



GATEWAY

**The Official Magazine of the Gippsland
Gate Radio & Electronics Club Inc A0016893M**

December 2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS

GGREC Christmas BBQ

Remote Radio Operation

And More



Cover photo, GGREC Christmas BBQ behind the Cranbourne Guides hall.
(If you have any good photos, please send them in)

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Note: - club meeting minutes are now via a link in club emails sent out by the secretary.

Event Queue

December:

2 nd	7:30	Prac Night (No General Meeting in December)
3 rd .		Christmas Party

January:

		No formal Prac Night
6 th	5:00	Free sausage sizzle and salads, BYO Drinks, RSVP to president@
20 th	8:00	General Meeting
26 th	12:00	Australia Day BBQ, come along and celebrate with friends.

**Club run events are only possible with the involvement of ALL members.
Without volunteers to coordinate and participate in club events the club will fail to prosper**

President's Message

Presidents Message for December 2022.

Hi GGREC Members,

Well 2022 is quickly coming to an end and the Committee and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't forget that there is no General meeting in December and no formal Prac night in the Guide Hall in January 2023. Our first General Meeting in 2023 will be on January the 20th in the Guide Hall.

If you attended the GGREC Christmas BBQ, I hope you had a good time socialising with fellow members on a very pleasant day. The fine weather I ordered was delivered, and three lucky members had their hamper tickers drawn out to win a prize. First prize went to Klaus VK3IU, second prize went to Mike Ide VK3KTO and third prize went to Fred Reid VK3FWR. Thank you to all the members that donated to the Christmas hamper, and congratulation to the Christmas hamper winners.

Pat Pavey VK3OZ was very surprised to be awarded her Honorary Life Membership certificate at the BBQ. When the presentation was announced, Pat had no idea that she was about to be rewarded for the many years of active involvement with GGREC and amateur radio.

We are planning to hold a free sausage sizzle for members on the 6th of January to kick start 2023. With Daylight saving in full swing, we will be starting at around 5:00 pm so please make a note in your diary. Keep an eye on your email inbox just in case things change. The clubrooms will be open for you to use if needed.

Long time GGREC member Yarn Oncken VK3NOV is currently in hospital so please keep him and his family in your thoughts this Christmas.

Albert Hubbard VK3BQO is working on VK3RDD's 6 meter power amplifier and we hope to get it back on air as soon as possible. We may be looking to replace the amplifier with a more modern reliable unit in the near future. Ian Jackson VK3BUF is getting new element mounts made for our Log Periodic antenna. We hope to have the antenna working as soon as possible.

It would be great to start 2023 with a full committee as we are still looking for a Club Secretary. If you would like to fill this vacancy please contact me ASAP. Don't forget that April the 21st is our Annual General Meeting so please consider standing for Committee position to keep the Club going well into the future.

Once again, have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, especially to all the new members that have joined and supported GGREC throughout 2022.

Kind regards,
Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT
President GGREC Inc.

From The Editor



Well it's that time of the year when I decorate my tower and do my super quick Christmas tree setup – as in move it into the lounge room, fully setup, no fiddling, just super quick.

However while I was at it I needed to have a look at a video camera I have up there, it gives nice horizon shots and has captured the odd storm as it approaches my QTH.

It had started putting a fair bit of noise into the picture and had started degrading my HF receiving. Normally I'd just turn it off whilst playing with HF, however this was a good time to see what gives.

It had also become a pain to restart after a power cut.

So wouldn't you believe it, a pile of bulgy electro's in a switch-mode power converter, nothing new here. So I just put it aside as a repair job for another day.

Actually I'll probably have a look into the practicalities of replacing that switchmode with a linear supply. I did note the camera was quite warm when I removed it, so it's not exactly a beacon to efficiency.

The main reason for the switchmode is the camera can be run from either 12V DC or 24V AC, not very easy with a linear job. If the linear one gets too hot, I'll just reduce the feed voltage until it's just in regulation, no need to waste any electrons.

