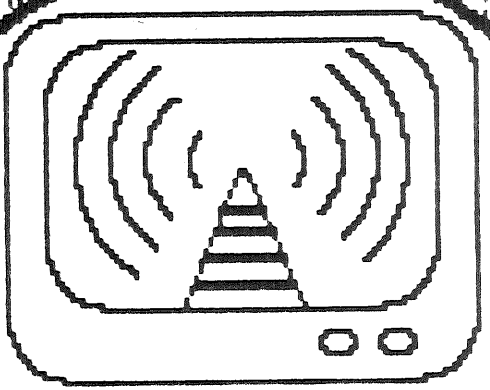
GATEWAY



GGREC

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

APRIL 1988

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1987/88

President.....Kerry Clayton VK3KFC *

Secretary.....Ian Buczak VK3KGB

Treasurer.....Albert Hubbard VK3BQQ

Member.....Dave Campbell VK3XMF

Member.....Peter Vat VK3KCM *

*NOTE: Both Kerry Clayton and Peter Vat are available to fulfill the functions of Club President.

Club Component Officer & Test Equipment Library:
Albert VK3BQQ

Magazine Editorial:
Ian Jackson VK3BUF (contact on 7897339)

Club meetings held at the 1st Oakwood Park scout hall in Heylington Crescent, Noble Park North. Meetings commence on the Third Friday of each month at 8:00 pm.

Club Station: VK3BJA Located at the scout hall.

Postal address: P.O.Box 98 Dandenong 3175

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ALL VISITORS WELCOME
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PRESIDENTS REPORT - APRIL 88

Good news!! We are now the holders of a 6M repeater license, the Callsign VK3RDD is now official. For those who don't know , RDD stands for Repeater Dandenong District. Make sure you order your crystals for TX on 52.575 and RX on 53.575.

The Annual General Meeting is on This Friday, the 15th of April, so come along and elect the people you want to run the Club for the next twelve months. Those wishing to go the Mt. Gambier for the convention on June 11,12,13 had better say so now while we can book accommodation.

73 Kerry VK3KFC

"GATEWAY HISTORY" March 1978

President was : John Watkins VK3EW
Treasurers was: Dave Game VK3BJV
Secretary was: Marj Jeffery

Club nets on 80M, 10M and 2M.
Novice class starts in June for the October exam. Coming events include a talk and slide night by an amateur just returned from Antarctica. The Club purchased a Gestetner duplicator. An article about America's woodpecker. An article on secondary surveillance radar. Fees for 1978 are $8.00 per adult and $4 for juniors.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

Another interesting month has passed since the last edition of Gateway. As was indicated in the Presidents report, we now hold a 6M repeater license. There is still a fair amount of work to b done on this project, but it is expected that we shall be fully operational by midyear.

COLLECTING PARTS FOR HOME BREW COMPETITION

Dave VK3XMF is now a resident of Frankston, leaving no grass growing between his toes he has immediately launched himself into a home-brew project. He will no doubt be (enthusiastically) assisted by his new tenant, Phillip, VK3BHN. Accordingly, he is now gathering as many empty beer bottles as he can find. (I must qualify this by saying that they must be clean and washed vigorously three times within 24 hrs of having been emptied of their original contents.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Last Friday night, a bunch of GGREC members paid a visit to the Khan, Mongolian restaurant in Frankston. It was an entertaining night, in particularly was the spectacle of watching bits of food at the bottom of Albert's bowl successfully evade the two sticks that were being thrust at them. Eventually, perseverance gave way to the use of a fork. Next month we have a special venue for the social night, the Sky High restaurant at the top of Mount Dandenong. Noted for its good food, pleasant entertainment and VHF signal takeoff. It may yet be postponed to the second Friday in May because of its proximity to the horse trial date. (To be confirmed)

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Andy VK3KCS has contributed a collection of articles extracted from early radio and hobby magazines (circa 1947), the first of which appear in this edition of Gateway. It features an interesting perspective on the approach to the realms of technology and is also good for a laugh. Keep watching for them.

