



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: <http://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

July 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

We are sad to record three local Silent Keys in this issue of Oxtales. Vale esteemed long time ORARC members David Tarrant VK2TBC and Life Member Allan Madigan VK2OA, and well known Taree radio announcer and active radio amateur, Craig Huth VK2ISS / VK4SSB. Their Silent Keys appear in this issue.



This is my last President's Report. The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will elect a new President at the 2014 Annual General Meeting next month on the 2nd of August. After five consecutive terms, I am not standing for re-election. In the absence of any other nominations for President at the last two AGMs, I was only too happy to carry on for two more terms beyond the three set out in the Constitution. However, the time has come to move on. It is with great pride that I am able to hand over the Presidency with the club in such good health.

As one of the founding members of the club I was very proud to be elected President at the 2009 AGM, and to have been re-elected in each of the subsequent years. I have worked very hard for the club in those five years. I am very pleased that my personal circumstances during that time have enabled me to do this for the club and the hobby
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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

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

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 July 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 July 2014 7.00 pm

Annual General Meeting
Saturday 2 August 2014 2:00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 August 2014 after AGM

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 August 2014 7.00 pm

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
16&17 August 2014
VK2BOR at Tacking Point Lighthouse Saturday 16th
August 2014

Remembrance Day Contest
Sat 16 August 2014, 0300 UTC to 0259 UTC Sun 17
August 2014
VK2BOR at Lighthouse Saturday afternoon,

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 September 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 September 2014 7.00 pm

The 57th Jamboree On The Air will take place on 18
and 19 October 2014.

email Directory

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

July 2014

VK2CHC	Jul - 06	VK2ZHE	Jul - 03
VK2TT	Jul - 13	VK2ICQ	Jul - 10
VK2CHC	Jul - 20	VK2EM	Jul - 17
VK2TT	Jul - 27	VK2ZHE	Jul - 24
		VK2ICQ	Jul - 31

August 2014

VK2CHC	Aug - 03	VK2EM	Aug - 07
VK2TT	Aug - 10	VK2ZHE	Aug - 14
VK2CHC	Aug - 17	VK2ICQ	Aug - 21
VK2TT	Aug - 24	VK2EM	Aug - 28
VK2CHC	Aug - 31		

September 2014

VK2TT	Sep - 07	VK2ZHE	Sep - 04
VK2CHC	Sep - 14	VK2ICQ	Sep - 11
VK2TT	Sep - 21	VK2EM	Sep - 18
VK2CHC	Sep - 28	VK2ZHE	Sep - 25

email Directory (cont'd)

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that both mean so much to me. The club has achieved a lot in that time through the dedicated teamwork of the Committee and through the active support of the membership. The club membership has more than doubled from 38 members in 2009 to 83 in 2014. The key to this very impressive growth in membership lies in the almost 100% renewal each year, and a steady stream of new memberships. I am privileged to know every member personally, and have regular contact with most members. I greatly value this camaraderie.

The club's financial position has greatly improved through careful management following the frugal times resulting from the impact of the effects of the Global Financial Crisis on our invested funds. The club is now in a sound financial situation with a regularly reviewed budget, and reserve funds on hand. This is critical to ensure that the club remains viable in the long term. All of our fixed costs are indexed so it is inevitable that our significant outgoings will increase each year. Thank you to Keith Anderson VK2FKJA for his diligent work as Treasurer.

I must also thank David Hogan VK2FRAB for his outstanding tireless work as ORARC Secretary. The Secretary position is a busy one as David will attest.

Thank you to everyone for participating in club activities. ORARC runs a surprising number of activities and events each year. These range from the Monthly General Meetings, the Friday night get togethers on the third Friday of each month, the weekly Sunday morning and Thursday evening club nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother Repeater, the Wednesday morning working bees, and of course special events such as the Christmas Party, the annual Field Day on the June long weekend, the Bunnings Barbeque, the VK2BOR participation in the John Moyle Field Day, the Remembrance Day contest, the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, and the Jamboree on the Air. This year we also held a very enjoyable sausage sizzle and practice foxhunt social day in May 2014 at the Cowarra Dam.

The ORARC 2014 Field Day was a great success over Saturday and Sunday the 7th and 8th of the June 2014 over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. The many visitors who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and many reported that they had already booked accommodation for next year. As well as the regular contingent from Sydney and environs, this year a large Newcastle group from the Westlakes

Amateur Radio Club made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list also includes home towns such as Umina Beach, Lemon Tree Passage, Booral, Forster, Taree, Wingham, Harrington, Coopernook, Moorland, Kempsey, Grassy Head, Bellingen, Thora, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Lismore, Brisbane, Guyra, Werris Creek, Canberra, and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular. Thank you to everyone who attended. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 40th annual Field Day.



The Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall in Matthew Flinders Drive again proved to be a great venue with plenty of room in the hall and no parking problems. This year the weather was fine throughout the two days of activities.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with many complimentary comments regarding the venue and the excellent catering together with the strong support from the traders who attended.



VK4ICE one of the many traders at the field day

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No-one went hungry and lots of people found great bargains from the traders who had brought stock in especially for the Field Day. The bargains from the disposals tables were keenly sought. Everyone went home with at least something.



The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular with people enjoying good food and a pleasant social evening.

Official Field day photographer David Newey VK2DFN again took lots of photos. It's not possible to include them all in this issue of Oxtales but David's extensive photo gallery is available on line at <https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/109457090511514177529/109457090511514177529/posts> There are 69 photos taken at the 2014 Field Day. Well done David. Thank you for a great record of the weekend.

The quality of items entered in the Homebrew display was excellent. Gary Ryan VK2ZKT displayed a range of very professionally home built accessories and test equipment. Bruce Ekert VK2EM displayed his GPS disciplined frequency standard for microwave communications. Richard Osborne VK2FRKO displayed his nicely built MST 40 metre SSB transceiver. During construction and testing Richard had been mentored by well known home brewer Norm Cameron VK2KNC of the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club. Lyle Smith ran an excellent computer display detailing his communications caravan which he uses as a home shack as well as an away from home shack. The caravan was on display in the car park. The judges had a difficult job in selecting a winner but in the end Richard Osborne VK2FRKO was victorious. He took out the Home Brew Display trophy. The best presented amateur vehicle went to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI for his car

with his communications caravan attached. The total antenna count was incredible!