Anyway, by the time I was done it was getting quite late, with the sun now long set. So I started cranking away. Part way through I

looked back and saw something I've never seen before, my ladder was performing a magic trick by levitating itself! First thought was quick, back off that winch, but on second thought, I went looking for my camera, and called the misses to see what I had achieved.

Well if nothing else it proves my off-centre dipole wire antenna is reasonably strong. Normally I'd be watching the wire antenna's more closely, however at that hour they were basically invisible, so my attention was more to the winch, and not letting go. (it's not a brake winch)

So season's greetings to all, Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.



Paul VK3TGX

Remote Radio Operation



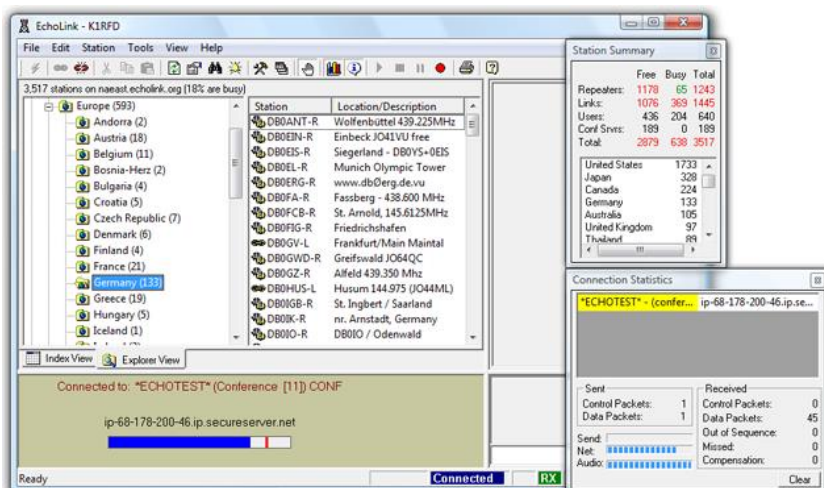
At my QTH HF operation is quite difficult, I live in a sea of noise, that I have only recently being able to effect. Just heading a few kilometres to Philip Island (as the crow flies) gives me several S points better background noise.

Now this is probably not just my problem, I bet a few other members have issues. One that I often hear about is operators being 'trapped' into an agreement with a landlord etc. that prohibits installing anything significant antenna wise.

I could put up a big HF beam like we have at the clubrooms, trouble is it would be hanging over the fence line into my neighbours, I'm not happy trying that on, let alone what they would have to say about it – and as mentioned above, the RF soup around here would make that a very poor purchase.

Now hang on, what about the clubs radio shack, it usually only gets visited twice a month, so why not use that radio, We (the club) spent a pretty penny on it, why leave it gathering dust. Trouble is it's not exactly around the corner, so making multiple 20 minute drives over (one way) for a HF looksee is not very practical to me. So how about setting up remote access?

Years ago I toyed with that at home, I wanted to be able to access my shack from my caravan when we were off wherever and get onto the club's repeater, 2M etc. and say 'Giddyay'



Back then I was going to use Echolink, it is basic with no radio control beyond PTT. For accessing a radio on 145.450 MHz at the time, it was kind of ideal, although these days the clubs repeater might be a better target. Actually this functionality did make its presence into the repeaters controller, but that is another story, for another day.

