



GATEWAY

July 2011

NEXT MEETING: Friday July 15 at 8 pm

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

SPEAKER :

Visit to the
VK3RLP
beacon site
26th June

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



Visit to the VK3RLP beacon site 26 June

By Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

On a sunny but chilly Sunday morning, I met up with Phil VK3YB and Brad Pavey, Geoff Williams VK3ZGW, Albert Hubbard VK3BQO and Michael Van Den Acker VK3GHM at the beacon site.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize ourselves with the 1.2 & 2.4 GHz beacon equipment and to determine its operational status and condition.

First tests confirmed that the VSWR on both cables going to the antennas were less than optimum.

Remember that this was the original site of our 70cm Club repeater VK3RLP before it was moved to its current location in the Club shack.

The 1.2GHz beacon transmitter and power supply was located in the equipment cabinet, while the 2.4GHz transmitter was remotely mounted at the base of the antenna.

Michael set up some receiving test gear and we were able to confirm that the 1.2 GHz beacon was working well and identifying itself with Morse code.

Not bad for a transmitter that has been operating for so many years without any maintenance what so ever!!!

The 2.4 GHz signal was nowhere to be found.

After much deliberation it was decided that the best plan of attack would be to lower the entire antenna / 2.4GHz beacon assembly for an overhaul.

A temporary 1.2 GHz antenna would be erected to keep that beacon going.

Michael also took some excellent photos of the beacons and antenna.

Thanks to all who came along on the day and the interest shown in the beacon equipment. *Bruno VK3BFT*

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

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 Peter Pavey clubrooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made welcome.** Committee meetings are also held in the clubrooms.

President Dianne Jackson VK3JDI
Secretary Graeme Brown VK3BXG
Treasurer / Public Officer Ian Jackson VK3BUF
Committee : Paul Stubbs VK3TGX Russ White VK3MWR
 Michael Van Den Acker VK3GHM
Magazine Editor : Susan Coleman VK3UMM
Magazine Photographer : Paul VK3TGX www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net
Magazine Printer : David Wright VK3FW
Distribution Snail Mail : Rosalind Wright
Distribution Email : Graeme VK3BXG
Property Officer: Bruno VK3BFT
Repeater Officer: Albert VK3BQO
WebMaster: Stephen VK3EGD

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

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Incorporation Number A0016893M

18th & 19th June Weekend at Koo Wee Rup.



By Graeme Brown VK3BXG

Rapidly planned and unable to register because of a "Trojan" on the registration website, there was no VK interest in a museums weekend—it was rapidly becoming a non-event. But because of the Koo Wee Rup Historical Society's good will and the publicity planned, it had to go ahead, somehow, even if we just set up and tried to make contact with any station we could find.

With the objective of publicity remaining the same and the plans changed, Mike VK3KTO fortunately had the foresight to arrange for his equipment to take part in the VHF/UHF field day – portable station, eight hour multiple operator section.

The day started as planned with Brian VK3BSN, Bruno VK3BFT, Mike VK3KTO, Russel VK3MWR and I, VK3BXG, raising the 11 meter high mast loaned by Brian for the event with Mike's duo-band 2 meter / 70 cm antenna at the top. Mike was soon on air with the VFH/UHF field day whilst we were still trying to hoist up the multi-band folded three wire HF antenna we wished to try. Its weigh and the extra wires proved to be a hindrance and so it was abandoned in favour of a conventional dipole – the same one we back-packed into Wilsons Promontory last year. We felt disappointed that we were not able at least to try *cont'd over*

18th & 19th June Weekend at Koo Wee Rup *cont'd from previous page*

the heavier folded three wire, it would have worked well but we concluded it needed two sturdy masts to support it at each end.

