



# OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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ORARC's Forty-first Anniversary Year

Club Nets on VK2RPM  
146.700MHz  
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)  
Every Sunday at 0830  
Every Thursday at 1930

## November 2012

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534  
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### President's Report

It is with great sadness that we record the sudden untimely passing of WIA National President and IARU Region 3 Chairman Michael Owen VK3KI. He became a Silent Key on Saturday the 22nd of September 2012. Michael was an active driving force in all aspects of Amateur Radio over many decades and will be very sadly missed. Please see the tribute to Michael in this issue of Oxtales.



This issue of Oxtales is being produced by John Hansen VK2AYQ as is usual for November issues. Trevor Thatcher VK2TT and John Hansen VK2AYQ have been taking turns to produce alternate issues for a long time but Trevor has had to very reluctantly step down so John will produce the January and subsequent issues. The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club is indebted to Trevor for his tireless stewardship of our bimonthly newsletter for a great many years. I won't say how many years until I have had time to establish exactly when Trevor took on the task. It was many moons ago! Thank you again Trevor for a great job executed to the highest standards. Trevor has made it clear that he will continue to contribute to the club as much as he is able to in other ways.

(Continued on page 3)

### ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

**MIDDLE BROTHER**  
VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)  
O/P 146.700MHz -I/P 146.100MHz

VK2RPM 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123Hz)  
O/P 438.525MHz -I/P 433.525MHz

VK2RPM-1 (APRS Digipeater)  
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

**TELEGRAPH POINT**  
VK2RCN 2 metre (Voice)  
O/P 147.000 MHz - I/P 146.400 MHz

VK2RCN 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123 Hz)  
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz

VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)  
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

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## Down The Coax

Monthly meetings held in the S.E.S.  
Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 16 November 7.00 pm

Christmas Party and Monthly Meeting

Saturday 1 December

Settlement Point Park

From 9 am for set up.

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 21 December 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting

Saturday 5 January 2013 2 pm

## Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays		Thursdays	
(0830	November 2012	Local)	
VK2TT	Nov- 04	VK2ZHE	Nov - 01
VK2OA	Nov - 11	VK2EM	Nov - 08
VK2CHC	Nov - 18	VK2ATM	Nov- 15
VK2TT	Nov - 25	VK2ZHE	Nov - 22
		VK2ZHE	Nov - 29
	December 2012		2012
VK2TT	Dec- 02	VK2EM	Dec - 06
VK2TT	Dec - 09	VK2ATM	Dec - 13
VK2OA	Dec - 16	VK2ZHE	Dec - 20
VK2CHC	Dec - 23	VK2EM	Dec- 27
VK2TT	Dec - 30		
	January 2013		
VK2TT	Jan - 06	VK2ZHE	Jan - 03
VK2OA	Jan - 13	VK2EM	Jan - 10
VK2CHC	Jan - 20	VK2ATM	Jan - 17
VK2TT	Jan - 27	VK2ZHE	Jan - 24
		VK2ZHE	Jan - 31

Christmas Party December Saturday 1  
December Settlement Point Park from  
9am for setup.

*(from page 1)*

Now for a plea. If you are proficient in using Microsoft Publisher and are able to assist in producing Oxtales, please contact John Hansen VK2AYQ. He will be only too happy to explain what is involved. Your club needs you!

The inaugural Antenna Shootout on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October was a great success. It is certain to become an annual event. The antenna range in the park on Greenmeadows Drive in Port Macquarie worked very well on VHF and UHF. Thank you to John McLean VK2KC for organizing and running the event and providing the signal sources and masts. Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for providing the precision measuring instrument and for so accurately making the measurements.

The weather was perfect and the club's Communications caravan and awning provided welcome creature comforts such as shade and cold soft drinks plus of course tea and coffee and nibbles. Thank you to Col Terry VK2VQT for so expertly sizzling the sausages for lunch. They were delicious! The shootout results and a full report appears in this issue of Oxtales.

