



GATEWAY

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

August 2018



**One thing leads to another...
Smart TV's and I.O.T.
Hamfest in Photo's
And More**

Contents.

- 3 – Claytons presidential report
- 5 – From The Editor – smok'n
- 6 – GGREC Hamfest
- 7 – GGREC Hamfest – in photo's
- 9 – Deal Island, cancelled due to weather
- 9 – What goes around...
- 10 – When one thing leads to another thing...
- 12 – Smart TV's and I.O.T.
- 14 – Club Information

Note: - club meeting minutes are now on the club website

Event Queue

August:

- 17th General meeting – Guide hall
- 18-19th Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

September:

- 7th Prac Night – Club rooms
- 9th SadarC Hamfest/Comms day (see armag)
- 21st General meeting – Guide hall

October:

- 5th Prac Night – Club rooms
- 14th Yarra Valley Amateur Radio Group HamFest
- 19th General meeting – Guide hall
- 28th Ballarat Amateur Radio Group HamFest

November:

- 18th The Rosebud RadioFest

Hi everyone,

Bruce asked me to scribe a few notes for him this month. He'll pick up the reigns and provide regular input next month.

Hamfest

Well, that's the Hamfest behind us for another year. Thanks to Bruno and Pat for pulling it all together and all members who chipped in on the day with help. I think we had about 250 visitors through the door and all 40 tables were sold. Feedback and informal commentary indicate that it was enjoyed by all who attended. The financials have now been finalised and I'm happy to report a profit of \$2,194.57.

Remembrance Day Contest

Last weekend was the RD Contest. It was a great contest even though numbers were down a bit. A rather intense electrical storm in the Tasman Sea created havoc for those of us on the east coast but 80m was delivering some pretty strong signals in spite of the peak S9 static crashes. The attached screenshot taken about 10pm last Saturday night illustrates the lightning strikes. No wonder some stations close to Sydney gave up! Down here in VK3 it as loud but bearable.

International Lighthouse Weekend

Members from GGREC and EMDRC will be activating the Wilsons Prom Lighthouse for the Lighthouse Weekend on 18-19 August. The team of 8 will be meeting at Chris' VK3QB QTH on Thursday evening for a hearty dinner and then an early departure on Friday morning. We will hike 18km from Tidal River to the Lighthouse. We'll activate VK3BJA from about 5pm Friday until 10am Sunday when we'll pack up and hike the 18km back to Tidal River.

Listen out for us - and if you are in your shack on Friday 17th August around 6.30pm join in for a sked on 3.660 (plus QRM). If you're coming to the club, why not arrive a little early and fire up the club's radio?

We'll also have a SPOT tracker for those interested in tracking our progress.

<https://share.findmespot.com/shared/faces/viewspots.jsp?glId=0vnI7Er1OKdT4JXPg0RqDXgMiyuHNZ0Cj>

There are now expected to be over 500 lighthouse activations from over 40 countries worldwide - it's become a popular event on the global AR calendar.

For more info on ILLW visit ill.net

ACMA Update - Exam Services

Many will recall last month we told you about the Consultation Paper the ACMA issued, calling for input on Amateur Qualification and Licensing. The Deed with the WIA expires early in 2019. Both RASA and the WIA made submissions on behalf of many clubs and amateurs.

