



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-fourth Anniversary Year

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

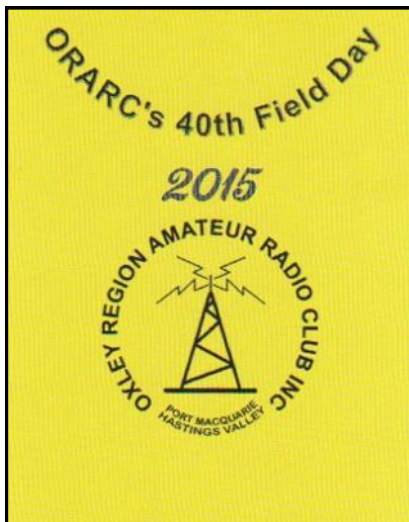
July 2015

Compiled by VK2AYQ & VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Lyle Smith VK2SMI 6585 2497
VICE PRES: Charles Edmondson VK2KCE 6584 0495
TREASURER: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL 6587 1155
SECRETARY: David Hogan VK2FRAB 6582 3006

President's Report

ORARC Field Day



The 2015 ORARC Field Day, held over the Queen's Birthday weekend of the 6th and 7th of June, has now passed with 81 registered

attendees showing up and 47 people at the Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the Saturday night.

As everyone is aware, we had to relocate because of the renovations to the Surf Club and I believe that the Hastings Public School offered a successful alternative location. Even with the lack of onsite parking, and that muscle building walk to and from the car park, we came away from the weekend with the 40th anniversary Field Day a success.

The day started early on the Saturday with
(Continued 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 & Friday Nights held in the S.E.S.
Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 July 2015 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 July 2015 7.00 pm

Annual General Meeting
Saturday 1 August 2015 2:00 pm
Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 August 2015 after AGM

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
15&16 August 2015

VK2BOR at Tacking Point Lighthouse
Saturday 15th August 2015

Remembrance Day Contest
Sat 15 August 2015, 0300 UTC to 0300 UTC Sun 16
August 2015

VK2BOR at Lighthouse Saturday afternoon

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 August 2015 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 September 2015 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 September 2015 7.00 pm

Many Warringah Radio Society Flag Pole Contest
September 19 2015 12:00 pm

Fox Hunt – Venue to be announced
Sunday 27 September 2015 10.00 am

The 58th Jamboree On The Air will take place on
17 and 18 October 2015.

email Directory

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

July 2015

VK2TT	Jul - 05	VK2ZHE	Jul - 02
VK2CHC	Jul - 12	VK2ICQ	Jul - 09
VK2TT	Jul - 19	VK2EM	Jul - 16
VK2CHC	Jul - 26	VK2ZHE	Jul - 23
		VK2ICQ	Jul - 30

August 2015

VK2TT	Aug - 02	VK2EM	Aug - 06
VK2CHC	Aug - 09	VK2ZHE	Aug - 13
VK2TT	Aug - 16	VK2ICQ	Aug - 20
VK2CHC	Aug - 23	VK2EM	Aug - 27
VK2TT	Aug - 30		

September 2015

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

email Directory (cont'd)

(Continued from front cover)



Hastings Public School Site for Field Day

several members onsite to start laying out the tables, chairs, BBQ, signs, and all those other items that appear for this type of event. By 11am we were letting in the early arrivals for the Field Day and disposals were laid out.



Disposal Table with a range of interesting equipment.

The sausage sizzle was a welcomed break to the day and, as usual, excellent to the taste buds.



Joanne and Sue part of the team serving lunch with a smile.

The fox hunting was running and some hunters were seen walking around in circles as the influence of the School buildings affected the signals making for a tough but well earned result.

Sunday started with a bacon and egg sandwich as some of the exhibitors setup. We were again in full swing of the Field Day, more fox-hunting, bargain hunting and those essential purchases for our hobby.



An extensive display by VK4-ICE who also donated the major lucky callsign prize (below) and other raffle prizes.



Lucky Call Sign prize donated by VK4-ICE

(Continued page 4)

(from page 3)

We suffered only 2 problems for the weekend, these being the loss of water on Saturday and the loss of power on the Sunday.