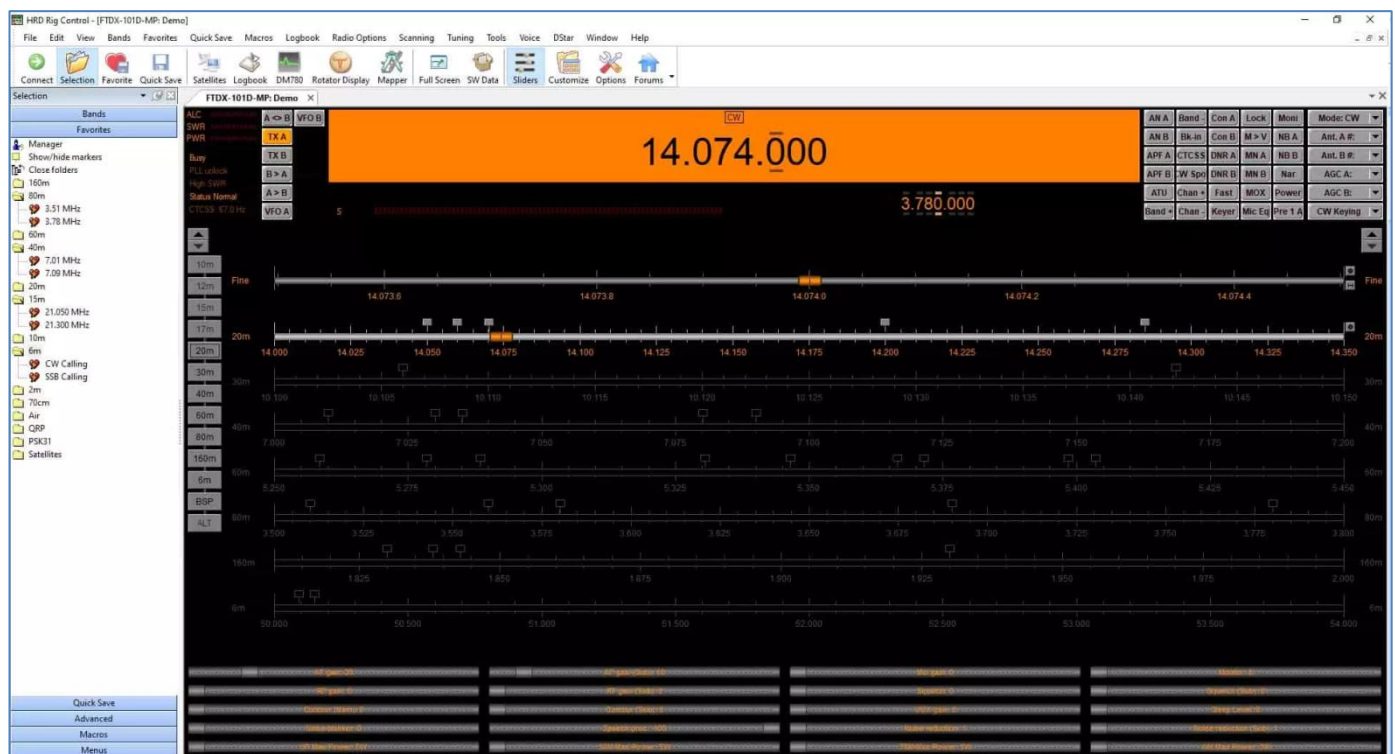


The club's repeater did/does have IRLP remote connection, however to access the repeater via IRLP (when we get it going again) requires you to be in radio range of another repeater that also has IRLP, as it does not support access via a computer etc.

Note to the club, the IRLP node can now be done via a Raspberry Pi.

