



GATEWAY

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

September 2015 From The President

It looks like our hobby is evolving again with changes to the License conditions, pressures on our spectrum and the ACMA evolving as always.

Whether we like it or not, we need to keep up with the changes and make sure we comply with the changes. We can of course, make our views known through the WIA. Make sure you keep up with the changes so that you can keep enjoying this great hobby.

A big thank you to Leigh Findlay VK3FACB who has kindly offered his home to GGREC as a venue for this year's Christmas party. It is not the first time that Leigh has invited the Club to his place for Christmas and we thank Leigh for his generosity.

Phil Pavey VK3VB will be our Guest Speaker this month, talking about Aircraft APRS. It will be great to hear how this can be done with a computer and a dongle!!

Make sure to get to the September meeting so that you don't miss out.

Last week I submitted our logs of the VK100WIA event to the WIA. It was a great experience being the station that potentially every amateur in the world is hoping to contact. We logged somewhere between two and three hundred contacts falling victims to solar activity that wiped out HF communications for a few nights.

Thanks to all the members that got involved to make the event a success. With the right propagation, we can work the world from our shack. If you want to use it and don't have a key, please let any member of the committee know and we will let you in.

Speaking of the committee, we still need an Admin Secretary and a general committee person. Please see me at the general meeting if you are keen to help out.



See you at the September meeting,

Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

President GGREC Inc.

Contents.

- 2 – Vk3RDD Last Gasp Before Removal
 - 3 – Event Queue
 - 4 – Editorial
 - 5 – Photos from “Portable Operating Talk”
 - 6 – Cup Day Radio Display Newsletter
 - 7 – Awards presentation photo’s
 - 8 – Photos from “Joint Activation Of VK100ANZAC”
 - 9 – Installing A Radio In Your Car
 - 11 – General Meeting Minutes
 - 13 – Club Information
-

Vk3RDD Last Gasp Before Removal



Unfortunately, Yarra Valley water are now asking \$1000 a year for the site, Along with other very expensive requirements,
So, goodbye.



Event Queue

September:

- 1st Committee meeting at clubrooms, 7.30 PM.
- 4th Prac Night 8.00 PM
- 6th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 13th Licence exam session in clubrooms
Club Net 8.00 PM
- 18th General Meeting, with presentation by Phil VK3VB on SDR aircraft tracking.
- 20th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 27th Club Net 8.00 PM

October:

- 2nd Prac Night 8:00 PM
- 3-4 Foundation Weekend class & assessment
- 4th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 6th Committee Meeting 7.30 PM.
- 11th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 16th General Meeting 8.00 PM
- 17-18th JOTA Weekend
- 18th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 25th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 31st - 3rd Melbourne Cup Camp Mt. Buggery

November:

- 1st Club Net 8.00 PM
- 5th Prac Night 8.00 PM
- 8th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 10th Committee Meeting 7.30 PM
- 15th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 20th General Meeting 8.00 PM
- 22nd Club Net 8.00 PM
- 29th Club Net 8.00 PM

December:

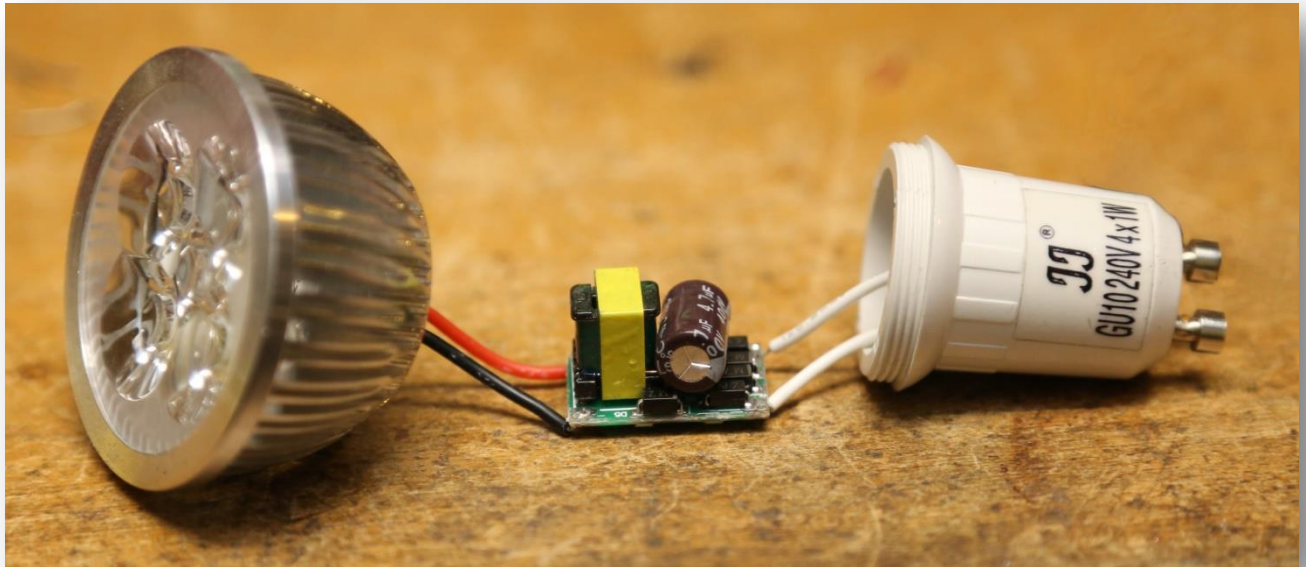
- 4th Prac Night 8.00 PM
- 6th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 12th Christmas Party
- 13th Club Net 8.00 PM
- 20th Club Net 8.00 PM