The water loss was apparently the result of the school shutting off the water mains due to a leaky pipe. Turning it back on restored that issue. The power dropped out due to a suspect piece of equipment being plugged in. Restoring the power required a phone call to the Port Police Station to get contact information for the school's after hours contact. Anyway, an hour later, all was restored and no harm was done.

A big thanks to all the members, and the XYL's and families that assisted with the organisation, setup, running, BBQ'ing, and the final pack-up.

Congratulations to all the prize and trophy winners. These details are listed elsewhere in Oxtales.

Repeater Upgrades

Our application to the ARNSW Grant scheme this year was successful with a cheque been handed over by Tim Mills VK2ZTM, ARNSW Secretary, at the ORARC Field Day. The plans to upgrade the 70cm VK2RPM repeater are under way.

These plans are quite involved and the first stage involves replacing the old Philips 815 repeater with a Yaesu DR-1X analogue/C4FM digital repeater. This has already started with the ordering, and upon arrival, it will be programmed before moving it to Middle Brother.

We then move onto further upgrades, include the linking of VK2RPM and VK2RCN at Telegraph Point. This will allow for linking all the repeaters, direct Echolink access, the possibility of the current APRS digipeaters also having internet access to operate as Igates (internet gateways), and a certain amount of remote access for programming or other remote activities. This is a large project and will be achieved in small steps with the assistance of all ORARC members.

Winter VHF/UHF Field Day

On the 20th of June the Club participated in the Winter VHF/UHF Field Day. We operated on 6 metres, 2 metres and 70cm.

The event's aim was to get out and about, and to operate over long distance VHF and

UHF contacts without the use of repeaters and satellites.



*A fine and chilly day at John Downes Park
Mark VK2FMGM, Bruce VK2HOT, Barry
VK2LBG and John VK2KC*

Setup started around 9am with the Club's Communications Caravan, towed by Henry, VK2ZHE, who arrived at John Downes Park Port Macquarie. I had earlier picked up 3 Yagi antennae and 2 masts from Bill's VK2ZCV place and met up with the members to set up these antennae and masts while Richard, VK2CHC, and Mark VK2FMGM, attended to the BBQ.

The Yagis and 3 masts were now up and well timed with the bacon and egg sandwiches ready. After filling the holes in (& our bellies) we attended to the other items for the day; these being the generator, tables and, most importantly, the radios and logging computer.



Set up completed

0100 UTC arrived and we were anxiously awaiting our first contact to start the contest. 2 metres and 70cm were proving contacts difficult but 6 metres opened up
(Continued page 5)

(From page 4)

with the sporadic E assisting with several contacts into VK5. As the day progressed the weather turned from sunny to overcast and ultimately rain and the decision to call it a day was well timed as antennae and masts were packed for travel back to Bill's and the final items packed into the caravan for return to its home before the weather and the daylight gave up on us. 15 members attended throughout the day.



Operating Station

The spring VHF/UHF Field Day is on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November 2015, and members have indicated an interest to operate multiple bands simultaneously. This will require more preparation and equipment, so mark it on your calendar and look through your available equipment, including antennae, masts and radios. Also we have been cleared by National Parks to potentially operate from the North Brother car park giving us a less obstructed view to the south and at a height of 470 metres can't hurt.

Member upgrades

Congratulations to Stephen Wynn, VK2HOO, and Dennis Meade, VK2FAET,

for their recent success in passing their exams for licence upgrades. Keep an ear out for the new call signs.

Also, congratulations to Peter Kucera, VK2MPK, on regaining his old call sign.

STOP THE PRESS

Stephen's new callsign has been issued and We now congratulate Stephen VK2ZSW.

Dennis's new callsign has also been issued and we congratulate Dennis VK2DAM.

VK2RPM

In the last Oxtales, I indicated that further visits to the VK2RPM site were planned, but unfortunately other activities, and the weather, prevented those plans happening. We will be looking forward to a trip up there in the near future.

Lyle Smith (VK2SMI)
President ORARC)

A Timely Reminder

As the ORARC Field Day drifts off into the memory we are reminded about the safety of the equipment we use. Most of it is either mains operated or runs from a 240 volt power supply of some type. This attachment to the mains can be lethal if not respected. Most of us have a technical background but for those that do not and a reminder for those that have probably forgotten more than we would care to admit, mains voltage can be dangerous.