SOMETHING NEW, A REAL MAGAZINE ARTICLE
I am currently compiling an article that features how things are measured, and their origins. It is a collection of definitions, strange terms and units, many of which have been long forgotten like Violle's, Oersteds and Scruples. (Find them if you can!) If readers of this mag know of some interesting and obscure terms, please pass them on.

World's largest CRT monitor

With a screen size of 94cm Mitsubishi engineers found that the earth's magnetic field (which varies in strength and intensity with geographical position) significantly diverts the electron beam away from it's correct position on the phosphor.

The engineers must therefore simulate the magnetic field conditions at each region the monitors are to be used and make the necessary modifications. The first shipments of monitors suitable for use in the southern hemisphere are expected to be available for sale by the end of this month.

The XC3720/10 monitor series can autotrack frequencies from 15 to 31.5KHz (horizontal) and 40-75Hz (vertical). The screens are equipped with a built-in audio amplifier and loud speakers and can run off a camera, VCR, videodisk, television receiver or computers.

The XC3720U is a module type, supplied without a cabinet for applications where the monitor will be incorporated into furniture.

John Spence, manager of Electronics Components at Mitsubishi says the XC3720 is well suited for use with information services such as transit terminals, sports stadia or shopping malls.

The monitors are already being used by the London Stock Exchange and the Bureaux de Change at Singapore Airport. The XC3720 is PAL compatible and the XC3710 is for NTC systems.

For further information contact Mitsubishi Electric, 73-75 Epping Road, North Ryde 2113. (02) 888 5777.

350 on Information Card

HE "HAMS" ARE BACK AGAIN

L. S. STONE

Not long ago a Government announcement was made evoking all wartime and National Security Regulations governing the operation of radio transmitting plants by experimenters. It was good news to the owners of experimental transmitters in back-rooms and backyard shacks. The radio amateurs ("hams" to the fraternity!) are back on the air again after sets that had been closed down since they had sent out their last signals when war was declared in 1939. The "hams" are indeed back again on the air!

With the expert knowledge of radio and signals work, scores of "hams" found a ready-made niche for themselves in the Services during the war. Every A.I.F., A.M.F., R.N., and R.A.A.F. Signals unit had its quota of "hams" attached. They did sterling service right through the six years of hostilities. Many, alas, logged their final "Signing Off" signal, leaving a "dead key" behind them.

Radio "hams" were to be picked up in the small hours of the morning operating on out of the way wave-lengths from every State in the Commonwealth, New Guinea, and adjacent islands. Besides just morse transmissions, ambitious musical programmes and record recitals were frequently broadcast in a manner, and with a quality of transmission, that would bear comparison with professional stations. Enthusiastic listeners logged them as keenly as overseas short-wave broadcasts; it became a fad to collect these VK-DX station identification cards issued by the experimenters.

"Hams" pioneered the first all-night programmes, long before professionals, such as 2UW (Sydney), inaugurated such public services. If you tuned your set to the remoter sections of the broadcast band back in the 1930s, you would pick up a bunch of "ham" all-nighters. Outstanding was VK-2ZO (Sydney), operated by blind experimenter Frank Bridgewater, which reached top standard of technical excellence.

Despite his seeming disability, Bridgewater triumphed over it. A first-class radio mechanic, he operated a high-voltage "ham" station with amazing facility and skill. A team of assistant announcers, with a guest announcer or two from Sydney commercial broadcasters often gave him a hand.

"Hams" had even their own "networks." Six stations in different Sydney suburbs relayed the same programme. "Hams" also beat the professionals to direct-from-screen talking picture broadcasts from city movie theatres. Many ace "hams" filled the post of talkie operators. VK 2WR and VK 2BQ were operated by projectionists from the Plaza and Liberty theatres, from whence listeners were often regaled with direct screen film flashes. The "hams" were first again!

