

GATEWAY



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO
AND ELECTRONICS CLUB INC

FEBRUARY 2000

Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club Inc.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

Club Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month
at the Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant Street.

The meetings commence at 8:00 PM.

Visitors are most welcome.

Committee Members 1999/2000

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT
Secretary	Dave Campbell	VK3XMF
Treasurer	Mike Ide	VK3KTO
Committee member	Albret Hubbard	VK3BQO
Committee member	Russel White	VK3MWR
Magazine Editor & Printing and Dispatch	Dianne Jackson	VK3HDI Ph. (03) 9776 5000

Club Station VK3BJA Located at the Guide Hall

Club Repeater VK3RDD Freq. in 52.575, out 53.575 Mhz

Call in Freqs. are HF on 28.325 Mhz, USB

VHF on 146.225 Mhz, FM and UHF on 438.850 Mhz, FM

Visit our internet site at:

<http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~ggrec/>

Current GGREC Inc Membership Fee Schedule

Full Member \$30.00, Pensioner Member \$15.00

Junior Member \$15.00, Extra Family Member \$10.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

**The deadline for submitting Gateway articles is EIGHT DAYS
before each General Meeting.**

Please direct magazine correspondence to 105 Franciscan ave Frankston 3199

Phone: 9776 5000 or Email ijackson@netspace.net.au or Fax: 9776 5451

All other Club correspondence to PO BOX 1098 Cranbourne 3977

Presidents Message

The year 2000 is well underway and our club will have many opportunities to get together and have fun.

Something for everyone.....

February's practical night was well attended with many projects being worked on with lots of help from club members.

Friday the 11th of February was our Pub Night, a relaxing evening for members to get together and chat.

Sunday the 20th of February is our visit to the Dandenong Letter Centre.

This month's Guest Speaker, Dave Game will be giving us a talk about Video Imaging in the printing business.

Morse Code.....

The momentum for lowering the Morse code requirement to five words per minute is increasing with a majority of WIA Divisions supporting the proposal.

Club Elections...

Please note that nominations for committee positions close on the 7th of March, 2000. I especially invite new members to nominate, as it is the best way to learn about the club, its members, and the common bond that holds us all together - friendship and a willingness to help!

Vale - Len Vermuelen, VK3COD

I was very saddened to hear that Len had passed away just before Christmas, after a long battle with cancer. I fondly remember the long nights spent trying to copy Morse from Len's Morse code classes. As I was operating on a hand held transceiver, I didn't have enough power to announce my presence on frequency and became one of the "silent" students. I couldn't have passed my Morse exam without Len's classes and words of encouragement. Len never stopped giving to amateur radio.

See you at the February General Meeting,

73's from Bruno, VK3BFT



Event Queue

DAY	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Fri	18/02/00	8pm	General Meeting and Talk on Video Imaging by Dave VK3BJV
Sun	20/02/00	2pm	Dandenong Mail Center Tour
Sun	27/02/00	8pm	2 Metre Net on 146.225
Fri	03/03/00	8pm	Prac Night
Tues	07/03/00	7.30pm	Committee Meeting at Dianne VK3HDI's house
Fri, Mon	10, 11, 12,&13, march		Labour Day Weekend at Walhalla
Fri	17/03/00	8pm	General Meeting and talk by Ian VK3BUF about D F Hunts
Sun	26/03/00	TBA	Bicycle ride at Braeside Park and a BBQ lunch
Sun	26/03/00	8pm	2 Metre Net on 146.225
Sun	26/03/00		<i>EMDRC white elephant sale</i>
Fri	07/04/00	8pm	Annual General Meeting and D F Hunt antenna building
Sun	16/04/00	TBA	D F Hunt
Fri	05/05/00	8pm	Prac night and t-shirt printing
Fri	19/05/00	8pm	General Meeting and ICOM equipment night
Sat	17/06/00	TBA	Millennium Dinner at the Guide Hall
Sat	22/07/00	TBA	Amateur Radio Trash and Treasure day (formerly known as the white elephant sale)



Gory Details...