On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October club members set up VK2BOR in the club's communications caravan adjacent to the Port Macquarie Sea Scouts Hall for the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). JOTA was very popular and a total of 33 Scouts and Guides made on air contacts. This included a contingent which travelled from South West Rocks to participate. Unfortunately HF propagation was poor again this year with only very weak signals available so the contacts were made on VHF. There was a little disappointment among some of the participants who had hoped to speak to their counterparts in specific countries. Thank you to everyone who assisted. Special thanks go to John Hansen VK2AYQ and Alex Dorahy VK2FOAB for their time and patience in providing contacts when stations were scarce. Look for the words and pictures reporting on JOTA in this issue of Oxtales.

Thank you and apologies for the inconvenience to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI, David Pilley VK2AYD, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Rob Frost VK2CRF who put in a lot of effort in preparation and arrived at the Wauchope Scout Hall on the Saturday morning ready to set up a second JOTA station. The Wauchope Scouts and Guides were very apologetic that despite earlier arrangements being

made they were unable at the last minute to participate in JOTA this year so it was not possible to set up the station as planned. Assurances were made that they would be ready for JOTA next year.

On Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October a strong contingent of club members provided the safety communications for the Beechwood Classic Billy Cart Derby. This event is run down the longest course in Australia. It is about 5 kilometres long. This year the course record was broken. The speed of the leading carts is astounding! The safety communications is critical to the running of the derby. Thank you to Richard Court VK2CHC for so ably organizing so many volunteers at short notice to man all the check points, and to set up and operate the communications for the commentary vehicle, the finish and public address interface, the net control and the liaison with first aid. The event is covered in words and pictures in this issue of Oxtales.

Members and their families and friends are cordially invited to attend the club's 2012 Christmas Party under the covered area at Settlement Point Reserve on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2012. Settlement Point Reserve is the park just beyond the Settlement Point ferry ramp on the southern side of the Hastings River. To get to Settlement Point just head north along Park Street past Settlement City and follow the road all the way to the ferry. Set up time at the park is from 9am. Finishing time will be approximately 2pm. As usual the club will provide a free sausage sizzle lunch from the on-site barbeque. Please bring your own salads and other nibbles. A fruit salad and ice cream dessert will be provided free, as will tea and coffee together with soft drinks. The club communications caravan will be on site. Tea and coffee and soft drinks will be available from the caravan.

A short December club monthly general meeting will be held at Settlement Point Reserve in conjunction with the Christmas Party.

An special invitation is extended to members and visitors to bring along items for "show and tell" at the Christmas Party. It will be a great opportunity to demonstrate items that you have built for portable and emergency communications.

Yes, we will be holding a monthly general meeting in January. The first Saturday falls on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 so our meeting is a week after the New Year. Visitors will be particularly welcome at

this meeting. January 2013 Oxtales will be published at about the same time as the meeting. Please send your contributions to John Hansen VK2AYQ who is compiling this issue.

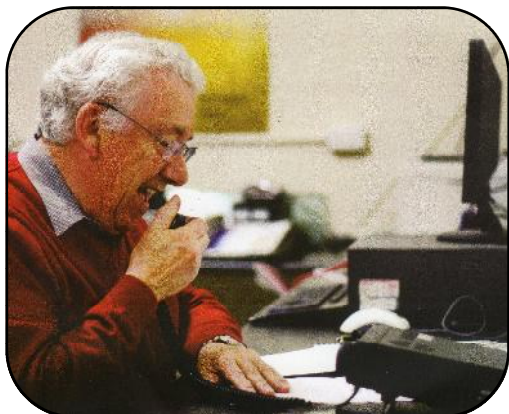
The club will be ordering copies of the 2013 Amateur Radio Callbook immediately when orders open which should be very soon. Please contact me as soon as possible to reserve your copy. We will only have a limited number and reserved copies will be distributed to members as soon as they arrive. My mobile phone number is 0427 947 921. Any spare copies will be available at the Christmas party on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2012, and at the Friday night get together on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, and also at the January monthly general meeting on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2013.

The club's 2013 calendar is being prepared. It is a very exacting task to fit in all the member photographs now that we have a record 69 members. John Hansen VK2AYQ is producing the calendar this year for the first time. All the previous calendars were the work of Trevor Thatcher VK2TT for which we have always been very appreciative but this was another task which Trevor has had to reluctantly step down from. It is hoped to have the calendar ready for purchase at the Christmas party on Saturday the 1st of December, and at subsequent meetings. The annual calendar has become highly sought after. It's a must-have.