No General Meeting in December

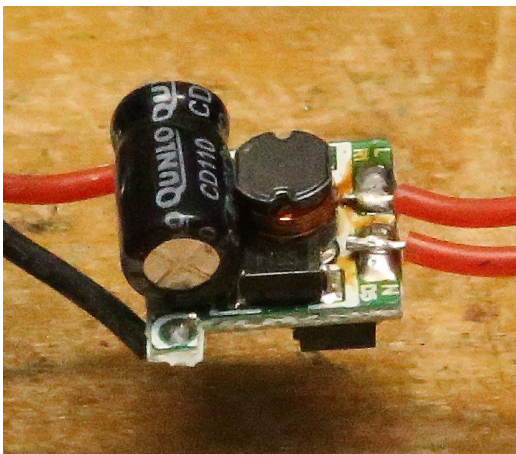
- 27th Club Net 8.00 PM

From The Editor

This month I planned to tell all about repairing a RØDE USB microphone that I picked up at our hamfest, however I didn't finishing the repair, so for here, I ended up playing with some LED lights.



When I pulled them apart, I was a little horrified at what I found. The unit above runs directly from 240V, but as you can see the component count is extremely low. A bridge rectifier, 4.7uF 400V filter capacitor, switching IC, transformer and output rectifier (but no output filter cap). You would be hard pressed to be able to simplify it further. Now two things scared me about it, 1, the amount of isolation between the 240V input, and the output LED array seated in an exposed metal heatsink. 2, The complete lack of any RFI filtering.



Next I pulled apart a 12V unit and I found almost the same story, A slightly smaller board, but again not much to give any confidence to a radio operator.

I connected the earth clip of my scope test lead to the probe tip (making a pick up coil) and looped it around the assembled light. and I soon had a semi-stable signal on the scope screen. So yes, they do radiate.

I did a quick dial around on a HF receiver but I didn't find anything obvious, but as I live in a S9 noise 'rubbish tip' I wouldn't take that to mean they are clean, just that they are not absolutely bad!.

I picked up a 12V unit a few years ago at a bargain price from a big name supermarket while caravanning up bush. It was unbelievably bad, it knocked out all TV, broadcast radio and ... basically anything I had that used RF. I still have it, maybe I should have pulled it apart also, it's not useful for anything else!

PS :- sorry about the lack of content in this edition, hopefully I'll receive more material next month

Paul VK3TGX

Portable Operating Talk, 21/8/2015

Presented by Joe VK3YSP, and Julie VK3FOWL at the August general meeting.



Dear Colleagues,
Attached please find a message received from Tony VK3KKP.
Please contact him direct if you can be of any assistance.
Bryan VK3FOAB
Acting Admin. Sec.

Cup Day Radio Display Newsletter

1 September 2015

The Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association Inc. regularly open the Castlemaine Telegraph Station for the public viewing of their collection of telegraphy equipment and documentation, and also run an active morse telegraphy station periodically to demonstrate legacy telegraphy technology.

This year they have approached me to coordinate a simultaneous exhibition of wireless telegraphy through the ages featuring an operational Amateur Radio station. This is a rare opportunity for the radio community to have such a public presence in the Castlemaine area and beyond.