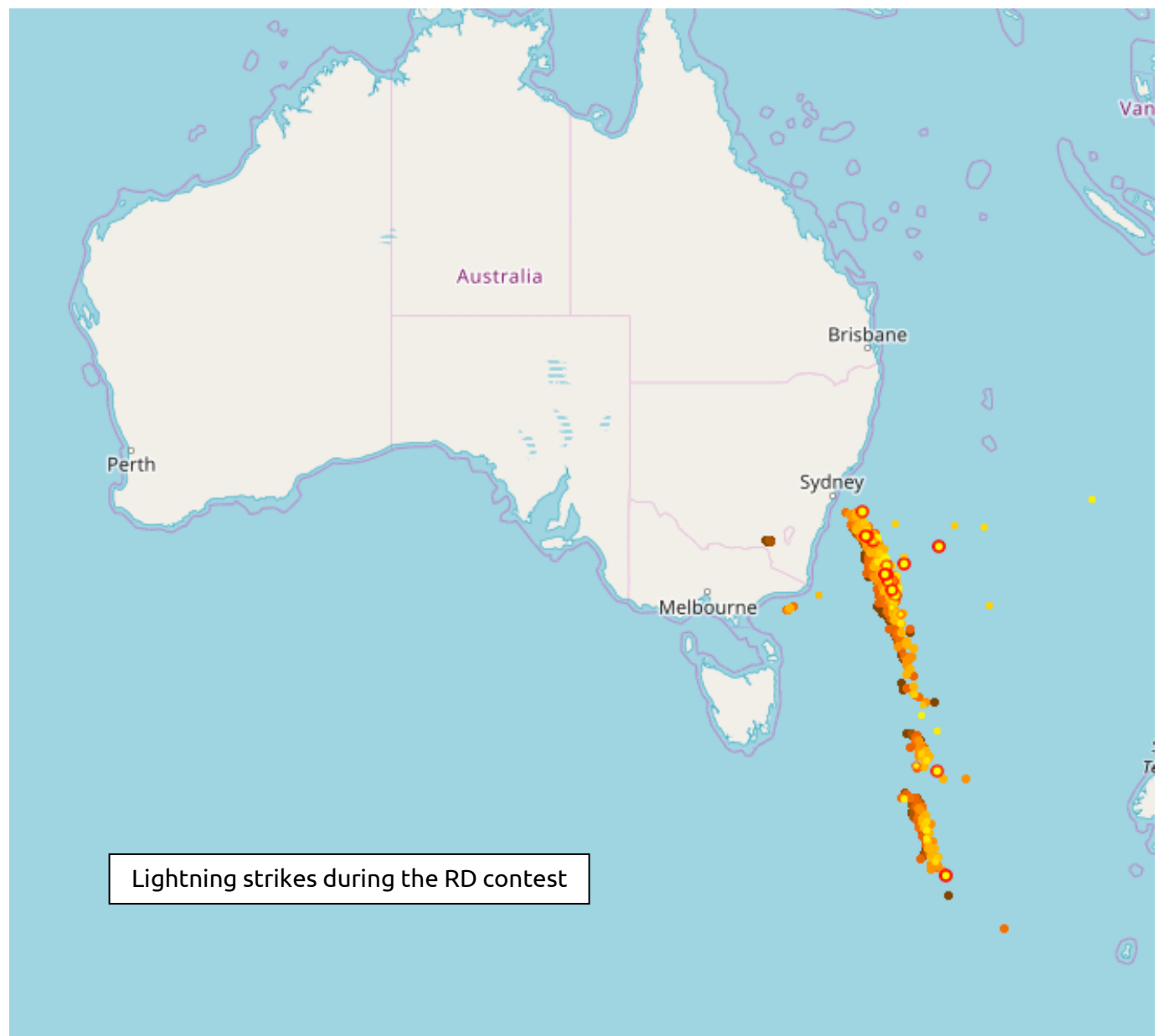
We expected to see the tender documents from ACMA early in August, but nothing has been seen yet. We'll keep an ear to the ground and update members as soon as further information comes to hand. Our hobby faces some interesting times ahead and it is hoped that we get the right solution in 2019; Exams are the entry point to our hobby and we want the process to be efficient and cost effective.

August General Meeting

We'll be a little light on for committee attendance this month - Ian VK3BUF and myself will be at the Wilsons Prom Lighthouse, and Michael VK3GHM is holidaying in VK6. Ron VK3FRDL is also away. That means Bruce and Barry will be flying the flag for the committee this month.

That's all from me for this month,
Thanks all..... and see you at the September meeting.

73, Chris



73, Chris

Chris Chapman VK3QB
vk3qb@hotmail.com
+61 (0) 429 187 593

From The Editor – smok'n

Well I have survived another hamfest, and I wasn't told off by the misses for what I brought home. I managed to sell two Philips PRM8030 radio's and some accessories.

It would appear that old commercial gear is not worth a cracker these days, kind of sad as I regard them as the go-to radio when things are not ideal – like pager interference etc. However cheap Chinese radios seem to rule these days when it comes to discount communications. As far as I know the radio inspectors hate them, mainly because they will go out of band – So what – Amateurs have been using radios like this from day one. It's up to the operator to stay in the allocated bands etc. At one point radio inspectors would check that an operator had a frequency meter to verify things, as everyone knew the radio was not to be trusted. There is however a good reason to get these cheap radios off the market, and that is their technical performance, in particular the purity of their RF output. If you use one of these cheap hand-held's with its supplied miniature antenna, it could be argued the spurious output is ok, however if you connect a 'decent' base station antenna, or worse, run it through a linear amplifier then your all but guaranteed of putting out respectable signals levels where you are not supposed to be – i.e. harmonics every hundred KHz or there abouts. YUK!

