



GATEWAY

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

September 2013 From The President

Well, here we are in September. Footy finals, Rugby finals, the Federal Election, everything seems to happen this month.

There is also lots happening in our radio Club. A good turn up of members at the prac night chatted and drank tea & coffee for many hours. Some planning and discussion about Saturday's working bee and the repeater installation took place and by the sounds of it, went very well on the day.

At the September GM, we will be asking for your feedback on the 1.2 and 2.4 GHz beacons. We would like to know who listens to them, who would like to listen to them and who would be interested in actually talking on those bands. So give this issue some thought and bring your ideas, comments and opinions along to the GM.



Bruno Tonizzo

If you like camping, don't forget to get in touch with Pat Pavey and Paul Stubbs to see if anything is being planned for the Melbourne Cup long weekend. Let them know you are a willing and eager camper and join in for the fun.

See you at the September General Meeting.

Bruno VK3BFT

CONTENTS

<i>Around The Traps</i>	3
<i>RWD Repeater</i>	4
<i>Microwave Beacons</i>	5
<i>Christmas Hamper & Party</i>	5
<i>Club Shack Access Rules</i>	6-8
<i>August Meeting Minutes</i>	9-10
<i>Club Information</i>	11

Event Queue from August 2013

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 Email 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

November 8th – Friday Night. Committee Meeting

November 15th – Friday Night. General Meeting at the Guide Hall
From 2000hrs Talk to be announced

Around the Traps !!



VK3RWD Testing and Cabinet Install

Friday and Saturday just gone saw antenna testing for repeater VK3RWD. To have some figures to compare against, three antennas will be given an equal test from locations scattered far and wide from the repeater QTH.

Testing involved Graeme VK3BXG sitting patiently in front of a portable UHF radio in his back yard and connected to the test antenna whilst Rob and Tom (a potential Amateur) drive several hundred kilometres around the site to determine signal strength figures at various sites using a spectrum analyser. Friday involved testing of the first antenna which was built by Graeme.

On Saturday the tests involved a commercial UHF collinear. Later this week, the purpose built antenna by Ian VK3BUF will be mounted and given the same tests. The results will be published when they have been considered. Saturday also saw the installation of the equipment cabinet which due to its weight and construction needed some good solid bracing using the expertise of Graeme's engineering skills.



The cabinet now sits proudly on the wall with power connected and awaiting the final installation of equipment and antenna. Commissioning will probably take place later this month.

It has been a long project having started in February this year but there wasn't a time when something wasn't being worked on for the repeater and so it has all come together pretty well.

The area of coverage could be more than expected in some areas and less in others but we think it is showing great potential.

Thank you to those who assisted on the day.



Microwave beacons

The club runs a pair of microwave beacons located at the Frankston water tower. The beacons are both in need of major repairs and upgrading, it is also likely that we may have to completely rebuild them from the ground up.

The cost would not be prohibitive if we did need to completely rebuild them but a decision has to be made as to the utilisation of the beacons both by members of our club and the wider amateur community.

We will be discussing the future of the beacons at this months meeting, what we need from members is two things.

First we need to know how many of our members are either already using the beacons as they partake in microwave activities, or if you are not using the microwave bands are you genuinely interested in doing so.

It is fairly cheap to build or buy microwave transceivers and the more members using microwave the more incentive to rebuild the beacons.

We will be running an article in AR magazine to gauge the interest in our beacons by the wider community but some interest from our own members is needed as well.

Secondly if we do decide that there is enough interest then we would need some members to be part of a working group to rebuild the beacons. We are looking for a real commitment from this group of people to rebuild them as we don't want the task delegated to one or two people to do, it must be a group effort.

Please have a think about it and we will have a discussion on Friday.

Christmas Hamper and BBQ Venue

The club will be taking donations for the Christmas hamper starting from this months meeting, we are looking for donations of non perishable food items or other things you feel may make another great hamper.

Please have a think about a venue for the Christmas party as well as we have yet to decide on a venue, so if your place is available then let us know at the meeting.

