



# GATEWAY

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

## October 2015 From The President

At this month's GM, I will be looking for your views and opinions about the future of VK3RDD, our 6m repeater. As you know, we could no longer use the Cockatoo water tank as a repeater site, so you the members of GGREC will be consulted about VK3RDD's future. We have a number of options that will be discussed at the GM so come along and have your say.

JOTA/JOTI Saturday October 17th has come around very quickly this year. The theme for this year is sustainability and how we can use alternative clean energy to power our lives. We will be kicking off the day with a BBQ lunch for helpers at 12:00 with JOTA starting at 1:00 PM. Finishing to 4:00 PM. Fingers crossed, we will have some propagation to other states of Australia and beyond.

Don't Forget to consider putting your hand up for a committee position at the next AGM. We will need to fill positions of President, Secretary etc. to have a viable committee to run the Club. GGREC is a fantastic Club, offering many opportunities to members that have enthusiasm to advance themselves and to take other members along with them, passing on knowledge and the benefit of their vast experiences. So, what's stopping you??

The Christmas hamper is starting to fill so please remember to bring along something to add to the grand prize. Raffle tickets will be available at this month's GM so bring along your stash of small change to purchase some tickets.

See you at the GM



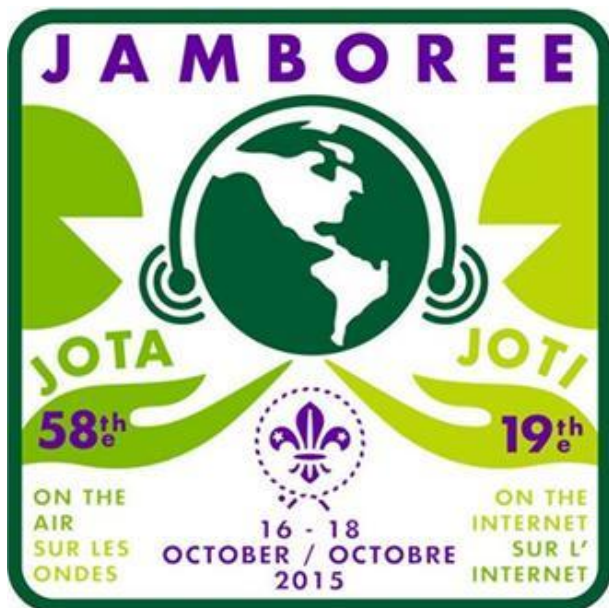
*Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT*

President GGREC Inc.

## Contents.

- 3 – Event Queue
  - 4 – Editorial
  - 5 – Christmas Hamper Raffle
  - 6 – External speakers
  - 7 – Rosebud Hamfest  
Bruno's Awards presentation photo
  - 8 – Photos from our last meeting
  - 9 – General Meeting Minutes
  - 11 – Club Information
- 

## JOTA 2015 (Saturday 17th October)



### JOTA/JOTI 2015

Come along and support JOTA/JOTI this year at the GGREC Clubrooms on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Helpers will be treated to a BBQ starting at 12:00 noon and our JOTA activities will start at 1:00pm.

We will be operating on HF and VHF, also hooking to available IRLP repeaters to connect to other JOTA stations. The fox hunt equipment, which is very popular with the Guides, will also be available for use.

**2015 Theme – *The Earth is Yours***

Volunteers needed, Please give a hand if you can!

## Event Queue

### October:

- 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting 8.00 PM
- 17-18<sup>th</sup> JOTA Weekend
- 18<sup>th</sup> Club Net 8.00 PM
- 25<sup>th</sup> Club Net 8.00 PM
- 31<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Melbourne Cup Camp Mt. Buggery

### November:

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

### December:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Prac Night 8.00 PM
- 6<sup>th</sup> Club Net 8.00 PM
- 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party
- 13<sup>th</sup> Club Net 8.00 PM
- 20<sup>th</sup> Club Net 8.00 PM

