



OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club e-mail address: vk2bor@orarc.org

Club Website: www.orarc.org

ORARC's Forty-Third Anniversary Year

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

January 2014

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534
VICE PRES: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL 6587 1155
TREASURER: Keith Anderson VKFKJA 6586 3988
SECRETARY: David Hogan VK2FRAB 6582 3006

President's Report

January 2014
President's Report

Welcome to 2014. I trust everyone has had a safe and enjoyable festive season.



The ORARC 2014 Field Day takes place on Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of June during the Queen's Birthday Weekend. The Field Day venue will again be the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club building in Matthew Flinders Drive at Lighthouse Beach. Last year's Field Day was a great success and this year's event will be even bigger and better.

Planning for the 2014 Field Day will commence this month so please consider offering your assistance. The committee will be very pleased to hear from you.

The club's communications caravan was on display at the club's Christmas barbeque at the Settlement Point reserve on Saturday the 7th of December 2013. The Christmas celebration was particularly enjoyable with a good attendance and perfect weather. It was a great opportunity to relax and socialize with many XYLs and YLs in attendance. It was nice to see Verena Sandford there. Thank you to Lewis Green VK2AG and Pam for bringing Verena along. She thoroughly enjoyed the day.

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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

Ross Hull Memorial Contest 1 to 31 January 2014

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

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 January 2014 2:00 pm

Summer VHF-UHF Field Day Saturday 11
Sunday 12 January 2014

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 January 2014 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 February 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 February 2014 7.00 pm

Wyong Field Day Wyong Racecourse
Sunday 23 February 2014

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 March 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 March 2014 7.00 pm

John Moyle Memorial Field Day Saturday 15
Sunday 16 March 2014

e-mail Directory

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

January 2014

VK2CHC	Jan - 05	VK2PPP	Jan - 02
VK2TT	Jan - 12	VK2EM	Jan - 09
VK2CHC	Jan - 19	VK2ZHE	Jan - 16
VK2TT	Jan - 26	VK2PPP	Jan - 23
		VK2EM	Jan - 30

February 2014

VK2CHC	Feb - 02	VK2ZHE	Feb - 06
VK2TT	Feb - 09	VK2PPP	Feb - 13
VK2CHC	Feb - 16	VK2EM	Feb - 20
VK2TT	Feb - 23	VK2ZHE	Feb - 27

March 2014

VK2CHC	Mar - 02	VK2PPP	Mar - 06
VK2TT	Mar - 09	VK2EM	Mar - 13
VK2CHC	Mar - 16	VK2ZHE	Mar - 20
VK2TT	Mar - 23	VK2PPP	Mar - 27
VK2CHC	Mar - 30		

e-mail Directory (cont'd)

(From page 1)

Tim Mills VK2ZTM came up from Sydney to join in the festivities. Thank you to everyone who participated in the festivities, and a special thank you to the many people who assisted with the running of the day. Thank you to everyone who took photos and provided them to the editor for inclusion in the report in this issue of "Oxtales". Richard Court VK2CHC expertly barbequed the sausages and onions. As usual lunch was followed by the now traditional fruit salad and ice cream. The kettle in the caravan worked overtime boiling water for tea and coffee. The caravan fridge had to be restocked several times to keep with the demand for soft drinks. Despite the seabreeze blowing across the river it was a warm day in the sun.

This year the club undertook its first Bunnings barbeque at the Bunnings Warehouse on Lake Road, Port Macquarie. The date was easy to remember as it was on Sunday the 8th of December, the day after the club's Christmas barbeque. Thank you to hard working Secretary David Hogan VK2FRAB for firstly applying to Bunnings, and then for organizing the event. There was a lot of paperwork and liaison in getting ORARC accepted. This culminated in ORARC being allocated a date. In the lead up to Christmas, Sunday the 8th of December was expected to be a busy trading day for Bunnings, despite the Touch Football finals being held on the same weekend. David, assisted by Treasurer Keith Anderson VK2FRAB, did a great job in procuring the many supplies for the event. Estimating quantities requires considerable clairvoyance, given the many variables. Unlike many groups which we had observed prior to our barbeque, we didn't lose any sales due to running out of anything. There were very small quantities remaining of most items. Nothing was wasted. The 4 kilograms of sausages have been frozen for use at the 2014 John Moyle Field Day in March. The remaining soft drinks all have use by dates beyond the June 2014 Field Day so will become Field Day stock.