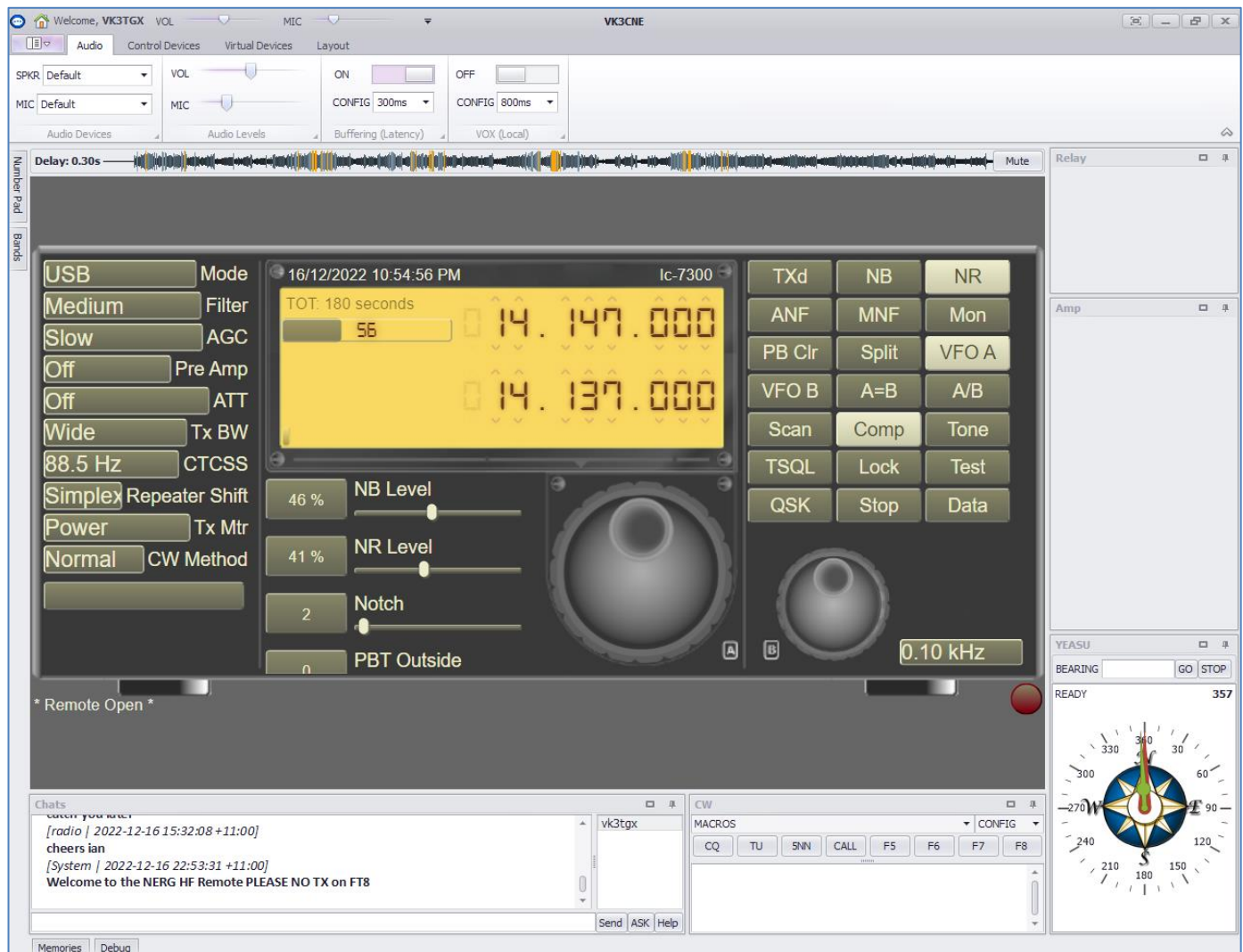
Beyond that I have fiddled with 'Ham Radio Deluxe', and tried to use that remotely. Originally it was not intended for that, being mainly for giving extended control of your radio. However since the radio's controls are on a computer's screen, then all you need is to arrange remote control of that PC. I ended up using TeamViewer, however audio was initially a problem however later versions have made that better.

HamRadioDeluxe was originally shareware, however the author sold it to a company that now charge for it, it's currently on special for \$111.91 AUD <https://www.hamradiodeluxe.com/>



The latest version of Ham Radio Deluxe has a remote server function built in, so no TeamViewer etc. as mentioned before, however HRD sharing is a problem, especially if all users have to buy a copy of HRD! For some reason club members seem reluctant to install any software on their computers. Fair enough if it was some random wares off the web, however if it's something that many club members have, and are having no issues with, I cannot see the problem. This was the case with the club meetings going online during covid19 'the other year', I never found out why. In this case at \$112, I'll have to agree. (I don't have this ver either)

Recently, on the 10:00 morning net, RCForb was suggested as a possible option.