The radio display will be in the Telegraph Station itself with the early telegraphy display in the adjoining Faulder Watson hall and both will have documentation and equipment on display to educate the public about past and present techniques to communicate electronically.

The exhibition will run from 10am to 5pm on the Melbourne Cup Day weekend and the following Monday and Tuesday.

It's my job to collect details of and communicate with interested people who would like to participate in the preparation and the operation of the displays.

Typical tasks would include:

- Lending old and new equipment for display. Lending QSL cards and other memorabilia.
- Providing equipment to set up HF and VHF stations for demonstration purposes.
- Setting up antennas and equipment prior to the event.
- Operating a radio station.
- Talking to the public generally and explaining what the operators are doing and why, while supervising the exhibition.
- Providing contact details of local clubs and the WIA and collecting expressions of interest in Amateur Radio.
- Providing contacts from home to demonstrate a contact.

This will not be a contest or special event station. It is a demonstration station to educate the public about the history of radio communications. So we do need to think about what materials we need to produce to augment our face to face communication with the volunteers.

Any person who offers to help at the Telegraph Station will be required to be a volunteer of Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association Inc. for the duration of the event and will be asked to pay \$2 to cover public liability.

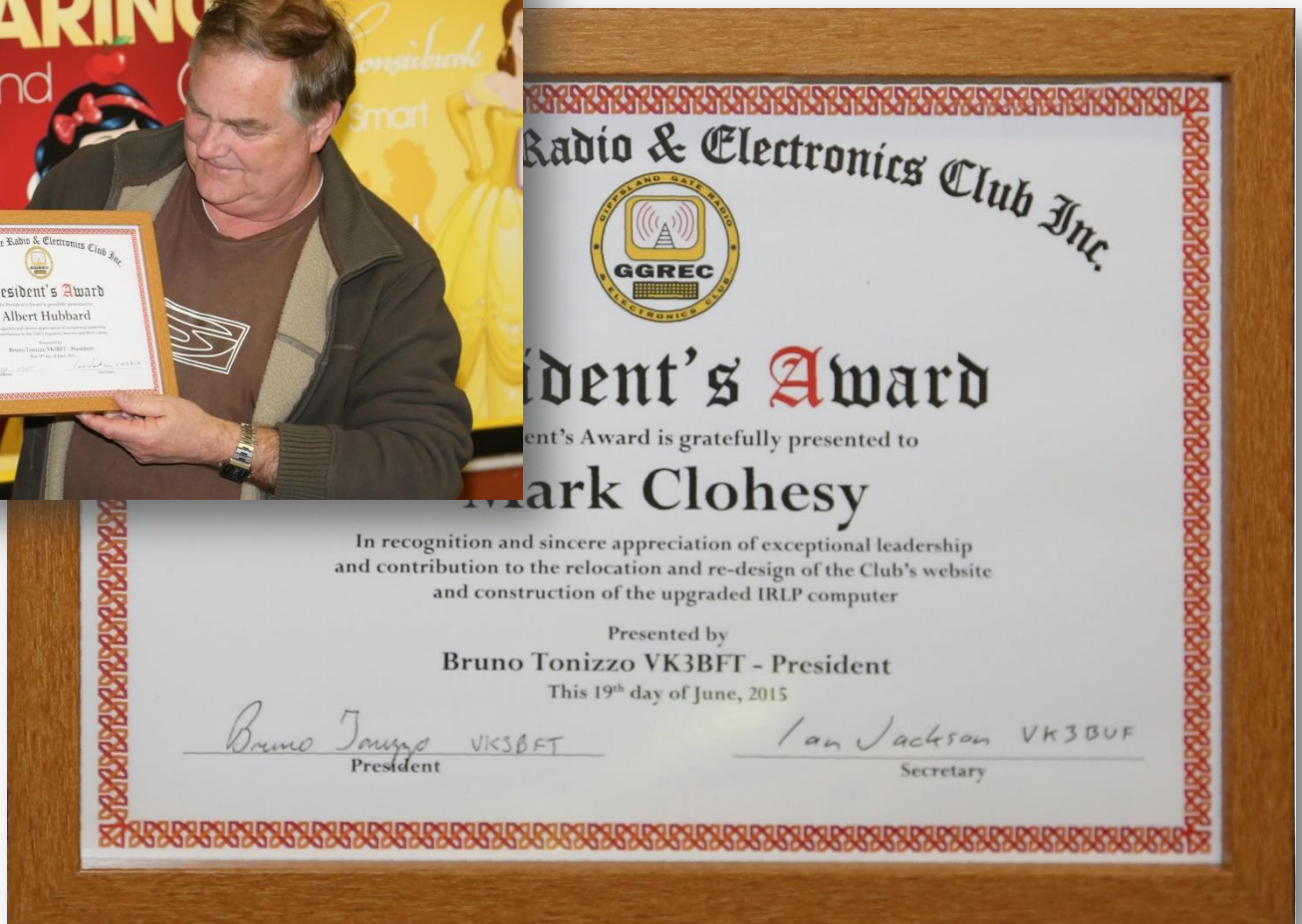
Although this is going to be a very small budget affair, It is envisaged that the local radio clubs will help cover costs of posters and the like in return for the ability to publicise their own activities.