Please see the excellent Bunnings Barbeque report which David has included in this issue of Oxtales. Thanks to a sterling effort by all those who assisted, we did make a very worthwhile clear profit of some \$345. Yes, it would have been nice to have made more, but there is always some unpredictability in these sorts of undertakings. The weather was fine and sunny which helped with the drink sales, but obviously the Touch Football event detracted from the numbers shopping on the day. The important thing is that ORARC made a very good impression with Bunnings in running a first class barbeque, and even

more importantly, customers were very happy with the service and the product. I'm sure we will be invited back! The detailed planning which David did in setting up an efficient and hygienic system paid handsome dividends.

The Bunnings Barbeque was a long day. Many of us put in up to 11 hours by the time the barbeque was set up, operated, then cleaned and put away. Secretary David Hogan VK2FRAB, Treasurer Keith Anderson VK2FKJA and President Henry Lundell VK2ZHE were well and truly worn out after continually fulfilling various roles throughout the day. Special thanks must go to Joanne Hogan for so kindly doing the second double shift as barbeque chef in the afternoon after Richard Court VK2CHC did the morning double shift. Richard did say that after barbequing the sausages at the Christmas Party the previous day as well, he had seen enough sausages for a while! Thank you to Distant Member Tim Mills VK2ZTM who did a double shift as cashier. Tim came to Port Macquarie from Sydney for the weekend to attend the Saturday Christmas Party and found himself on the Sunday Bunnings roster. Thank you to Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Charles Edmondson VK2KCE, Lyle Smith VK2FCVI, Dennis Meade, Bob Small, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, John Bailey VK2KHB, Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV and John Hansen VK2AYQ. Next time we do a Bunnings Barbeque we will need a few more volunteers please, to share the workload so that everyone will only have to do a single shift.



The Beechwood Classic billycart derby took place on Sunday the 17th of November 2013, a month later than usual this year. As usual ORARC provided the safety

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communications. Thank you to Richard VK2CHC for co-ordinating the event, and thank you to everyone who assisted on the day. Paul Colledge VK2PPP had the white knuckle ride down the mountain in the commentary vehicle this year. Lyle Smith VK2FCVI did the interface to the public address system at the finish. Those who manned the checkpoints included Richard VK2CHC, Stuart VK2KSM, David VK2FRAB, Mark VK2FMGM, Bill VK2ZCV, Keith VK2FKJA, Larry VK2CLL, Arthur VK2ATM, Charles VK2KCE, Ross VK2NUD, Rob VK2CRF and Henry VK2ZHE.



Suspension bottoming out sending up dust and smoke.



Part of the checkpoint team with the rapid response mobile vehicle.



Different approaches to cart building

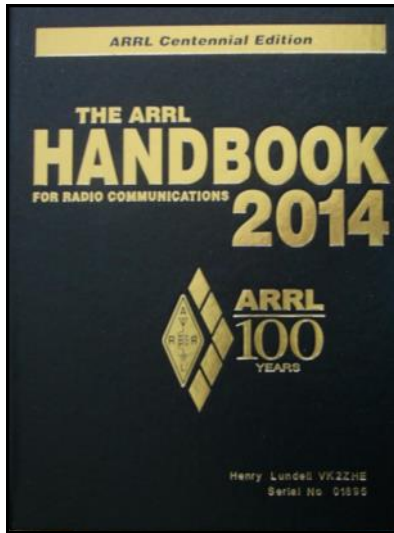


Visiting Blue Mountains club member Erik Houseman VK2EJH was co-opted to man one of the checkpoints. Erik lives in Sydney but his parents reside in Wauchope. He was visiting them for the weekend and kindly offered to assist. He also took some excellent photographs. Some of them are included in the report in this issue.