If we have an old piece of equipment that has not been powered for some time or we acquire something from an unknown source it is recommended to do a few tests before powering it up.

Earth test.

If the unit has a metal case usually that will be connected to the mains earth and a simple test with a multimeter can confirm this.

(Continues on page 6)



7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie
Ph. (02) 6581 4476

(From page 5)

Cable & Plug.

A visual check of the mains cable and plug, looking for damaged or frayed cables and broken or corroded plug.

Shorts.

Again checking with a multimeter for shorts from active and neutral to the earth pin of the power plug (active to neutral will usually measure low if fitted with a mains transformer).

Open the unit up.

Have a visual inspection of the internals, check for vermin, or other damage e.g. blown fuses, wiring, capacitor condition and burnt or damaged components.

Only after these minimum safety checks should you consider powering up the equipment. If you are not sure, it is best to refer it to someone experienced or qualified for testing. As a service technician for more than 30 years I have had my share of shocks from AC and DC, units “blow up” in my face and other uninvited surprises and I don't recommend it so be safe and remember a gram of prevention is better than a kilogram of cure.

Lyle VK2SMI

From the Club's Facebook Page

The ORANA Region Amateur Radio Club has put together a very interesting communications trailer. Craig VK2zzz Vice President and Publicity Officer brought the trailer up to show our club at the July meeting.

The following photographs show the trailer and the very impressive antenna masts that

can be deployed. Many members including myself were quite envious of the mast set up and would like one at home. As can be seen by the photograph below when the masts are deployed the antenna can be raised to a considerable height.



For Sale to Licensed Amateur Only



Kenwood TS-43X 100 Watt PEP SSB, CW, AM (Optional FM Unit not fitted) 160 to 10 metre HF

Transceiver with 12 Volt DC power cable and Kenwood MC-42S Hand Microphone

The TS-43X is identical to the TS-430S. It has a 150 kHz to 30 MHz general coverage receiver. The TS-43X is now surplus to the needs of ORARC and is offered for sale at a price of \$300.

The Instruction Manual is available as a PDF file. Please contact ORARC president Lyle Smith VK2SMI on

telephone (02) 6585 2497 or by email.

Field day Moments in Pictures

Many thanks to Richard VK2CHC, Henry VK2ZHE, Stuart VK2F-STU and John VK2AYQ for the following photographs.



Friday Night Dinner at the Golf Club.

Eating is a serious business!



Registration Desk John VK2KHB



Arthur VK2ATM selling this year's HamStuff 2015



Paul VK2ICQ sells off some disposals



Mobile Antenna

Gary VK2ZKT explains some of his home brew projects. .

The ALARA stand had an interesting display of articles. Dot VK2DB.



Field day Moments in Pictures Continued



The most important element of any field day is the people. The day provides an opportunity to show, sell, explain and just have a talk.



Craig VK2ZCM and Jenny relax.

In the background Paul VK2ICQ, Bill VK2ZCV and xxx discuss a technical issue



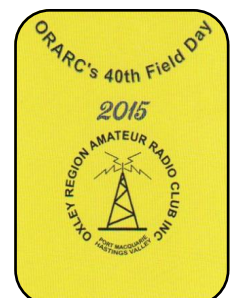
Richard VK2FRKO and Henry VK2ZHE enjoy a quiet conversation.



Roy VK2EJB and John VK2KHB working together selling raffle tickets.



Field days wouldn't be complete without raffle prizes and trophies. The above picture to the left shows a selection of excellent raffle prizes. Picture on the left illustrates the range of trophies to be won.



ORARC Field Day Trophy Winners

Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2ZCM	CRAIG MARTIN	SANCROX
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	CHRIS WILLIAMS	HORNSBY
Saturday 2 Metre Talk in Fox Hunt	VK2BZC	PAUL WEBSTER	PMQ
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	CHRIS WILLIAMS	HORNSBY
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	GERARD HILL	SYDNEY
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	CHRIS WILLIAMS	HORNSBY
Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	CHRIS WILLIAMS	HORNSBY
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	CHRIS WILLIAMS	HORNSBY
Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2BYY	JEFF PAGES	UMINA BEACH
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2LBG	BARRY GILSON	PMQ
Best Home Brew Display	VK2TI	RODNEY SOMERVILLE	BALLINA