It is free, gives you good control of your radio, and allows you to easily control who has access to your radio. (So the GGREC can easily limit our radio to members only)

It also allows remote control of a rotator, and other ancillary bits via 'relays'

VK2SRC Richmond Hill, New South Wales, Australia Welcome to Summerland Amateur Radio Club	Ic-7300 running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: QG61qe
VK3CNE Briar Hill, VIC, Australia Welcome to the NERG HF Remote PLEASE NO TX on FT8	Ic-7300 running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: QF22nh
VK3CNE - 9700 Greensborough, VIC, Australia NERG Remote VHF UHF TX NERG Members only USE A/B to switch between 144 and 430	Ic-9700 running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: QF22nh
VK-Remote Melbourne, Victoria, Australia HexBeam 10/12/15/17/20M *** Please turn off when not in use ***	Ic-7100 running Server v0.7.8107.16652 Grid Locator: QF22
VK6ANC IC9700 Perth, WA, Australia Icom IC9700 for use by the financial members of the Northern Corridor Radio Group in Perth Western Australia. If you are an overseas operator please do not ask permission to use as refusal often offends.	Ic-9700 running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: OF78xe
VK6CRO - Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum r... Carnarvon, West Aust, Australia Welcome to Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum Remote Station (www.carnarvonmuseum.org.au) operated by Southern Electronics Group. Yeasu FT991A, 160M - 2M, 100W; End Fed Wire Antenna & SGC Auto Tuner, 80/40 dipole, 6M LFA Yagi, 2M B...	FT-991 running Server v0.7.8107.16652 Grid Locator: QG65UD
VK6SR Southern Electronics Group - Great Austr... Albany, Western Australia, Australia Welcome to Southern Electronics Group Remote Club Station, 2M; 7el M2 yagi 100W, 70cm; 12el M2 yagi 75W, 23cm; 15el yagi 10W. All yagis point east towards VK3 & VK3. Project webpage: https://www.vk6suu.id.au/ic-9700.html , Icom IC-9700 than...	Ic-9700 running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: OF84XX
VK6SR - Southern Electronics Group (www.hamrad... Perth, Western Australia, Australia Welcome to Southern Electronics Group Remote Club Station, Yeasu FT991A, 100W, Marconi T antenna, SGC Auto Tuner, 160M - 10M, TX privileges are only enabled for current financial club members. Membership is only \$40.00 per year and can b...	FT-991A running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: OF77
VK6ANC IC7300 Perth, Western Australia, Australia Welcome to VK6ANC, Remote Station of the Northern Corridor Radio Group, Western Australia. Club membership and TX access is limited to licenced VK6 operators who are financial club members of the Northern Corridor Radio Group located in Perth...	Ic-7300 running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: OF78xe
OT4A Oudstergem, Belgium Welcome to OT4A server	TS-890 running Server v0.7.8322.18368 Grid Locator: Jo21sd
ON7WP Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium, Belgium Welcome to my remote station using a ICOM IC-706 NO FT8 ALLOWED !!! People are listening... ANT1 HF: 80/40m dual band Keleken - ANT2 HF: Log Periodic Titanex 20-10m at 20 meter agl ANT VHF KLM 16LBX Power currently limited t...	Ic-706MKIIC running Server v0.7.7970.19082 Grid Locator: Jo21lb
PY7-TA OLINDA, PERNAMBUCO, Brazil SEJA BEM VINDO, BANDAS DE TRANSMISSÃO 10 E 11 METROS	FT857 running Server v0.7.8322.18368 Grid Locator: HI22na

To get started and begin using, visit <http://www.remotehams.com/index.php> to download a (free) copy. With that loaded and your registered with them (again 'free') you can browse the online radio's from several country's

Note however a lot of the radio's listed have restricted access, you have to ask before your allowed to 'tune', as in change frequencies of that radio.