As most members will be aware, the Middle Brother VK2RPM 146.7 MHz two metre repeater is still suffering the effects of an intermodulation product on 146.1 MHz which significantly reduces the sensitivity of the repeater receiver. A considerable amount of effort has gone into attempting to find the cause of this problem. The interference can be clearly seen on a spectrum analyser at the site. It requires the presence of a 146.7 MHz signal in order to generate the interfering signal which comprises digital noise which spreads across the passband of the 146.1 MHz receiver. The performance of the 2 metre repeater duplexer has been checked and it still meets its original specifications. It is hoped that a cure can be found early in 2014. In the meantime, the VK2RPM 438.525 MHz 70 centimetre repeater at the site is still performing well, and provides excellent coverage. As an alternative, the Telegraph Point VK2RCN 147.0 MHz two metre and 438.425 MHz UHF repeaters provide excellent coverage in the Port Macquarie and Wauchope areas.

In 2010 the Wireless Institute of Australia celebrated its centenary. Last year it was the turn of the Radio Society of Great Britain to

celebrate 100 years. This year, 2014, it is the turn of the ARRL, the American Radio Relay League to celebrate its centennial. Amongst the centennial momentos offered is a personalized 2014 centennial edition of the ARRL Handbook. They had to be ordered a couple of months ago. Henry Lundell VK2ZHE and Paul Colledge VK2PPP have received their copies. The handbook is in hardback and the cover which includes the owner's name and callsign is embossed in gold leaf. There is a photo in this issue of the VK2ZHE personalized handbook.



Henry's VK2ZHE personalized 2014 ARRL Handbook

The long awaited changes to the local government regulations regarding Amateur Radio Towers and masts come into effect on the 22nd of February 2014. See the report in this edition of Oxtales. The full text is available on the WIA website at <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2013/20131221-1/index.php>

The club's 2014 calendar is the most popular yet with photos of almost all of our 80 members. Preparation of this year's calendar represents a lot of detailed work on the part of Trevor Thatcher VK2TT. The annual calendar has become highly sought after for its member picture gallery and club information. Copies are still available and may be purchased at the January Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 4th of January, the Friday night get together on the 17th of January, and at the February Monthly General meeting on Saturday the 1st of February 2014, and at subsequent meetings. If you are still after a 2014 callbook, please be quick. There are only two left.

The Mid North Coast Amateur Radio Group (MNCARG) has advised that there will not be a Radio Expo in Coffs Harbour in January 2014.

The Central Coast Field Day at Wyong Racecourse is on Sunday the 23rd of February 2014. The gates and the Flea Market open at 6:30am and the traders open at 9:00am. For more information see <http://www.ccarc.org.au/wp/ccarc-field-day/>

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2014 and welcome to all new members who have boosted our membership to a record of 85.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

Bunnings BBQ fund raiser

Report by David VK2FRAB



John VK2KHB, Henry VK2ZHE, Keith VK2FKJA and Tim VK2ZTM part of the Oxley BBQ team.

Sunday 8 December 2013, a beautiful sunny morning at seven o'clock, as the Set-up Team of Arthur, John, Richard and David arrives at Bunnings for ORARC's first attempt at the Sausage Sizzle. From the bowels of the Tradie Section came the monster BBQ unit, the Gazebo cart and the wheelie sign.

A Bunning's employee realizes this is the Club's first time and organises the erection of the Gazebo and the installation of the BBQ unit. Rooster Henry arrives on the scene and directs Arthur to do his artistic thing on the blackboards, the placing of esky-chests, table, supplies of sausages, drinks and bread and at eight o'clock,
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(continued from page 5)

as he casually lines up the condiments on the counter, declares; "Let's fire up the barbie and put a smile on the Treasurer's face."

