



GATEWAY

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

February 2016 From The President

The enthusiasm shown by Club members at February's **Prac Night** was great to see. The building of QRP transceivers is a great project and learning process for everyone taking on the challenge. When finished, the QRP transceiver will be a great asset to add to your collection. Thanks again to the hard work and effort of VK3BRS Rob Streater.

Planning is underway for this year's GGREC **Hamfest, on 16th July 2016**. Thanks to VK3FLEX Brian Hawkins accepting the role as Hamfest Co-ordinator for 2016. Brian will be supported by previous co-ordinators and a well-documented Hamfest process. The committee is currently looking at various locations for this years **Mid Year Lunch which will be held on the 18th June 2016**. Please let us know if you have a favorite restaurant that we might be able to use. Don't forget that next year, 2017 brings a big milestone for GGREC with our **Club's 40th anniversary**. We need your input and assistance in the best way to celebrate this happy occasion.

Also coming up very fast is **Antennapalooza**. Once again VK3BUF Ian Jackson is opening up his property in Drouin for a weekend of amateur radio talks, demonstrations, camping and a lot of socializing. Antennapalooza will be held on the **19th and 20th of March 2016**. Details elsewhere in the magazine.

Our Guest speaker this month will be **Chris Chapman**. Chris, an ex GGREC President, is now treasurer of the WIA. Chris will be giving us an insight on the WIA's operation and their busy agenda. It will be great to catch up with Chris at the February General Meeting.

Don't forget to get your latest completed amateur radio project ready for assessment at the March GM to qualify for the **GGREC Home Brew Award**. The Home Brew Award will be awarded at the April GM. **Rules and entry form** are in the magazine.

As you can see, there is a lot happening at GGREC, this is a great Club so make sure you are part of the fun. Are you going to nominate for the next committee??

See you at the GM,



Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT

President GGREC Inc.

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Event Queue

February:

- 2nd GGREC Committee meeting, 7.30pm at Clubrooms.
- 5th Prac Night, 8.00 pm at Clubrooms.
- 6th QRP by the Bay, 3.00-6.00 pm, Victory Park, The Strand, Chelsea. (Mel. 97 A1)
- 6th & 7th Foundation licence weekend at Clubrooms.
- 7th Club Net 8.00pm local
- 13th MERC Hamfest, 223 Watton St, Werribee. 10.00 am start.
- 14th Club Net 8.00pm local
- 19th General Meeting, Guide Hall, Cranbourne commencing at 8.00 pm.
- 20th Working bee at GGREC shack, commencing at 10.00 am.
- 21st Club Net 8.00 pm local
- 28th EMDRC Hamfest, Great Ryrie PS, Heathmont. 10.00 am start. www.emdrc.com.au

March:

- 4th Prac Night
- 6th Club Net 8.00 pm local
- 13th Club Net 8.00 pm local
- 14th Labor Day Holiday (Vic.)
- 18th General Meeting, Guide Hall, Cranbourne commencing at 8.00 pm.
- 19th – 20th Antennapalooza 2016, Drouin West.
- 20th Club Net 8.00 pm local
- 25th Good Friday
- 27th Easter Sunday
- 27th Club Net 8.00 pm local
- 28th Easter Monday

From The Editor

This month I decided to clean up/catch up on some unfinished jobs.

I had been collecting disused computer speaker systems with a view to installing one in my caravan, However after sizing a few up I decided to scrap most of them. I need a set with quite small 'satellite' speakers to permanently mount in the corners of my caravan; unfortunately the sound from these has been rather disappointing, well-known brand names notwithstanding. I think I will have to give up for the time being and use a pair of Harman-Kardon speakers, free standing as they are too large to permanently install.

Almost all of these speakers have a lot of bass & treble making computer sound effects and modern music sound – almost spectacular, however throw some dialogue and other content their way and they sound awful, almost no midrange at all.