Arthur VK2ATM and Thomas VK2ATR discussing digital modes.

Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for running the digital modes demonstration on both days of the Field Day. His excellent demonstrations showed how simple it is to operate the various digital modes using the free software that is available today. Arthur had on hand the various software and data compilations and videos of past events and lectures that the club has available. If you missed out at the Field Day, please see Arthur at the club meetings.

Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was even more intense than usual. The transmitters hidden by foxes Brian Linsley VK2BI and stalwart fox Larry Lindsay VK2CLL. Congratulations to 2014 Fox Hunt champion Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby, and to Runner-up champion Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach. The top hunters are always keen to again see their names engraved on those little shields added to the Perpetual Trophy each year. Please see the separate article in this issue that shows that we will need a new Perpetual Trophy in 6 or 7 years as by then there just won't be any more room add more individual shields. Commiserations to Craig Martin who had to work on the weekend so missed most of the events, although he did manage to enter and win the Sunday 2 metre mobile foxhunt. We can expect the spirited competition to continue at next year's Field Day.

Thanks to many generous donations the raffle and lucky door prizes were of a very high standard. Raffle first prize winner Jamie Campbell VK2YCJ of Newcastle took home the
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much coveted Digitech True RMS Cat IV Digital Multimeter with Wireless USB donated by Jaycar Port Macquarie. Ross Davidson VK2NUD of Lakewood took home the second prize of a wireless weather station donated by VK4ICE Communications. Grahame O'Brien VK2FA of Cardiff won the third prize of Jeff Pages' book "Cry of the Bunyips" donated by the author Jeff Pages VK2BYY.



Henry VK2ZHE presenting Jamie Campbell VK2YCJ with Major Raffle prize.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of a Baofeng UV5R VHF/UHF 2metre/70 centimetre FM hand held transceiver donated by VK4ICE Communications went to a delighted Shane McBride VK2XUV of Forster. Charlie Hunt VK2CLH of Warners Bay took home the second prize of a coaxial switch donated by Radio Supply. Third prize winner Merv Savins VK2DMS of Coffs Harbour won Peter Jensen's "Wireless at War" book donated by Radio Supply.

The Lucky Door first prize of a Quality Street Sweet Assortment for those without Callsigns was won by Carl Winkler of Coffs Harbour. Second prize of box of Ferrero Rocher Chocolates went to Beverley Steep of Taree.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but it would be remiss of me to not mention the hard working volunteers who kept us so well fed throughout the weekend. Barbeque master chefs Barry Gilson VK2FBRG and Richard Court VK2CHC and the server helpers under the watchful eye of kitchen manager/ Field Day treasurer David Hogan VK2FRAB all deserve special mention for producing a never ending supply of delicious hot food. The generosity of the benefactors who so

kindly donated all the prizes and a lot of the food is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desk at the entrance to the hall. Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Saturday and then packed everything up and vacuumed the carpet on Sunday afternoon. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Field Day.

We are particularly indebted to major traders Radio Supply of Bellingen, VK4ICE Communications from Brisbane, and Jaycar Port Macquarie. Jaycar ran their stand on both days. Thank you also to the other traders and exhibitors, Amateur Radio NSW, and ALARA (Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association).

A pictorial report on the Field day appears in this issue of Oxtales, and with an extensive picture gallery and a complete listing of prize and trophy winners.

The 2015 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 40th annual Field Day so will be a very special event. Unfortunately, a different venue will have to be found for this Field Day as the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall will be closed for renovations from 20th April 2015 until the 1st of September 2015. The Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club has received a Government grant to undertake these long planned renovations which will significantly improve the amenity of the hall. ORARC has already booked the hall again for the 2016 Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of June 2016 so we will enjoy the use of upgraded hall the year after the renovations have been completed. However, the unavailability of the hall over the 2015 Queens Birthday Long Weekend does mean finding an alternative venue for next year only. One possibility is to return to the previous venue of the Sea Scout Hall in Buller Street, Port Macquarie. The Committee will explore other options as well. Members are encouraged to bring any options that they are aware of to the attention of the Committee.

At the July 2014 Monthly General Meeting Dr Paul Webster VK2BZC presented an excellent lecture on the Arduino. Those present on the day learnt all about the Arduino project and what the Arduino can do, and how to source the Arduino and some of the many add ons that are available. During the lecture Paul demonstrated a traffic

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light simulator. He dispelled the myth that traffic lights are simply sequential lights. They are quite complex but the Arduino easily handled the necessary logic. Anyone who missed the lecture will be pleased to know that it was captured on video. Please see Arthur Monck VK2ATM if you would like a copy of this lecture or some of the previous lectures presented at club meetings.

It is hoped that at the September 2014 Monthly General Meeting, Bruce Ekert VK2EM will be able to present a lecture on his GPS disciplined frequency standard that he displayed in the Home Brew display at the 2014 Field Day. The new ORARC Committee will have several offers of interesting lectures to schedule for future meetings.

Education continues to be a very important function of our club and WIA Assessors Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Ross Boyd VK2RR have been busy. The Friday night Standard Licence classes are still in progress, and will continue as the Advanced Licence Classes until late in the year. Congratulations to Barry Gilson who has upgraded to VK2LBG. Congratulations to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI who has just passed the Advanced Licence and is awaiting VK2SMI to be issued. The Friday night classes will also cover the theory for the Advanced Licence. Training and Assessments for the Foundation Licence will be run over a weekend very soon as there are several candidates waiting. If you know of anyone who would like to obtain their Foundation Licence, or would like to upgrade, please contact the club's Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL.

