



GATEWAY

August 2009

NEXT MEETING This Friday Aug 21 2009 at 8 pm

WHERE : Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall, Grant St off Sladen St.

SPEAKER : Peter Cossins VK3BFG

TOPIC: Digital Amateur Television VK3RTV

“Recognition was given to Peter VK3BFG for having the dream to digitise one of the world's longest established fast scan amateur television devices. That dream not only became a reality ... but an instant success. “

[Amateur Radio magazine, 7 June 2009]

Peter will show some slides of the VK3RTV installation and antennas at Mt Dandenong, and talk a little about the principles of DVB. He will have the DVB-T Exciter to demonstrate the multiplexing of two live video streams at the one time (VK3RTV1 and VK3RTV2). And he will also bring along some antennas and other bits and pieces for show and tell!



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

A-NONY-NONY-MUS'S LITTLE BIT OF AUSSIE CULCHA

LOG ON: Adding wood to make the barbie hotter.

LOG OFF: Not adding any more wood to the barbie.

MONITOR: Keeping an eye on the barbie.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the firewood off the Ute.

HARD DRIVE: Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.

KEYBOARD: Where you hang the Ute keys.

WINDOW: What you shut when the weather's cold.

SCREEN: What you shut in the mozzie season.

BYTE: What mozzies do.

MEGABYTE: What Townsville mozzies do.

CHIP: A bar snack.

MICROCHIP: What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.

MODEM: What you did to the lawns.

LAPTOP: Where the cat sleeps.

SOFTWARE: Plastic knives & forks you get at Red Rooster.

HARDWARE: Stainless steel knives & forks - from K-Mart.

MOUSE: The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.

MAINFRAME: What holds the shed up.

WEB: What spiders make.

WEBSITE: Usually in the shed or under the verandah.

SEARCH ENGINE: What you do when the Ute won't go.

CURSOR: What you say when the Ute won't go.

YAHOO: What you say when the Ute does go.

UPGRADE: A steep hill.

SERVER: The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

MAIL SERVER: The bloke at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

USER: The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.

NETWORK: What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.

INTERNET: Where you want the fish to go.

NETSCAPE: What the fish do when they discover a hole in the net.

ONLINE: Where you hang the washing.

OFFLINE: Where the washing ends up when the pegs aren't strong.

STOP PRESS *by Chris VK3QB*

BE THERE OR BE MORSELESS!!

I am pleased to advise that the club will be delivering a Morse Code class. Morse code training techniques have come a long way since I first learnt the code back in 1984, and I am confident that we'll get dedicated attendees up to at least 12wpm by the end of the course.

This course will be a little different in format to what you may be accustomed to. We'll hold a "formal classroom" session once a week in the club rooms, and also 2-3 on-air sessions per week – I hope over 2mtrs and 80mtrs – with answers and a callback format to gauge performance and answer questions etc. In addition, I hope to make the course practical and interesting with on-air sessions in the club rooms, exposure and practice with contesting, dx-ing and some mini-contests for members as we work through the program. We'll also run through some of the CW operating guidelines/procedures, as well as looking at different types of keys, bugs and paddles. All this with a fun social aspect as well!

So switch off the dreaded reality TV and come along to learn more about this infectious mode of operation and discover a new facet of the hobby. The course will suit those who are completely new to CW, as well as those who may have passed the exam umpteens years ago and are looking for a refresher.

The program will run with following format.

1. One night per week at the clubrooms for 60-90 minutes of formal classroom teaching. I propose either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening.
2. Two or three nights per week of on-air practice sessions provided by the club on 2mtrs and perhaps 80mtrs as well.
3. Self study practice sessions at least an additional 2-3 days per week (over items 1 and 2) of 15-30 mins per session. These would be delivered either by way of computer generated code, MP3 files on your MP3 player, or CD. As a student, you will be expected to fulfill these additional learning requirements in your own time.

In order to finalise the course material and syllabus, I would like to get the following information from members who may wish to participate in this course.

Would you attend the class, and commit to the practice regime?

1. Are either Tues, Wed or Thurs evening not possible for you. (i.e. Only answer this question if you are unable to attend on one of these evenings). Note the course will only be one evening per week in the clubrooms though.
2. Do you have a computer?
3. Do you have an MP3 player? Do you have a CD player?

