at the same time. All you have to do is rock up at the club rooms on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and let the experienced radio operators guide you on your way to becoming less electrocuted. Contact Mike Ide for details.

## Terrible Analogies

He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

## Our Trip Around Australia

Hi all,

As you may be aware, we will set off today on our trip around the northern and Easter side of Australia. Estimated time for this trip is 6 months.

We will be QRV on 20m, 40m and in the evening on 80 metres.

### **Our schedule is as follows:**

20m on the travellers net on 14,116 Mhz at 03.00Z

40m during the day and around 17.00 EST (if it works) on 7,100 Mhz +/- QRM

80m every Wednesday and Sunday at 20.00 EST on 3,640 Mhz +/- QRM

Hope to see you at some time during the duration of our trip.

Best 73 de VK3DHI (Helmut) and XYL Dorothe



Come one, come all to the next  
**PUB NIGHT**



Now I know what you're thinking, you're thinking "Shouldn't the text immediately be below a large bolded title such as "Pub Night" be about when and where this pub night actually is?", and you know what, maybe you're right. I mean, it's a fairly logical assumption that important details such as that *ought* to be here, where else would they be? The thing is though, if I wrote a short and boring ad like you would expect, you'd probably forget about it two seconds later. This way, you've been reading and thinking about for a few more seconds than usual, and are far more

likely to remember it...at least, that's how the theory goes, and I'm sticking to it. Anyways, for those of you who just want to know where on earth this Pub Night is, it's at the Cardinia Park Hotel, Emerald Rd – Beaconsfield, it's the same place where we had the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

**28th July, 6:00pm**

**Be there or be a rectangular shaped thingy!**

## **We are the Champions**

That is to say, we *were* the champions, and this year we look forward to being champions yet again at this year's Remembrance Day Contest. This event is heaps of fun, nowhere else will you be able to get so many contacts in one day. Not only do you get to spend time behind the radio, but you also make heaps of new friends along the way. This is a really fun event and should not be missed.



## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 19th May 2007  
**Start time:** 08:00 PM.  
**Location:** Guide Hall Cranbourne.  
**Chairperson:** Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT  
**Minute Taker:** Phil Pavey VK3YB

**Present:** As per attendance sheet.  
**Visitors and Guests:** Nil  
**Apologies:** Pat Pavey VK3OZ, Russ White VK3MWR,  
Steve VK3EGD & Maria Harding, Graham  
Brennan VK3KCS, Andrew Brown VK3HJK,  
Ron VK3EXJ & Judy Robertson

### Correspondence Received:

Cheque Book, 2 x membership fee's, licence for VK3BJA, EMDRC  
Mag, AR mag, change of address for G&C communications

### Correspondence Sent:

nil.

### Treasurer's Report: nil

**Read by:** Moved by: **Seconded by:**

**Carried:** n/a

**New Call signs** – Rick VK3FRIC, Malcolm Green now VK3MCG

**Previous Minutes:** As printed in the May '07 GATEWAY maga-  
zine. **Moved by:** **Seconded by:** I

### Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Planned foxhunt has been postponed to allow time for demonstra-  
tions prior to event

Foundation course – taking applicants (see Mike Ide VK3KTO)

Albert reported on hamfest. Need a food coordinator

Naree to do food. Grahame Coleman VK3YCG, Mike Ide VK3KTO,  
Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT and Jenny Goddard volunteered to help

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

30<sup>th</sup> Diner. Dianne reported that Reddy Roast will be appointed as the official caterer for the event due to best value. Please bring a desert. Meal at 6pm. Exact numbers required by end of May. Bruno Tonizzo moved motion that excess test gear in shack be disposed off, Andrew Clinkaberry Seconded. Approved  
AVR course continues with two sessions remaining  
Rick has donated some Maxtor 80's, crystal locked UHF radio's.  
Bruno moved motion they be sold tonight or at hamfest. 2<sup>nd</sup>ed Andrew Clinkaberry. Moved  
Geoff Williams VK3ZGW is back to East Timor next month – look for him on 20m!  
Bruno introduced new committee

### **New Business:**

Rick VK3FRIC moving to VK4 – wished him all the best  
Albert showed PSU from Altronics which retails at \$99  
Bruno gave report on central Vic Hamfest  
Noel Vk3cjj suggested we review layout of tables for hamfest

Tonight's Guest Speaker is Geoff Clifton VK3HGG demonstrating scale model train

**Meeting Closed** at around 8:50 PM.

Next Committee Meeting: 28 May 2007 at the Club Rooms @ 8pm.  
Next Prac Night: 1st June 2007.  
Next General Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007.