



GATEWAY

**The Official Magazine of the Gippsland
Gate Radio & Electronics Club Inc.**

August 2013 From The President

Well, it didn't take long for the suntan to wear off! Melbourne's cool and wet winter has a few weeks to go before we move into spring and start getting more sunny days and we can venture outside again.

The repeater project is going ahead in leaps and bounds with some on air test from Albert's place sounding very positive. Ian and Rob have been very busy constructing the antenna system and brought it along to the last prac night to show it off. Some minor issues with the phasing harness put a temporary halt to antenna testing but I'm sure that has been overcome by now. I'm sure we will hear more about it at the August GM.

China's influence on the amateur radio industry is changing the way we look at radio equipment. Some radio amateurs that have been around for a while will not think of any other brands other than the traditional Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood etc.



Bruno Tonizzo

While I was browsing some of the radio sites I have bookmarked, I read about the TYT TH-9800. It is a quad band (10m, 6m, 2m & 70cm) 50W mobile radio, has twin receivers and cross band repeater function etc. According to the Andrews Communications web site, it is due in this month and expected to sell for \$399.00. I wonder if I can sneak one under the Christmas tree...

See you at the August General Meeting.

Bruno VK3BFT

CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Around The Traps</i> | 3 |
| <i>RWD Antenna Construction</i> | 4-5 |
| <i>Antenna Working Bee</i> | 6 |
| <i>Meeting Minutes</i> | 7-8 |
| <i>Dummy Load Kit</i> | 8 |

Event Queue from August 2013

August 16th – Friday Night. [General Meeting at the Guide Hall](#)
From 2000hrs There will be no talk tonight Just a chance to socialize

September 6th – Friday Night. [Prac Night at the Club Shack](#)
From 1930hrs

September 13th – Friday Night. [Committee Meeting](#)

September 20th – Friday Night. [General Meeting at the Guide Hall](#)
From 2000hrs Talk on SOTA

October 4th – Friday Night. [Prac Night at the Club Shack](#)
From 1930hrs

October 12th to 13th – Sat-Sun. [Antenna Weekend](#)
See September magazine for details

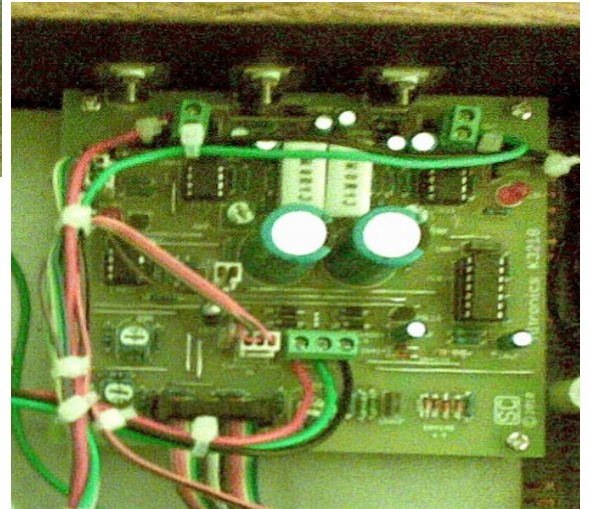
October 18th – Friday Night. [General Meeting at the Guide Hall](#)
From 2000hrs Talk to be announced

November 1st – Friday Night. [Prac Night at the Club Shack](#)
From 1930hrs

Around the Traps !!



This is a power supply kit I have just completed. The dual tracking power supply kit was purchased from Altronics



I found that I was looking for a variable power supply to power various devices that I was working on. I found this +/- 19 Volt, 1.6A tracking power supply with variable current limiting. A fixed 5 volt output is also provided. This kit, was easy to build if you have good soldering skills and was just what I was looking for.

Brono VK3BFT

I ordered some SMA connectors from China and the description on the package that arrived read, "**Plastic daily necessities**" I've never heard of SMA connectors being called that before...

Rob VK3BRS



Three 'Wise' Monkeys

RWD Repeater Antenna

Construction & Testing

Rob VK3BRS, Ian VK3BUF, Ron VK3FRDL & myself (Mark VK3FWSP) got together on Monday at Ian's to work on the antennas for RWD. Lots of cutting of copper assembly and silver soldering went on during the day with a wonderful lunch be made by Di VK3JDI.