Keith, the new Rooster for the Breakfast Shift, arrives on the scene and explains the audit trail system involving ticket books for sausage sandwiches and drinks and casts a quick calculating eye over the cash float. Richard the Cook has three-quarters of the hotplate sizzling with sausages and the other quarter covered in steaming onion, his BBQ tools laid out over the stainless steel bench in a way that would make any surgeon envious. Mark the Sandwich Maker wraps two pieces of bread in a napkin with one hand while cutting raw sausages free from their bundles with the other. Charles rehearses his role as Server, and practises putting a sandwich on the small bread board and moving it from the cook to the counter while mustering congenial tones to entice even the most hard-nosed skinflint to buy two sausage sandwiches and David the Cashier positions his cash tin and receipt books and programs his brain with the scenario that if a customer buys a sausage sandwich and a can of Coke that's \$4 and if the customer gives \$10 that means \$6 change. The first customer fronts up and the Breakfast Shift feels a sense of pride at the first successful sale.



David VK2FRAB, Charles VK2KCE, Keith VK2FKJA and customer.

Morning Tea Shift starts with change over of Staff. Richard stays on board as Cook, Keith takes over as Sandwich Maker, Lyle puts on the charm as Server and Tim steps in as Cashier. Systems are explained and it's not long before the new staff have made the role their own. Sizzling sausages and the pallet of cow manure nearby fill the air with a pungent smell that for some reason inspires customers to cover their sausages in BBQ sauce and honey mustard.

Sales are happening as the Lunch Shift moves in. The new Cook Joanne, a ring in, catches on quickly to Richard's method, Keith moves to the new role as Server, Tim stays on as Cashier and David returns to the Gazebo as Sandwich Maker. The rush is on. Multi-orders are coming in. The hungry crowd is fed and the thirsty find relief in a cold can.

By the time the Afternoon Shift takes over, sales have tapered off. Joanne stays on as Cook, Larry counts on doing a good job as Cashier, Bob fits into the Server role like a glove and Dennis stacks up as the sandwich maker. Customers dribble in while staff engage in illustrious conversations that solve the world's economic, political and religious problems. As four o'clock nears everyone begins to pack up but Rooster Henry is back on the scene and declares, "Another fifteen minutes so we can capitalise on the last minute rush."



Larry, VK2CLL, Dennis, Joanne and Bob VK2FBOB prepare for clean up at days end.

Rooster Henry turns into Slave Driver Henry as he whips the Clean-up Team into action. He wants to leave a good impression with Bunnings and calls on Bob, Dennis, John and Larry to do that extra bit. Never before has the BBQ unit been left so spotless, and never before has the concrete floor looked so clean. Meanwhile the Treasurer is counting the takings and almost cracks a smile when he notes down the four figure dollar sum on the Cash Control Sheet.

At six-thirty in the evening the President stood by his vehicle and looked over into the corner where ORARC members had spent the day working as a team with great rapport, charming

the public while delivering tasty sausage sandwiches and cold drinks. He reflected on the effort involved on the day, even on the auxiliary support from Michael, Bill, Lewis and John. He felt proud.

Thanks to David VK2FRAB for the report of the day's activities.

Foundation Class Assessments

There were 4 candidates for the Foundation Licence Assessments carried out on Sunday the 10th of November. All were successful. Congratulations to Jenny Macnaughton who has been issued VK2FJEN. Congratulations to Bob Small who is awaiting VK2FBOB, to Chris Keena who is awaiting VK2FCCK and to Dennis Meade who is awaiting ACMA to issue him with the next available callsign. It was hoped that Bob, Chris and Dennis would also have their callsigns before Christmas but their applications were caught up in the end of the year rush. They are still checking the ACMA web site each day for their New Year presents!



Successful applicants Dennis, Bob, Chris and Jenny with Assessors, Larry and Ross in the background.

Thank you to Assessors Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Ross Boyd VK2RR for running the Foundation Licence training and assessments over the weekend of the 9th and 10th of November 2013.