VIDEO IMAGING TALK

On the night of our February meeting Dave Game VK3BJV will be giving a talk about video imaging in the printing business

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

March 10th, 11th 12th and 13th. The Labour day weekend in March 2000, will be at Walhalla. If you haven't booked in yet then you should get yourself organised reasonably quickly as accommodations may become scarce, or just come along for a day trip. There are lots of interesting things to see and do in Walhalla, a steam train, mine tour, craft shops and lots more.

D F HUNT

At the March general meeting, Ian VK3BUF will be giving a talk about D F Hunting. We have planned a D F Hunt for Sunday the 16th of April. A D F (direction finding) Hunt is similar to a fox hunt but with a difference. Instead of driving about in your car with an antenna protruding from your window, we park the car, get out take a bearing on the signal and plot it on a map. We usually work in pairs so that you can triangulate the position of the signal by radioing the map coordinates to your partner. There will be a lunch at the end of the hunt. If it's a sunny day we will have a barbecue but if its raining then we might go off to a pub for a counter lunch.

A G M

This year our Annual General Meeting has been moved to the first Friday in April, the 7th because of good Friday falling on our usual meeting night. **Nominations for Committee positions must be handed in to the Club secretary by the 7th of March.**

UB NET

The GGREC will now be running regularly scheduled Club Nets, on the Club frequency 146.225. The Nets will be held on every 2nd and 4th Sunday's of each month, beginning on the 13th of February. Mike VK3KTO will be our net controller until we can work out an effective roster. The next net night will be Sunday the 27th of February, and then the 12th of March.

BICYCLE RIDE

We will be having a bike ride at Braeside Park on the 26th of March. It looks like there are lots of tracks all over the park so I am sure that we can pick and choose which one we want, when we get there. After we have finished riding we will be having a barbecue lunch in the park.

MAIL CENTRE VISIT

GGREC has organised a visit to the Dandenong mail Centre to view the advancements in electronic mail sorting and distribution.

It is essential that you let Bruno know if you are coming on this outing because tour sizes are limited to 15 members.

We already have the first group of 15 members booked in for one tour, and have another 15 positions vacant for the second tour, as long as a tour guide can be organised. Both tours will run concurrently, starting at 2pm sharp.

No photographs are to be taken within the complex.

Bruno Tonizzo

This is the reply to a letter that was sent to Australia Post requesting a tour.

Dear Bruno

Thank you for your interest in a tour of Australia Post's latest, high technology mail processing centre, Dandenong Letters Centre.

It is with great pleasure that we confirm your tour has been arranged for:

Time: 2:00 pm

Date: 20th February

To ensure you enjoy your visit with us, please note the following:

Address: Dandenong Letters Centre

120 Nathan Road (Off Progress Street)

HAMPTON PARK VIC 3976

Melways Ref: Pg. 96 A2

Maximum tour number: 15 people per tour.

Length of Tour: 1 to 1½ hours.

Transport: To be arranged by Group.

Dress: Casual.

Safety Requirements: NO OPEN TOE SHOES (Flat / Low heels preferred)

Cost: Free for tour.

When you arrive at the centre, follow the steps below:

- Proceed to the Security Guard House.
- Tell Security Guard you are here for a Tour.
- Park in Visitors Parking Lot.
- Follow the signs to Reception Area.
- If Reception is unoccupied - Ring number listed above phone on wall.
- Please wait in Reception for your Tour Guide.

Please try and make sure your tour members are on time so that the tour can commence promptly.

We are looking forward to your visit and hope you enjoy the Dandenong Letters Centre.