I wish all members and their families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for 2013.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President

### **Vale Michael J. Owen VK3KI (sk)**



With extreme sadness and surprise we record the death of the WIA President, and IARU Region 3 Chairman, Michael Owen VK3KI at his home on

the afternoon of Saturday the 22nd of September. Our sincere condolences to Michael's family and friends.

Michael was influential over many decades through his membership of the WIA Victorian Division Council, and then through the ranks of administration both here and overseas. He was a director of the IARU Region 3 when it formed in 1968, a Federal WIA President 1969-1972, WIA Honorary Life Member, and on the Australian delegation at the ITU World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979 which delivered the so-called WARC bands.

Michael is mainly known by today's radio amateurs as leading the WIA in partnership with the late Chris Jones, from its federal structure to a national organisation.

In May 2004 the WIA adopted a new Constitution, changing the structure to one of direct membership, governed by a board of directors.

A few weeks later the administration (ACA released its findings on a major review of Amateur Radio in Australia.

Michael had carriage of the end to Morse code as an Australian licence requirement, reduction of licences to two, the Advanced and the Standard, plus introduction of the new Foundation Licence.

He achieved all this and more within in a decade on the domestic scene but Michael never took his eye off the international arena.

Amateur radio societies around the world have benefited from Michael's enthusiasm and experience. While away overseas he was the IARU Vice President for 10 years.

He participated in many IARU committees and was a member of the IARU Observer Team at a number of World Radiocommunications Conferences, in particular WRC03.

There he was responsible for Article 25. It included the abolition of mandatory Morse code, a freeing up of amateur radio involvement in

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emergency communications and third party traffic.

On his return home the WIA became highly regarded by government agencies and the ACMA.

He became the Chairman IARU Region 3 at Bangalore in 2005, and was preparing for the next regional meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, in November.

He was survived by his wife Nan, who accompanied him on many official functions, and his two daughters. A Funeral was held on Friday the 28th of September, at St Andrews Anglican Church, Brighton, Victoria.

Michael's legacy will live on through the formation of the WIA Foundation, a new venture for which Michael so strongly championed.

Phil Wait VK2ASD.

Reprinted from The WIA Website.

## Foundation Licence Training and Assessment Weekend

Report by Larry VK2CLL

Four new Foundation Licence call signs will soon be heard on the local repeaters. These new calls were the result of a Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend conducted by our club at the Port Macquarie SES headquarters on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. Ross VK2RR, Henry VK2ZHE and Larry VK2CLL instructed the candidates on the Saturday and ran assessments in the theory and practical components on the Sunday.



Henry instructs the candidates in station set-up

All candidates who attempted the assessments were successful. Congratulations to Paul Colledge, Alex Dorahy, David Hogan and Thomas Rae. Club member Ralph Downes attended the training sessions but elected to sit the theory exam at a later date.

Some of the candidates at the assessment weekend expressed a desire to upgrade to a Standard Licence. The club will conduct a course if we can get sufficient numbers to make one viable. Expressions of interest are invited from any Foundation calls who would like to upgrade to the Standard Licence and feel that classes would be helpful.



Ross VK2RR, Ralph, Alex, Larry VK2CLL, David, Paul and Thomas

## Why is the sky blue? Submitted by Lewis V<sub>k</sub>2AG

Most people think the sky is blue because it reflects the sea but actually, during the day the sky appears blue because of the way sunlight is scattered within the atmosphere.

Light from the sun is actually white. When it reaches our planet's atmosphere, some of it is absorbed by the gas molecules there. After a while, the molecules release the light in a different direction. The colour that is radiated is the same colour that was absorbed.

The different colours of light are affected differently. All colours can be absorbed, but the higher frequencies (blues) are absorbed more often than the lower frequencies (reds). This process is called Rayleigh scattering, named after Lord John Rayleigh, the English physicist who first described it. (continued page 6)

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The sky appears blue because of this Rayleigh scattering. Because more blue light is absorbed and then radiated in different directions by gases in the atmosphere, whichever way you look some blue light reaches you. Since you see blue light from everywhere overhead, the sky looks blue.

