

# GYMPIE COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS GROUP INC.

1<sup>st</sup>. Quarter 2012 NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT

The club has now had its first meeting at the new venue, 214 Mary Street.

Although first scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, it was postponed, because of flooding, the meeting finally taking place on the 13th.

We have also used the meeting place for our Wednesday morning social meetings.

These have proved very popular.

The club is progressing towards an understanding with the Mary Valley Heritage Railway to occupy and renovate a building at the old Gympie railway station.

Roger VK4BNQ, being a member of both the radio club and MVHR has been very useful.



This coming Saturday is this years fist sausage sizzle at Mitre 10, hope to see you all there.

Ed Fisher VK4ABX.

## NEWS ITEMS

1. Next Monthly Meeting of the GCEG Inc. will be held on 3rd April 2012.
2. Next fundraising BBQ will be at Mitre 10 Park Terrace on the 24th March at 8:30am. Anyone who can lend a hand will be very welcome.
3. Electronics classes will restart prior to the next Monthly Meeting on the 3rd April. Subject will be Transistors. Classes will follow throughout the year, to be held prior to the Monthly Meeting. You don't have to be a member of the GCEG Inc. to attend.

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## OFFICE BEARERS

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

## **REVIEW OF THE BOEFENG VU-3R RADIO**

There is nothing so handy as a H/T portable radio and as most would be well aware there are plenty to choose from, however until now the price balanced against features was often a pain in the wallet, well as I say that is until now. So let me explain why I have been so happy with this radio since I have now had time to try it out.

Recently I along with a number of others have discovered and bought a Boefeng VU-3R compact H/T radio, generally sight unseen, but at a price freight free that is quite outstanding at around \$50.

Following the order of one of these radios it arrived very well packaged in just one week from Hong Kong. It comes in a well presented box with all the bits needed, included a fully charged battery, to get on air in either UHF or VHF. To help it along I also bought the programming CD and cable which makes programming this radio so much easier as the software is simple to use and understand.

The compact size of this H/T is one benefit I like about it as compared to my very chunky Kenwood H/T. With only 2w of output power on the high setting it can be a tad marginal at times into our repeater on Mt Boulder so some care is needed not to constantly be in and out of the repeater. Around town it is just fine into our UHF repeater but again care if at longer distances.

The wide band coverage is also handy for some of the other frequencies we are fond of monitoring at times, however one down side is that it will also transmit on these frequencies, which you need to be aware of. The controls are all simple to use and allow for both simplex and duplex modes, along with scanning features. If programming manually the offset is not automatic and needs to be selected separately for each memory before storage, using the CD simplifies all of this. For what it's worth these radios come in different colours but I opted for the black version. The screen showing settings and frequencies is good for the frequencies but very hard to see other indicators as they are a bit small.

The battery life is excellent and very quick to charge with the supplied charger, also it can be charged using the USB cable supplied via the computer. One down side is the belt clip supplied which uses the existing attachment screw which I quickly found was not quite long enough to secure it and is easily pulled out stripping the thread. Simple answer is a slightly longer screw and they are readily available.

All in all a very handy bit of kit and at the price there is not a lot to complain about that I can see, so if you are in the market for a small versatile H/T this one is well worth considering. In closing You might want to consider the recently released Boefeng UV-5R which has a keypad at around \$10 more, however it is not so compact, but more on that next month.

**Bob Dixon VK4MR**

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Perhaps one or two other owners could let me know how they are going with their radio and I will include the comments in the next newsletter. John

## **PRM 8030 PHILLIPS VHF RADIOS**

Gympie Council recently donated a number of VHF radios to the GCE Group, these radios had been in use in their vehicle fleet for some years and had been replaced by updated equipment.

Radios have been made available to members of GCEG to purchase and be used as VHF radios on Rx only or to be modified to operate as a UHF radio.

Some members purchased the necessary software and hardware so that they could programme the radios to selected frequencies and modes of operation.

I was one who purchased the gear and programmed a number of the radios and this is a brief review of the programming I carried out and of the subsequent radio operation.

The first radio programmed was the one purchased for my own use to be used as a VHF Rx only radio.

On opening up the software it reads the EPROM information already in the radio, in my case just as the radio had been operated by Gympie Council except for the frequencies which had been deleted. From there it was a matter of selecting and inputting the frequencies I wanted and selecting the frequencies I wanted to scan. The radios accept up to 100 frequencies and it is possible to have up to 5 scan groups, each scan group containing up to 15 frequencies, a very versatile radio.

So far I have programmed another three radios one each for Bob VK4MR, one for Ed VK4ABX and one for Neil VK4FNFR. If anyone else who has purchased a radio and wants it programmed I would be happy to do that for them, just give me a call.

Anyone contemplating converting one of these radios to UHF should read this article and I think they will have second thoughts. Article can be found at [www26.brinkster.com/mitaux80/index.html](http://www26.brinkster.com/mitaux80/index.html) and you need to download the zip file PRM80mod. If you cannot find this file I could send you a copy of the document.

As someone said "Why would anyone go to all that trouble to get themselves a secondhand UHF radio"

At present I am erecting a discone antenna which I found on Ebay for \$89, it looks very well made and I will pass on information on how it performs in a later newsletter.

I now have a comprehensive list of RFS and Forestry frequencies, if you want a copy let me know by email.

John Smith

# Time flies when you're busy

16th December 2011

GYMPIE volunteer Tanya Easterby was one of nine people nominated from the Wide Bay Region to receive a special award to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers.

Federal Member for Wide Bay Warren Truss met with Tanya to present her award in Gympie's Memorial Park where a peace pole was dedicated to the volunteers of region 10 years ago.

It was an appropriate site as the Gympie region has a track record of acknowledging the significant and varied role that volunteers contribute to the inclusiveness and resilience of the community.

Cooloola Human Services Network believed Tanya was a worthy recipient and nominated her as a way of paying tribute to her many hours of contribution to a wide range of community projects and activities.

Ten years ago in Pomona at the Community House, Tanya was presented with the inaugural 2001 International Year of Volunteers Award from then Noosa Shire mayor Bob Abbott for her contribution to many hinterland projects in the area of Pomona, Federal, Carter's Ridge, Ridgewood and Cooran.

"I can't believe 10 years has flown by, volunteering is very much a part of my life and it just fits into my every day agenda," Tanya said.

"You can volunteer anywhere you go, and it is a sure way of getting to know your community and strengthens your sense of belonging.

"Volunteering for me has provided a vast amount of positive relationships and networks and it has been a blessing to know that fellow volunteers are at the ready in our region to lend a hand in the good times as well as disasters."

Time maybe running out this year, but Tanya has one or two projects up her sleeve to volunteer for next year to see the formation of the Gympie Volunteers Web Site and an inaugural Gympie Volunteers Meet and Greet event to enhance networking and resource sharing.



Tanya Easterby and Warren Truss