I envisage the class will run over 10-12 weeks and will have a price of \$25 to members – mostly to recover direct costs associated with delivering the course and course materials. I expect it will commence early/mid September. Please email me with your answers to the above questions – or give me a call on the phone or 145.450. 73 Chris

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne GirlGuide Hall in Grant Street. Prac nights are held on the first Friday night in the Peter Pavey clubrooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made welcome.** Committee meetings are also held in the clubrooms.

President	Chris Chapman	VK3QB (9708 8320)
Secretary	Stephen Harding	VK3EGD (9791 3182)
Treasurer	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO (5659 6562)
Committee Members: Max VK3TMK, Graeme VK3BXG,		

Magazine Editor : Susan Coleman VK3FXXX

Magazine Photographer : Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

Magazine Printer : David Wright VK3FW

Distribution Snail Mail : The Clifton Family VK3HGG

Distribution Email : 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 123Hz IRLP Node Number- **6794** (Using **VK3RLP**)

Call in Frequencies : HF on 28.325 MHz, USB, VHF 145.450 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 magazine items is the third day of each month.

Please direct magazine articles to:

Susan Coleman email editor@ggrec.org.au

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

or Email : secretary@ggrec.org.au

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.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB*

Hamfest 2009 is now behind us and I think we can all be very proud of the achievement once again. Feedback from both sellers and buyers was extremely positive and a big thankyou is in order for those who helped out on the day. I have provided a more detailed report of the Hamfest elsewhere in the magazine. Oh, we also have next year's date locked in already – Saturday 17th July 2010 – so mark it in your diaries.

On a personal note, Hege and I had a wonderful and relaxing trip to Vanuatu (YJ0 land) and I've provided a very brief story of my radio experiences which you'll find later in the next issue.



August is another busy month with club activities. At the General Meeting (21st Aug) we have Peter Cossins presenting on Digital Amateur TV, a facet of our hobby that I don't think too many people dabble in; so it should prove to be a very interesting session.

The annual Remembrance Day Contest is coming up on the 15th and 16th of the month. The Club will be putting in an effort on both HF and VHF, and I encourage any interested members to get involved, or even drop by during the contest for a visit. But be warned, we might try to get you behind the microphone or on a key for a spell! Give me a yell if you'd like more information.

Morse Code Classes

It's official. The Club will now be delivering a Morse Code class, commencing early to mid September and is expected to go for 10-12 weeks. By now I hope you have all received the email providing more details about the course, and seeking registrations.

We hope to make the course fun, interesting and we'll be using far more modern training techniques which will get students up to 15wpm much faster and more efficiently than the "old way". All are welcome – whether this is your first foray into the code, or you are an old hand looking for a refresher and the social aspect that accompanies these types of events. Please contact me if you have not received the email about this course, or would like more info.

Cont'd over

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB cont'd from previous page*

On the social side of things, we have a pub night at the Cardinia Park Hotel on the 22nd August – details and map are on the events pages of our web site. We are also planning a weekend away on the Cup Weekend (31st October - 2nd November) – the likely venue will be either the caravan park at Venus Bay or Walkerville North. Venus Bay has better VHF/UHF coverage so that will likely be the QTH. We expect to tie in some social and radio activities, so mark this one in your diaries and we'll be back next month with the finer details. Please send a note to the Secretary if you are interested in attending this weekend away.

Finally, we are kicking off the Christmas hamper next month, so please dig around and if you are able, make a contribution – Max is the focal point so please talk to him if you have any questions. Tickets will be available starting in September.

Well, that's about it from me for this month, and as usual please refer to the Club's website for the most up-to-date calendar of events.

Til next month 73, /Chris VK3QB

Drawing the winners at Hamfest 2009

Photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



Hamfest 2009 - a 'tremendous' response!

The 2009 GGREC Hamfest was another great success. Once again we had a tremendous response from amateurs and commercial organisations wanting tables. In fact, all tables were booked a full 5 weeks before the event. This is a clear sign that many feel our event is a proven winner and well patronised by the discerning amateur!

An overall reduction in the number of people "through the doors" was especially notable this year – I would estimate that numbers were down about 20 per cent on last year, but

I am extremely pleased to report that the profit was about the same as last year – largely due to tight cost control and more selective product sales – so a fantastic outcome for the Club and our ongoing funding of services to members and the broader amateur community. Some



rather unscientific research suggests that the reduction in numbers is about in line with what some of the other Hamfests have seen in recent months – (not to mention my superannuation balance) – and just goes to show that even our Club is not immune to the GFC (!?!).