So what was the smoke – A while's ago I scored a broken Jaycar stereo amplifier, these sell for \$39.95 in the latest catalogue. Anyway this one had succumbed to a bit of physical damage; the volume control appeared to have been 'kicked in' and all but sheared off the circuit board. So I dropped by Jaycar to get a replacement pot, they were only a few dollars, so not much to be lost.

Unfortunately the closest I could find was a 10K, rather than a 50K that should go in there, on later inspection I was shocked to find the amplifier had been fitted with a linear pot, rather than the logarithmic types traditionally used for volume controls. If I had realised this earlier I could have found a better match at Jaycar – Go figure, a linear volume control.....



Anyway, with a new pot fitted, audio feed & speaker connected, I did some tests but it didn't sound all too healthy, quite a lot of mains hum on its output. What, two faults, this thing is rapidly looking like a waste of time. Then the hum went away, so now I had no audio at all, so out with the scope – eek. The reason I have no hum is because I no longer have a speaker, it's just been burned out by a crook TDA2030A power amp IC feeding 20V DC out the speaker terminals. Darn I've just made a rookie mistake. One should always check an amplifier's output for possible DC faults like this, however I was

probably lulled into a false sense of security by the small size of the amp, and the fact I'd just 'repaired' it. Normally if I feed DC current into a speaker I expect somewhat of a thud, that didn't happen in this case – just as well I was using a cheap 'n' nasty speaker box from a miniature stereo. Darn it was a matched pair.

Later on I saw an ad on TV for a bicycle race, somewhere or another, it was called the "LeTap", well that's what it sounded like to me. (Actually it is called the "L'ÉTAPE AUSTRALIA")

Anyway, I immediately thought of that amplifier. Ah it needs a "le Tap" – with Mr sledge.



Paul VK3TGX



GGREC HAMFEST

Saturday 4th August 2018

Another Hamfest has come and gone and once again the members of GGREC did a fantastic job of supporting the event. This year we sourced our sausages from Kelly's meats in the Cranbourne Shopping Centre. We managed to devour 200 BBQ sausages with ease and there were lots of compliments heard about the snags while standing around the BBQ. Many thanks to Grahame Coleman and Brian Hawkins and Brian Simm for doing a fantastic job cooking and serving tea and coffee outside the hall. Inside, the kitchen was doing a roaring trade in hot food and drinks thanks to Pat Pavey, Jean and the ladies of ALARA. We are very thankful for ALARA's help on the day. I'm sure our treasurer Chris Chapman will give us good news at the next General Meeting. A special thanks to Dianne and Hal Jackson for greeting the public and collecting money in the Hall foyer prior and after the doors were flung open. We had a steady stream of people entering the Hall all morning looking for bargains.

Many thanks to Jaycar Cranbourne and Altronics Springvale for getting behind our Hamfest, supplying great items for our Door Prize raffle. All but one prize was collected on the day and I'm sure Aussie Post has delivered that by now.

Once again, thank you to everyone that lent a hand on the day, you all contributed to another successful Hamfest. Now for 2019.....