With Mike VK3KTO and myself now occupied with the field day, contacts commenced on 40 meters but with no museums to be heard we were content just to join in on other general contacts and conversations. For help and moral support we were later joined by Pat VK3OZ and over the weekend by Wayne VK3ZWC and Max VK3TMK with Saturday afternoon and evening help from Mike VK3GHM. Although contacts were made on 80 meters on Saturday night, signals on HF above 40 meters were too thin and weak to pursue so once again we concentrated on the contest for the remaining time we had left.

Sunday opened up at 09:00 again on 40 meters before going for more VHF/UHF contacts – although for us now this did not count as it was outside our eight hour, but it no doubt helped others with their contest numbers. We were also able to open the museum earlier and had visitors who may have otherwise visited. Mike VK3KTO was seen giving them guided tours. Nevertheless Sunday continued in a very casual fashion in meaningful conversation with several of the Historical Society members before we decided to pull down and pack up at 15:00.

Yes it seems we had turned a pending failure into a success. Mike VK3KTO has now submitted our log for the contest. The Historical Society considered it good publicity for them and pleased to see us once again and they hope it will continue. Out of this weekend, Brian and I have been inspired to plan and construct a portable collapsible base support for a 12 meter high mast and so do away with the need to peg guy ropes into soft ground. Watch this space! *Graeme VK3BXG*

See photo previous page from left:-

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| On the microphone | Mike Ide VK3KTO |
| Secretary GGREC, | Graeme Brown VK3BXG |
| Secretary, Koo Wee Rup Historical Society | Audrey Mills |

Re: other who's whos in the club

- Bruno VK3BFT, property officer
- Albert VK3BQO, repeater officer
- Stephen VK3EGD, webmaster
- Ian VK3BUF, public officer.

These are almost permanent positions unlike the committee and need some recognition

Graeme Brown Secretary VK3BXG

From the president ... *Dianne Jackson VK3JDI*



This is a very busy time for the Radio Club.

The Museum weekend, even at short notice, was participated in by a few enthusiastic members who enjoyed playing radio in Koo Wee Rup.

The mid-year dinner was very successful. About 30 members dressed in check shirts, box hats and various other square things. The meal was yummy and the quiz was hard. There was a lot of lively debate about the wording of questions and indeed the answers themselves. Steve VK3EGD, Maria, Pat VK3OZ and Naree, won the square quiz. Russell VK3MWR and Yarn VK3NOV took out the prize for squarest

outfit.

We will have to put our thinking caps on for theme ideas for next year.

The Hamfest Sale is the next big thing on our calendar. Bruno VK3BFT has been working feverishly with a team of other club members to ensure that the event goes off without a hitch. This year, we have a membership base of fifty three members, giving us around \$1200.00, in revenue. This is not sufficient to cover the ongoing running costs of the Club by itself. The Hamfest Sale is an integral part of our annual fund raising effort. Your support and help on the day will be greatly appreciated.

After the Hamfest, on the 23rd of July, we will be holding a pub night at Trios in Cranbourne. If you want to come along, you will need to pay a deposit at the July Meeting.

Melbourne Cup weekend camping trip. This year we will be heading for Yarra Junction. Some powered sites are still available, but we will have to make our bookings soon. If you want to participate, you must let us know how many sites to book. The weather in November is usually warm and the caravan park has got a large river frontage. We will probably do a dinner in the town on one of the nights, but we can deal with that as we get closer to the date.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the July meeting.

Dianne VK3JDI



Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

NEWS SHORTS FROM QST

Amateur Radio has played a part in two movies. In Mr Popper's Penguins, ham radio was featured, albeit incorrectly. And now Super 8 -- a film set just outside Dayton, Ohio in 1979 -- uses Amateur Radio in a crucial scene. Super 8 set decorator Fainche MacCarthy used a radio of the right era, the "scanner" that the deputy sheriff brings in is a Heathkit Seneca VHF-1, a 2 and 6 meter CW and AM transmitter. Introduced in 1959, this rig complemented Heathkit's TX-1 Apache transmitter, RX-1 Mohawk receiver and KL-1 Chippewa linear amplifier.