For those wondering just how many attended (sellers and buyers in total).... the final number was 360 – so David Wright VK3FW wins the guessing competition – congrats David.

As is always the case, members stepped up to the plate with their usual enthusiasm and energy on the day to assist with every aspect of the event, *PTO*

Photos by Paul VK3TGX



Cont'd from previous page

from setting up at 7am through to sweeping and mopping the floors at 2pm. Again, our kitchen services received widespread applause and I thank Pat VK3OZ and the team for once again exceeding expectations in this regard. I had many, many people stop me through the course of the day congratulating us on the outstanding service provided by the kitchen! For fear of missing someone out I will not attempt to name all those who helped out – but you should be more than happy with the result. Feedback from buyers and sellers alike indicated that the club ran another successful event. We just need that rotten PA to work properly next year....

Door prize winners were,

First: Adrian Florence with a Weather Station (courtesy Jaycar)

Second: Cameron Pollock VK3FCAM with a Digital Multimeter and

Third: John Mullins VK3FJAM with a \$50 Bunnings voucher

Finally, I would like to thank Jaycar for its support and also a very interesting array of goodies on the day, and also to Lee at Noremac Labels for once again providing the name labels.

So, in a nutshell, a very successful event enjoyed by many. *Chris VK3QB*

HAMFEST 2009—A 'TREMENDOUS' RESPONSE

*Photos by
Paul
VK3TGX*



VK3TGX table - Someone's already put a marker on the old BWD scope!



HAMFEST 2009—A 'TREMENDOUS' RESPONSE



*Photos by Paul
VK3TGX*



Upcoming Events

Aug 15th	6:00pm	Rememberance Day Contest (24 hour)	Club Shack
Aug 21st	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Aug 22nd	6:30pm	Pub Night	Cardinia Park Hotel
Aug 31st	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Sep 18th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Sep 28th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Oct 16th	8:00pm	General Meeting	Guide Hall
Oct 26th	8:00pm	Committee Meeting	Club Shack
Oct 31st		Weekend Away	Venus Bay or Walkerville North
Dec 5th	12:00pm	Christmas BBQ	Chris VK3QB's QTH
Jul 17th	10:00am	GGREC Hamfest	Cranbourne Public Hall

Hints 'n Tips Need a new QSL Card? Looking for some neat software to design and print your own cards? Try QSL Maker by WB8RCR. It's Freeware and really quite a useful piece of software. Visit <http://www.qsl.net/wb8rcr/> If you want a demo ask Chris VK3QB

A Great Holiday Destination!!

We recently returned from Sawtell – 5K south of Coffs Harbour, Northern NSW. The weather was great, 20 degrees instead of 13 at home. We stayed there for 7 nights and had a good time. I set up my HF radio on 40 meters and made quite a few contacts, one near my QTH in Frankston, another booming station in north Tassie. It was a pity I didn't find any GGREC members on 40. I had a high spot for my campsite with almost no other campers and plenty of trees for my dipole. The area is also serviced by a 2 meter IRLP node and I linked it to our Cranbourne repeater a few times, however (again) nobody was around. Of all the places I have visited, this was by far the most radio friendly site I have had, that is if you prefer a caravan park rather than roughing it in a national park. If you would like to read more about my holiday and see some pictures, point your web browser to [/www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net/Others](http://www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net/Others) and select "2009 Holiday NSW" (on top).

While on holidays I dreamt up an idea for a mobile phone/radio patch box a fairly simple one that plugs into your mobile's headset connector and contains an amplified speaker for Rx and a connector for a standard radio mic (with remote PTT control). Anyone interested?

Paul VK3TGX

HAMFEST 2009—A 'TREMENDOUS' RESPONSE



Smiles at the front desk, collecting entry fees



The pensive chef



PK's Loop Antennas [NB Lots more of Paul's pics are at www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net/]

At Graham Jost's presentation on the Meccano/Babbage engine No 1 at the July GM, members were absolutely fascinated.