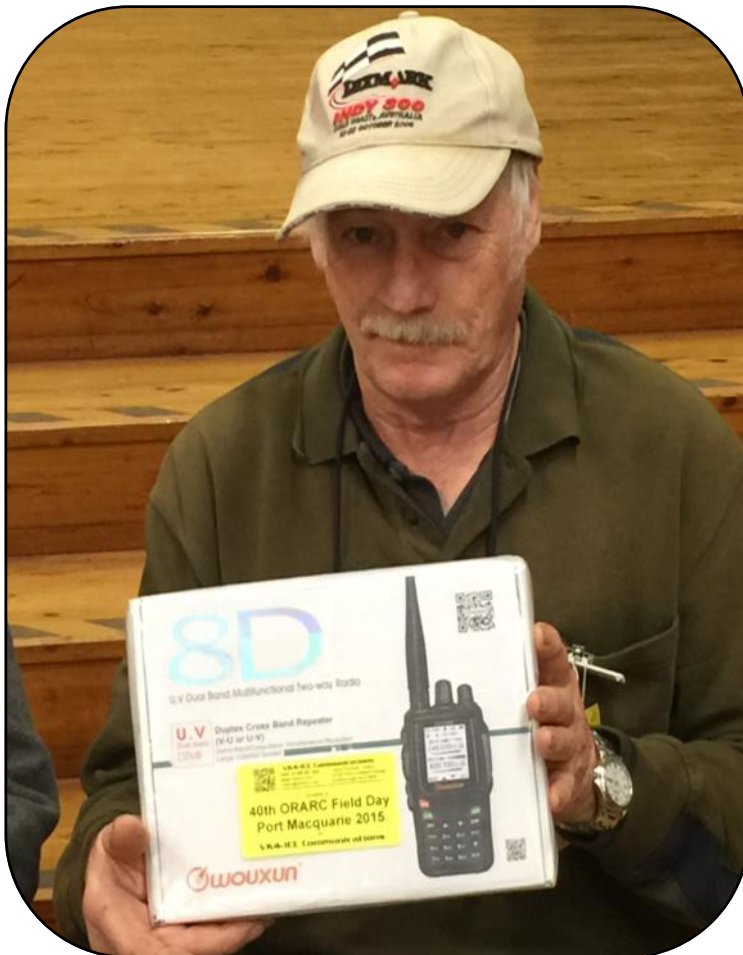
Fox Hunt Champion Chris VK2YMW being presented with the Champions Trophy and is holding the Fox Hunt Perpetual Trophy by President Lyle VK2SMI



ORARC Field Day Prize Winners

Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Wouxun KG-UV8D Transceiver	VK4ICE	VK2JMW	IAN MCDONALD	YARRAWARRAH
2nd Prize	Coaxial Switch	VK2FSTU	VKYCJ	JAMIE CAMPBELL	NEWCASTLE
3rd Prize	bottle white wine (Yellow Tail Moscato)	VK4ICE	VK2AYD	DAVID PILLEY	KING CREEK
4th Prize	Soldering Iron	VK2SMI	VK2EJB	ROY BURGESS	PMQ
5th Prize	WIA 2015 Call Book	ORARC	VK	HELLEN WILLIAMS	HORNSBY
6th Prize	40 metre QRP CW Kit	VK2ZHE	VK2FJHD	JESS DODDS	NEWCASTLE
7th Prize	Multi-Tool Carabineers	VK4ICE	VK2ZOI	JOHN BISHOP	SYDNEY
8th Prize	Trimmer Set	Radio Supply	VK2TPP	PETER PRATT	HORNSBY
9th Prize	ORARC 2015 Calendar	ORARC	VK2LBG	BARRY GILSON	PMQ
10th Prize	ORARC 2015 Calendar	ORARC	VK		



President Lyle VK2SMI presenting Ian VK2JMW with the Wouxun KG-UV8D Transceiver donated by VK4ICE.

