



## Gympie Communications & Electronics Group Inc. Newsletter

**Editorial** by Greg VK4VBU

3rd Quarter, 2015

Welcome to the 3rd Quarter GCEG newsletter for 2015. Firstly a big congratulations to our new F-Call licence holders Rhonda Bruce – VK4FRDB, Lachlan Morrison – VK4FLCM, and Dale Anderson VK4FZZW.



### **How I got into Amateur Radio – Lachlan Morrison VK4FLCM**

My interest in radio started when I was eight or nine, I was given a little crystal radio kit that dad helped me put together and I spent hours tuning in different stations. A few years later I went with my grandad to see an old friend of his who was a ham and he had at least a dozen antennas and a quite a few old valve radio's that really had me interested, but it wasn't till earlier this year that I really had the chance to have a good look at ham operations. While on dialysis and not working, I got involved with the club and helped out at the John Moyle Field Day and really enjoyed it. I now have a barrette 550 HF, a Kenwood 2m 70cm bought from Greg VK4VBU and a little Baofeng hand held, I'm also hoping in the next couple of months to have Erik's old tower up and ready to use. I also hope to purchase a HF radio soon look forward to see if I can make a few contacts before I upgrade my license.

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### **New Committee**

At the last Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday 13th August, 2015, a new Committee was elected:

President – Tony Van Lysdonk VK5WC

Secretary – Geoff Nelson VK4ZGF

Treasurer – Rhonda Bruce VK4FRDB

Vice President – Roger Stierli VK4BNQ

Thanks to the previous Committee for their work in keeping the Club running well.



## GCEGinc. OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Tony Van Lysdonk VK5WC [president@gcegin.org.au](mailto:president@gcegin.org.au)  
TREASURER: Rhonda Bruce VK4FRDB [treasurer@gcegin.org.au](mailto:treasurer@gcegin.org.au)  
SECRETARY: Geoff Nelson VK4ZGF [secretary@gcegin.org.au](mailto:secretary@gcegin.org.au)  
VICE PRESIDENT: Roger Stierli VK4BNQ [vicepresident@gcegin.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@gcegin.org.au)

Snail-mail to PO Box 679, Gympie, QLD 4570

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## VK4EAB - HF Antenna

Greg VK4VBU recently visited Alan and Enid who are doing great in their retirement. Alan is still very active on CW and his stealth antenna system built by Bob VK4MR works great for its intended purpose.



## Club BBQ

A quick photo of Owen and Dale cooking the snags & onions for our pre-meeting BBQ dinner on the newly refurbished BBQ that Barry VK4KKN had originally built and now donated to the Club. Earlier in the week, the unit was cleaned up, sprayed with new BBQ paint and fitted with a new hose & regulator and a fresh bottle of gas. Owen, our master builder also made a nice wooden side-shelf that was fitted just before this cooking session began. The food that came off the BBQ was very good indeed. I guess now we just have to keep an eye on the gas level so we don't run out and end up with a half cooked dinner !



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## 2m Net Roster September to November 2015

7th September	Geoff VK4ZGF	19th October	Roger VK4BNQ
14th September	Greg VK4VBU	26th October	Rhonda VK4FRDB
21st September	Ed VK4ABX	2nd November	Paul VK4YPM
28th September	Jim VK4FJIM	9th November	Bob VK4MR
5th October	Lachlan VK4FLCM	16th November	Owen VK4FAAQ
12th October	Dale VK4FZZW	23 November	Geoff VK4ZGF



## Travellers

GCEG member Graham Alder visited Greg VK4VBU out at Emerald recently. Graham was part of the A-Van club who have been doing a drive out west. While the A-Club was in town, some of the members visited the Central Highlands Model Airfield to watch some flying.



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## Interesting Amateur Radio / Radio / Electricity related YouTube videos to watch

**Using Breadboard for beginners and prototyping circuits**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwcVr5VfXwA>

**Breadboard - Night light circuit**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icJfJphBySc>

**Old BFO Metal Detector on breadboard step by step guide**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRXq-BEHBIE>



## Glastonbury Comms Event

On Monday 24th of August, our Club was involved with running a comm's event at the Glastonbury Camp grounds and surrounding area. The Aldridge State High School was having a map reading/orienteering event for their students and we were there to assist with radio communications around the perimeter of the area. We had operators based at most of the outer markers and at all of the more difficult radio locations. When we say difficult, we mean difficult for the school's CB HT's. Our group, operating under VK4GYM Portable, had set up a cross-band repeater at a high location and so had perfect comm's back and forth to Base. The link up to the repeater from base was on 70cm and the working band from the repeater to/from all stations was on 2m thus providing full quieting comm's to all stations even if they were just using 2m HT's. The event was a success and it looks to become an annual event also earning a little more income for our Club.