HenryVK2ZHE

Advanced Licences Report by Henry VK2ZHE

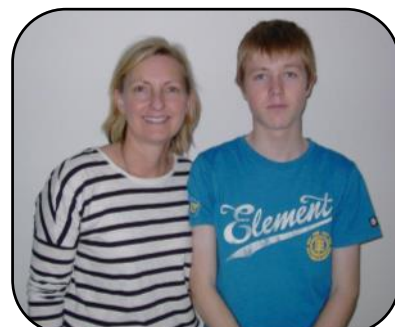
Congratulations to Thomas VKPWN who is waiting for his Advanced callsign VK2ATR to be issued and to Paul VK2PPP who is waiting for his Advanced callsign VK2ICQ to be issued. Thomas and Paul passed their Advanced Licence assessments on the 30 November 2013. I was hoping their Advanced licences would be issued by the time Oxtales was published but they got caught up in the Christmas bottleneck. Hopefully they'll be issued by AD-MA early this coming week



Assessor Ross VK2RR, Thomas VKL2PWN and Assessor Larry VK2CLL



Assessor Ross VK2RR, Paul VKL2PP and Assessor Larry VK2CLL



Thomas VK2ATR sharing the moment of passing the Advanced Licence assessment with very proud mother.

Working Bee

Telegraph Point



VK2CRN antennas

After a site visit to the VK2RCN Telegraph Point repeater site on Monday the 28th of October 2013, a working bee was held on Thursday the 7th of November 2013. Those who attended the Monday site visit were David Hogan VK2FRAB, Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV, Keith Anderson VK2FKJA and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.



VK2RCN site visit prior to working bee

The working bee was called to cut the grass at the site, and to replace the building's existing non standard rack frame with a rack cabinet frame. Those at the working bee were Richard Court VK2CHC, Dennis Meade and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. Richard brought his 4 stroke brushcutter which wore out both Richard and Dennis by the time the long grass was cut. A tremendous effort.

The site is now tidy for the summer, and the new rack

New rack to be installed



cabinet will facilitate the future installation of the planned VK2RCN 6 metre repeater.



Richard VK2CHC with trusty brushcutter



Morning tea

Report by
HenryVK2ZHE

Working Bee

Middle Brother



VK2RPM Diamond X-50 dual band vertical antenna on the link tower.



A view of the repeater site coverage from Middle Brother

On Tuesday the 3rd of December 2013 on a perfect clear sunny day, David Hogan VK2FRAB, Keith Anderson VK2FKJA, Ross Davidson VK2NUD and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE went to Middle Brother Mountain for a working bee at the VK2RPM repeater site.

As well as the usual site maintenance, detailed tests and measurements were conducted in an attempt to identify the source of the interference which has been reducing the sensitivity of the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater. Using a spectrum analyser the interference could be clearly seen on 146.1 MHz as a block of noise which was only present while a carrier was being radiated on 146.7 MHz. This could be replicated on the ground using a hand held transceiver transmitting on its own antenna, completely independent of the repeater antenna.



Repeater Duplexer

The repeater duplexer was tested and found to be still meeting its original test figures. No faulty or intermittent connections were found despite rigorous checking. The repeater transmitter still delivered 50 Watts. The antenna and VHF/UHF diplexer tested OK. With the repeater transmitter terminated into a dummy load, the repeater receiver was able to clearly receive distant weak signals without interference. However, the interference reappeared as soon as the repeater transmitter was put back to air via the duplexer.

A second working bee will be held early in the new year to conduct some additional tests. Much work has been done in analysing the results of the tests conducted on the 3rd of December 2013.

Thank you to David VK2FRAB for taking the photographs.

Henry
VK2ZHE

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club 2013 Christmas Party



The Christmas Party at the Settlement Point Reserve provided an opportunity for all of our members from the youngest Thomas VK2ATR to those of considerable experience Trevor VK2TT, Tim VK2ZTM and John VK2KHB to meet with their family and friends to enjoy a time of fellowship.



The BBQ was in full swing with Master Chef Richard VK2CHC and helpers cooking up a storm



Larry VK2CLL, Sue Boyd and Ross VK2RR, Thomas VK2ATR and mother.

Joanne Hogan and David VK2FRAB offer advice to Richard VK2CHC as the cooking gets underway.