At sunset, light from the sun must travel further through the atmosphere before it reaches your eyes. Even more of the higher frequency blues and greens are scattered away as a result. Only the lower frequencies are left in the direct beam that reaches your eyes, which is why a setting sun looks yellow or red.

## **JOTA Saturday 20 October 2012**



*The Clubs Communications Caravan set up for operation outside the Sea Scouts Hall in Port Macquarie.*

The bands were not very open and contacts extremely hard to find on HF. The few contacts heard were deep in noise and consequently VHF was used to enable 33 Scouts and Guides to take part in the JOTA radio experience. Alex Dorahy VK2FOAB and John Hansen provided a pedestrian mobile and mobile stations for the scouts to contact.

The Guides and Scouts were from all ages and many engaged in amusing and interesting talks on their overs!



*Charles VK2KCE and Bill VK2ZCV operating VK2BOR.*



*Nick a Scout enjoying a contact on VHF*



*Henry VK2ZHE calling CQ JOTA looking for a contact.*



*The mighty URAL gets ready to be a mobile unit operated by John VK2AYQ.*

## The inaugural Antenna Shootout on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October

The story in pictures to illustrate the Presidents report.



*The communications caravan swings into action.*



*Rob VK2CRF, Col VK2VQT, Arthur VK2ATM, Ross VK2RR, Bill VK2ZCV, Bruce VK2HOT, Keith VK2FKJA, Paul VK2UPR, Keith Bayliss, Barry VK2FBRG, Henry VK2ZHE, Mark VK2FMGM, Alex VK2FOAB, (also helping were John VK2KHB, David VK2FRAB, Neil VK2EI, David VK2AYD, Craig VK2ZCM and Les VK5JL), (John VK2KHB and John VK2AYQ) not in photo .*



*Arthur VK2ATM and Rob VK2CRF Setting up the testing equipment.*

*Setting up of antennas for the "shoot out"*



*Paul VK2UPR, Col VK2VQT, Barry FBRG, Ross VK2RR, Bruce VK2HOT and John VK2KC.*



*John VK2KC prepares a selection of antennae to "shoot" across to the receiving test equipment.*



*Preparing to take up positions!*

*Mark VK2FMGM, Barry VK2FBRG, David VK2FRAB, Keith VK2FKJA, Keith Bayliss, Bruce VK2HOT, Paul VK2UPR and Alex VK2FOAB.*

**Results of the Antenna Shootout** compiled by Arthur VK2ATM

<b>ORARC Antenna Shootout</b>			
<b>Antenna</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Gain/Loss Dbm</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Reference Dipole	146.5 Mhz	0	Vertical Polarisation
Quarter Wave /w Gnd VK2KC		0	
Nagoya Dual Band VK2ATM		-4	
Nagoya Dual Band VK2RR		-0.5	
Andrews Diamond VK2KC		-0.5	
Andrews Diamond Mk2 VK2KC		-0.3	
Andrews NR77QR VK2ATM		-1	
Andrews Repaired VK2FKJA		-1	
Andrews VK2UPR		0	
RFI Half Wave VK2KC		-0.5	
SG7400 VK2KC		1	
SGM506		-2	
ST7800 VK2ZCV		0.5	
Scalar 5/8 VK2KC		-3.5	
Scalar 5/8 VK2RR		-5	
Scalar 5/8 VK2UPR		-1	
Scalar Mobile VK2UPR		-2	
Home Brew 5/8 VK2ATM		-0.5	
Vertical VK2UPR		0	
J Pole VK2VQT		-1	
Diamond X300 VK2RR		6	
Hy-Gain 8 El Yagi VK2RR		13	Single Yagi
Hy-Gain 2x8 El Yagi VK2RR		8	Original Configuration
Hy-Gain 2x8 El Yagi VK2RR		16	Correctly Phased Front /Back 10Dbm
	<b>436Mhz</b>		
1/2 Wave Dipole		0	Vertical Polarisation
1/4 Wave G/plane VK2KC		-3	
3/4 Wave G/plane VK2KC		-7	
Andrews Mk1 VK2KC		-39	Some results may be skewed due to
Andrews Mk2 VK2KC		3	Angle of radiation and off resonance
SG7400 VK2KC		1	at this frequency.
Nagoya Mac79e VK2RR		3	
X300 VK2RR		9	
Andrews VK2UPR		0	
NR77QR VK2ATM		2	
1/4 Wave Multi VK2ZHE		-6	
2Mtr J-Pole VK2VQT		-17	





Ross VK2RR , demonstrates how to go portable with two phased beams!