Please forward this email to your club members and anyone else who may be interested. All interested parties should email me and ask to be put on the mailing list for regular email updates.

Tony Falla VK3KKP

tonyfalla@gmail.com

Awards



Joint Activation Of VK100ANZAC


By GGREC and EMDRC members





Unfortunately the station was been clobbered by solar activity that wiped out HF communications when these photos were taken

Installing A Radio In Your Car

Simple? Well that's what Kerry VK3KFC thought until he downloaded the manual!

 **Radio frequency (RF) transmitter equipment (for example: cellular telephones, amateur radio transmitters and so on.) may only be fitted to your vehicle if they comply with the parameters shown in the following 'Frequency Overview' table. There are no special provisions or conditions for installations or use.**

 **Do not mount any transceiver, microphones, speakers, or any other item in the deployment path of the airbag system.**

 **Do not fasten antenna cables to original vehicle wiring, fuel pipes and brake pipes.**

 **Keep antenna and power cables at least 100mm from any electronic modules and airbags and associated wiring.**

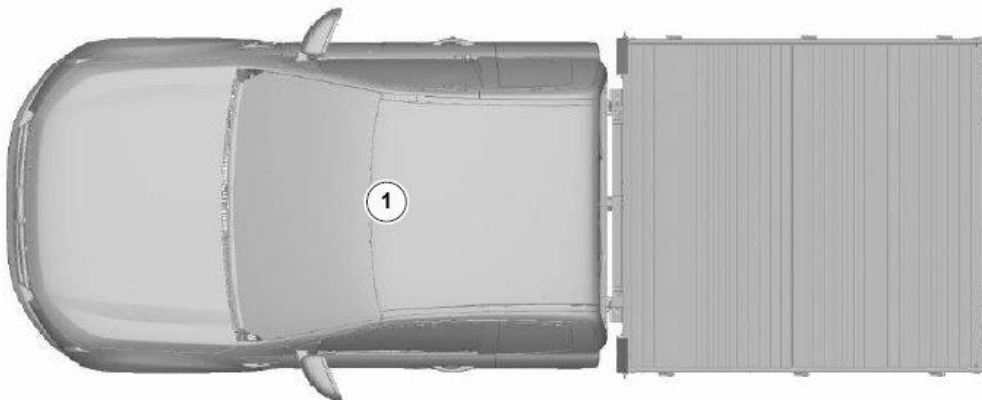
The first problem, where to put the radio, in this case there are no suggestion, other than complying with this list.

However, when it comes to the antenna you are instructed to put it on the roof, just above the rear view mirror, now if you are talking HF, this could be a problem.

The next one is transmit power. Ford lists 50W as a maximum permissible power.

oops!

1.4.1 Suggested Antenna Location



E134105

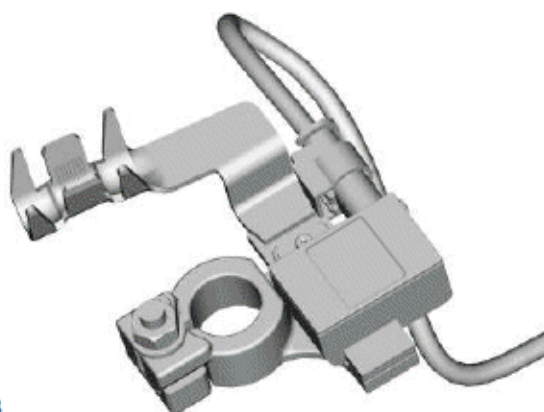
Now how to power your radio.

Most radio manuals I have come across recommend that you connect the radio directly to the battery, both to the negative & positive terminals.