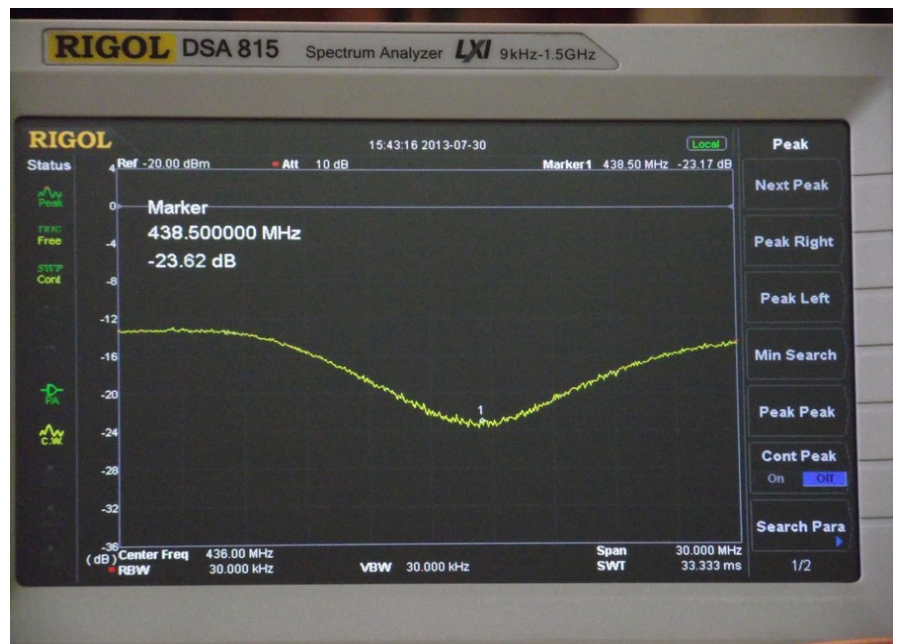
Complete Array Under test

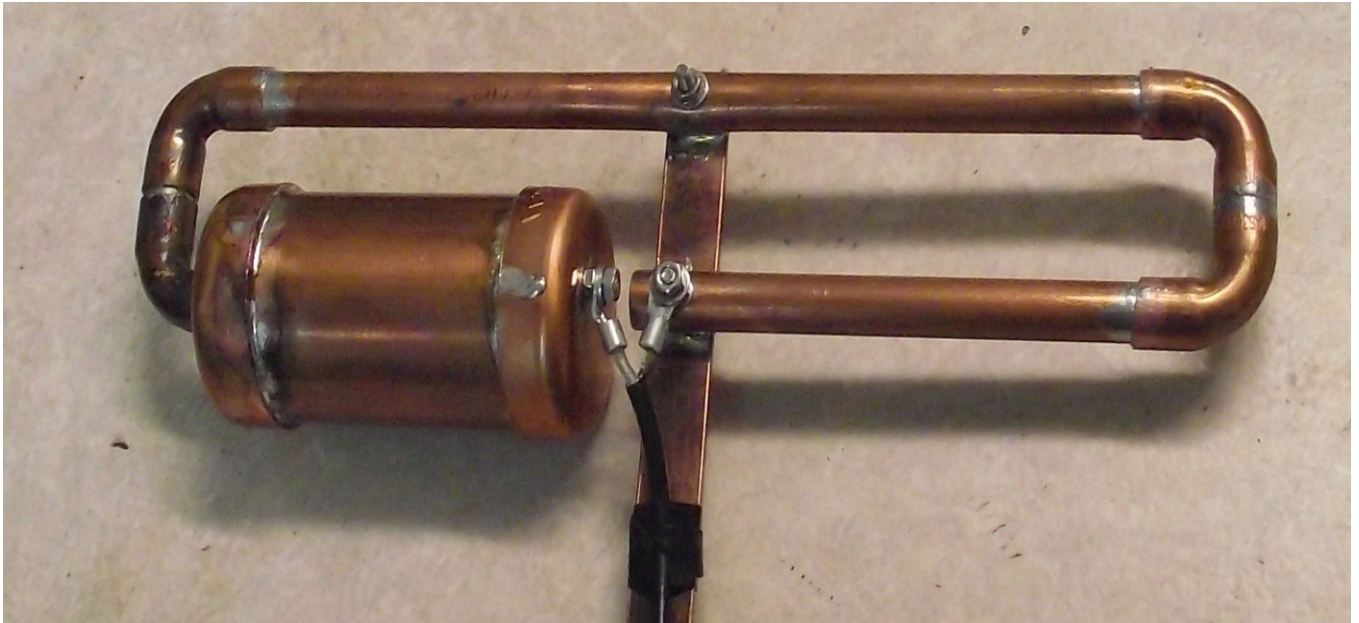


Single Dipole Soldered Up

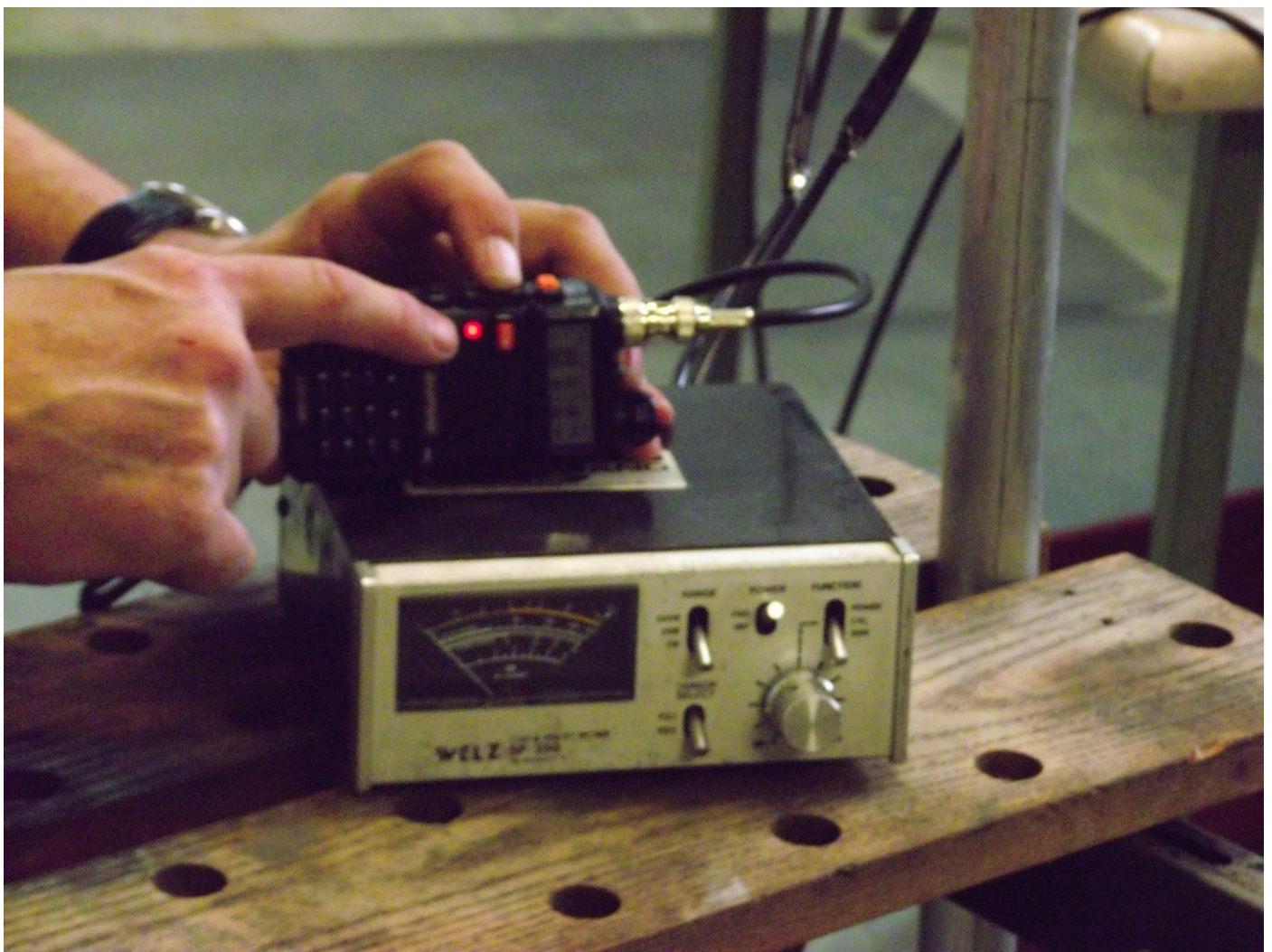
All of the parts for the four antennas were cut to length with some of the assembly work being started. This was then finished off on Tuesday by Ian and Rob leading to testing of the final assembly.