Regards Dianne Davis Executive Assistant

Dandenong Letters Centre Australia Post

READ ALL ABOUT IT

CLUB MERCHANDISE

The Radio club has still has stocks of GGREC Bumper Stickers, for 50 cents. Stubbie holders, for \$5.00 and sew on Cloth Patches for \$4.00. If anyone is interested in buying any of these items then please see Mike at the next Club meeting. **Only while stocks last.**

T-SHIRT PRINTING

At the May 5th Prac night we are going to do some t-shirt and windcheater printing. Bring along your own t-shirt or windcheater and we will print up, an **Iron On patch**, with the GGREC logo and your Call sign, for approximately \$5.00. You can chose the colour you want to suit the colour of your t-shirt and we will iron it on for you. For an additional charge, you could have your favourite photo or your QSL card printed out in full colour and ironed on to your favourite t-shirt or windcheater.

WE WERE BOWLED OVER

What a great get together at Mooroolbark Ten Pin Bowl. The roll call was Marissa and Steve VK3CIM, (MDRC) Reg and Jenny, Peter and Pat, Helmut, Dorothé, Frank their friend from work, Ivan, Ron, Judy, Ian, Di and the boys and us (Bobbie and Colin). Reg booked the lanes early on and everything ran smoothly, thanks Reg. Helmut and Reg started to lead the field early on. Pat and Dorothé surprised us with their good scores. After the bowls we moved on for dinner at Smorgy's. Paul and Marianna found us at the tables. A head count of approximately twenty, so a good turn up. Afterwards a few of us went down to Edithvale RSL for a game of Snooker, then a very tired group headed home.

By Bobbie and Colin Bishop.

AMATEUR COURSE on the INTERNET

The WIA have developed an on line course for Novice and AOCp students. Interested amateurs are encouraged to make enquiries at Ron Bertrand's website, [HTTP://members.xoom.com/ronber/amateur.html](http://members.xoom.com/ronber/amateur.html)

(I lifted this information from FAMPARC MAG DEC 99) Ed

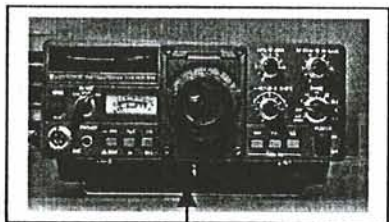
PUB NIGHT

Our February pub night, at the Settlement Hotel in Cranbourne, was an outstanding success. We had made a booking for Twenty people but Forty one people attended on the night (Thirty Two adults and Nine children), and although we were scattered around at different tables there were plenty of opportunities to circulate and catch up with one another. We all had a great night out.

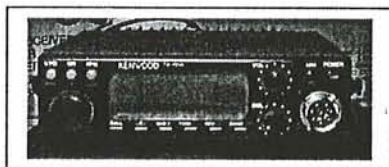
By Dianne Jackson

KENWOOD RADIO NIGHT

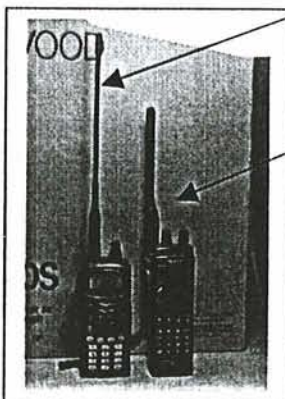
As our series on Amateur Radio equipment demo's continues, we examine the Kenwood gear brought along on the Jan 2000 meeting. Coming up: ICOM night



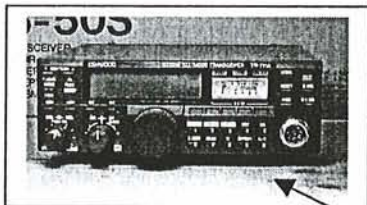
**TS120 10-80m 100w PEP,
circa 1975 value is approx. \$400**