No General Meeting in December

- 27<sup>th</sup> Club Net 8.00 PM

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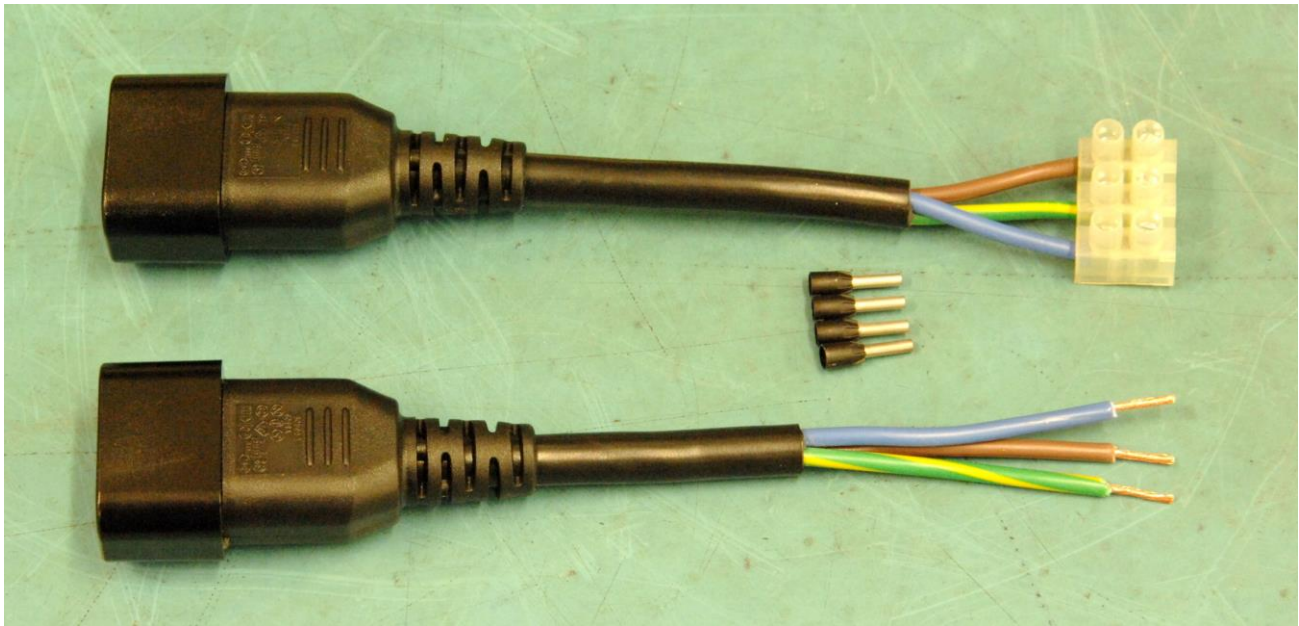
## October General Meeting Guest Speaker

David Rolfe VK3JL will be presenting a talk and demonstration of Digital modes. If you have a computer connected to your Amateur radio, Digital modes open up a new and exciting mode of communication. Come along and see what the modern digital modes can do for your appreciation of Amateur radio.

## From The Editor “Safe Death leads”

How many times have you found the need to power up an item of 240V equipment, but it does not have a power cord? If you are like me, that is nothing unusual. I.e. you are building a power supply and you need to check out a few transformers to find out their output voltages etc.

Usually you reach out for a death lead. (A 240V plug and lead with bare ends) Now if you have a clean work bench with just the item needing power, and your lead, usually all is well. However that is rarely (never) the case, the death lead ends up being one of many leads on the bench, then add in other distractions like walking away and coming back tomorrow, then the chance of mixing up the leads becomes a real possibility, followed by a ‘boot’ from the lead that you thought you had just unplugged!



Well here is a possible solution. These are IEC sockets with very short leads, scavenged from old computer equipment etc. To use them, just connect them to whatever needs power, then when you are happy with the connections, then and only then connect an IEC power lead, plug in and switch on.

If you need to alter the wiring, pull out the IEC lead from one of these and it is now completely safe. It does not matter if you mixed up the leads etc, if you pull the lead from the adapter; it is now safe to work on. If you only ever wire up etc. with no lead attached, you are should be safe. – No more death lead woes

Also in the picture, between the two adapters are some ‘boot lace ferrules’ they are slipped over the bare lead ends, then crimped into place, very handy for a lead that will see many connect/disconnects, avoiding having the individual wire strands becoming a mashed up mess. It is **NEVER** a good idea to tin wire ends intended for screw terminals as the solder will eventually flow and leave the joint loose, and dangerous. Yes these are only for temporary use, but why get yourself into bad habits, that will bite you one day.

Other equipment worthy of consideration for this type of work are earth leakage breakers (Safety switches) and isolation transformers (there is one in the club shack)

*Paul VK3TGX*

# Christmas Hamper Raffle

Yes, it's that time of year again.

Bring along something good to place in the Christmas hamper for this year's raffle and make sure you bring some spare cash to purchase your tickets.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and will be available at the General Meetings and at the Christmas Party.

Are you feeling lucky?





## External speakers

These are one of the main areas where suppliers mark up but canny builders can save money.