ACCESS TO THE CLUB ROOMS

The GGREC has an electronic key fob system to allow members access the Club facility at any time. This facility is made available to all members who have been financial with the Club for at least 12 months. While this access is free, there is a \$10 deposit for the key fob that must be paid the Club Treasurer. If at some time the key fob is returned, the deposit will be refunded.

The Treasurer is also responsible for adding/removing people from the system, so if you experience any difficulty using the system, please notify the Treasurer.

Why we have this system

It is a great way to allow Club members to visit the shack and use the facilities, while maintaining a reasonable level of security. If a member loses their electronic key, it is not a big deal, the treasurer will permanently block that key fob in the database and issue a new one. No other members would be affected.

Unlocking the gate

If you are the first to arrive at the Clubrooms, the gate should be locked. This is just a casual line of defence, but it provides a useful barrier against graffiti artists etc. To open the gate, first press 'C' on the digital lock to reset it, then press the 4digit code of 1098 (The GGREC P.O. Box number) then turn the latch clockwise about ¼ turn and withdraw the locking bar. The last person to leave should ensure that this gate is locked.

How it works

Essentially it is a Radio Frequency Identification system (RFID) that uses an electronic key at either of two points. The first point is just near the main entry to the shack. Holding the key close to the black box there will unlock the door for a few seconds. If you are the first person to enter, it will also turn all the lights and power on.

This entry event is logged by a special Clubroom computer and the time/date of this is stored for around 18 months before being automatically wiped.

If you are the first person to enter then you will also hear a continuous tone. This is telling you you have 30 seconds to place your key fob in the receptacle near the toilet door, or all of the shack power & lights will go off. (except for emergency lighting) If there was already a receptacle there, then someone is already present and nothing else needs to be done.

The idea is that whoever has their key fob in the receptacle is responsible for any visitors that came with them. When the owner of that key fob leaves and takes the receptacle away, they must be the last person to leave the building.

Club Shack Rules

There are a formal set of rules that govern membership access to the Clubrooms:

- Members accessing the Club Rooms outside of advertised events becomes responsible for the equipment that they use.
- The last person to leave the premises takes responsibility for the security of the Club Rooms before leaving. All test equipment, tools and materials must be stored in appropriate locations.
- Equipment that is available for loan by Members may only be taken after an appropriate log entry has been made in the Loan Book.
- Notwithstanding fair wear & tear, the Club takes no responsibility for any consequences that may occur due to a Member borrowing any item belonging to the Club.
- Members operating Club transmitting equipment must abide by the "Club Station Operation" rules. (A copy of which is posted in the Operation Room.)
- Members will not allow a NON Member to have unaccompanied access to the Club Rooms or leave a NON Member alone within the Club Rooms.
- Members inviting NON Members to attend the Club Rooms become responsible for any consequences arising from that person's attendance.
- No Member shall lend or otherwise allow any other person either Member or NON Member to use his / her access key.

- If a member is leaving, but other authorised members are still present and their key is in the receptacle, then they must replace the key with another Member's key, who then understands that they are in charge of the building and any visitors present.
- Lost or misplaced keys MUST be reported to the Committee as soon as noticed. That key will be disabled and another issued at cost to the Member.
- Issuing of access keys will be the job of the Treasurer but will be subject to decision by the Committee. A refused Member has right of appeal as per Club Membership Rules. Members who become non financial will have their key disabled. Only Members who have been financial for at least 12 months will be issued a key.
- The Hot Water Service should be switched off when not required. The electric jug can be used for 1 or 2 cups if clean up is required. The switch is at the rear of the left most cupboard under the sink .
- No Club equipment or parts shall be removed from the Club Rooms without proper authority or notification to the Committee. Club Rules apply to ownership of all Club property.
- The Club Rooms shall be left clean with the rubbish bin emptied if necessary and the sink cleared of all items.
- If you access the refrigerator and open a fresh carton of milk, please remember to write the current date on the top of the carton, as a guide to other users.