After a long wait the club has now received a licence for a 6 metre FM repeater at the VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point. The 6 metre repeater will transmit on 53.8 MHz and receive on 52.8 MHz. Its callsign will be VK2RCN. The club has VHF mid band Philips FM814 transmitting and receiving equipment which is suitable for conversion to 6 metres. A set of transmit and receive crystals for this equipment has been ordered. A Ham Gadgets ID-O-Matic repeater controller kit is on hand. The ID-O-Matic provides both the ident and repeater control functions such as the tail and time outs. We have on hand some ex Channel 1 TV coaxial resonators which tune down to 6 metres. These will enable a duplexer to be built so that the 6 metre repeater will transmit and receive on a single antenna. The antenna will be a folded dipole to be mounted on the existing VK2RCN guyed mast.

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club was successful in obtaining a \$500 Development Grant from Amateur Radio NSW. Thank you to hard working Secretary David Hogan who put together the excellent application which secured this grant. The grant has enabled the club to purchase a new VK2BOR EchoLink Node transceiver and power supply mounted on a rack shelf. The new node equipment was tested and installed on Saturday, the 12th of July 2014. It works well. Please see the separate report in this issue.

The Telegraph Point VK2RCN repeater site working bee on Wednesday 16 July 2014. It was fine at the site despite rain at Port Macquarie. At the bee were Barry Gilson VK2LBG (cut grass), David Hogan VK2FRAB, Lyle Smith VK2FCVI, Rob Frost VK2CRF (chainsaw), Stephen Wynn VK2HOO and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. The Icom 2 metre 147.000 MHz repeater was installed, batteries topped up, equipment hut cleaned up and tidied, new repeater rack cabinet in place, with space for 6 metre duplexer filters (big!). The deviation on APRS digipeater transmitter was increased.

Work on the club's Communications Caravan continues. Please see the report and photographs in this issue on the replacement of part of the floor in the caravan. New carpet for the caravan floor has been purchased. At the next working bee this carpet will be laid. As has previously been mentioned, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU very kindly donated an Icom IC-2300H 2 metre FM transceiver to the club. This transceiver will be installed on the front operating table in the caravan to replace the Yaesu FT-1802 two metre FM transceiver which had been on loan. The caravan will be fully operational in time for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) and the Remembrance Day Contest (RD Contest) in August.

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th August 2014 will be a busy one. This year both the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) and the Remembrance Day Contest (RD Contest) coincide and fall on this weekend.

The club's communications caravan will be at the Tacking Point Lighthouse during daylight hours and club station VK2BOR will operate in
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both the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the 2014 Remembrance Day Contest on Saturday the 16th of August. Come along and support this operation. Again as usual there will be a free hot dog lunch with biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks provided in the caravan.

The 2014 Remembrance Day contest runs for 24 hours and commences at 1pm local time on the afternoon of Saturday the 16th of August, and finishes at 1pm on Sunday the 17th of August. During the Saturday afternoon club station VK2BOR will operate in both the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day contest from the Tacking Point Lighthouse. The rules have been simplified and contacts may now be made with stations in the same call area. The incentive of double points per contacts on 160 metres remains. See the WIA web site <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/> for details. As well as helping to run the VK2BOR club station from the club's Communications Caravan, members are encouraged to participate from their home stations as well. Most importantly, please submit your logs as every log that is entered helps the VK2 score.

On Sunday the 31st of August 2014, the Alzheimer's Australia Memory Walk and Jog event takes place in Port Macquarie. WICEN NSW has undertaken to provide communications for this walk, and for the similar events taking place in the Hunter, Inner Western Sydney and at North Wollongong. The Port Macquarie event starts at Westport Park. Starting time is 6 am. The day should finish at approximately 1:30 pm. For more details, please see the Alzheimer's Australia Memory Walk web site at: <http://givetoalzheimers.org.au/event/memorywalk2014portmacquarie/eventinfo> If you would like to assist in providing communications on the day, either contact WICEN direct, or contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE lundell@tpg.com.au or mobile 0427 947 921 and I will pass your details on. I am a long time member of WICEN. The longest event is the 7.5 kilometre walk starting at 08:55 am so it won't be a long day. This is a national charity event. Your assistance in providing communications will be a valuable contribution to its success.

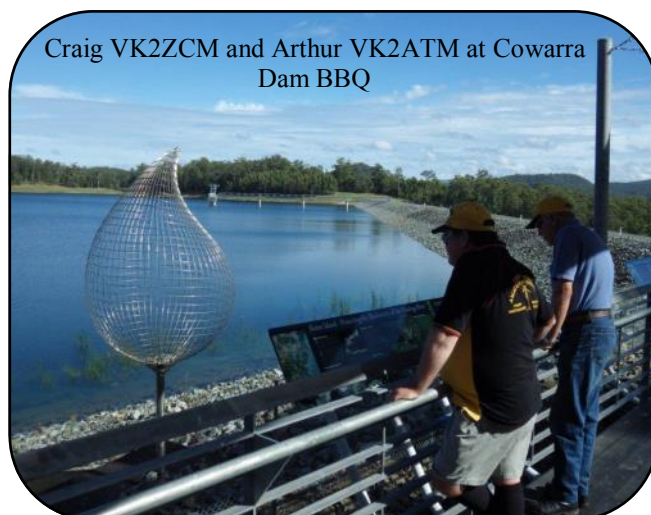
Finally, a gentle reminder that the club's Annual General Meeting will be held in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of August 2014. The notice of this meeting, and the agenda, together with last year's minutes

were separately emailed to members earlier in July as July 2014 Oxtales is being published later in the month than usual. All positions fall vacant at the AGM. Please consider nominating for one of the positions to help run the club. Your club needs you and your expertise! Note the Notices of Motions from the Committee in the agenda. There is no change in membership subscription rates this year. They remain the same as the rates set last year. We look forward to David Harding VK2AIF being awarded his well deserved Life Membership in his 85th year. There will be a short August Monthly General Meeting immediately at the conclusion of the AGM.