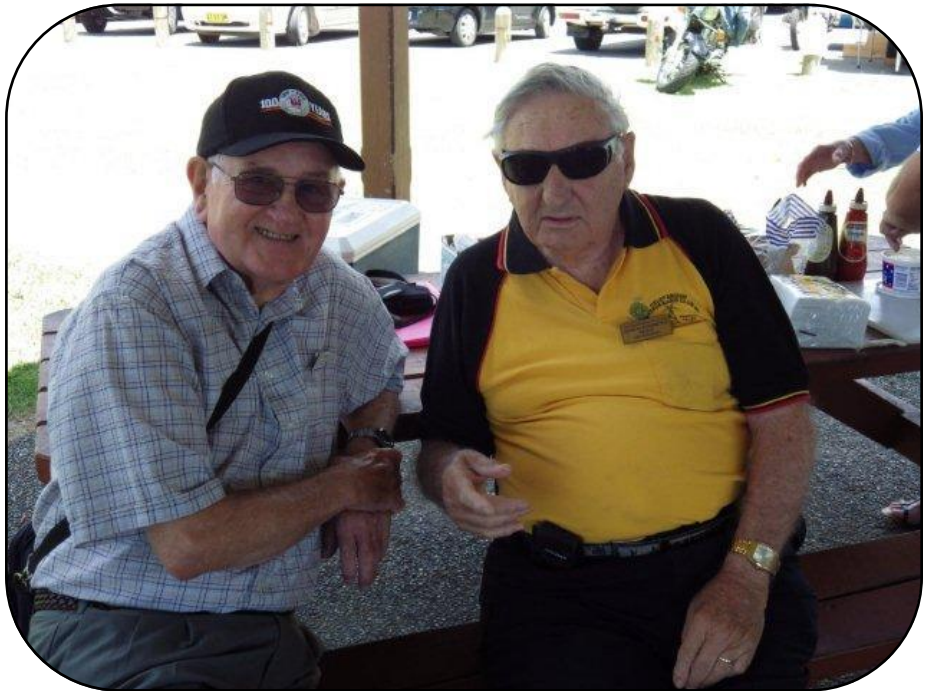
Many hands make light work. Coralie Dawson and Verna Sandfort with Mark VK2FMGM prepare the bread ready for the sausages.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club 2013 Christmas Party

The party provided a time to reflect on the year's activities and to show new ideas for the future.



John VK2KC shows the device that he has machined to enable mobile whips to be used as a dipole



Trevor VK2TT and Charles VK2KCE catch up on the years activities.



Verna Sandford and David VK2FRAB check the name tags and the list of members attending. While Mark VK2 and Bob VK2FBOB talk about transport options.



Jim VK2VIV, Arthur VK2ATM, Stuart VK2KSM, John VK2KC above right.

Dennis and Sue with Rob VK2CRF



Ross VK2NUD Norah, Arthur VK2ATM, Stuart VK2KSM, John VK2KC and Jim VK2VIV

Good friends, conversations sharing food and stories this is the spirit of the club's Christmas Party.



Blast from the Past

This month's Blast from the Past is taken from the October 1991 edition of Oxtales. The following snippets I think make interesting reading. The club President was Charles with a callsign of VK2FSH (now VK2KCE), Vice President Arthur VK2ATM, secretary Trevor VK2TT. The committee included Bill VK2ZCV, Paul Webster VK2BZC. Repeater Committee included Arthur VK2ATM and Bill VK2ZCV. The club trustee and training officer was Larry VK2CLL.

The list of new members included David VK2AYD and Barry VK2FBRG (who didn't have a callsign then).

The above members are still very active in club 22 years later and add to the depth of experience within our membership ranks.

The club net was on HF at 3.597.5 MHz on a Wednesday evening at 20.00 hours local. The Christmas Party was held at Pilot Beach and a highlight of the month was a club auction held at Bill VK2ZCV's place. I quote from the news letter "... *We have to have the Auction here as there is no way we can move Bill's garage...*"

Exciting new battery technology which was expected to be used in hand held transceivers was the nickel metal hydride units as used in the Toshiba 2200SX computer.

Who is this member

The picture below is of a current member of our club. Can you guess who?



Request for Help

The following is a request from Mike Goode VK3BDL/VK3QK. He has a photograph that his grandfather gave him of a car used at a field day somewhere. Mike is trying to date the field day and thinks that the key might be on first finding the age of the car.