One set I had, made by Altec Lansing had a subwoofer that looked quite nice, A nice front panel grill and silver front pannel. This looks like a really nice station monitor speaker I said to myself, I wonder if it can be coaxed into producing full range sound, rather than just base, the satellite speakers being long consigned to the bin. (They sounded that bad)

The driver was a 5 inch, surely it can produce full range audio. The amplifier board had two power amp chips, powered from a 28V rail. The amp IC running the sub was wired in bridge mode giving 30W into the 8 ohm speaker, whereas the other IC ran the two satellites. Also on the board was two quad op amp IC's, used to filter the audio so that only the base went to the sub. I quickly found that disconnecting most of this and running my audio feed strait into the power IC gave the results I was after. Problem was when I temporarily re-assembled it, it sounded awful. The speaker box, while made of wood, had no lining, meaning lots of reflections and strong resonances. Several years ago I bought some 'innerbond' speaker lining material from Dick Smith Electronics. (back when they actually sold electronics, not Dyson vacs etc) After adding this and some self-adhesive rubber sheeting, things started looking up.

I was rather surprised by the sound, strong base, just like an old valve console radio. Yes, I could correct this, probably by playing with the port, but it brings back memories of old valve sets I experienced when I was a lot younger, so for now it's staying that way.

One (nasty) surprise was with the power switching. On one of the satellite's was the volume control & power switch (with a LED of course) However the switch did almost nothing, it disabled the sound, but left everything powered up, including a somewhat

inefficient (ie hot) power transformer. Now you would expect this from cheap Chinese junk, not from a 'real' manufacturer like Altec-lansing, shame on them.

Oh well out with the soldering iron and add a few more mods.

Was it worth the trouble, only time will tell.

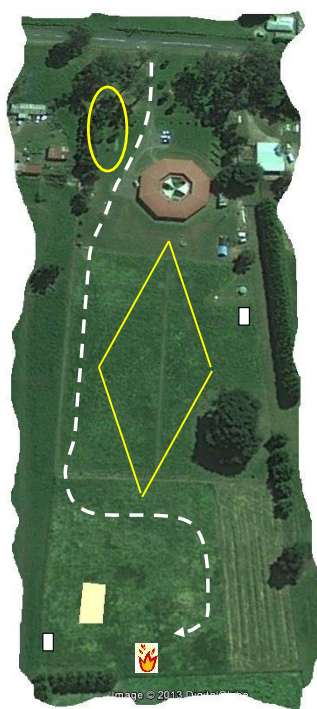


Paul VK3TGX

Antennapalooza

2016

We are pleased to announce that there will be another antenna field weekend at Drouin West. This will be on **Saturday March 19 and Sunday March 20**. (the weekend before Easter) Members and friends of members are welcome to come along stay for a day, or set up camp for the weekend. If you wish to come along earlier to help set up the wire antenna, then that's ok too.



We shall continue with the theme of short lectures on antennas and interesting topics to be spread over the two days. Visitors are welcome to set up antennas of their own and operate as a portable station.

The Club Station and field kit will be in operation, with its 12 metre mast and Off-centre fed Dipole and the Club's IC706 transceiver.

For experimentation and discussion, we intend to erect a temporary Rhombic antenna on 40 metres to see how well it compares with more conventional wire antennas. (The Rhombic is a very large antenna requiring a lot of space. Ours will be a relatively small one of about 130 metres in length and sixty metres wide, mounted on four guyed poles. (shown left) It will be erected the day before the event. It will be the topic of one of the lectures over the weekend.

There will also be a demo session of the SARK antenna analyser by Marc VK3OHM of the EMDRC club.

On the Saturday afternoon, we will have a military Humvee with original comms equipment on display during the event and its owner will tell us a little about what makes these vehicles so special.



On display at Antennapalooza 2016

Fire ban days permitting, we shall continue the tradition of a campfire on the Saturday night.