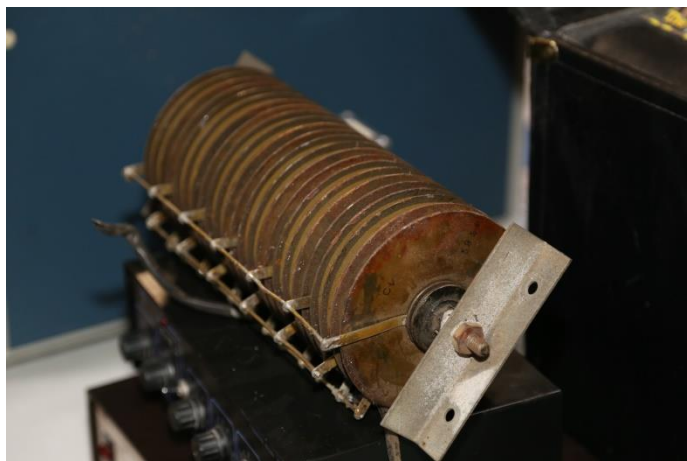
Kind regards,

Bruno Tonizzo

VK3BFT







More on the club website http://ggrec.org.au/gallery/categories.php?cat_id=259

From: Glen Alford <galford@iinet.net.au>

Subject: Deal Island, cancelled due to weather

Date: 15 August 2018 at 7:39:28 PM AEST

To: 'Kevin Mulcahy' <vk2ce@vk2ce.com>

Cc: 'Kerin and Kayoko' <kerin77@tpg.com.au>, 'Chris Chapman' <vk3qb@hotmail.com>, "'John (Jack) Bramham'" <vk3www@alphalink.com.au>, 'Joe' <gimagee@optusnet.com.au>, <jplong@optusnet.com.au>, <vk3er@emdr.com.au>, 'Damian' <dayers4@bigpond.com>, 'David Williams' <vk3ru@bigpond.com>

Deal Island ILLW this year I will need to cancel , due to weather. Crossing of Bass Strait with very large swells predicted, would be very hazardous. Weather generally will be wet and windy, and not good for siting on a small island in Bass Strait, without a good cappuccino. So I happen to know that they have excellent cappuccino in Port Albert, opposite the Maritime Museum, plus warm QTH to operate from. So will travel down there Saturday morning operate both days and return Sunday. Any operators would be welcome to join in. My mobile 0409177358

I intend to try again next year, or a summer activation of Deal Island, as a DX Expedition.. So expression of interest to do a summer activation welcome. Regards

WHAT GOES AROUND...

Ian Jackson VK3BUF



On a return trip from Warragul last week I noticed the odometer on the van roll around to 438575, the output frequency of VK3RWD. It is unlikely to happen a second time, so a picture was in order.

(I always felt that they're too optimistic by calibrating the speedo to 160KPH)



QRM? – Are you being interfered with?

In other news, some readers may be aware that I am doing work on identifying common interference sources to Amateur Radio. A couple of years ago I added some Jaycar driving lights to the vehicle above.



(Jaycar Ref SL3920.) They were reasonably expensive ones and they work very well, except they wiped out 2 Metres when they were turned on. I wanted to see how far this interference extended, so I made a 1 minuyte You Tube clip on the issue. It was interesting to see how even though 2 metres is badly affected it was much worse in the 120-130MHz range, which would badly affect VHF aircraft frequencies.

You can see this at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8O3YBbNrqY>

WHEN ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER THING...

Some interesting examples of life imitating art
by Ian Jackson, VK3BUF

I find it fascinating when the imagination of an artist is immortalised in the real world. This happens from time to time and this article shares a few of these examples.

A favourite cartoonist of millions around the world is Gary Larson and his 'Far Side' collection. I'm sure that more than a few will remember this cartoon from 1982 which featured a cave man doing a slide presentation to other cave men about the dangerous parts of dinosaurs.

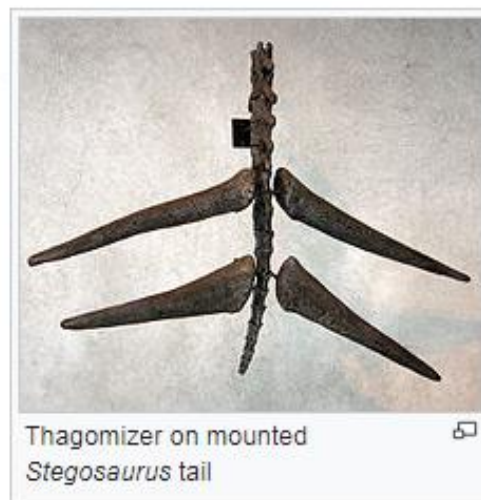
It became apparent to Palaeontologists that this part of a dinosaur never actually had a name before. It didn't take long for Gary Larson's cartoon to gather traction and become immortalised in this field of study.



Thagomizer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **thagomizer** is the distinctive arrangement of four to ten spikes on the tails of **stegosaurid** dinosaurs. These spikes are believed to have been a defensive measure against predators.^[1]



Another fine example of this effect came into play following the *Star Trek Next Generation* TV series. The producers of the show wanted to feature several episodes where the actors escaped adversity in the Enterprise spaceship by crawling through access tunnels. The problem with this was where to put the cameras within these tight tunnels? A set designer by the name of Matt Jefferies resolved this by making wooden tunnel sections with removable panels so that cameras had full access. Before long the name 'Jefferies Tubes' was being coined within the episodes themselves referring to any duct or access tunnel in a spacecraft. Of course, names like this tend to stick and when tight access paths became a part of the Space Shuttle program, the name 'Jefferies Tubes' became a reality.