Mike can see some headphones and a microphone and would appreciate any suggestions as to the era or make of the car and even if people have photographs of the field day event. Mike's contact details follow

Mike Goode VK3BDL/VK3QK
42 Fourth St
Black Rock VIC 3193
AUSTRALIA

041 222 1649

Unidentified car at an unidentified field day



50-52 MHz and closure of the last Ch.0 station

The last Channel 0 TV station the NEN0 translator at Tamworth - is scheduled to close this month.

Following that event, limits on 6m access in the Amateur LCD for eastern states advanced licensees should become inoperative.

The WIA has sought clarification from the AC-MA. www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2013/20131207-2/index.php

Posted in the interests of spreading the news.
73, Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

Amateur Radio Antennas and Masts in NSW

Date : 21 / 12 / 2013

Author : Roger Harrison - VK2ZRH

From 22 February 2014, amateurs across NSW will have the freedom to put up masts, antennas and dishes unfettered by development restrictions previously imposed by local councils, which varied widely across the state.

On 19 December 2013, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, announced a range of changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) on exempt and complying development, which enables minor developments that meet set standards to proceed without having to get development approvals passed through local councils.

The changes of interest to amateurs concerns aerials, antennas and communication dishes that can be put up as 'exempt development'. Highlights are summarized below.

If your property is not subject to certain environmental or heritage restrictions, you can erect up to three aerials, antennae and communication dishes on a lot.

A ground mounted aerial or antenna can be attached to a mast that is no more than 10m in height and located at least 5m from a side or rear boundary.

Any mast must be no more than 100mm in diameter, or an open lattice frame 500mm in diameter.

Any ground mounted aerial or antenna, including masts, must be located at the rear of the lot, except if in a rural zone or R5 residential zone.

Certain requirements of the Building Code of Australia may apply. Antennas, dishes and masts “. . . must be structurally adequate and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, if applicable.”

Amateurs wanting to erect masts and antennas outside the parameters of exempt development will be able to proceed through a streamlined, low-cost 'complying development' process, which we understand will become available later.

More details on the announcement are on the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure website at:

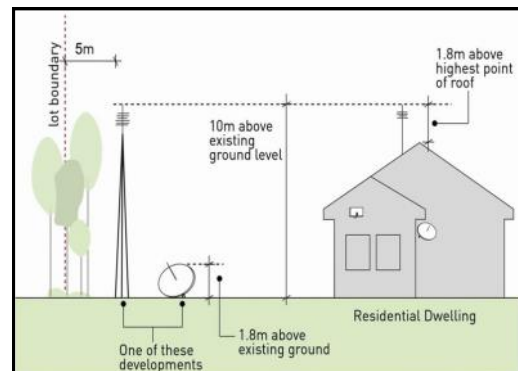
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/exemptandcomplying.

The Department has published a series of Information Sheets on exempt development, which are online at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/exemptdevelopment.

The Information Sheet of interest is “2.1 Aerials, antennae and communications dishes”, which you can download from this [Link](#)

Unfortunately, the Information Sheet appears in places to be open to ambiguous interpretation (and that includes the diagram reproduced here). However, we expect to sort this out in time.

Once again, I must congratulate and thank everyone individual amateurs and radio clubs alike who went to the effort of making a submission during all the phases of the NSW Planning System Review over the past few years and also writing to your local members last year. All the effort has paid off.



VK1 Beacon

A message regarding the recently commissioned VK1 beacon.

This transmitter is located in the northern Canberra suburb of Evatt, which has an excellent outlook toward VK3 and I imagine quite a decent take-off toward Sydney.

Running 10 watts, shortly with more antenna gain, ie reduction of the lobe thickness and is a good signal at the south coast, so I imagine it will make the trip to the better equipped Sydney and Melbourne stations, from time to time.

(Continued on page 14)

(from page 13)

Reception reports would be appreciated by the local club, Alan, VK1WX and Rob, VK1KW are the movers and shakers behind the project and with continued encouragement, a 432 MHz device will be on air shortly.