**TM701 2m/70cm mobile FM 35W,
circa 1990 approx value \$500**



**TH71G
2m/70cm, 6w
And
TH27 2m FM
5W, 1990**

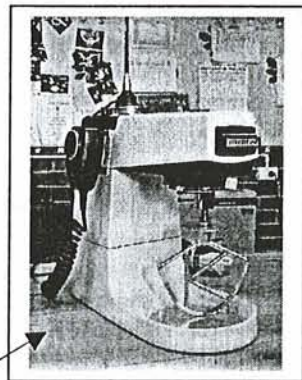


**TR751A 2m All Mode
25W, circa 1990, approx \$700**

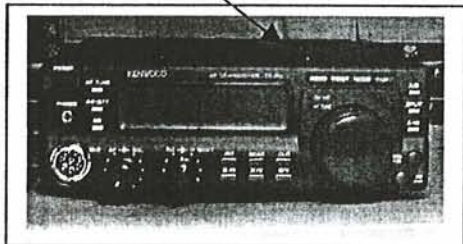
**TR2400 2m Hand Held,
2 1/2 Watt circa 1980**



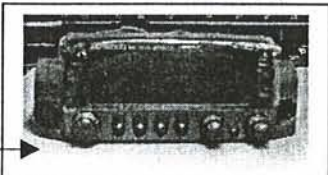
**TS50 10-80m
all mode mobile
100w PEP, circa 1993**



**Kenwood Chef, balanced mixer
Circa 1980**



**??
FM dual
band
mobile**

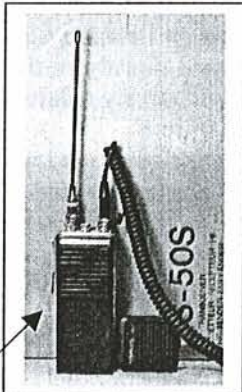
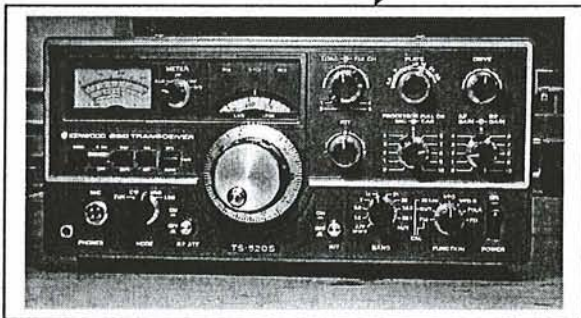