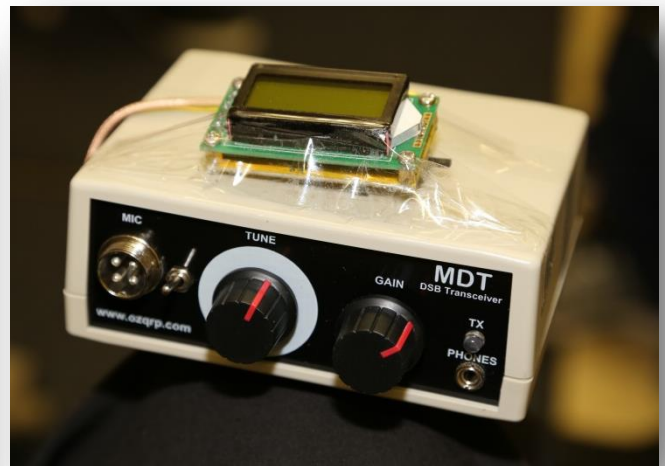
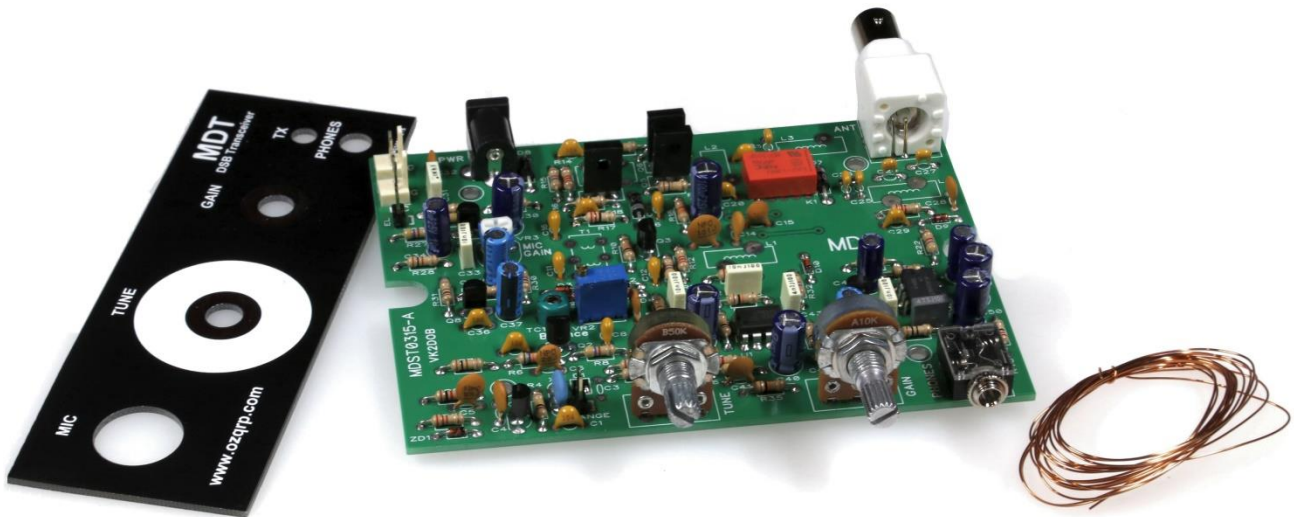
No bookings are required in advance. It is a free event, but visitors will need to bring their own tent or caravan if they intend to stay over. The Club barbecue and coffee making facilities will be available all weekend. As before, an invitation shall be extended to members of other Amateur Radio clubs in our region.

More details will be publicised as the event draws near. The full event guide may be downloaded from: <http://ggrec.org.au/Files/Antennapalooza2016.pdf>

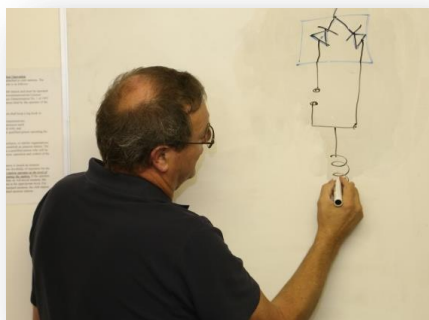
We still have some slots for interesting lectures on the Saturday and Sunday. If you have a topic of interest you'd like to share, contact Ian, VK3BUF on 5625 2545.