A Story of Survival

The following story whilst not about radio was sent in by John VK2KC. It is a remarkable story of survival which many of our members being ex Defence Force personnel may appreciate



In 1943 a mid-air collision on February 1, 1943, between a B-17 and a German fighter over the Tunis dock area, became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of WW II. An enemy fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group formation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot, then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a Fortress named "All American", piloted by Lt. Kendrick R. Bragg, of the 414th Bomb Squadron. When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B-17. The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and left elevator were completely torn away. The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged, the fuselage had been cut almost completely through connected only at two small parts of the frame, and the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged. There was also a hole in the top that was over 16 feet long and 4 feet wide at its widest; the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner's turret.

Although the tail actually bounced and swayed in the wind and twisted when the plane turned and all the control cables were severed, except one single elevator cable still worked, and the aircraft miraculously still flew!

The tail gunner was trapped because there was no floor connecting the tail to the rest of the plane. The

waist and tail gunners used parts of the German fighter and their own parachute harnesses in an attempt to keep the tail from ripping off and the two sides of the fuselage from splitting apart.

While the crew was trying to keep the bomber from coming apart, the pilot continued on his-bomb run and released his bombs over the target.

When the bomb bay doors were opened, the wind turbulence was so great that it blew one of the waist gunners into the broken tail section. It took several minutes and four crew members to pass him ropes from parachutes and haul him back into the forward part of the plane. When they tried to do the same for the tail gunner, the tail began flapping so hard that it began to break off. The weight of the gunner was adding some stability to the tail section, so he went back to his position. The turn back toward England had to be very slow to keep the tail from twisting off. They actually covered almost 70 miles to make the turn home. The bomber was so badly damaged that it was losing altitude and speed and was soon alone in the sky.

For a brief time, two more Me-109 German fighters attacked the All American. Despite the extensive damage, all of the machine gunners were able to respond to these attacks and soon drove off the fighters. The two waist gunners stood up with their heads sticking out through the hole in the top of the fuselage to aim and fire their machine guns. The tail gunner had to shoot in short bursts because the recoil was actually causing the plane to turn.

Allied P-51 fighters intercepted the All American as it crossed over the Channel and took one of the pictures shown. They also radioed to the base describing that the appendage was waving like a fish tail and that the plane would not make it and to send out boats to rescue the crew when they bailed out.

The fighters stayed with the Fortress, taking hand signals from Lt. Bragg and relaying them to the base. Lt. Bragg signaled that 5 parachutes and the spare had been "used" so five of the crew could not bail out. He made the decision that if they could not bail out safely, then he would stay with the plane to land it.

(Continued page 15)

Two and a half hours after being hit, the aircraft made its final turn to line up with the runway while it was still over 40 miles away. It descended into an emergency landing and a normal roll-out on its landing gear.

When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waved off because not a single member of the crew had been injured.

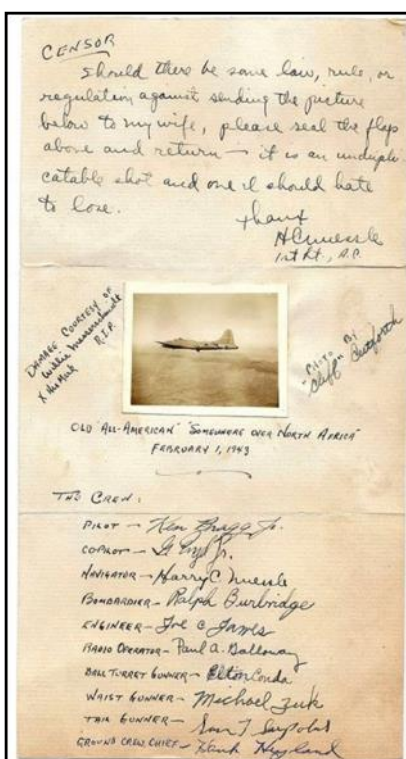
No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition.

The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down a ladder, at which time the entire rear section of the aircraft collapsed.



This old bird had done its job and brought the entire crew home uninjured.

The following is a note to the censor from a crew member of the Allied P-51 fighters who took the picture.



...Censor. Should there be some law, rule or regulation against sending the picture below to my wife, please seal the flap above and return - it is an unduplicatable shot and one that I should hate to lose ...

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