"The Old Sea Captain," VK 2AJ's announcer, attracted many listeners with his rich and salty brogue. The voice of owner-announcer VK 2GR intrigued others as it was the image of Stanley Holloway's "Old Sam" sketch.

"Night owls," insomniacs, parties, taxi drivers, switchboard operators, nurses, and all-night workers tuned into the "hams"; were not slow to recognise and appreciate their services in brightening the "wee sma'" hours.

It was not uncommon for "hams" to be flooded with 'phone calls, letters, and telegrams from city, suburban, country, interstate, New Zealand, and even the Islands. VK 2BQ created a record when seventy-six letters and a radiophone call were received from New Zealand after transmission of a special programme to the Dominion.

Years before the war a Sydney professional station's chief engineer was escorting a Japanese naval officer, from a visiting Japanese training ship, over his studios. He pointed out a photo of a Jap radio "ham" he had often contacted over the ether. The Jap officer smilingly said, "That is my nephew!"

Mention of "ham" operators attached to movie theatres as projectionists recalls this unique incident. The projectionists at a Sydney city show were puzzled by continual interference noises emanating from the screen, but not originating from the film's sound track or projection apparatus.

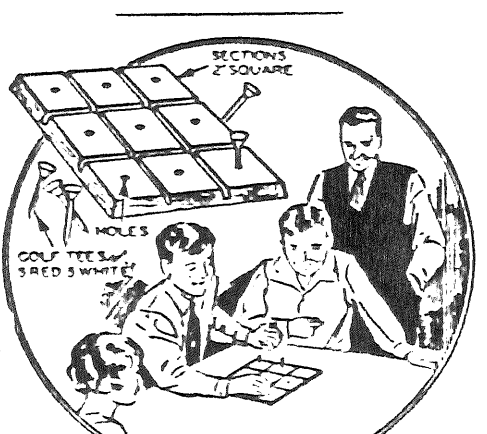
They were at their wits' end to trace the trouble, which was ruining the screening. A naval officer in the audience came to their rescue. It had particularly aroused his attention when he was able to identify it as morse code. Its origin was finally run to earth on a ship in the Harbour, dot-dashing from its radio room. By a freak of [illegible] waves the theatre's sound equipment had picked up the morse broadcast and relayed it onto the screen!

A Sydney "ham" was never allowed to live down the fact that he once announced to a fellow "ham," "My station is a lower one than yours." Omitting the word "wave-length" caused the damage, seriously challenging the moral tone of their stations.

Another "ham" sadly learnt a bitter lesson owing to a lapse of memory. His wife had a radio by her bedside so she could listen to her husband's after-midnight broadcasts. Somewhat of a gay Lothario he received too many 'phone calls from girl listeners for his wife's peace of mind. One rang in the early hours while his station was on the air. A racy conversation ensued for the best part of an hour. The G.L. was blissfully unaware he had his microphone wide open, so it also picked up the spicy confab, relaying it to hundreds of intrigued and amused listeners. His fuming wife received the whole benefit of it on her bedside radio. A much chastened experimenter determined to be more discreet with 'phone calls in future—especially when they were from attractive girls.

Radio "ham" stations did everything in a professional manner, even to featuring publicity officers, glamour girl announcerettes, and specific theme tunes. Kookaburra calls instantly identified VK 2NE; VK 2WR appropriately opened up with "I'm A Night Owl," closed with "Till We Meet Again," featured quarter hourly chiming clock time signals.

The "hams" certainly gave an impromptu fillip to all-night radio listening.



A NEW WAY TO PLAY AN OLD [illegible]E

"Stymie" is our old friend, "Noughts and Crosses" brought up-to-date! You can easily make it from a scrap of 1in. board six inches square, and ten golf tees, five each of two different colours.