A predicted Field Day geomagnetic storm never appeared, although conditions were unsettled leading up to last weekend. The average daily sunspot numbers for the week were down 13 points compared to the previous week, while the average daily solar flux was off by more than 7 points. Sunspot numbers for June 23-29 were 47, 62, 47, 26, 30, 37 and 45, with a mean of 42. The 10.7 cm flux was 96.3, 96.2, 93.6, 90.1, 89.2, 86.9 and 87.3, with a mean of 91.4. The estimated planetary A indices were 18, 10, 7, 7, 5, 4 and 2, with a mean of 7.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 16, 10, 5, 6, 4, 2, and 2 with a mean of 6.4

The ARRL hosted a "webinar" from 8-9:30 PM (EDT) on July 7 to present information about the 2011 hurricane season and the Amateur Radio response. This was organized by ARRL Directors N3LLR, K5MC, W4OZK and K5RAV. The program offered presentations from representatives from the National Hurricane Center and WX4NHC, the VoIP Hurricane Net, the Hurricane Watch Net and the ARRL. Webinar registration was open to all.

Event Queue

Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------------------------|--|
| Fri Jul 15th | 8:00pm | General Meeting | Guide Hall |
| Sat Jul 16th | 10:00am | GGREC Hamfest | Cranbourne Public Hall |
| Mon Jul 18th | | International Museums Weekend | Koo Wee Rup Historical Society |
| Sat Aug 13th | | RD Contest | Club Rooms |
| Fri Aug 19th | 8:00pm | General Meeting | Guide Hall |
| Sat Aug 20th | | ILLW | |
| Fri Sep 16th | 8:00pm | General Meeting | Guide Hall |

Strays. Rock and Roll or Noise Pollution?



By Graeme Brown VK3BXG

Having now been barred from night practices in Bunyip, Garfield, Pakenham and Drouin townships, my son and heir, and his rock-band put it upon me requesting their weekly band practice night in rural Drouin in my shed. Very reluctantly I agreed having heard the noise they produce, but at the back of my mind I deemed it was better for them to be making lots of noise rather than doing a lot of other questionable activities.

With strict conditions of finish time agreed, practice commenced and as I listened, I pondered what it must be doing to my chooks half a shed away. For reasons unknown to me my mind wandered back to the war movie of the "Dam Busters" and to the scene where the boys were practicing very low level night flying in Lancaster Bombers over the lakes in the Lakes District of the UK. In the flight path was a farm with the farmer writing a letter of complaint to the War Ministry stating that these nightly "joy-flights" were causing his hens at roost on their perches to lay premature eggs which fell to the floor and broke.

Nevertheless I think I would have found more entertainment from the sound of four synchronised Rolls Royce V12 Merlin engines than what was coming out of my shed.

Quite bemused at the thought and still with a smirk on my face I went into join mother and daughter who at this stage were watching a sob session of a funeral on "Winners and Losers" on TV. I was immediately chastised for my insensitivity. But, as promised, the band finished its noise at the appointed time and all was quiet again.

Next morning, early I went to do the rounds - and yes you guessed it - a couple of eggs had been prematurely laid during the night and were on the floor beneath the perch.

It was two days before we got any more eggs!

A_NONY_NONY_MUS

You scientific types will especially appreciate this one; it is pretty heavy scientific stuff... converting units:

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfur-long
7. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone
14. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
17. 52 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton
19. 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
20. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
21. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
22. 10 rations = 1 decoration
23. 100 rations = 1 C-ration
24. 2 monograms = 1 diagram
25. 4 nickels = 2 paradigms
26. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital = 1 IV League
27. 100 Politicians = Not 1 decision

At last months meeting Bruno gave a talk about amateurs being raided by inspectors to see if their work-station /antenna setup is safe. You need to complete forms to show the inspector that you are aware of the potential dangers and that you can vouch for the fact the area is safe.



Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

A-NONY-NONY-MUS

WIFE: What would you do if I died? Would you get married again?

HUSBAND: Definitely not!

WIFE: Why not - don't you like being married?

HUSBAND: Of course I do.

WIFE: Then why wouldn't you remarry?

HUSBAND: Okay, I'd get married again.

WIFE: You would? (With a hurtful look on her face).

HUSBAND: (Makes audible groan).

WIFE: Would you live in our house?

HUSBAND: Sure, it's a great house.

WIFE: Would you sleep with her in our bed?

HUSBAND: Where else would we sleep?

WIFE: Would you let her drive my car?

HUSBAND: Probably, it is almost new.

WIFE: Would you replace my pictures with hers?

HUSBAND: That would seem like the proper thing to do.

WIFE: Would she use my golf clubs?

HUSBAND: No, she's left-handed.

WIFE: - silence - -

HUSBAND: Oops ...

A-NONY-NONY-MUS

1. DON'T SWEAT THE PETTY THINGS AND DON'T PET THE SWEATY THINGS.
2. ONE TEQUILA, TWO TEQUILA, THREE TEQUILA, FLOOR.
3. ATHEISM IS A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION.
4. IF MAN EVOLVED FROM MONKEYS AND APES, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE MONKEYS AND APES?
5. THE MAIN REASON THAT SANTA IS SO JOLLY IS BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHERE ALL THE BAD GIRLS LIVE.
6. I WENT TO A BOOKSTORE AND ASKED THE SALESWOMAN, "WHERE'S THE SELF- HELP SECTION?" SHE SAID IF SHE TOLD ME, IT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE.
7. WHAT IF THERE WERE NO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS?
8. IF A DEAF CHILD SIGNS SWEAR WORDS, DOES HIS MOTHER WASH HIS HANDS WITH SOAP?
9. IF SOMEONE WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES THREATENS TO KILL HIMSELF, IS IT CONSIDERED A HOSTAGE SITUATION?
10. IS THERE ANOTHER WORD FOR SYNONYM?
11. WHERE DO FOREST RANGERS GO TO "GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?"
12. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE AN ENDANGERED ANIMAL EATING AN ENDANGERED PLANT?
13. IF A PARSLEY FARMER IS SUED, CAN THEY GARNISH HIS WAGES?
14. WOULD A FLY WITHOUT WINGS BE CALLED A WALK?
15. WHY DO THEY LOCK GAS STATION BATHROOMS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL CLEAN THEM?
16. IF A TURTLE DOESN'T HAVE A SHELL, IS HE HOMELESS OR NAKED?
17. CAN VEGETARIANS EAT ANIMAL CRACKERS?
18. IF THE POLICE ARREST A MIME, DO THEY TELL HIM HE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT?
19. WHY DO THEY PUT BRAILLE ON THE DRIVE-THROUGH BANK MACHINES?
20. HOW DO THEY GET DEER TO CROSS THE ROAD ONLY AT THOSE YELLOW ROAD SIGNS?
21. WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?
22. ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
23. DOES THE LITTLE MERMAID WEAR AN ALGEBRA?

GIPPSTECH AMATEUR CONFERENCE IS A WINNER



Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club Inc runs an apparently hugely successful 2-day conference for VHF, UHF & SHF enthusiasts in Australia. This is a picture of the 2007 conference from the club's website.

This year's event was held last weekend 9th and 10th July – at Monash University Gippsland Campus, Churchill. Conference registration was just \$25 per person, for either the main program or the Partners' Tour.

Various presentations were given by amateurs covering different topics over the two days and after the first day's presentation a get together for dinner was organised for all interested to catch up, discuss the day's topics and "have a good chin wag".

Delegates even get proceedings of the conference according to Peter Freeman VK3KAI who is responsible for providing these. Papers are available going back to 2001.