Quite a few are club stations, so club membership is a requirement.

Otherwise, I have not 'asked to use' yet.

So what are the downsides?

It only supports a limited range of radios for full 'CAT' control, however I'm sure something could be fudged here if nothing else. I'm pretty sure the GGREC will be ok though.

The club's rotator is definitely not on their list, however as Ian VK3BUF designed it, I'm fairly sure it could be made to look/act like a supported one.

We need a computer to act as a remote end to link the web to the club's radio.

Woes Along The Way



Whilst working on this remote radio article it rekindled a project I had of putting my WinRadio card up on the internet.

Problem is it's not a supported radio for any known remotes solution I've ever tried.

So how about doing a fudge where the WinRadio box accepts CAT commands intended for another radio and translates them into WinRadio commands.

First off, just how practical is it to leave my current WinRadio industrial computer on,

just waiting for calls? So I hooked up an AC mains power meter, 6W in standby and 60W when listening to short wave. Not good, however what really surprised me was it was pulling 6W when the computer was off, with only the computers power button active waiting for me to start it. Turns out that 6W 'always off' box was contributing to my local HF S9+ QRM woes.

This computer has been plugged in for ages (admittedly on the 'switched' shack feed), but 6W for doing nothing – no way, this has to go. So out came another old Telstra industrial type box, this thing is very well shielded with the next best thing next to 'finger stock' all around a solid lid. This has to be radio friendly. Anyway it powered on, only to see me noticing it had some 'long lost' software on it. Quick back it up....

This is a DOS machine, no networking, so how about a good old floppy disk? Two hours later, NO, nothing was talking. So plug the hard drive into a USB type drive copy box, NO, more compatibility woes, my Win 10 PC saw nothing from that drive. I connected up a random HDD from my junk box, all was ok, just not the one formatted on the industrial side.

So out came an old faithful, LapLink, but it was only stable at 19.2 K serial speed, not the 115.2K possible. So a crook serial board?, I popped a new card into one DOS box where I had been saving that slow 19.2 K data, only for it to 'kill' that PC. As in blank screen, no beeps etc. I almost had it stripped down for a new motherboard until at the last minute I got a beep from it. Turns out the CMOS ram was corrupted and that was all but killing any power on tests etc.

It almost got me, Where I used to work I scored heaps of 'dead' PC kit, same story, corrupted CMOS configs can make any perfectly good hardware look like a total write off!