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners

Major Raffle

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Digitech AR1945 Radio	VK2ZHE	VK2AYQ	JOHN HANSON	PMQ
2nd Prize	Gas Soldering Kit	Jaycar	VK2AOR	BOB HUDSEN	GOROKAN
3rd Prize	Light of the Tiviner by Jeff Pages	Jeff Pages	VK2JMW	IAN MCDONALD	YARRAWARRAH
4th Prize	WIA Callbook	ORARC	VK2ATM	ARTHUR MONCK	PMQ
5th Prize	Multimeter	Radio Supply		TREVOR DEARLE	KEMPSEY
6th Prize	Multi-Tool Carabineers	VK4ICE	VK2FPRA	PETER ELY	HARRINGTON
7th Prize	DVD-R	VK2SMI	VK2FSTU	STUART WASLH	CROSSLANDS
8th Prize	ORARC 2015 Calendar	ORARC	VK2FDNE	DIANNE WILSON	LEMON TREE PASS
9th Prize	ORARC 2015 Calendar	ORARC	VK2YCI	JAMIE CAMPBELL	NEWCASTLE
10th Prize	ORARC 2015 Calendar	ORARC		HELLEN WILLIAMS	HORNSBY



John VK2AYQ receiving the major raffle price of a Digitech AR1945 Radio from President Lyle VK2SMI donated by Henry VK2ZHE

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners

No Call Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By		Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	bottle red wine (Yellow Tail Merlot)	VK4ICE		NEIL BLAKE	COMBOYNE
2nd Prize	Cadbury Roses	VK2ZHE		GLORIA SAVINS	TORMINA
3rd Prize	Dairy Milk Chocolate	VK2ZHE		TOM KEEVERS	PMQ
4th Prize	Turkish Delight	VK2ZHE		BETTY THOMPSON	LORD HOWE ISLAND
5th Prize	CD Holder	VK2ZHE		LOUISE HUDSON	GOROKAN
	JELLY BEAN COMPETITION			NEIL BLAKE	COMBOYNE

Winter VHF/UHF Field Day Results

We made a total of 11 scoring contacts for a total of 3474 points. The big contributor to our score was the couple of VK5 contacts on 6 metres. Definitely worth the effort of running 6 metres!

Winter VHF-UHF Field Day Contest
2015 CallSign: VK2BOR
Sectn: B2b: Portable Multi-Op, 8
hours, Four Band

Scoring Table - Division 2

Band	QSOs	
	Made	Total
50	5	2598
144	5	763
420	1	113
1.2	0	0
2.4G	0	0
3.3G	0	0
5.6G	0	0
10.G	0	0
24.G	0	0
47.G	0	0
Higher	0	0

Grand Total 3474

Henry VK2ZHE

Generator Repairs

At the ANZAC Day activity most will remember that the generator refused to produce electricity part way through the day. After many Wednesday working bee days checking diodes, windings, capacitors and then replacing several parts it was concluded that it was beyond our “professional” amateur repairs and it was referred to the doctors at Pollard Tools and it was diagnosed to be a shorted winding. The decision to have it re-wound was made and it was returned to the club in working condition as seen at the Winter VHF/UHF Field Day. We now expect it to run without further problems for another 20 years. Thanks to all the members that participated in the diagnosis process.



Arthur VK2ATM uses the specialist mallet tool. Watched by John VK2KHB and Barry VK2LBG.

Caravan Repairs

At the working bees several repairs have been carried out on the Club’s Communication Caravan these included the missing panelling, replacement of the sagging shelf and the leaky roof that caused the saggy shelf. The van was also given an overhaul inside to remove the old unused items and miscellaneous rubbish items. We expect activities to be more pleasant and better organised with the spring clean even if we are a bit early. Thanks to all the members that assisted in this.

Blast from the Past

Looking back over the 2010 issue of Oxtales it was interesting to read about the field day that had just been held in the Sea Scout Hall off William Street. Many familiar names of people who have been working for the club over many years and also some of our trade supporters such as VK4-ICE.



Photo taken from June 2010 Field day. Familiar faces who can name all the people in this picture?

Foxhunters also included several of our current competitors for example Jeff VK2BYY shown below in his trade mark footwear!



The Foxhunter champion for June 2010 was Chris VK2YMW who also won this years championship.

In the following picture Chris VK2YMW

can be seen instructing his son Cameron on



setting up a sniffer under the watchful eye of Bruce VK2HOT. The Fox hunts that year were coordinated by Larry VK2CLL.