Don't forget that membership subscriptions became due on the first of July 2014. You must be financial in order to vote at the AGM. There has been an excellent rate of renewals already paid in response to the subscription invoices which Treasurer Keith Anderson VK2FKJA sent out in June. If you are not able to do a direct deposit into the club's Holiday Coast Credit Union Account or pay the in person, please mail your payment to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Payments may be made in person prior to the August AGM and Monthly General Meetings. Ordinary membership is only \$40 per annum, Associate Membership is \$20 per annum, and Distant Membership is a mere \$10 per annum.

In closing, I sincerely thank all members for their strong support of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club during my five years as President. It has been a privilege to serve during this active time which has seen so much growth. I wish the incoming Committee well, and may the club continue to prosper.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President



VALE DAVID TARRANT (VK2TBC)
(by Trevor Thatcher, VK2TT)

Members of O.R.A.R.C. Inc., were recently saddened to learn of the passing of a highly esteemed and long-term member of our club, David Tarrant, of Iluka N.S.W. David passed away on Monday, 26th May 2014 at the age of 84.

David, with his wife, Aileen, were previously residents of the Hastings District for quite some years, living on their rural property, "Trentwood", near Hyndmans Creek, 15 km westwards of Wauchope.

Prior to retirement, David's career extended over many years as a Technical Instructor with the NSW Department of Technical Education, teaching students who were studying subjects within the Electrical Trades curriculum.



David Tarrant, VK2TBC.

Member of our club.

It is interesting to note that a lengthy part of his teaching career involved teaching from within a mobile "classroom" and "workshop", both of which were specially equipped carriages of a stationary railway train that served to accommodate the electrical trades' learning needs for regional areas, on a time-shared basis. David's particular locations for teaching were those of Taree, Wauchope and Kempsey. A third carriage formed part of the "mobile" facility, providing accommodation for the instructor, David.

Obtaining his amateur licence following

retirement, David operated his amateur station from his rural property (initially under call sign VK2HBC - later upgrading to an Advanced Licence, under call sign VK2TBC).

Within the activities of the amateur radio hobby, David's interests encompassed VHF & HF Packet Radio experiments, in addition to the operation of HF SSB. He was also a keen and productive "Home-Brewer" of amateur radio related test-equipment.

Having some hectares at his disposal, David took advantage of this rural space within which to participate in experiments with antennae of various designs.

David was an active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. He served two terms as the club's Secretary and a term as Vice President/Public officer.

In 1999, David and Aileen moved to Iluka, and since then, until his sad passing, David has remained a Distant

He is survived by his loving wife Aileen, and their three children, Alan, Leanne, and Stephen. The ORARC Memberships extends its sincere sympathy to Aileen and her family.

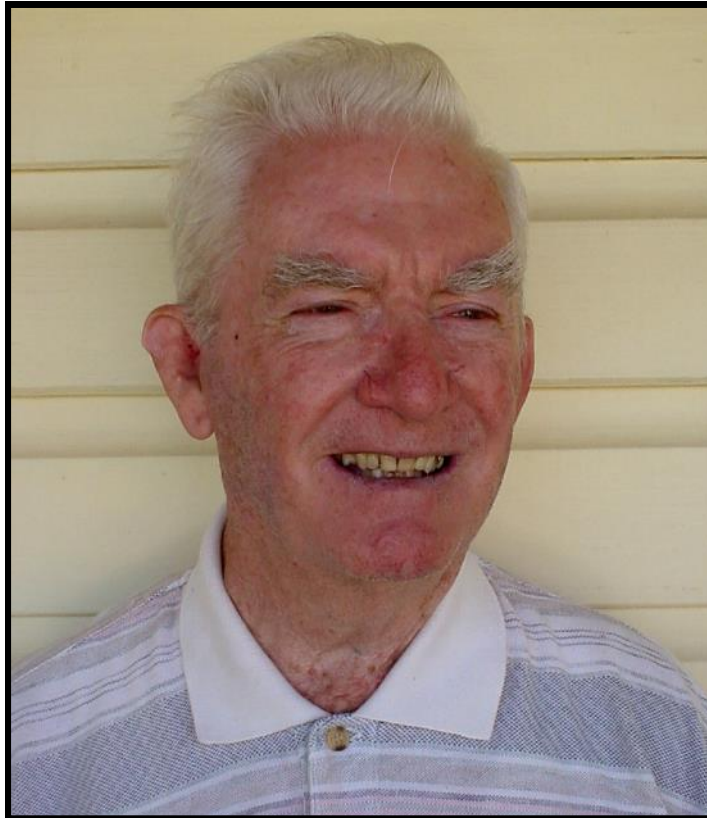
VALE ALLAN MADIGAN - VK2OA

(By Trevor Thatcher—VK2TT)

Allan Madigan, VK2OA, of Wauchope, passed away quietly but suddenly on Sunday, 30th June, at his home in Bruxner Ave, Wauchope, N.S.W. Allan, aged 88, had been enjoying good health, and his passing came as a great shock to his family, and to the members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc., of which Allan had been a member for the past 17 years.

His working career extended over many decades within what was then the Postmaster General's Department.

Beginning work at the age of around 15, as a Telegraph Messenger at Tumut, N.S.W., he progressively worked his way through the higher ranks as Telegraphist, Postal Clerk Grades, and ultimately reached the level of Postmaster long before he reached retirement age. Allan retired in the mid 1980's, as the Postmaster at Wauchope.



Allan Madigan VK2OA

During his lengthy career he served as Postmaster at a total of 32 post offices throughout N.S.W. and Victoria.

In his career within the P.M.G. Department, he was a particularly keen and competent telegraph operator, and he entered retirement carrying these acquired attributes with him as a life-long hobby.