The most important feature of a speaker, and one ignored by most transceiver makers, is it must be forward facing. Top or side speakers muffle the audio and reduce readability of weak signals.

Secondly it must be put in a box. An old unamplified computer speaker would be fine for home use. Or install a 10 to 15cm speaker in a timber case from a discount store. Portable operators wishing to save space may wish to try a 5 or 6 cm speaker. It can be mounted in a plastic box or even a cardboard milk carton strengthened with Gaffa tape.

CW operators can try another refinement. A small speaker held above a glass, cup or section of plastic pipe provides a narrow audio bandpass. This can greatly improve receiver selectivity for almost no cost. Try it some day; you'll be impressed.



The text and photo below is an extract from my new ebook called 'Minimum QRP'

details at <http://home.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/miniqrp.htm>

**NEW!**  
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73, Peter VK3YE



# ROSEBUD RADIOFEST

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2015



Eastbourne Primary School Auditorium Allambi Avenue Rosebud Victoria  
Talk in on VK3RSP (146.675) from 8.00 AM - Melways Ref: Map 169 K5  
More information on [www.rosebudradiofest.com](http://www.rosebudradiofest.com)

Traders set-up from 7.00 am  
Outdoor displays, Food, & Entry ticket sales from 8.00 am  
Entry to the Auditorium and Equipment Sales area from 9.30 am until 2.00 pm  
Technical Forums commence at 10.30 am (Including the ACMA Update!)  
Door Prizes drawn at 12.00 midday  
Entry \$6.00 (Under 12's free) - Includes one entry into the Door Prize  
Additional Door Prize Tickets \$1.00 each (optional)

Excellent Catering - Disabled Facilities - Parking onsite

Traders Tables available @ \$10.00 each  
BOOK YOURS NOW online at :  
[www.rosebudradiofest.com](http://www.rosebudradiofest.com)

Enquiries: Mark VK3PDG  
Phone 0407 844 063  
[markybradio@gmail.com](mailto:markybradio@gmail.com)

Featuring:  
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WICEN  
Software Defined Radio  
W.I.A.

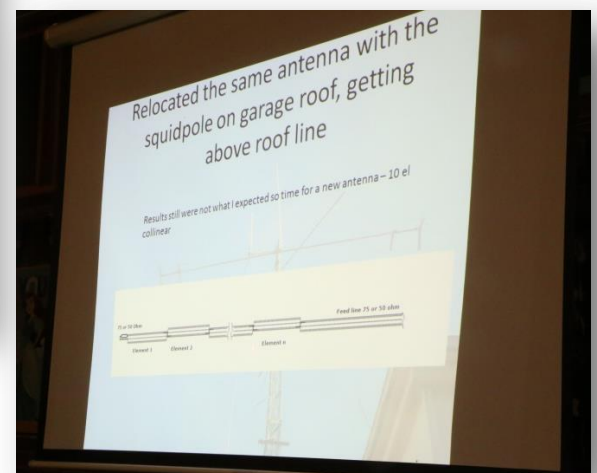
## More Awards



This time it was Bruno's turn, for his many years of dedication to the club.



## Meeting 18/9/2015





# General Meeting Minutes 18/09/2015

**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. Account from Energy Australia.
2. August 2015 edition of Breakout magazine from NZ.
3. Review report on GGREC repeaters from VK3BQO
4. Email from Tony Falla VK3KKP re. Cup Day Radio Display in Castlemaine
5. Email from Peter Chaplin VK3AJ enquiring re. possibility of acquiring VK3RDD equipment & licence.
6. NERG News 2015
7. Email from WIA re. current news events.
8. Events calendar for September/October from EMDRC
9. Notice from Australia Post re. the need for ABN number to be declared.
10. Email from Bernadette Brodribb re. pots and sockets available to club members.
11. Notice from Cranbourne Hall Committee re. fee charged and bond refund.

## **Correspondence sent:**

1. Breakout Magazine for August 2015 from NZ.
2. Joint activation by GGREC/EMDRC of VK100ANZAC callsign.
3. Email re. Cup Day Radio Display in Castlemaine.
4. EMDRC September Newsletter.
5. NERG Newsletter for September 2015
6. EMDRC Upcoming events notice
7. Response to Bernadette Brodribb re. donation of pots/sockets for use by club members.

**Treasurer's report:** Graeme VK3BXG presented the Treasurer's report for the period 16 August – 15 September 2015, and circulated a copy for the information of members. Those members wishing to receive a copy of the report should contact the Treasurer direct.