The Antennas were hooked up to the phasing harness resulting in a complete system to test. The sweep on the Spectrum Analyzer looked good as did the SWR which showed zero deflection on the meter.





Dipole Wired Up and Cleaned



Notice TX LED and Deflection of SWR Meter

Shack Antenna Working Bee

Today's working bee was very productive due to the number of eager members that attended and the sunny (but not too warm) weather. In attendance were Albert, Mark, Brian, Ron, Max, Ian and Dianne, Craig and Sharon and me.

Albert wanted to be closer to the sun so he climbed up onto the roof and started sweeping away all the branches and dead leaves.

The rest of us lowered and tilted over the tower to inspect the log periodic HF antenna. It didn't take long to find out that the metal straps linking each dipole arm was shorting together in more than one place. The main cause of the short circuits was the cracked and corroded insulating spacers that are supposed to keep the feeder from touching.

The coaxial cable was terminated in 50 Ohms and tested okay. It was showing signs of superficial cracking on its case but has been taken away for testing.



The off-center fed dipole was tested and is working well. New self-amalgamating tape was fitted to the feed-line connector and it was hoisted back up to its operating position.

The long wire or inverted L antenna was hoisted back into the air after a new lanyard (whipper sniper cord) was fitted. This involved dropping the supporting pole next to the shack to feed the lanyard through the pulley at the top of the pole.

Thanks to the number of strong arms in attendance all jobs were completed without a problem.

General Meeting 19th July 2013

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Location: | Guide Hall Cranbourne |
| Start Time: | Meeting commenced at 2005 hrs |
| Chairperson: | Bruno VK3BFT |
| Minutes taken: | Graeme VK3BXG |
| Present and Guests: | As per attendance sheet. |
| Apologies: | As per attendance sheet |
| New Callsigns: | Brian VK3FLEX |

Correspondence in:- Electricity Australia power bill, EMDRC news letter, NERG newsletter, FAMPARC newsletter, Fitzpatrick & Co., insurance brokers, club shack insurance.

Correspondence out:- Two (2) Letters from Steve VK3EGD to Harris Hanafie and John Kirk confirming their Hamfest table bookings, Treasurers Report, Ian VK3BUF reports that the two Guides cheques have not been presented despite many attempts to contact and as a result the cheques have now been cancelled.

Financial Report:- The Bendigo Investment account is at \$9,420.11; Bendigo savings account \$2,888.74, Quickbooks balance now at \$2,847.74 being \$41.00 difference for an undrawn cheque. Total income for the month was \$582.87, expenses \$1,055.11 being \$472.24 loss for the month.
Moved accepted Bruno VK3BFT, seconded Albert VK3BQO, all in favour, carried.

Previous general meeting minutes of the June meeting as distributed in Gateways. Russ VK3MWR moved accepted, seconded Mark VK3FSWP, all in favour, carried.

Business from the Previous Minutes.

A working-bee Bruno VK3BFT reports is needed for antenna repairs before JOTA. Now both antennas need attention due to strong winds and will need to be fixed before JOTA.

By consensus of the committee, the date planned is 10th August 10am start to access and repair the antennas.

Antenna weekend Ian VK3BUF reports, is slowly progressing with site preparation. A marquee has been booked for the occasion and there will be a big open fire.

VK3RWD repeater, Ian VK3BUF reports he and Rob VK3BRS are now working on the antenna – maybe to be made out of Copper and four (4) of them stacked. A phasing harness is being built.