The intent of these rules is to strike a balance between flexibility, security and courtesy to others who use the Clubrooms. We wish all members to enjoy the use of our facilities.

What do you call a group of Ham radio operators
queued up at a BBQ for a sausage ?

A Feed line

General Meeting 16th August 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

Correspondence in:- EMDRC news letter, NERG e-mail news, WANSARC news link, FAMPARC newsletter, Rotarua. NZ email news, Australia Post email response to our complaint.

Correspondence out:- To Australia Post e-mail regarding our dissatisfaction to their response.

Treasurers Report, Ian VK3BUF reports that the Bendigo Investment account is at \$9,420.11; Bendigo savings account \$4649.40, Quickbooks balance now also at \$4649.40 due to cancellation of two un-presented cheques to the Guides. Total income for the Hamfest was \$1982.91. Moved accepted Ian VK3BUF, seconded Mark VK3FWSP, all in favour, carried.

Previous general meeting minutes of the July meeting as distributed in August Gateways and read out by Bruno VK3BFT. Bruno VK3BFT moved accepted, seconded Russ VK3MWR, all in favour, carried.

Business from the Previous Minutes.

The working-bee Bruno VK3BFT reports, was a very productive day. Albert VK3BQO cleared the leaves from the shack roof. The Nally was tilted; the feed line tested correct but the straps on the log-periodic were shorting and the insulators need replacing. Another working bee will need to be organised for replacing them. The off centre fed dipole and the inverted L needed hoisting back up and both are now working correctly.

Antenna weekend Ian VK3BUF reports, is still on progress. The marquee will be on site the Friday before the event. There will be more information next meeting.

VK3RWD Repeater, Albert VK3BQO reports all is on course for installation early in September. The radio is all ready. I VK3BXG reported that the site western wall is still to be repaired. Albert VK3BQO plans for battery back-up. By consensus it was agreed that publicity of the repeater would be best after the device is up and running.

Hamfest Wayne **VK3ZWC** reports that he was concerned at first but it all came together easily following the instruction lists sheet draw up with years of experience of other members. He reports the hardest was the food permit as it now has to be done all on line but the permit was simplified by only having to sell sausages, onion and bread. No damage was reported and traders this year took steps to prevent damage. From the floor, Naree inquired as to the profit made by raffle sales. Ian **VK3BUF** responded that it was difficult to separate exactly, but a good estimate would be about \$60 above extra door-prize costs. Ian, **VK3BUF** further reported that the bond money be requested returned and that it be paid separately each year. Because of the Hall Hire Committee book-keeping methods and will save confusion. A vote of thanks was made, by consensus, to Steve **VK3EGD** for the marvelous work done with the online booking service for the Hamfest and maintenance of the web-site.

New Business.

Handheld 70 cm Chinese made Rob, **VK3BRS** demonstrated for interest sake. Cost \$19, 16 channel, 2 watt.

Cup weekend Pat **VK3OZ** proposed a camping weekend. To be advised. **September guest speaker** will be Peter Freeman **VK3PF** speaking on Summit of the Air (SOTA).

JOTA/JOTI this year will be the 19th October. I, **VK3BXC** agreed to try to make contact with the Guides reminding that we will be ready for the event.

Working-bee to repair the log periodic was set for Saturday 7th September, 10 am start.

The repeater cabinet for **VK3RWD** is also by then will need to be installed on site – possibly Sunday 8th September. --To be advised.

Dummy-Loads, Rob **VK3BRS** reports that his cut-off date for orders is 30th August but we will have to now source our own heat-sinks.

Hobart to Alice Springs on a postie-bike in ten days is currently being undertaken by Graeme Wheatley **VK3XTA**.

Meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

A short demonstration of the proposed **VK3RWD** antenna system was given by Ian, **VK3BUF**.



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

The deadline for magazine items is the Tenth day of each month.
Commercial Advertising is \$10 full A4 Page or \$5 ½ A4 Page per edition

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official view of GGREC Inc
The Club cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.