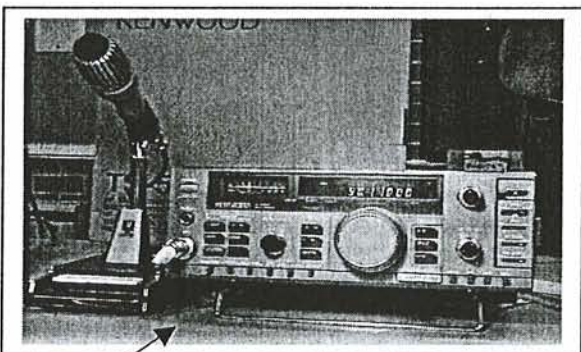
**Kenwood UHF CB
Hand Held**

**TR2600 2m FM hand held
2 1/2W, circa 1982, approx \$100**

**TS520S HF SSB/CW
250W PEP, circa 1978,
Valve P.A. approx \$350**

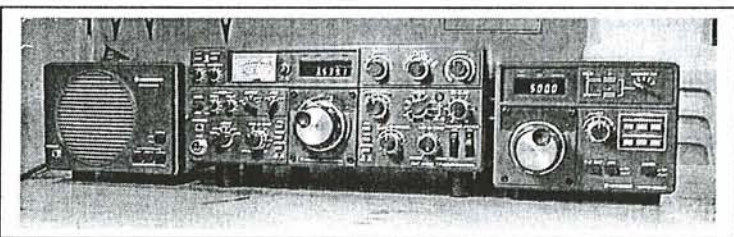


**TK300 Crystal locked
Commercial hand held**



**TS680S All Mode HF + 6m 100W/10W
approx \$700**

**TS830S HF SSB/CW
250W PEP, circa 1982,
shown with original
speaker and ~~6m~~
~~transverter unit~~**



*outboard
VFO*

MORE MODIFICATIONS TO RT85 - Paul VK3TGX

Recently when trying to finally get my RT85 on air, I observed the noise on tx audio fault that has been the subject of previous mods from Ian, (my rig was totally unmodified) However I didn't like cutting the ribbon cable as that meant 2 cords running from the rig to the head, a bit messy I thought. So I prodded around in the head and found that putting a 100nf capacitor from pin 6 to pin 4 of U7, LF351 op amp provided a 90% plus fix to that problem.

Subjectively it seemed to work a bit better than Graeme VK3XTA's rig that has had U7 removed and the ribbon cut to include some shielded audio cable.

Another mod tried by Ian was to connect the mic directly to the rig bypassing the head altogether. This seems to have the same level of success, however PTT control is read by the micro processor from the head - the PTT line from a directly connected mic has to be routed back up the ribbon cable to the remote head! (there are spare wires)

Later on I plan to completely replace the ribbon cable with some shielded data cable, earthed directly to the rig and the head case to provide maximum shielding. This should serve to reduce the crud radiated into other rigs in one's shack.

Another quick mod would be to fit some large ferrite beads to the power cable, etc to try and stop any crud at these points.

SWICH MODE POWER SUPPLY PROJECT - Paul VK3TGX

Several months ago I was asked to look into modifying an PC power supply to provide 13.8V to run radio gear etc. Ian sourced a cheap power supply from Rockby electronics, this unit was duly modified and you could squeeze 20A out of it. However the rectifier I had fitted was quickly overheating, not due to it being under rated, rather due to a lack of heat sinking provided in the supply. So I started looking for a diode pack with a lower voltage drop. (ie less heat) A friend of mine offered up a few samples to try (he said they were better) so I went the first and -B-A-N-G- went the power supply!!

I was after a 3 leg double diode packs, one of his was a 3 leg 1 diode unit! This effectively shorted out the centre tapped transformer !

I have found some better devices from Sanyo (90V 40A schottky) on the Internet however I have yet to find a supplier.

Even if I do, I still have to find replacements for the 2 vaporised transistors in the power supply - thanks Peter.

BORROWING OF CLUB EQUIPMENT

The Club has some items of test equipment available for loan to members.

These items are:

- 500 Mhz Frequency counter
- 1-150 Mhz RF Noise bridge (For testing antenna impedance)
- 5pF-100uF Digital Capacitance Meter
- Portable Coax Kit with a range of connectors available for sale.
- Coax strip & crimp tools. (Part of coax kit)
- Revex VHF-UHF SWR meter
- 2 x 5W ATV transmitters (both have 426MHz & 444MHz capacity)
- 2 x 10 element UHF beam antennas for use with above ATV transmitters
- 1 B&W TV camera with viewfinder (for use with ATV transmitters)
- SVGA to composite video adaptor module

These items are available for loan at Club meetings for one month only.

Please fill in the log book as you borrow and return the equipment.

Russel White VK3MWR is our Club equipment coordinator.

NOTES ON CONDITIONS GOVERNING EQUIPMENT LOANS

We actively encourage the use of this equipment. We would also like to state plainly that as long as these items are in their possession, *Members will be liable to ensure their replacement in the event of theft or total loss.* We carry no insurance for this gear and encourage members to treat it as they would their own. We are not as concerned about simple fault conditions as these can always be rectified.

When a member collects the equipment there is an implicit obligation to be wholly responsible for its security and its return to the Clubroom for the next meeting.

WANTED TO BUY

A mobile two metre rig suitable for mounting in a car.