As a sidebar to the Star Trek Jefferies Tube reference, some of the pipes in these tubes were enigmatically labelled '**GNDN**', which gave the pipes an industrial look.

Apparently the acronym simply stood for '**Goes Nowhere, Does Nothing**'. This too has since become a meme which shows up from time-to-time on fan clothing. Perhaps it is an apt description of some of the fans lifestyle choices as well.



shot him....but that's another story. Still, Rancho Relaxo lives on in the real world to this day.

Of course we cannot ignore the influence that the Simpsons have had on the real world over the past thirty years. Some of the words created for the show like '**Cromulent**' and '**Embiggins**' now show up in dictionaries. In one episode titled '*Homer Alone*' Homer's wife Marge went away for the weekend to a resort called '**Rancho Relaxo**'. This venue was described by the voice of the comedian Phil Hartman, who was a really funny guy until his wife

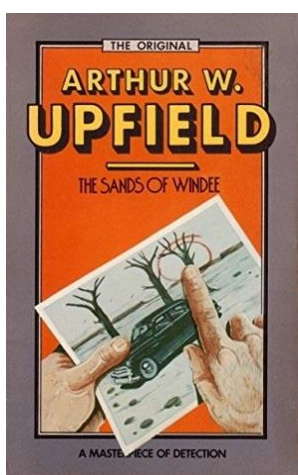


The Simpsons also gave us the **Nacho Hat**, which is a concept that should have stayed on our screens and not in the take-away food venues, but sometimes even bad ideas get promoted.



A Simpsons episode called '**WhackingDay**' had the residents of the cartoon town of Springfield going out and killing as many snakes as possible. In turn, this episode inspired '**Toad Day Out**' in Northern Queensland where each year on March 29, the residents capture and kill as many cane toads as they can.

An even finer example of this imitation effect was the Simpsons invention of '**Scotchtoberfest**', a hybrid Celtic and Germanic festival that now takes place regularly in Hamilton Ohio, USA.



Back in Australia we had Arthur Upfield, the author of the 29 famous 'Bony' novels and a 1970's TV series of the same name. In around 1929 he sat in a W.A. outback campfire circle with some other travellers and challenged them to come up with the perfect bush murder scenario. They worked out that a corpse could be burned in a pile of dead kangaroo carcasses, with whatever remained being ground up and cast into the wind. This formed the basis of his novel '**The Sands of Windee**'.

One of the guys, '**Snowy Rowles**' from around that campfire went on to murder another traveller in real life, followed the script of disposing of the evidence and subsequently stole the man's car. He got caught and went to trial with the author present as an expert witness. Without a corpse of the victim being produced, the man was eventually hanged for the offence in 1932.

This all goes to show that when the ideas of one person are circulated widely enough, there will always be those out in the real world, willing to give the idea a try. Never underestimate the power of a vivid imagination!

Smart TV's and I.O.T.



Smart TV's – are they really that smart? I recently read an article on the 'net concerning this and it quickly reminded me of my experiences (run in's) with this newfangled tech, and the whole IOT (Internet of things) that is starting to really descend upon us. Several years ago I bought this Samsung TV, it had an Ethernet port on its back, just asking to be connected.

In the beginning it was kind of interesting, you could log into 'Samsung Apps' and get all the latest for the set, but after a while it started to slow down, the new pickings were then dreadful – a bunch of random braindead games at best.

Then it got worse – apps I had installed started to disappear, Samsung were pulling apps from my TV – HOW DARE THEY I thought, I never said 'ok' to that, However one does not get the option. Imagine if you turned on your computer, ready to type up a document, and Microsoft office started to de-install, because Microsoft deemed it out of support etc. There'd be hell to pay. So how does Samsung get away with it? The TV is in reality an all-in-one computer.



So if you want some of these new services, what are your other options?

You could get a "set top box" – a rather odd name these days as you cannot put anything on top of an ultra-thin TV. However I have had not much luck here either, most of them are lucky to last a year or two.