During the Bi-centennial celebrations in 1988, Allan participated as a contestant in a Morse Telegraphy contest that was organised by the Sydney Morsecodian Fraternity and held at the Wauchope historic theme park, Timbertown. This event attracted many contestants from various communications organisations,, including the Australian armed services, from far and wide

throughout Australia. It came as no surprise to those who had worked with Allan at the distant end of a telegraph circuit, when he emerged from the contest as the overall winner.

Following the contest, Allan joined the local volunteer group, The Friends of Timbertown, participating as an operator of the theme park's Morse Telegraphy Exhibit that was, at that time, installed between the Timbertown Railway Station and Timbertown Post Office Store.

It was during his activities at the theme park that he came into contact with members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc., and was "enticed" to join the club. In this club he undertook training to gain his Amateur Radio licence. First gaining his Standard Licence, under call sign VK2MAI, in 1998. Allan later undertook further training & gained his Advanced Licence in January 2000, under call sign VK2OA.

Allan's love of Morse Telegraphy meant that his primary mode of operation on the amateur bands was

CW. He utilised this mode almost exclusively in his daily activities within his "ham shack", keeping daily schedules with many of his old work colleagues who had also gravitated to the hobby following their retirement.

ORARC members, and the Amateur hobbyists in general, will sadly miss the presence of Allan. Through the pages of "OXTALES", the membership expresses our sincere sympathy to his loving wife, Dawn, and the admirable, supportive Madigan family.

VALE GRAIG HUTH - VK2ISS/ VK4SSB

(By Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE)

Commander Mike Finke on board the International Space Station via a telebridge from Goddard Space Centre.

Silent Key: Craig Huth VK2ISS / VK4SSB

It is great sadness that we record the passing of Craig Huth VK2ISS / VK4SSB on the 30th of June 2014 at only 47 years of age in the Royal North Shore Hospital following a stroke.

Craig was a well known and admired announcer at 2RE and MAXFM in Taree.

Craig grew up on the land at Bundaberg. He began his radio broadcasting career in Darwin before moving to Wangaratta, Deniliquin and Moree and then to 2RE at Taree 9 years ago.

Craig was a great worker for the community. He was the driving force behind 2RE's Christmas Train that raised more than \$200,000 in five years for the children's ward at Manning Hospital as well as four retirement homes in the area.

Craig was very active on air. Many amateurs had the privilege of regular on air contacts with him as VK4SSB and more recently as VK2ISS. As well as HF, Craig was active on VHF, UHF and microwaves. His callsigns reflected his passionate interests. He was a regular on the Great Lakes, Taree and Port Macquarie repeaters.



The International Space Station had special significance to Craig, having worked the ISS. He created a great deal of interest in the ISS on his radio program last year when he had 10 students from Chatham Public School speak live on air with



Craig regularly promoted Amateur Radio as a hobby on air. He kept abreast of local and international activities. Each year he mentioned the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club annual Field Days at Port Macquarie during his programs.

Craig will be sadly missed by both the Amateur Radio fraternity and the wider community. He is survived by his partner, Christine and two children along with his parents and siblings, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.



Vale Craig Huth VK2ISS / VK4SSB

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY -

by David VK2FRAB

On 9 April an Equipment Inventory of all the Club's gear was completed and handed over to the Committee. Some 132 items were logged under the categories: Antenna, Computer, Miscellaneous, Power, Radio, Tools, Spares.

It is interesting to note that 59 items have been donated (chief benefactor being Henry VK2ZHE who has donated 7 items) and 11 items are on loan by various members of the club.

Members might be interested to know Tools include: Hitachi Oscilloscope and EMTRON SWR with Power Meter, and Radio includes eight transceivers: GME Electraphone, ICOM IC-2000, ICOM IC-738, YAESU FT8900R, Kenwood TM 431, and two ICOM IC-FR3000.

For the record, the Club's equipment can be found in six locations: the repeater stations - Middle Brother and Telegraph Point, EchoLink in Jindalee Road, SES Building, Comm's Caravan and Henry's Shed.

DID IT FIT?

By David VK2FRAB



Continuing the saga about replacing a rotted floor panel in the Comm's caravan from last edition of Oxtales, it can be reported that the new panel almost fitted perfectly first try.

While Henry VK2ZHE did a few nips and scrapes on the panel, Arthur VK2ATM secured the aluminium

angle to the girders with sikaflex, bolts and nyloc nuts.



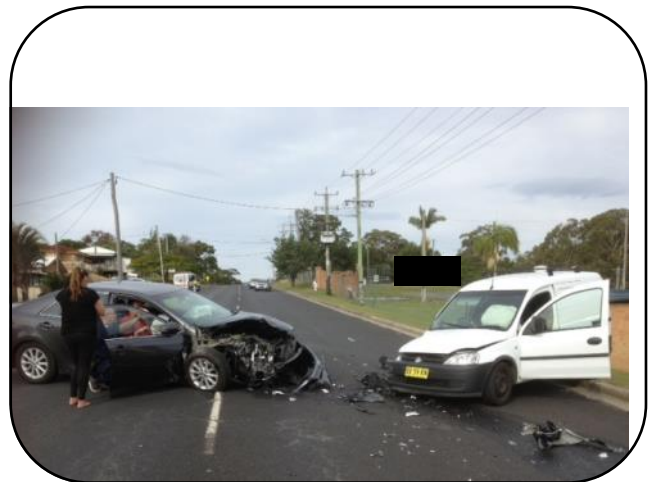
Once the panel fitted to everyone's satisfaction, Arthur VK2ATM and Steve VK2HOO stepped in to drill holes. Then they fastened the panel down with self tapping screws.

Now all that's left to do is to find a piece of carpet to cover the whole caravan floor.

Lucky Escape for Alex

By David VK2FRAB

Alex VK2HBF had a lucky escape on 28 May when his car was hit by a driver suffering a turn. The pictures tell the story of the severity of the collision, yet he walked away with very sore ribs.



We wish all people involved a speedy recovery



Working Bee Telegraph Point

By David VK2FRAB

Henry VK2ZHE thought it would be a good idea to have a working bee at the Telegraph Point Repeater on Wednesday 16 July. The objective was to clear away fire hazards and install ICOM 3000 Transceiver.