GGREC Christmas BBQ



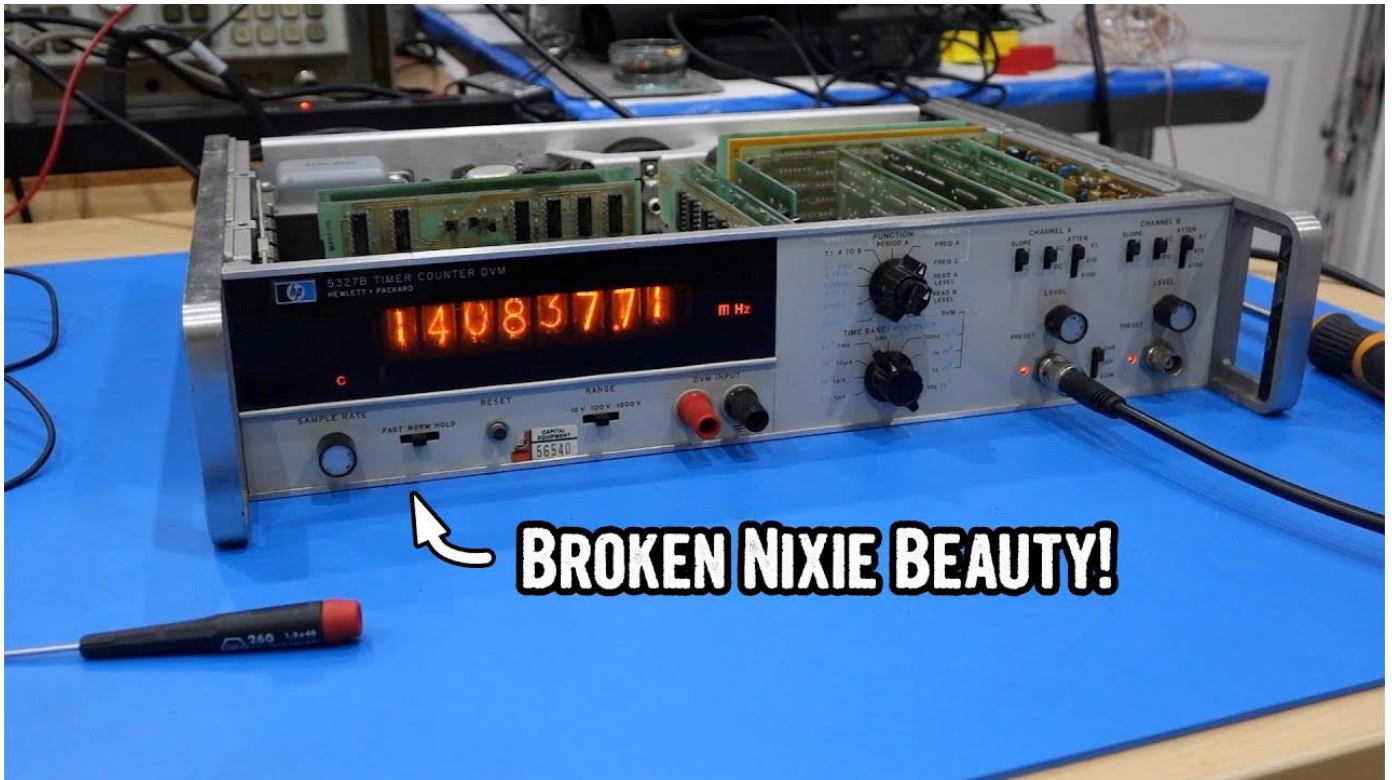




For more see the Gallery on the GGREC website.

Or visit <http://www.ggrec.org.au/gallery/albums/2022-christmas-bbq/>

Interesting YouTube Videos



HP 5327B Nixie Universal Counter / DVM repair
<https://youtu.be/vKxobfvt-I>



Mr Carlson's Lab History - Projects From The Past!
<https://youtu.be/XQVkd5Hzhkg>



The GGREC is an affiliated club of the WIA
<https://www.wia.org.au/>

WIA Affiliated Club

We also give Thanks to



<https://www.jaycar.com.au/>

&



<https://www.altronics.com.au/>

For their generous support over the years



Club Information



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

Office bearers

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT	General 3	Bruce Williams	VK3BRW
Admin Sec	vacant		Web Master	Mark Clohesy	VK3PKT
Treasurer	Klaus Illhardt	VK3IU	Magazine Editor	Paul Stubbs	VK3TGX
General 1	Yarn Oncken	VK3NOV	Property Officer	'committee'	
General 2	Helmut Inhoven	VK3DHI	Assoc. Secretary	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT

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 VK3RGW, In 431.425MHz Out 438.425MHz CTCSS 91.5Hz
VK3RGW Repeater supports Remote Internet access (IRLP), Node 6794 **offline**.
70cm Repeater Seaview VK3RWD, In 431.575MHz Out 438.575MHz CTCSS 91.5Hz **'Testing'**
Simplex VHF - 145.450MHz FM, Simplex UHF - TBA
VK3RLP Beacons 1296.532MHz & 2403.532MHz (**currently offline**)

Membership Fee Schedule

- Pensioner 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 by each April Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Magazine Articles to editor@ggrec.org.au Cut off, 10th of the month
All other Club correspondence to: secretary@ggrec.org.au
or via post : GGREC, 408 Old Sale Rd, Drouin West 3818
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