2011 topics included:

- Recycling Crimp Connectors? (without need for special tools)
- DX strategies for 10 GHz
- Sporadic E: MUF myths, SSSP and forecasting openings
- Chirp Beacon and Radar Developments
- The Chirp Backscatter Radar: analyses of further HF and VHF propagation experiments and proposals for future use
- Development of a Solar Powered Remote Site
- 600 m band experimental licences & experiences
- Doppler shift estimation for 10 GHz Aircraft Enhancement

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 2011 *cont'd from opposite***Business arising from the previous minutes** *cont'd*

more weeks and its cabinet is now being painted. A repeater group is being formed.

Midyear dinner is on schedule, reported by Dianne VK3JDI, president and "Reddy Roast" is doing the catering. 20 people are so far attending.

The Museum weekend for 18th 19th June, I, VK3BXG reported, is not going entirely to plan as a "Tojan" on the registration web-site has prevented access for registration. However the venue at Koo Wee Rup Museum will still be used for our own event for publicity.

The Dxpedition to Vanuatu, Ian VK3BUF reports will be from the end of September until 12th October. Chris VK3QB is currently there doing a reconnaissance for sites and accommodation.

ILLW is still uncertain I, VK3BXG reported, but a definite answer should be known at the end of the month.

New business :

Course on web-design has been proposed by Ian, VK3BUF as a result of a membership survey in which members had indicated that they would like to know more on the subject. It was conceded that we may have to pay someone to teach the subject. E-Bay and/or visual basic would also be viable alternatives to learn, and timeline for a course would be best towards the end of October and into November.

Cup Weekend – camping or caravanning at Yarra Junction suggested by Dianne VK3JDI, president proposed. Members to indicate interest.

Pub – night proposed by Dianne VK3JDI, president at "Trios" for the weekend after the Ham-fest, 23rd July. A deposit will be required.

Prac- nights proposed for opening of the radio shack each Friday night – discussion - initially on a trial basis. Brian VK3BSN to take charge.

Langwarrin repeater site on the Frankston water tower needs an inspection. Albert, VK3BQO to organise

Outstanding membership fees due tonight. Treasurer Ian VK3BUF.

Meeting closed : 20:33 pm

Next General Meeting : 15th July 2011.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 2011

Date : 20th June 2011

Start time : 20 :00 pm.

Location : Guide Hall Club rooms.

Chairperson : Dianne Jackson VK3JDI, president.

Minute Taker : self, VK3BXG

Preamble: This evening Bruno will talk on the self assessment of your amateur radio station.

Present : As per attendance sheet.

Apologies : As per attendance sheet.

Visitors: none.

Correspondence received :

* E-mail from SPARC regarding a foundation course at Rosebud the weekend of 4th and 5th June.

* E-mail from WASARC of their June newsletter.

* E-mail from City of Casey of their Online Directory.

* EMDRC newsletter.

* AR magazine

* Telephone call from Secretary, Koo Wee Rup Historical Society confirming the society's agreement for the museum weekend 18th and 19th June.

* E-mail from the Cranbourne Guides requesting assistance with JOTA/JOTI again this year.

Correspondence sent :

* Letter to the Koo Wee Rup Historical Society suggesting and requesting a joint venture again for the museums weekend 18th June.

* E-mail to clubs regarding the update on our repeater VK3RDD.

Treasurer's report :

Read : Ian, VK3BUF. **Moved :** Ian VK3BUF. **Seconded :** Michael VK3GHM. **Carried. Income :** \$2425.15 **Expenditure :** \$3691.92 **Balance :** Bank \$3348.69 **Total :** Income -\$1266.77

New Callsigns : nil

Previous Minutes : **Read :** as distributed **Moved :** self VK3BXG **Seconded :** Albert VK3BQO **Approved.**

Business arising from the previous minutes :

Hamfest, Bruno VK3BFT reports, all tables have now been booked and there is now a waiting list if there are any cancellations.

VK3RDD repeater Albert VK3BQO reports will be tested for a few continued on opposite page