See Bruno at the next Club Meeting

JOKES

(These jokes are supplied by Maria Harding)

A man was on trial for selling drugs, and a neighbor was called as a witness. The defense attorney asked, "Did you ever get any cocaine or other drugs from the defendant?"

"No sir," answered the man. "Did you ever get any from his wife?"

"No sir."

"Did you ever get any from his daughters?"

"Uh--excuse me sir," the witness said, "but we're still talking about drugs here, right?"

A New York family bought a ranch out West where they intended to raise cattle. Friends came to visit and asked if the ranch had a name.

"Well," said the would-be-cattlemen. "I wanted to call it the Bar-J. My wife favored the Suzy-Q. One son liked the Flying-W, and the other son wanted the Lazy-Y. So, we're calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y."

"But where are all your cattle?"

"So far, none have survived the branding."

AUSTRALIA MOVING TO DROP MORSE CODE

The WIA has been actively considering for the past six weeks the issue of reducing the maximum Morse code licence test speed in Australia to 5wpm.

It is likely to be discussing the matter in detail next month with the Australian Communications Authority (ACA), the radio administration.

The seven state-based Divisions of the WIA which form the policy making WIA Federal Council are about to vote on a new policy through a postal motion. That motion is in support of lowering the Morse code test speed for full access to the HF bands from 10wpm to 5wpm.

The WIA Divisions which have clearly declared support for lowering the speed are in order of announcing their decision VK3, VK6, VK5, and VK1. While VK2 and VK4 also appear to be in agreement. The motion needs a majority vote of four.

VK7 Division structure includes three internal branches. Two are reported in favour of a reduction to 5wpm, and the third is due to meet today. The VK7 State Council will then cast its vote in the WIA Federal Council.

The WIA also expects the general issue of Morse code licence requirements to be debated at the IARU Region 3 conference hosted by the WIA later this year.

WIA Victoria is reporting on all developments, whether they be in Australia or overseas. See its web site www.tbsa.com.au/~wiavic

BEER throughout HISTORY

If you doubt the importance of BEER in history read on ...

It was the accepted practice in Babylonia 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer, and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the "honey month" or what we know today as the "honeymoon."

Before thermometers were invented, brewers would dip a thumb or finger into the mix to find the right temperature for adding yeast. Too cold, and the yeast wouldn't grow. Too hot, and the yeast would die. This thumb in the beer is where we get the phrase "rule of thumb."

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them to mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's."

After consuming a bucket or two of vibrant brew they called aul, or ale, the Vikings would head fearlessly into battle often without armour or even shirts. In fact, the term "berserk" means "bare shirt" in Norse, and eventually took on the meaning of their wild battles.

In 1740 Admiral Vernon of the British fleet decided to water down the navy's rum. Needless to say, the sailors weren't too pleased and called Admiral Vernon "Old Grog," after the stiff wool grogram coats he wore. The term "grog" soon began to mean the watered down drink itself. When you were drunk on this grog, you were "groggy."

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

Now you can appreciate the importance of BEER throughout history ...

FIGHTING ADVERTISING SPAMS ON THE INTERNET

By John Wickham

I will be bringing to the General Meeting on Friday, 18th February, a few copies of a program on floppy disk called "Spam Hater."

If you are really serious about fighting spams, take a copy home with you.




I would like some evaluation of the above program as to its real usefulness.

Join the worldwide fight against advertising spams. The Internet should be a pure and wholesome place for everybody, free of spams.

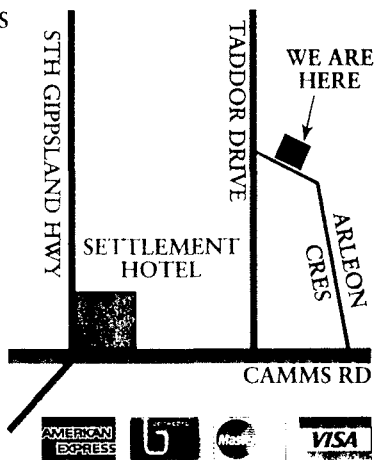
Please see John; VK3ZK for your copy. Thank you.

