

*GYMPIE
COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS
GROUP NEWSLETTER
4th Quarter 2012*

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The main activity of the club over the last month, has been the repair and restoration of the old building on the old Gympie Railway Station platform. Many thanks to all the members who turn up every Wednesday to help with the repairs.

For those of you who have not yet seen "The Weekly Observer", Wednesday 10 October, an article about our restoration is on page 4 of the paper. If you missed it can be down loaded from the web at <http://www.theweeklyobserver.com.au/wordpress/> just be aware it is very slow loading and the article is under 'Breaking News'. (Also on Page 2 of this Newsletter.)

The restoration may seem to be a very slow and painstaking job but if you are absent for only one week the progress that you witness on your return is amazing.

I will soon be off on holiday again, on my return from my last trip I found 2 new callsigns had been added to the clubs listing. Congratulations to John VK4FXLO, and Jim VK4FAAU.

Ed V_k4ABX

NEWS ITEM

A lightning strike very close to the home of Erik VK4AES resulted in significant damage to the equipment associated with the IRLP installation.

Long delays in obtaining equipment to carry out repairs has resulted in GCEG being without an IRLP connection for some weeks.

Our thanks go to Erik & Roger for their hard work with EchoLink, their efforts resulted in Greg VK4VBU being able to run the Gympie Net from 543 kilometres away without a glitch, this was also due to all the amateurs on the Net leaving decent breaks between overs.

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Ed Fisher VK4ABX
Treasurer: Barry Molkentin VK4KKN
Secretary: Isaac Neumann VK4FIBN

ARTICLE FROM THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

10th October 2012

Amateur Radio members start building

Gympie Amateur Radio members become Bob the Builders as they restore their club house.

The Gympie Amateur Radio group has found a home for their base; however, restoration of the heritage building at the Old Gympie Railway needs extensive structural repairs and restoration work before moving in.

The Mary Valley Heritage Railway has kindly allowed the Club to lease a small building for their base and club room.

The radio club is seeking donations and support in the form of building materials to help complete the project. All manual labour will be completed by the club members themselves.

If you can assist with the project, it will help not only the radio club, but also preserve one of the old railway heritage listed buildings in the town.

In return for your contribution, the Gympie Communications and Electronics Group Inc, will include your business name or logo on a 'sponsored by' plaque that will be attached to the building when the project has been completed.

The Gympie Communications and Electronics Group is a small group of dedicated amateur radio operators and electronics enthusiasts that operate as a nonprofit entity to promote the hobby and contribute communications and technical support to the local Gympie community.

The group is able to provide secondary communications support to emergency services during times of natural disasters.

The members meet Wednesday mornings from 10am at the Old Gympie Station at Tozer Street for the restoration works to the club house.

You can be assured you will be made welcome and invited to share in the great company and camaraderie of the members, while having a cuppa and a chat.

General enquiries can be emailed to enquiry@gcegin.org.au or check out the club's website at www.gcegin.org.au

BULDING RESTORATION PROJECT

Work has commenced on restoring the building located at the Old Gympie Railway Station, leased to the GCE Group from the Mary Valley Heritage Railway Organisation.

The building has been extensively damaged by white ants and efforts to date have concentrated on removing damaged timber from interior walls, floor and a partition wall. Other repairs have been carried out to the roof, guttering and down-pipes to prevent further water damage to the outside timber walls.

Sourcing timber for wall studs and cladding is underway and plans are being prepared to replace the floor with a concrete floor.

The Group is seeking donations and support in the form of building materials to help with completing the restoration work. All manual labour will be carried out by Group members.

In return for such support the Group will include information regarding the supporting business on a placard to be attached to the building.



Exterior of the building looks OK but a different story inside.



Some of the restoration team .

Thanks to The Weekly Observer for this photo.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST

Amateur radio operators in Australia participate in the Remembrance Day Contest on the weekend nearest Victory in the Pacific Day, 15 August. The competition commemorates amateur radio operators who died during World War II and encourages friendly participation to help improve the operating skills of participants. The contest runs for 24 hours, from 0800 UTC on the Saturday, preceded by a broadcast including a speech by a dignitary or notable Australian (such as the Prime Minister of Australia, Governor-General of Australia, or a military leader) and the reading of the names of amateur radio operators who are known to have died. It is organised by the WIA, with operators in each Australian state contacting operators in other states, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. A trophy is awarded to the state that can boast the greatest rate of participation, based on a formula including: number of operators, number of contacts made, and radio frequency bands used.[16]

Reports from two members, Barry VK4KKN and Greg VK4VBU, are as follows:

Barry VK4KKN. Having not worked a contest, from home QTH, for some time I decided to give the RD contest a go.

Starting nice and early I worked a couple and of course I had something wrong with my logging program (VKCL), I quickly redid the logger and got stuck into it. Working 7m till 0510 (zulu) switching to 14m for a short time, then back to 7m. Stopping then for a meal break. Kicking off again at 0855, I tried 80m, and found a dedicated frequency I worked 80+ contacts till I felt I was tired enough, stopping at 1320 (zulu)

Next morning after church I had another go, again finding a frequency I clocked up another 46 contacts. The FT1000MP stopped working on 20m in the middle of a contact, lucky the TS440 still puts out a good signal I quickly changed over and didn't lose any rhythm. So having two radios paid for itself this time.

This is by far the best contest I have partaken in with a final score of 215 contacts.

The bands were very good and I expect that others will have a big score, so don't expect to get any awards, but a great time was had and looking forward to the next Contest. 73 VK4KKN Barry

Greg VK4VBU. Because I have a passion for Australian military history the RD contest means a lot to me, this year there were some changes made to the format and instead of giving a signal report, you gave a report of how many years you have been a licenced amateur. I heard many new amateurs take part in the contest and they were all given a warm welcome as were some of the amateurs that had been around for many years. It was good to catch up with fellow club member Barry VK4KKN on the air and I tried his favourite trick of picking a frequency and getting to work calling CQ, for the first time ever this worked for me and I had a great run on a number of frequencies, all up I made 112 contacts and I was very happy with the hours of work I put in. While I'm no contester I did enjoy trying different frequencies and looking up the locations of the amateurs I had made contact with and contesting is a great way to check out how your antenna's are working. I was running my Yaesu 450D and using battery power only and feeding into a G5RV antenna for 80 & 40 and I used a homemade dipole for 20 meters, all in all it was a great contest to be a part of and I'm looking forward to next years RD contest. Greg VK4VBU