Divide the board into nine equal squares by sawing shallow grooves across the board each way so as to make nine 2in. squares. Drill a hole in the centre of each square just large enough to insert a golf tee and approximately ½in. deep.

The game is played in the same manner as Noughts and Crosses. Each player has five tees of a different colour. They insert a tee in one of the holes in turn and attempt to secure three tees in a straight line.

SCIENCE QUIZ

How well do you know the language and facts of Science and Mechanics? Here is an entertaining way to test yourself. Try to select the single correct answer for each of the numbered questions below. Write down the letter corresponding to your answer in each case—then compare your results with the list on page 361. Add up your points for the total score.

1. A good thing with which to season meat at the dinner table would be (a) potassium hydroxide; (b) copper sulphate; (c) sodium chloride; (d) bichloride of mercury.

2. Poliomyelitis is the medical name for (a) hardening of the arteries; (b) influenza; (c) measles; (d) infantile paralysis.

3. Carnivorous animals (a) live in caves; (b) eat meat; (c) have four legs; (d) can climb trees.

4. Keen-edged tools, like pocket-knives, chisels and plane-blades are sharpened on (a) a touchstone; (b) a Rosetta stone; (c) an oilstone; (d) a keystone.

5. An escapement is (a) a gaol delivery; (b) the place in a dam where the excess water overflows; (c) part of the driving mechanism of a clock; (d) a steep bank.

6. In an historic demonstration staged by Otto von Guericke of Magdeburg two teams of horses were unable to pull apart (a) the first iron chain ever made; (b) a Gordian knot; (c) a pair of close-fitting copper hemispheres from which the air had been exhausted; (d) a car tyre from its demountable rim.

7. Ruminants are (a) inhabitants of Rumania; (b) remedies for rheumatism; (c) animals like the cow; (d) gipsies.

8. You should never (a) saw wood across the grain; (b) touch an electric light socket when standing in a bath filled with water; (c) light three cigarettes with one match; (d) put oil in the crank-case of a motor car.

9. Litmus paper is (a) sensitised paper for making photographic prints; (b) modern substitute for sandpaper; (c) a parchment-like paper for cooking vegetables; (d) treated paper used for testing acids and alkalis.

10. Red corpuscles in your blood (a) fight germs; (b) carry oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body; (c) clot the blood in a wound; (d) cause arterial bleeding.

11. Two pieces of machinery adjusted to run at exactly the same speed are said to have been (a) syndicated, (b) syncopated; (c) synchronised, (d) paired.

12. If your car won't run, the trouble may be in the (a) spark arrester; (b) gasometer; (c) ohmmeter; (d) transmitter; (e) carburettor; (f) "B" battery.

13. A Leyden jar is (a) a container for vacuum-packed food; (b) prized variety of pottery; (c) a receptacle for liquid air; (d) a device for storing electricity.

14. What makes your feet try to use the footboard as a brake when someone else is driving is (a) a conditioned reflex; (b) deductive reasoning; (c) an inferiority complex; (d) an inhibition.

15. Plywood is (a) very flexible wood that can be bent double without breaking; (b) wood built up of several thicknesses and glued together; (c) an extremely light wood often used for building model 'planes.

16. If ice-cubes freeze together after you have taken them from the tray you can blame it on (a) regelation, (b) convection; (c) sublimation, (d) sheer cussedness.

17. A French curve is (a) a shape discovered to be accoustically perfect for violins; (b) a drafting tool; (c) a banked turn in a road or railway; (d) a form of graph sometimes used in business statistics.

18. Rapidly moving pieces of machinery appear to be standing still when viewed with a (a) stethoscope; (b) stroboscope; (c) horoscope; (d) bronchoscope.

19. The radiator of a motor car (a) keeps the occupants warm in winter, (b) makes the car easy to start in cold weather; (c) helps to keep the engine from overheating.

20. Wave traps are (a) machines to harness the power of sea waves, (b) tuned radio circuits, (c) accessories for a trap drummer.