Barry VK2LBG arrived first with his whipper-snipper and proceeded to give the grass a number 1.5 cut. Next to arrive was Steve VK2HOO followed by Henry VK2ZHE, Lyle VK2FCVI and Rob VK2CRF



Steve VK2HOO and Barry VK2LBG talk to a local

After the rat scat had been swept out and the batteries topped up it was time for morning tea catered by Henry's refreshment bar and Rob's tasty tea bun treat.



Gathering around the antenna

branches, Henry, Steve and Lyle began operation ICOM install. The Philips 815 Transmitter had to be moved down a notch to make way for the ICOM then it was just a matter of reconnecting the cables.

A test call to Paul VK2ICQ revealed a



Rob VK2CRF in action with his chainsaw

transmission problem but luckily Henry had his metering equipment handy and he identified the cause. Further test calls with Bruce VK2HOT proved the Repeater to be up and running.



Rack in the Shack ready for 6 Metre Repeater

While Rob thrust his chainsaw at nearby saplings and

EchoLink

Our club ORARC was successful in obtaining a Development Grant from Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for the purchase of a transceiver and power supply to operate the VK2BOR Echo Link Node.

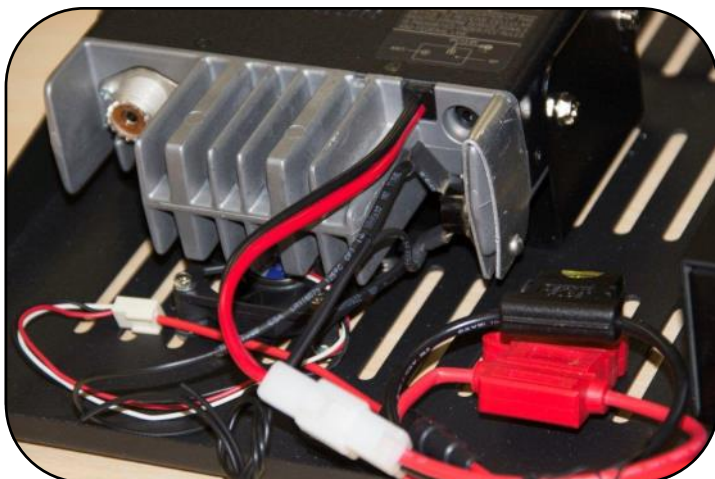
Pictures taken - David VK2DFN and Henry VK2ZHE



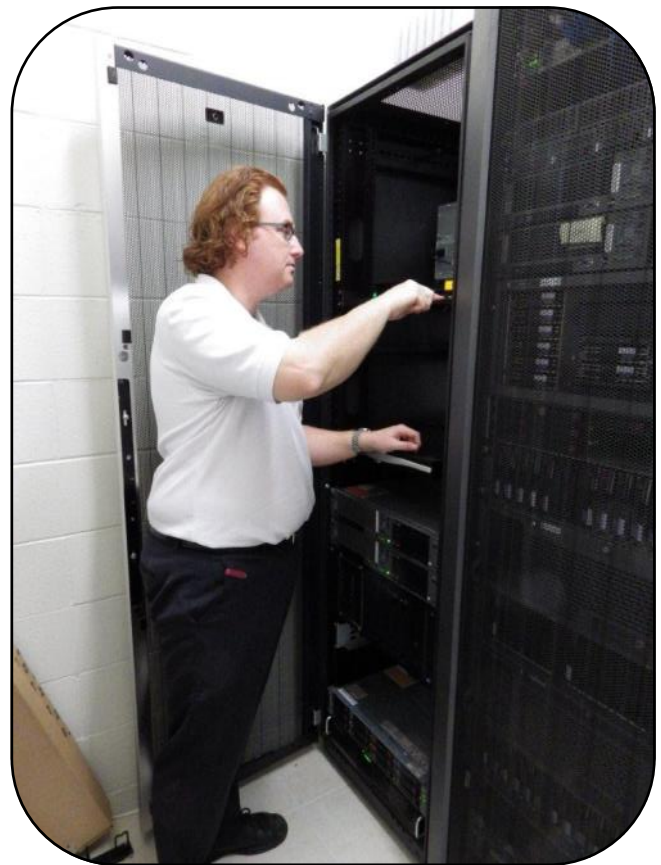
Echo Link Node equipment front view.



Echo Link Node equipment rear view.



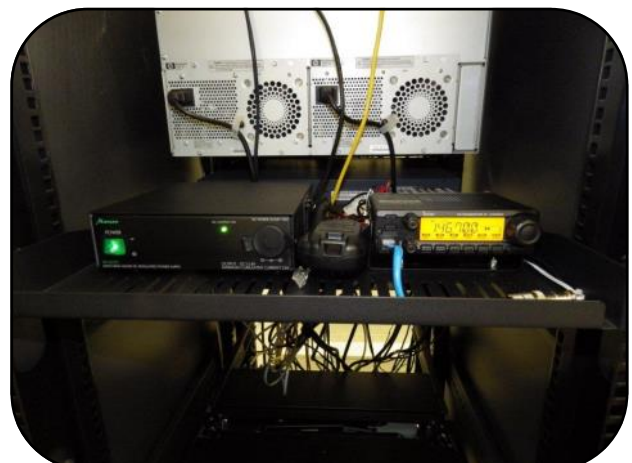
Echo Link Node equipment TX Fan Thermostat detail



Paul VK2ICQ installing the equipment in his computer room server rack.



The Echolink equipment installed and in service.



ORARC Field Day 2014

The Field Day started with dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. A very pleasant evening was had by all with good food and an opportunity for renewing old friendships and making new ones.



Arthur VK2ATM with Sue and Dennis VK2FAET enjoy a talk, across the table.



Tim VK2ZTM and Lyle VK2FCVI share a moment



Good food and pleasant conversation.



Richard VK2FRKO and Diane VK2FDNE contemplate the upcoming events.