If you want a reminder of what we got up to last year, take a look on You-tube using the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUhxYctA3RU> Or just do a search for **antennapalooza**

QRP Transceiver Construction



Here we go, time to get out your soldering irons and start building.



EMDRC Hamfest 2016

Sunday 28 February 2016

Great Ryrie Primary School
51A Great Ryrie Street, Heathmont, Victoria

www.emdrc.com.au

www.facebook.com/vk3er

\$6pp including one Raffle ticket and bottomless tea & coffee.

Doors open at 10 am.

Breakfast and morning tea available at the famous BBQ.

For Event Information or Table Bookings please visit the club website
www.emdrc.com.au or email the committee vk3er@emdrc.com.au

Commercial and second hand traders, new & used bargains, Raffle prizes donated by our commercial traders, raffle drawn 12 noon.

Plenty of space for a chat with old and new friends.



Radiobooks.com.au





Yarra Valley Amateur Radio Group

VK3YVG

PO Box 346 Healesville Vic 3777

Its on again!!

Hamfest 2016

Sunday 17th April 2016
10am to 2pm at the
Gary Cooper Pavilion
16 Anzac Av. Yarra Glen
Melway 274 K 1
Entry \$5.00

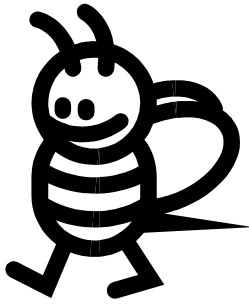


Open to traders from 8.30am. Call in on VK3RYV the Yarra Valley Repeater 146.725MHz
Ample parking available. BBQ, light refreshments available. Free tea and coffee.

Table Hire \$15.00

For table bookings and further information contact :
Colin VK3CNW on (0423) 535 988 or
email vk3cnw@wingersoftware.com

Notices



Working Bee at the Club Shack.

Saturday 20th February 2016.

The shack is due for a clean and tidy up to get things ready for a busy year ahead. We need to de-clutter and to check that all radios, antennas, and equipment are in good working order.

Starting time will be at **10:00 AM.**

GGREC IRLP NODE IS BACK

Hi all,

I am glad to announce that as of 4pm on Friday 12th Feb, the IRLP node for VK3RLP (Node 6794) is once again activated and ready for use.

I encourage use of the system and would appreciate reports on its quality at this time.

It is about 12 months to the month since it was de commissioned and so hopefully someone missed having it.

Regards

Albert VK3BQO

GGREC HOME BREW COMPETITION

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY OVERVIEW:

The aim of the Home Brew Competition is to encourage the design and construction of equipment that aids or assists with the enjoyment of radio and communications. This typically includes, but is not limited to:

- Amplifiers
- Antenna Tuning Units
- Control Systems
- Power Supplies
- Radio Antennas
- Receivers
- Test Equipment
- Transmitters

Or any equipment associated with Amateur Radio in general.

This is an honesty system and entrants use the following criteria. There will be 3 sections of competition, comprising: Novice, Experienced, and Expert. It is permissible for an entrant to enter above, but not below, their section. The Homebrew Organizing Committee is particularly keen to see entries that have provided practical assistance to the Foundation Licence members.

NOVICE:

1. Is a person who is NOT, or was NOT, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; AND
2. Has no amateur licence, or has held an amateur licence for less than three years; AND
3. Has built less than 5 projects (Kits or own design).

EXPERIENCED:

1. Is a person who is NOT, or was NOT, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; AND
2. Has held an amateur licence for more than two years and less than 10 years; OR
3. Has built more than 5 simple projects. (Kits or own design)

EXPERT:

1. Is a person who is, or was, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; OR
2. Has held a amateur licence for 10 years or more; OR
3. Anyone who doesn't fit any of the above.

REGISTRATION:

1. There is no cost to enter the Home Brew Competition and you may enter as many entries as you wish.
2. All entries must be accompanied by a separate Entry Form.
3. All entries, and Entry Forms, must be presented to the Home Brew competition Co-ordinator at the April Prac night 2 weeks before the GGREC Annual General Meeting for judging.
4. All entries must be collected on the night of the AGM.