A big thank you to the following operators who participated: Tony VK5WC, Malcolm VK2FITH, Rhonda VK4FRDB, Ed VK4ABX, Bob VK4MR, Geoff VK4ZGF, Roger VK4BNQ, Graham Alder, Neil Turner and travelling all the way up from the Sunshine Coast – Noel VK4NL.





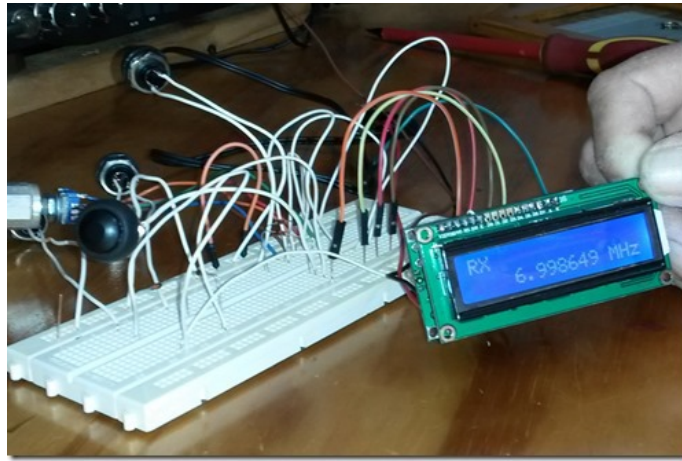
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## Construction Projects

### **DDS VFO Construction Project**

A few of our Gympie Club members have been travelling with Tony VK5WC down to the Sunshine Coast Club (SCARC) to participate in a very interesting electronics construction project presented by Sava VK4PN. The unit they built is a Digital VFO and they appear to be working very nicely after a few tweaks to the output-buffer amplifier to achieve a perfect sine-wave output.





Our own first upcoming construction project is going to be the Component Tester. Also microprocessor based, it's a very clever unit that will test and give you info on the connected component, be it a resistor, thermistor, transistor, choke, capacitor, diode, potentiometer, triac, LDR and several more... and no matter which lead is connect to which test terminal.

Orders were taken at the August meeting at a kit cost of \$20 each including case. If you're wanting to upgrade to Standard Licence or higher, then building a few things is the fun and easy way to learn and gain most of the electronics knowledge you will need to know for the exam.



## **2m Repeater Remote Monitoring and Control**

You may remember from the 1st Quarter Club Newsletter that Kerry VK4LKF and Roger VK4BNQ had built a remote control and monitoring system for the VK4RCM 2m Repeater on Mt. Boulder. We have as you see in the picture below, progressed further with all telemetry now working, including the solar panel voltage and the transmitter PA temperature. The temperature sensor is simply squeezed in between a couple of the heatsink fins on the rear of the transmit radio but it gives a very good indication of how things are running. It will be interesting to watch on a hot summer day or Monday evening net. So far, we've typically seen 40 degrees C during the net. The highest observed has been 43degrees which is quite OK and seems to be about as high as it gets.



Tony VK5WC and Roger VK4BNQ have now taken the 2nd new AGM battery up the to the Repeater and also installed the newer MPPT solar regulator. So we now have 300AH of power up there. This is nearly 100 AH more than before and as you see from the figures in the picture, the voltages are sitting perfectly for this type of battery used in this cyclic way with solar panels.



The final stage of the project will be to improve the radio link and then Kerry and Roger will bring the switching circuits into service where we will then be able to turn the repeater off and on, or reset as and if required. Currently it is able to send an APRS beacon when commanded so the switching system is already working fine in test mode.

Next Newsletter is due out around the end of November 2015.

Please submit articles to [newsletter@gcegin.org.au](mailto:newsletter@gcegin.org.au)

Club meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month except January.

The Clubrooms are open for social meetings every Wednesday morning

from around 10am. The location is the northern platform at

The Old Gympie Railway Station, Tozer St. Gympie.

Full information on the website.