The recipe for a successful start to the Field Day weekend.

ORARC Field Day 2014



Saturday and Sunday activities were held in the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club. The venue provided a large hall with kitchen facilities and extensive views of the Tacking Point Lighthouse and extensive views over the ocean.



Trade displays included Jaycar VK4ICE Communications and Radio Supply.

These companies generously sponsored the club by providing major prizes for the raffles.



ALARA set up an information stand.

ALARA's mission is to encourage women's interest and active participation in amateur radio.



ORARC Field Day 2014

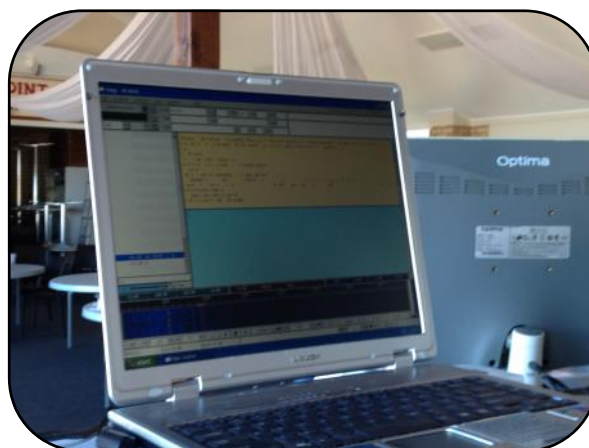
Disposals. What would a field day be without disposals? One amateur's disposal is another's bargain treasure! Who could really resist a bar-



Chris Cook considering one of Paul VK2ICQ'S bargains.



Arthur VK2ATM has the gleam in his eyes. Has he found some hidden treasure?



Home Brew and Demonstrations show that the amateur art of inventiveness is still alive.

Above Arthur VK2ATM with digital modes of communication.

Left Gary VK2ZKT displays some of his home brew projects.



ORARC Field Day 2014

An army travels on its stomach; A Field Day needs refreshments and plenty of them. Meet some of the people who made sure that no one went hungry.



Left kitchen manager/ Field Day treasurer David Hogan VK2FRAB. Above Barbeque master chefs Barry Gilson VK2FBRG and Richard Court VK2CHC
Below Kitchen Servers from left to right Sue and the Gilsons



The Fox Hunts attracted competitive friendly competition with competitors sharing tips with each other.

The Foxes Brian VK2BI and Larry VK2CLL prepare to set out a challenging course for the hounds.

ORARC Field Day 2014

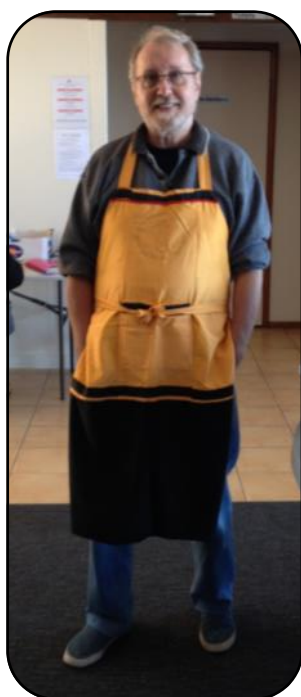
A Field Day provides an opportunity for ORARC club members to meet and share experiences with other amateurs in a convivial setting.



Charles VK2KCE and Ray VK2JU at the registration desk.



David VK2AYD and Larry VK2CLL share a moment



Left Dennis VK2FAET takes a break from food serving.
Above Chris VK2FCCK From Jaycar and Ray VK2JU discuss a technical issue.



Tim VK2ZTM sets up a ARNSW presence



Left Mark VK2FMGM gives Barry VK2LBG a hand.

Right Craig VK2ZCM checks out disposals.

Below left The Three Amigos solve the worlds problems. David VK2AIF, Trevor VK2TT and Charles VK2KCE

Right Arthur VK2ATM and Dave VK2AYD share a joke.



ORARC Field Day 2014

Thanks to the generosity of the major sponsors, VK4ICE Communications, Radio Supply and Jaycar there were a variety of high quality prizes for the major raffle and lucky door prizes. Trophies were presented for the various winners of the Fox Hunt Championships and Home Brew displays



Left President Henry VK2ZHE presides over the prize and trophy giving.



Above Sue Boyd and Lyle VK2FCVI draw the raffles.

Below left Fox Hunt Champion Chris VK2YMW and Runner up Jeff VK2BYY with Henry VK2ZHE

Below right Major Raffle prize Jamie VK2YCJ receives prize from Henry VK2ZHE



ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2014

Major Raffle					
	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Digitech QM-1571 True RMS Cat IV Digital Multimeter with Wireless USB	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2YCJ	Jamie Campbell	Newcastle
2nd Prize	Weather Station	VK4ICE Communications	VK2NUD	Ross Davidson	Lakewood
3rd Prize	Cry of the Bunyips by Jeff Pages	Jeff Pages VK2BYY	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
4th Prize	Car MP3 Player with FM Transmitter	VK2ZHE	VK2FSTU	Stuart Walsh	Wauchope
5th Prize	Digitech AM/FM/SW Radio Alarm Clock	VK2ZHE	VK2FCVI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
6th Prize	Umbrella Auger	VK2ZHE	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
7th Prize	Personal FM Radio	VK2ZHE	VK2ZTM	Tim Mills	Beecroft
8th Prize	Tape Measure	VK2ZHE	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
9th Prize	10 Piece Masonry Drill Set	VK2ZHE	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
10th Prize	Cap	VK4ICE Communications	VK2ZCM	Craig Martin	Sancrox