JUDGING AND JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Workmanship which covers facets including mechanical construction, soldering, layout, good practice for the radio frequencies used, use of suitable materials, controls with knobs and labels, serviceability, safety and appearance.
2. Originality will be considered as will complexity of the project and the documentation.
3. Judging will occur on the Prac night before the AGM, with the prize winners being announced at the AGM. The judges decision will be final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.
4. Pictures of entries and a summary of the judges remarks may be published on the GGREC Web Site (www.ggrec.org.au) and the GGREC Newsletter after the GGREC AGM for that year.
5. If the item is contained in a box, the box should be unscrewed and open to allow inspection of the item.

PRIZES:

A certificate and prize / trophy to the value of \$? will be presented to the winner of each section.

ENTRY FORM:

All entries must be accompanied with a completed entry form.

GGREC HOME BREW COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name: Callsign:

Section: Novice Experienced..... Expert

Project Title:

Brief Description:

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.....
.....
.....

Estimated Construction Time:

Why Did You Build It ?

.....
.....
.....

Does The Project Work ?

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Any other comments or points of interest about the project ?

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.....
.....
.....
.....

General Meeting Minutes 15/01/2016

Start time: 9.00 pm

Location: Club rooms.

Chairperson: Bruno

Minute Taker: Bryan

Present: As per attendance sheet

Visitors: Nil.

Apologies: As per attendance sheet.

Correspondence received:

1. City of Casey Ageing Positively program of activities to June 2016.
2. News from the WIA 10 January 2016
3. RARC Newsletter for January 2016
4. Two enquiries re. licence upgrades/classes.
5. Prac night notice for 01/01/2016 from Rob VK3BRS.
6. Power account from Energy Australia.
7. December 2015 GGREC Gateways magazine.
8. Summer VHF/UHF Field Day activation location details from Dave VK3JL
9. MERC Hamfest notification for 13 February 2016
10. News from the WIA 21 November 2015
11. NERG Coffee Shop meeting 26 November 2015
12. Email from Ted Thrift re last Anzac activities 12th and 20th December 2015.
13. GGREC Gateways update 23 November 2015
14. Breakout magazine for November 2015.
15. Yarra Valley ARG Hamfest notification for 17 April 2016
16. Notice of renewal of VK3RLP from ACMA.
17. Notice of renewal of VK3RWD from ACMA.
18. Notice from Ted Thrift (WIA) re. Ross Hull Contest.
19. Notice from Rob VK3BRS re. prac night on 4 December 2015.
20. RARC Newsletter for November 2015.
21. NERG News December 2015

Correspondence sent:

1. Email from Ted Thrift re. last Anzac activities 12th and 20th December 2015.
2. News from the WIA, November 2015
3. NERG Special Coffee Shop Meeting, November 2015
4. Yarra Valley ARG Hamfest notification for 17 April 2016
5. Breakout Magazine for November 2015
6. MERC Hamfest notification for 13 February 2016
7. EMDRC December 2015 newsletter and Christmas Party invitation
8. Email from Ted Thrift (WIA) re. Ross Hull Contest
9. RARC Newsletter for December 2015.
10. NERG News for December 2015
11. GGREC Christmas Party reminder
12. Notice of planning meeting for VHF/UHF Field Day
13. Notice of items for sale
14. Field Day directions and map
15. Summer VHF/UHF Field Day – updated rules.
16. WIA News January 2016
17. Request from the Treasurer re. power providers.
18. RARC Newsletter January 2016
19. Prac night notice for 01/01/2016 from Rob VK3BRS.

Treasurer's report: Graeme VK3BXG presented the financial report for the period 16 November 2015-15 January 2016, and circulated a copy of the report for the information of members. If members want an individual copy, they should apply to the Treasurer direct.

Graeme also spoke about his negotiations with the power companies to obtain cheaper power for the club. He will continue to investigate options, including whether the WIA have any arrangements with suppliers, or whether we can be redesignated from "commercial" to "non-profit" or similar.

Read: Graeme VK3BXG **Moved:** Graeme VK3BXG **Seconded:** Helmut VK3DHI **Carried:** Yes.