Apart from the problem of accidentally flattening the battery by leaving the radio on, because it is not switched off by the ignition key. Are there any other issues?

In Kerry's case, Yes, for his car is optionally fitted with 'BMS'

Battery Monitor System (BMS)



E181583

Ford Ranger vehicles are equipped with a new feature called Battery Monitor System (BMS). This system measures the battery load in order to efficiently charge the battery while improving fuel economy and emissions.

It is important to ensure any additional electrical load or accessory is properly grounded to the vehicle's body, in order for the system to identify the additional load. If a connection is made to the battery negative terminal, the BMS will not identify the load or charge. This may cause the battery to be undercharged and consequently not able to re-start the vehicle.

Connection of Auxilliary Loads



WARNING: Under no circumstances should any unfused connections be made directly to any of the vehicle's battery terminals.

NOTE: Auxiliary loads must always be connected to the vehicle ground and not to the battery negative terminal.

I have never heard of this one before, However as vehicle design advances, all sorts of new features are being added.

Many 'features' are to reduce the pollution emissions of the car, usually by reducing the load on the motor. It would appear Ford have gone to a fair amount of trouble to ensure no excess power is used charging the battery.

If you connect directly to the negative, you are bypassing their system, and you risk having the battery not fully charged.

Modern car battery's only last a few years at best. Some are now saying 2 years is a good life!

So who do you listen too?

If you follow the radios manual you can expect car trouble, or if you follow the car manual then you risk radio trouble!

A lose-lose situation?

In this case Ford has to win.

Personally I never connect directly to the battery, There is usually a source of high amp power at the fuse block, both ignition switched & permanently on, Just be careful it you choose always on.

Hint. Ian VK3BUF can sell you a module to save your battery if you want to go the permanent on path.

So do you have the manual for your car, if not, do you know where to get it, or if your car is less than brand new – is it still available?

Also, if you don't bother, are there any insurance & vehicle warranty issues etc. etc?

The last thing you want is to interfere with your vehicles air bag system, setting them off can be a very costly mistake, accidentally triggering them while driving can be fatal!

- having a face full of air bag while travelling at 100KPH is never good!

Information from Kerry VK3KFC, edited by Paul VK3TGX.

General Meeting Minutes 21/08/2015

Start time: 8:10 pm.

Location: Club rooms.

Chairperson: Bruno

Minute Taker: Bryan

Present: As per attendance sheet

Visitors: Nil.

Apologies: As per attendance sheet.

Correspondence received:

1. Repeater listing update from Albert VK3BQO.
2. Email from Ted Thrift re. possible need for WWCC for members working with Scouts/Guides involved in JOTA.
3. Series of emails re. VK3RDD antenna on water tank at Mt. Majestic, Cockatoo.
4. Email from Bruno VK3BFT re. VK100ANZAC roster.
5. Email from Wayne VK3XF resigning his position on Committee.
6. Breakout Magazine for July 2015 from NZ.
7. Program of events for Ageing Positively Festival, City of Casey
8. Rental proposal for Radman device, from Techrentals.
9. WIA Board Talk #7, July 2015.

Correspondence sent:

1. 2015 Hamfest report to members from the Treasurer.
2. Items for sale from VK3MWR.
3. Breakout magazine for July 2015 from NZ.
4. Notice of club shack open day 25 July 2015.
5. Notice from Paul VK3TGX re. Hamfest photos posted on GGREC website.
6. NERG News for August 2015.
7. Notice to members re. licence upgrade self-help group.
8. Notice to members re. the impending suspension of apparatus licence processing by ACMA.
9. Note from Rob VK3BRS re. upcoming prac night and role of the Facilitator.
10. Details about the VK100ANZAC Activation for 22-28 August 2015.
11. Further details about the VK100ANZAC event opening.
12. Temporary change of frequency for Club Net.
13. Notice to members re. earlier start of August GM.
14. Notice to members re. change of CTCSS tone for VK3RLP to 91.5Hz.
15. August 2015 edition of club magazine to members from Paul VK3TGX.

Treasurer's report:

Graeme presented the Treasurer's report for the period 16 July-15 August 2015, and circulated a copy for the meeting to examine. Members wishing to obtain a personal copy should contact the Treasurer direct.

Read: Graeme VK3BXG **Moved:** Bruno VK3BFT **Seconded:** Leigh VK3FACB **Carried:** yes

New Callsigns: nil

Previous Minutes:

Read: as distributed in the club magazine.