And who wants to have half a dozen remote controls in the way so when you go to see the latest pay-TV show etc. (now quite often delivered over the internet).

You jump in front of your TV, turn on say an Aldi Cocoon media box, then the TV, but the TV is on channel 9. So you grab it's remote and select 'external', but hang on a minute, which external. You haven't actually used this particular one for over a week, so was it on HDMI 1, or 2, or was that composite video channel zero.....

Just then the phone rings, it's my aunt, now in her 70's, she's after a reminder from me of what button to press on her 'rig' (CRT TV, two digital box's, and one combo DVD/VHS player) so she can record the 'Bold and the beautiful' soap onto a VHS tape, so she can watch it later.

- I did talk her into buying a Topfield PVR, but after explaining it to her several times, I took it away 'for repairs', and promptly buried it in my workshop, never to see the light of day again. (yes, luckily it did actually have a fault on its composite video out, a blessing in disguise)

So hence, these all in one computers – Sorry, TV's do have some real appeal, however the manufacturers disguise the computer bits with lots of bling (to make them 'consumer friendly') and give the owner no low-level access whatsoever. This is ok, until the set ends up being two or three models old, then the manufacturer realises there's no money left in it and starts to abandon it. One ends up with a perfectly good TV, with not a scratch, that you have almost no option but to throw away, because one of the very reasons you bought it no longer works.

When we went digital, there was a flood of old CRT/Tube TV's put out for hard rubbish, however it didn't take long at all for the new flat-panel sets to meet the same fate.

This brings us to IOT, the Internet of things. (actually, that TV is really an IOT device) It's almost



the latest buzz, things like the 'Ring' doorbell, where one can remotely 'answer' visitors to your property. Spin them a yarn so they believe your actually home, so they don't end up 'casing' your property, ready for some crime etc.

All good, however most of these things don't work stand alone, they depend on a network server (computer) back at the manufacturers factory etc. so you run the risk that your device will potentially just stop for no obvious reasons. To be fair, the ring setup is a paid service, so hopefully they will like your money and keep it going for quite a while. However other devices, like the various voice assistants etc. have no ongoing costs, you get it for free – but how long is that. It could be a real problem when you say 'hey Google, unlock the front door', and nothing happens, something in one of the many 'IFTTT', (If this, then that) setups has died, (another 'free' service), so where are the keys – errr, I think there are some keys, not really sure, it's been voice controlled 'for ages'. You look at the lock, a nice shiny thing with a pulsating light ring, no key hole, now what – then the kids say 'we are late'

Or worse, there is a fire, welcome to the new world.

Paul VK3TGX



Club Information



Meetings 20:00hrs on third Friday of the month at the
Cranbourne Guide Grant Street Cranbourne
Prac nights first Friday in the Peter Pavey Clubrooms Cranbourne 19:30hrs
Visitors are always welcome to attend

Office bearers

President	Bruce Williams	VK3BRW	Web Master	Mark Clohesy	VK3PKT
Admin Sec	Michael Van DenAcker	VK3GHM	Magazine Editor	Paul Stubbs	VK3TGX
Treasurer	Chris Chapman	VK3QB	Property Officer	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT
General 1	Barry Hamilton	VK3ABH	Secretary	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF
General 2	Ron Lacey	VK3FRDL			

Call in Frequencies, Beacons and Repeaters

The Club Station VK3BJA operates from the Cranbourne Clubrooms.
6m Repeater Cranbourne VK3RDD, In 52.575 Out 53.575 CTCSS none
70cm Repeater Cranbourne VK3RLP, In 434.475MHz Out 439.475MHz CTCSS 91.5Hz
VK3RLP Repeater supports Remote Internet access (IRLP), Node 6794.
70cm Repeater Seaview 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 (currently inactive)

Membership Fee Schedule

Pension Member rate \$40.00 Extra Family Member \$20.00
Standard Member rate \$50.00 Junior Member rate \$25.00
Fees can be paid by EFT to BSB 633000 - Account 146016746.

- Always identify your EFT payments.
- Membership Fees Are Due at each April Annual General Meeting.

Magazine Articles to editor@ggrec.org.au or vk3tgx@gmail.com Cut off, 10th

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

or via Snail Mail : GGREC, 408 Old Sale Rd, Drouin West 3818

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

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

Facebook Page www.facebook.com/GippslandGate