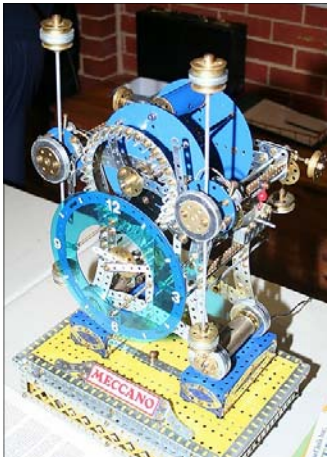


*Photos and words
by Paul VK3TGX*

Above: Graham sets up the Babbage Difference Engine to calculate.

Far right :
Braiding machine

Right:
Harrison Clock



cont'd from page opposite **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 2009**

The dates are 15-16th August. Chris is organising. It will be an all mode HF and VHF effort. Chris will email next week with more details.

Morse code classes – Chris advised that the classes will go ahead - most likely a 10 week course starting in October. More detail will be forthcoming when timings and a format have been established.

Here's a McDonald!

New Business :

Christmas hamper - Max is coordinating the hamper build. Ticket selling will commence in December. Non-perishable goods donations will be accepted gratefully from now on.

Electronics class - Some interest from potential teachers and from potential students. Scope, syllabus, timings, etc are yet to be decided. Ian asked about parts supply for simple components that may be used during or after the classes by the participants. Russ suggested using salvaged bits.



Dave suggested a blog for comments and ideas on the course. Albert outlined a concept for the course. Russ asked if a kit is required. The course will be limited to components recognition and understanding.

Slogan competition – Albert outlined the idea and the timings. All ideas should be forwarded to the Secretary.

Pub night – 22nd August. Cardinia Hotel. 6:30 for 7. Albert to book a table for 20.

Expenditure Claims – Albert advised that receipts for expenditure reimbursement claims are now definitely required for significant amounts, and for petty amounts a declaration will generally suffice.

Name badges – A new design is to be emailed out to members. Several members indicated an interest in obtaining the new badges.

Ten pin bowling - Reg asked about interest in a bowling night. Some interest was shown in an event before the pub on the 22nd August. Dandenong Bowl was suggested as a venue, then to the pub.

Perhaps a start around 2pm. An email will be circulated to gauge interest.

QSL opportunity – Chris will be in Vanuatu from 21-22nd July operating with a VJ call.

Meeting Closed : 22.18

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 31 Aug Next Prac Night : Friday 7 Aug.

Next General Meeting : Friday 18 Sept.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 2009

Date : 17 Jul 2009

Start time : 09:30 PM.

Location : Guide Hall.

Chairperson : Chris VK3QB

Minute Taker : Steve VK3EGD

Guest Speaker: This General Meeting was preceded by a talk by our guest speaker Graham Jost who talked about the founding and history of Meccano, and demonstrated some amazing machines constructed from Meccano components.

Present : Attendance sheet

Visitors and Guests : Graham Webb, Ross Blackwood

Apologies : Mike & Naree Ide, Helmut Inhoven, Geoff Williams, Ron Robertson, Ray Kerwin, Tim Morgan, Bobbie Bishop, Bill Connelly, Henry & Maree Vandelig.

Correspondence Received : Listed and tabled

Correspondence Sent : Listed and tabled

Treasurer's Report :

Read : Albert **Moved :** Albert **Seconded :** Bruno **Carried :** Yes

Income : \$530.20 **Expenditure :** \$857.15 **Balance :** \$-326.95 **Total :** \$6559.70

New Call signs : none

Previous Minutes : **Read :** published **Moved :** Chris **Seconded :** Russ **Approved :** Yes

Business Arising from the previous Minutes :

Hamfest - ready for tomorrow. Timings were reviewed, All tables have been taken. Opens 7am for helpers. Competition for stickers open till midnight. Prize is not a radio. Email to Chris by midnight to guess number. Weather should be good.

Mid Year Dinner – Many thanks to Dianne and all the YL's who helped with deserts - by acclamation. Ian asked if next year should be the same thing again? Yes by a show of hands. Thanks to Reg for the games and the cake.

Internet at clubrooms - not much feedback. Committee has decided not to proceed.

Club website - Steve gave a progress report. Some suggestions were forthcoming and discussed. Chris encouraged folk to check the website regularly as it changes often. Questions from the floor about information in magazines being published on the site. Steve advised the information was already in the public domain, but any specific requests for information to be removed would be considered.

Analyser kits – Albert asked if another night is required. If yes, then the timing is to be worked out amongst the potential participants.

RD contest - some members showed interest.

Cont'd opposite

GGREC
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