What would a "shoot out" be without a sausage sandwich?

Col VK2VQT and Paul VK2UPR checking out the BBQ for lunch.

As can be seen by the photographs the weather was perfect for the day and the oval at Greenmeadows provided enough distance to conduct meaningful test.

The "shoot out" was well attended by members and was voted to be a great practical and social event.



## 2013 Call Books

Looking for an ideal Christmas present for a Radio Amateur?

The WIA has the answer; what could be better than a 2013 Amateur Radio Call Book for \$25.

The call books are being printed in time for Christmas and should be available in mid- December.

Place your order with money with Henry and Santa will deliver!

## WIA Membership

*The WIA - A single, national organisation run by radio amateurs for radio amateurs.*

Membership includes 11 issues of Amateur Radio Magazine , QSL service, Contests, Awards and much more.

Join, benefit and contribute. Go to the following link to see the large range of benefits that WIA membership has for Radio Amateurs.

<http://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/aboutjoin/>

Membership Type	1 Year	5 Year
Full Member	\$80	\$380
Concession Member	\$70 ***	\$332 ***
Student Member	\$35 *	
Overseas Member	\$90	\$427
Additional Family Member	\$30 ***	

\* Student Member – Provide evidence of being a full time student.  
 \*\* Concession Member – Provide pension health benefits card number.  
 \*\*\* Family Member – Provide the Callsign of the primary family member residing at the same address

## Beechwood Classic Billy Cart Derby 21 October.



*Part of the communications team Lyle, VK2FCVI, Henry VK2ZHE, Larry VK2CLL, Arthur VK2ATM and John VK2FGAA*



*Bruce VK2HOT and Henry VK2ZHE*



Richard VK2CHC organised the deployment of radio operator for essential safety communications for the event. The faster carts would slide around some of the corners and the race was won in record time this year.



A really good turn out of club members for the event included, Lyle, VK2FCVI, Henry VK2ZHE, Larry VK2CLL, Arthur VK2ATM, John VK2FGAA, Bruce VK2HOT, Charles VKI2KCE, Lewis VK2AG, Neil VK2EI, Craig VK2ZCM, David VK2AYD, Mark VK2FMGM, Ross VK2RR, Rob VK2CRF, Col VK2VQT, Stuart VK2KSM, David VK2FRAB, Alex VK2FOAB, Richard VK2CHC and John VK2AYQ.



*Billy carts came in all configurations and sizes.*

*On the straights some carts could go up to 100 kph*



**Who can name the current VK member in this 1950 school photograph?**

Photo sent in by Bill VK2ZCV.

**Antennas and the Planning Laws**

From VK2ZRH Roger Harrison

New South Wales amateurs will recall that, since October last year, the NSW Government has been conducting comprehensive reform to the planning laws. As this is the first review of the State's planning laws for more than 30 years, **a golden opportunity** was presented to get some consideration for Amateur Radio antenna masts.

The WIA called for NSW amateurs to make submissions to the planning review last year. So many amateurs made submissions that the NSW planning department commented about it on their website in November last year. :)

Draft legislation has recently been posted on the NSW Planning website and the department has invited all interested parties to comment.

**Disappointingly, amateur antenna masts have not been included in the draft. :(**

I spoke to a policy officer in the department and asked – what do radio amateurs have to do to get

some consideration on this issue ? The answer – make more submissions !

**NSW amateurs, it's time to express your disappointment and send submissions again. You have until close of business on Friday 9th November.**

Get cracking !

Detailed directions are on the WIA website here:

<http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2012/20121028-1/index.php>

73, Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

Thank you to Ross VK2RR for creating templates and instructions for the submissions to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and IPART. All ORAC members should have received a copy by email. Please ensure your submission is in by the 9 November deadline.