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GRAHAM VK3KCS

GGREC MINUTES - JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

General / Annual General / Committee Date: 21/01/2000 Start: 8:10pm

Chairman: Bruno VK3BFT **Minute Taker:** David VK3XMF

Apologies: , Paul VK3HSA, Russell VK3MWR , Ivan VK3ARV, Melinda VK3HRJ

Correspondence Received: - AR Nov + Dec + Jan 99, WIA Nov 99, EMDRC Dec 99, APC Nov 99, WinRadio, Central Coast Field Day.

Treasurers Report (Tabled 11)

Read by: Mike VK3KTO **Moved** Mike VK3KTO **Seconded:** Helmut VK3DHI **Carried:** yes

Income: \$128.81 **Expenditure:** \$197.80 **Balance:** \$ 5495.89

Previous Minutes (Circulated 11) Yes in October's mag.

Read by: David VK3XMF **Moved:** David VK3XMF **Seconded:** Jason **Carried:** Yes

New Callsigns: Peter VK3XJW

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- **Club Equipment:** - Bruno VK3BFT advised that the loan book is to be used by all members borrowing gear. The Coax kit is held by Graeme VK3KCS in his shop. The Club has a Capacitance, SWR/power metre and others for loan.
- **Container Proposal:** - Ian VK3BUF reported that no reply has been received from the Guides or the Tennis Club yet. They meet in February 2000.
- **Labour Day:** - David VK3XMF mentioned that some members will be camping at the Erica caravan park over this weekend.
- **Bike Ride:** - After some discussion the members decided that Braeside Park would be a good location for a ride. The committee will inquire further.
- **Millennium Party:** - Bruno VK3BFT will get two quotes for Spit Roast meals; full or meat only. Jason Jones is working on a Past Member data base. 40 to 50 attended the mid-year dinner last year. Jason Jones mentioned that 34 out of 62 members are still members from 1994.

General Business

- **Guest Speaker:** - Dave VK3BJV will talk about Video imaging at the February Gen. Meeting.
- **Club Exams :** - The next exams will be held on 4th March. The closing date is 18th February. This will be mentioned in the next Club magazine.
- **AGM:** - This years AGM date has been brought forward to Friday 7th April 2000.
- **White Elephant Catering:** - The Committee reported that initial talks have taken place with the Girl Guides to take over the Catering this year in return for free hall hire. After some discussion the members felt that the Club should retain the Catering. David VK3XMF put forward a motion that the Club retains the Catering. This was seconded by Albert VK3BQO and was carried. More discussion ensued as to the committees' intention to change the name of this event to Amateur Radio Trash & Treasure day. 15 members voted for and 9 against. The name change was carried. Narcé Ide suggested that there could be a competition for a name change next year.
- **Club Net :** - Mike VK3KTO proposed a Club Net be established on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at 8pm, from 13th February. This was well received.
- **APC Broadcast :** - This was relayed via the Clubs repeater on 6 metres last week. The time out function will be checked. Ian VK3BUF and Peter VK3XJW repair work has proved successful.
- **Field Visit :** - Reg VK3UK is endeavouring to arrange a visit to the Dandenong Mail Exchange. 1pm Sunday was agreed to be a suitable time.
- **Pub Night :** - This will be held on Friday 11th February at the Settlement Hotel. Albert VK3BQO will book 20 people for 7pm.
- **2000 Call Book :** - Mike VK3KTO advised that 12 more books are still coming.

Next Meeting: 8:00pm. 18th February 2000 **Meeting Closed:** 9:15pm

GGREC
P.O. BOX 1098
CRANBOURNE

GGREC CLUB VK3BJA
P.O.BOX 1098
CRANBOURNE 3199