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2014

Callsign Lucky Door					
	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Baofeng VHF UHF 2 Metre/70 CM handheld Transceiver	VK4ICE Communications	VK2XUV	Shane McBride	Forster
2nd Prize	Coaxial RF Switch	Radio Supply	VK2CLH	Charlie Hunt	Warners Bay
3rd Prize	Wireless at War by Peter Jensen	Radio Supply	VK2DMS	Merv Savins	Toormina
4th Prize	23 Piece 1/4 Inch square Drive Socket Set with Ratchet	VK2ZHE	VK2FADS	Bryce Steep	Taree
5th Prize	13 Piece High Speed Steel Drill Set	VK2ZHE	VK2CHC	Richard Court	Port Macquarie
6th Prize	Lighted Magnetic Driver	VK2ZHE	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
7th Prize	Heatshrink Assortment	VK2ZHE	VK2FAET	Dennis Meade	Port Macquarie
8th Prize	ORARC 2014 Calendar	VK2ZHE	VK2ZOI	John Bishop	Hornsby Heights
9th Prize	ORARC 2014 Calendar	VK2ZHE	VK2JDL	Philip Clancy	Thornleigh
10th Prize	ORARC 2014 Calendar	VK2ZHE	VK2NJJ	John Winchester	Port Macquarie

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2014

Non-Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Quality Street Sweet Assortment Tin	VK2ZHE	Carl Winkler	Coffs Harbour
2nd Prize	Ferrero Rocher Chocolates	VK2ZHE	Beverley Steep	Taree



ORARC Field Day 2014 - Trophy Winners

	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2FCVI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
Saturday 2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	Not Found		
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2ZCM	Craig Martin	Sancrox
Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2TI	Rodney Sommerville	Ryde
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2FCVI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
Best Home Brew Display	VK2FRKO	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage

Thank you to David VK2AYD for part 2 of a thought provoking on Amateur Radio.

WIA Conference 2014 What is Amateur Radio Part 2

In last months Oxtales I wrote about what I thought Amateur Radio was/is.

I would have liked to have had your views, but nothing was forth coming. Amateur Radio has many sub cultures. There are those that are microwave fanatics who enjoy the intrigue of line of sight communications. Others enjoy HF. Some enjoy digital, some telegraphy, some slow-scan TV, etc. So many facets of interest/ Fascinating.

In May Arthur, VK2ATM, Bob, VK1ZRE and myself attended the WIA AGM and Conference up on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. About 150 attended the AGM, lectures and dinner. As I looked around the Conference Room I had a slight emotional twinge with the thought "Where are the young people?" People who came up to me to talk were all of my vintage.

There were four major lectures that included WICEN and Licence costs. In many countries (eg USA, UK, NZ) licences are provided free to Amateurs but of course services such as interference investigations will dig into your hip pocket. However, my personal interest was the fraternity, where it is and where we are going into the future.

Inspite of all the who-ha about the introduction of the Foundation licence creating a new stepping stone, the number of licences have declined in Australia from 14,598 in 2009 to 14,190 in 2013. In some countries such as the UK and the USA it has increased considerably. Luckily membership of the WIA has remained steady at 4,541 in 2009 to 4,358 in 2013 (32% of total). At the AGM there was a lot of talk on how we could increase our numbers. Lots of talk on marketing by professionals, but none had, in my estimation, an exciting product to offer. And that's what we need. And YES, we have it.

We have it. Trouble is, to many ARO's it is hidden, or they wear dark glasses. Or is it we have a stuffy middle aged membership domination. Look at our own club and the June meeting. At 84 I could be one ! (apologies). *(Editors note I doubt that David has ever been a stuffy middle aged dominator!)*

At the AGM there was talk of involvement with

other fraternities and groups . For example the "Men's Shed"?. Perhaps this is a place where we could have our construction/technical evenings and show a few mechanically minded grey tops some electronic controls. There is a fraternity of young inventors who do not publicise themselves (and there are good reasons not to). I understand they recently held a show. My first thought was, we should be there, but then what are we going to display - - two Walkie talkies on VHF - - laughable, their cell phone is more sophisticated. These people are nerds, in or above the Mensa level. So what can we offer ?

MY first thought was robotics, remote control, eyes in the sky etc.. Our hobby is the electromagnetic field and the many functions it has. It's alright to dream of a robot and the mechanics involved, but how do you control it ? A few years ago the NSW Division of the WIA introduced a book called "100 Basic Electronic Projects" written by Ian Hook and Dave Wilson. I still use it and make some of the simple projects just for fun. A few of those scattered around will always drive curiosity and that is what research and development is all about. Radio, TV, Satellites did not just appear they were developed by evolution. We have the grip of the most exciting hobby in the world so how about some suggestions from you.

de VK2AYD

The ball is firmly in our court and it would be good to see suggestions or comments on this article from our members.



Blast from the past



engraved on a shield added to the Perpetual Trophy. Note that both sides of the trophy are now full. For the next few years the Champion's shields will be added around the sides and back of the base. We will need a new trophy in about 6 or 7 years, depending on whether we fit four or five shields to the back of the base. The ends of the base will only take one shield on each end. The front of the base already has the engraved label so it's full. The trophy will end up holding 35 or 36 years of ORARC history.



Front of trophy full with champions

The Blast from the past briefly outlines the history of the ORARC Field Day Fox Hunt Champion Perpetual Trophy.

The Fox Hunt Champion Perpetual Trophy was donated by Lester O'Connell VK2BFP in 1985.

The honour of having the first shield engraved was Mark Hopkins VK2BME of Newcastle who was the Fox Hunt Champion in 1985. It's interesting to follow the Champions over the years. Chris Williams VK2YMW, Jeff Pages VK2BYY, Craig Martin VK2ZCM, Tony Butler VK2CTB / VK2WY, Ken Golden VK2DGT and Ashley Anderson VK2XSO appear numerous times. Arnold Austin VK2ADA was the champion in 2002. Craig Martin was VK2HBM when he won in 2001. He had upgraded to VK2ZCM when he won in 2003 and in several intervening years until 2012 when he last took the honour.

Chris Williams VK2YMW was the 2014 Fox Hunt Champion at the 2014 Field Day. He received an individual trophy. His name and callsign have been



The back of the trophy

Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE photographs by David Newey VK2DFN