Bruno thanked all members for their efforts with our Hamfest – a very successful undertaking.

VK3RLP now has a 91.5Hz access tone. Appears to be working well at present.

Business arising from the previous minutes:

1. Wayne VK3XF has resigned his position on committee on account of work commitments. A new member is required to take his place.
2. Club Net – going well.
3. Repeaters and Beacons: Albert reported on changes re. VK3RDD at Cockatoo. A lease fee of \$1,000 per annum is being sought by Yarra Valley Water. It may, therefore, be necessary to close down VK3RDD and relocate it. With VK3RLP, following the tone change, attempts are being made to find the LIPD device causing problems. Work on the beacons is still moving forward, and it is hoped that they will be installed before the next general meeting.
4. Standard upgrade study group: Names of those interested are being sought tonight.
5. Foundation licence classes: Graeme VK3BXG reported on the recent very successful Foundation class, as well as a number of upgrades which took place at the same time. The next Foundation weekend will be the first weekend in October.
6. Mike VK3GDM is on the Kidney Kar Rally. He is reportedly back in Victoria. In the meantime, Helmut VK3DHI has headed further north, and has been heard on the Traveller's Net.
7. JOTA this year will take place on 17-18 October this year. A coordinator is required; anyone interested please speak to Bruno.
8. VK100ANZAC Event tomorrow: The event will kick off with an afternoon tea at approximately 2.00 pm. We still need people to help with logging calls on the computer. Bruno will be here on Saturday and Sunday. WWI/WWII memorabilia would be most welcome.

New business:

1. Members requiring name tags and key fobs should put their names on the list tonight.
2. Christmas Hamper: Has already started, with a donation from Kerry and Lyn. Raffle tickets will be available. Leigh VK3FACB has again offered his home as the venue for our Christmas do.
3. A reminder that a permanent admin secretary and general committee member are still being sought.
4. Club Net: A reminder that the club net will resume on VK3RLP, now that the tone change has taken place.
5. Prac night: The next prac night will involve helping those members having difficulties in changing the access tones on their radios. (Remember to bring your manuals.)
6. Puffing Billy Excursion: Ian VK3BUF suggested club members might like to undertake an excursion on Puffing Billy between Emerald-Belgrave (and return.) Members could bring their handhelds with them, and try to make contact with other amateurs en route. The possible date is October or November, although we would need to decide promptly, as trains fill very quickly and are very popular at this time of year. Ian will make contact with the Puffing Billy people, but those interested will need to be ready to put down a deposit at the September meeting.
7. Camping trip: A camping weekend is proposed for Melbourne Cup weekend, with Mt. Buggery being the location. Further details will be available closer to the date. If you are interested/can help, please let us know.
8. Field Kit: Rob VK3BRS will put out an email re. the costs for the field kit. Parts are currently running at about \$200.
9. Russell VK3MWR has a number of articles available for sale tonight. Prices negotiable.

Next Committee Meeting: 01/09/2015

Next Prac Night: 04/09/2015

Next General Meeting: 18/09/2015



Club Information



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

Office bearers

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT	Repeater Officer	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO
Admin Sec	Vacant		Web Master	Mark Clohesy	VK3PKT
Treasurer	Graeme Brown	VK3BXG	Magazine Editor	Paul Stubbs	VK3TGX
General 1	Rob Streater	VK3BRS	Property Officer	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT
General 2	Wayne Cooke	VK3XF	Secretary	Bryan Simm	VK3FOAB

Call in Frequencies, Beacons and Repeaters

The Club Station VK3BJA operates from the Cranbourne Clubrooms.
6m Repeater VK3RDD – Currently de-commissioned until further notice - *sorry*
70cm Repeater Cranbourne VK3RLP In 434.475MHz Out 439.475MHz CTCSS 91.5Hz
VK3RLP Repeater supports Remote Internet access (IRLP), Node 6794.
70cm Repeater Drouin VK3RWD In 433.575MHz Out 438.575Mhz CTCSS 91.5Hz
Simplex VHF - 145.450MHz FM • Simplex UHF - 438.850MHz FM
VK3RLP Beacons 1296.532MHz & 2403.532MHz

Membership Fee Schedule

- Pension Member rate \$25.00 Extra Family Member \$20.00
Standard Member rate \$40.00 Junior Member rate \$25.00
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 vk3tgx@gmail.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