**Read:** Graeme VK3BXG **Moved:** Bruno VK3BFT **Seconded:** Lee VK3FACB **Carried:** Yes.

**New Callsigns:** Nil

**Previous Minutes:** As per the club magazine.

1. Bruno noted that the visit of the EMDRC members to the club for the VK100ANZAC event had been a success, even though conditions were not favourable for them to operate. Members who attended on the night enjoyed the get-together, with a wide range of topics being discussed.

## **Business arising from the previous minutes:**

1. Thanks were extended to Leigh VK3FACB for opening up his home for the 2015 Club Christmas Party. Bruno reminded members about donating to the Christmas hamper which will be in the club shack shortly.
2. Members were also reminded about JOTA, which is fast approaching (17-18 October) – assistance will be required. It may be possible that Joe & Julie Gonzales may be able to attend with their vehicle, which would fit nicely into this year's JOTA theme.
3. Melbourne Cup Weekend at Mt. Buggeree: Interested people were asked to sign the sheet at the front of the hall.

4. VK3RDD: The equipment has been removed. We need to decide what to do with it – relocate/dispose of/etc.
5. VK3RWD guy wires: Graeme VK3BXG gave a report on the problems we have been having with the repeater, particularly on windy days. A small piece at the top was replaced with a nylon guy, and the noise disappeared. Those members who attended enjoyed the barbeque which followed, and agreed the day had been a worthwhile lesson for all concerned.
6. LCD 2015: A copy is now in the shack, and members are asked to make themselves familiar with the changes that the new LCD contains.
7. Key fobs and name tags: Members requiring key fobs/name tags are asked to sign the appropriate list.
8. Foundation Courses: The next will be held on the first weekend in October (3-4/10) and is an all-ladies event. The recent upgrade weekend saw a number of candidates upgrade to Standard and Advanced status, with one additional Foundation candidate being successful.

#### **Business from the floor:**

1. Ian VK3BUF moved, and Mike VK3KTO seconded, that in view of his extensive and ongoing service to the club over a period of some 17 years, that Bruno VK3BFT be awarded Life Membership of the club. The nomination was supported by Dave Campbell VK3XMF and Rob VK3BRS. In Bruno's absence, the motion was passed. In response, Bruno thanked members for award that had been bestowed on him, and expressed the hope that the club would continue to grow and flourish in coming years.

#### **New business:**

1. Prac nights – The portable antenna kit is slowly coming together. However, we need to get some feedback from members re. its construction; at present, an OCF is being considered.
2. Club shack computer – Has now been upgraded with Windows 10. Thanks to Albert VK3BQO for the upgrade.
3. Members were asked to think about nominating for Committee for next year. We currently need a General Committee member, but when the AGM comes up in April 2016, there will be a number of members who will be retiring (in accordance with our club rules.) If you are interested in a position, feel free to talk to existing committee members.
4. Grants program – The WIA Grants Scheme is now open. Details are available on the WIA website. Perhaps teaching aids for courses could be made available under this scheme? An annual award is also being made available (courtesy of Alan Devlin) via GippsTech.
5. Hamfest options – It was suggested that we consider what other options might be available for staging the Hamfest in future, in terms of alternative venues, space, parking etc. The Balla Balla Centre was cited as one possibility, although details re. availability of tables needs to be explored.
6. Club membership details – Ian VK3BFT will deal with this at the next meeting.
7. Freebies – Dave Campbell VK3XMF indicated that he had a range of surplus items available to members.
8. Reg VK3UK – Albert gave a report on how Reg is progressing. He is still trying to get gear up and running using Echolink, and IRLP when the node is operational.
9. Yarra Valley Water – Albert VK3BQO indicated that Yarra Valley Water had been in contact, and had offered to pay for the removed of the antenna of VK3RDD.
10. Field Kit – Rob VK3BRS detailed the approximate costs of the field kit which is being assembled by members on prac nights. (antenna & 4:1 balun \$15; 12m pole \$125; guy ropes (Kevlar) \$80; batteries 2 55Ah SLA totalling \$278, which will be on float charge via the door entry system; SWR/power meter \$15; 15m RG58 approx. \$40; pegs 6 approx. \$10; box to carry gear approx. \$100. TOTAL \$600 (+ box.)

**Meeting closed : 9:15 pm**

**Next Committee Meeting : 06/10/2015**

**Next Prac Night : 02/10/2015**

**Next General Meeting : 16/10/2015**



# 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](mailto:editor@ggrec.org.au) or [vk3tgx@gmail.com](mailto:vk3tgx@gmail.com)  
All other Club correspondence to: [secretary@ggrec.org.au](mailto:secretary@ggrec.org.au)  
or via Snail Mail : PO Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977  
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