Arthur VK2ATM for years at Field Days set up displays of Digital Communication.



There are many other older club members too numerous to name who help out in club events and without who's assistance the club events would not be successful.

The club is also fortunate in having new members and families who are providing help in running club activities. All members are invited to participate in club activities in some way during the year. As this leads to a healthy growing club.

Equipment from the Past

This month the Equipment from the Past features the popular ICOM IC-745.



The **ICOM IC-745** was an advanced transceiver for its day, covering 160 to 10 meters. It had general coverage reception ranging from 100 kHz to 30 MHz.

Frequency stability was made by the utilization of a Temperature Controlled Crystal Oscillator (TCXO). Output selectable between 10 and 100 watts in SSB, CW and RTTY (digital) modes. The 745 had "sophisticated" capabilities such as: multi-function meter dual digital VFOs, all-mode squelch, Notch, Passband Tuning, RIT/XIT and attenuator. 16 memories are built-in. Tuning is done using increments of 1kHz, 50Hz or 10Hz. The fluorescent digital display was easy to read.

Specifications

Frequency range RX 0.1-30 MHz
TX 10-160 m + WARC

Tuning steps
10Hz / 50Hz / 1 kHz

Modulations
AM / CW / USB / LSB / RTTY (FM optional)

Receiver system
Triple conversion
IF-frequencies

1st: 70.4515 MHz
2nd: 9.0115 3rd: 455 kHz

Transmitter

RF-output 10-100 W

Connections

Antenna
SO-239 Impedance 50 Ω

Electrical

Power requirements
13.8V DC Current drain TX 20 A max

Physical

Dimensions (w×h×d)
304 × 111 × 355 mm (11.97 × 4.37 × 13.98 in)

Weight

8 kg (17.7 lbs) without optional IC-PS35 power supply

Manufactured

Between [1983](#) and [198x](#) in Japan

Other features

Memories
16 channels in 1 banks

Features

All-mode squelch
Attenuator
Preamp
Dual digital VFOs
Multi-functional meter
Notch filter
Passband Tuning
RIT/XIT TCXO

Although these receivers are more than 25 years old they represent quite advanced technology and were considered to be a very desirable acquisition for the radio shack.



WIA Matters

Change is coming for the ACMA

Date : 23 / 06 / 2015

Author : Roger Harrison - VK2ZRH

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is anticipated to change in significant ways following a review of its "objectives, functions, structure, governance and resource base", to be completed before the end of 2015.

In announcing the review, the Minister for Communications, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, said it was " . . . to ensure the regulator is able to effectively deal with challenges arising from a rapidly changing communications sector . . . to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose for both the contemporary and future communications regulatory environment."

Noting that the communications sector has changed dramatically since the ACMA's inception in 2005, the Minister observed that the national broadband network rollout, the pervasive use of digital devices and the extensive use of social media". . . are all combining to make communications services a more integral part of every Australian home and business."

The ACMA has regulatory responsibilities under the Radiocommunications Act 1992, the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 and the Telecommunications Act 1997, along with an extensive range of subordinate legislation and regulations.

The Department of Communications is conducting the review, supported by a reference group of Australian and international experts. An issues paper will be published shortly and the Department will call for submissions. A report will be presented to the Minister by the end of 2015.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005 (the ACMA Act) identifies the full scope of functions of the Authority, set out on the Review's Terms of Reference, available at this [Link](#)

The Terms of Reference advise that the review will "consider whether any of the objectives and functions of, or services provided by, the ACMA can cease, be provided by other agencies or the industry itself. It will also consider whether there are objectives and functions of, or services provided by, other agencies that may be more efficiently and effectively delivered by the ACMA."

The WIA expects to participate in the Department of Communications' consultation activities. The Institute will prepare a submission to the ACMA Review following the release of the issues paper.

This review was anticipated by the WIA arising from attending the ACMA's RadComms 2014 conference, its January 2015 industry workshop and liaison meetings over the past nine months.

Dick Smith gets Queens Birthday honour

Date : 09 / 06 / 2015

Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

Philanthropist, businessman, aviator and activist, Dick Smith VK2DIK is now a Companion of the Order of Australia, the highest honour, for his eminent service to the community. He joined the more than 700 Australians who were recognised for their achievements in the Queen's Birthday honours.