Albert **VK3BQO** reports the radio gear and controller are now working and hopes to bring it all together soon.

I, **VK3BXC** reported that the mast is up in place and guyed and the power is now to the site.

Mid year dinner Ian **VK3BUF** reports went well but fogged in there was no view but the venue was nice and good food.

Hamfest, Bruno **VK3BFT** reports is tomorrow at 7.30 am at the hall for the volunteers.

All tables have now been sold and the food is ready. The barbeque will be attended by Grahame **VK3XK**.

We are reminded to be vigilant against damage particularly towards the floor. The door prize is a soldering station donated by "Altronics" a de-soldering station purchased from "Rockby" and an antenna donated by "PK Loops". Club member helpers will have free entry but must pay for door prize tickets.

New Business.

Dummy-Loads, Rob **VK3BRS** reports sold well and he has orders for four (4) more and will order more upon request but the cut off final will be for the prac- night in September.

Kidney Car Rally, Michael **VK3GHM** reports he is again going on the rally this year scheduled for August. There are 71 competing cars with 6 back-ups and 3 or 4 others. APRS will be up and running for tracking.

Camping Weekend Bruno **VK3BFT** suggests thoughts are needed for an event or camping weekend or we look at the feasibility of Gosford Hamfest as a club activity.

USB based microscope was briefly demonstrated by Ian **VK3BUF** - \$100 at "Jaycar".

Meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

There was no guest speaker this evening due to the Hamfest.

GGREC Dummy Load

All of the dummy load were snapped up last month with some members missing out. There will be a second and ***Final*** run of kits, Unfortunately we have run out of heat sinks so you will have to source your own. Estimated cost for the RF Chip and BNC connector is \$ 15.00

Anyone that would like to purchase the 250 Watt RF chip and the BNC connector please email me at VK3BRS@gmail.com before the ***30th August***. If there is enough interest a second prac night will be organised to assemble and test the Dummy Loads.

73 and Cheers, Rob VK3BRS



Club Information

Meetings 2000 on third Friday of the month at the Cranbourne
Guide Grant Street Cranbourne, Prac nights first Friday in the Peter
Pavey Clubrooms Cranbourne 1930 Visitors are always welcome to attend

Office bearers

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| President | Bruno Tonizzo | VK3BFT | Repeater Officer | Albert Hubbard | VK3BQO |
| Admin Sec | Graeme Brown | VK3BXC | Web Master | Stephen Harding | VK3EGD |
| Treasurer | Ian Jackson | VK3BUF | Magazine Editor | Mark Clohesy | VK3FWSP |
| General 1 | Mark Clohesy | VK3FWSP | Property Officer | Bruno Tonizzo | VK3BFT |
| General 2 | Wayne Cooke | VK3ZWC | Secretary | Ian Jackson | VK3BUF |

Call in Frequencies, Beacons and Repeaters

- The Club Station **VK3BJA** operates from the Cranbourne Clubrooms.
- 6m Repeater Cockatoo VK3RDD : Freq. In **52.575 MHz**, Out **53.575 MHz**
The 6m Repeater requires CTCSS tone access of **91.5 Hz**
- 70cm Repeater Cranbourne VK3RLP In **434.475 MHz** Out **439.475 MHz**
The 70cm Repeater requires CTCSS tone access of **123 Hz**
The 70cm Repeater supports Remote Internet access (IRLP) Node **6794**.
 - Simplex VHF - **145.450 MHz FM**
 - Simplex UHF - **438.850 MHz FM**
- VK3RLP Beacons **1296.532 MHz & 2043.532 MHz**

Membership Fee Schedule

Standard Member rate \$40.00 Junior Member rate \$25.00

Pension Member rate \$25.00 Extra Family Member \$20.00

- Fees can be paid by EFT to **BSB 633000** - Account **146016746**.
 - Always identify your EFT payments.
- Membership Fee's Are Due at each April Annual General Meeting.

Magazine Articles to editor@ggrec.org.au or pockets@twistedsouls.com

All other Club correspondence to: secretary@ggrec.org.au

or via Snail Mail : PO Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977

GGREC Web Site & Archive may be viewed at: www.ggrec.org.au

Facebook Page www.facebook.com/GippslandGate

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