New Callsigns: Nil.

Previous Minutes: As distributed in Gateways magazine.

Business arising from the previous minutes:

1. Bruno reported on his (and Rob's) visit to FAMPARC for their 40th anniversary celebrations, and flagged that our 40th anniversary will be coming up in 2017. To that end, it was proposed that a planning group be established to organise celebrations in 2017. Any members who are interested in being part of the planning group should speak to a member of committee.
2. Repeaters – There was further discussion about changes in location of some of our repeaters. The options are still being worked on. Mark VK3PKT and Albert VK3BQO are still working on the IRLP, with Mark having offered to house the node at his QTH. Other options are also being considered.
3. Antennapalooza 2016 – Think about topics that you might like to learn about, and/or that you might like to present. Ian VK3BUF would appreciate your ideas/suggestions.
4. Christmas party – Thanks again to Leigh VK3FACB for the use of his QTH for our Christmas party. An enjoyable day was had by all who attended.
5. Surplus radios – Geoff VK3HGG reported that these are no longer available, as the seller had disposed of the stock he had to other parties.
6. Beacons – Albert VK3BQO reported (in the absence of Rob VK3BRS) that 23cm P.A. is finished and ready for testing. A dual microwave detector circuit from the directional coupler has been built and added, and a proportional fan speed control and thermal cut-out has been built and wired in; a 1296 MHz BPF has been purchased and added for the input to the P.A. 13cm P.A. is almost finished, a dual detector circuit from the directional coupler has been built and added, a proportional fan speed control has been added, but the thermal cut-out still needs to be added and it will then be ready for testing. Phil Pavey VK3VB is building the radome for the antennas.
7. Hands-Free Kit – vehicle testing indicates that noise cancelling is not working properly; options are being investigated.
8. MDT 40 DSB kits – have been ordered. (Thanks to Graeme for expediting payment to Leon.)
9. Field Kit use at Field Day – radios, batteries and metering all worked well, although there was no need to make use of the mast.
10. Berwick Tip Site for Repeater – investigation revealed that this is not a viable possibility.
11. Thank You – A big thank you (via David VK3JL) to Bill and his family for allowing us to use their property for the Field Day. Thanks also to Helmut and Wayne for putting the idea forward in the first instance.

New business:

1. Advance Notice – Pat VK3OZ will be having her head shaved in March in support of leukaemia research. Please be generous in your support.
2. Hamfest 2016 – After a request for a volunteer to head up planning for this year, Brian VK3FLEX offered his services. Thanks Brian.
3. Food handlers for hamfest – at present we have Bruno and Sharon prepared to undertake the necessary training.
4. Mid-Year Dinner – A venue is being sought for our Mid-Year dinner. Graeme suggested The Wild Dog in Warragul as a possibility. If you have any other suggestions, please speak to a member of committee.
5. Working Bee – Our next working bee here at the shack will be on Saturday 20th Feb, commencing at 10.00 am.
6. Committee nominations – a reminder that our AGM is fast approaching in April, and there will be vacancies to be filled, so please consider who would be suitable nominees for the positions. Don't leave it to the last minute!
7. Home Brew Award – Rob VK3BRS is developing judging criteria. We hope to make the presentation of the award at the AGM, so start building now.
8. Australia Day BBQ – here at the clubrooms, on the 26th January, commencing at 11.00 pm.
9. Callbooks 2016 – anyone interested in getting a callbook, please speak to Graeme VK3BXG.
10. Door lock repairs – we are looking at a new chip for the fob reader, as the existing chips seem to have a relatively short life-span.
11. New members kit – In process.
12. Asset audit required for AGM – Ian has the most up to date list.

Meeting closed: 9:55 pm

Next Committee Meeting: 02/02/2016

Next Prac Night: 05/02/2016

Next General Meeting: 19/02/2016





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	Acting- Bryan Simm	VK3FOAB	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	Vacant	VK3XF	Secretary	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF

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
Website errors, contact web master via email webmaster@ggrec.org.au
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