

OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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[<http://www.portmacquarie.yourguide.com.au/viewclub.asp?clubid=1044>]

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100TH ISSUE

November 2006

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

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TREASURER:	John McLean	VK2KCE	6584.6220
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President's Report

El Presidenté, holidaying on a touring trip, found time to prepare and lodge this report to meet the OXTALES deadline:

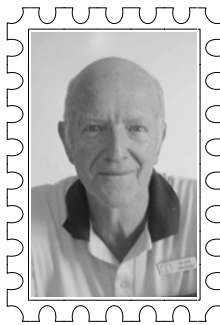
The outside daytime temperature hasn't fallen below 38 for the last four weeks. The air conditioner and the fan are both fighting a losing battle trying to keep the indoor temperature below 30 but, a promise is a promise, so its time to put finger(s) to keyboard and get this column under way.

One of the highlights for me was a ten day stop-over in Kununurra, WA, visiting the international shortwave station operated by HCJB. The station is located 7km from the town centre on a massive 1500 hectare site and comprises two 100kW double sideband AM transmitters and extensive aerial farm. Part of the property produces commercial quantities of mango, sugar and bananas, the sale of which helps offset the high operating costs of a station this size.

The largest transmitter I had ever worked on previously ran 10kW and took up a lot of floor space so my pre-conceived idea of a 100kW unit pictured huge air and water cooling towers and a transmitter the size of a house. It came as somewhat of a shock to be introduced to the HC-100 which occupied a floor area of only 3m by 3m and stood just over 2m

high. The technical details I'll leave to a talk some Friday evening but, suffice to say, there are only two valves used – an Eimac 4CX3500 air cooled driver producing 1kW into a single tube final using an Eimac 4CV100000E vapour-cooled tetrode running at 80% efficiency. The rest of the circuitry is all solid state under the control of an on-board CPU (68000) which controls all the auto-tune functions programmed into an EPROM. The transmitter uses power supply modulation which was a new technique as far as I was concerned and is the main reason for the relatively small physical size of the transmitter. Normal high-level plate modulation would have required a 50kW modulator which was completely absent. In its place was a digitized audio stream driving a series of fibre-optic coupled IGBT power supply switches!

After an extremely steep 24 hour learning curve, I found myself in charge of both transmitters on a four hour evening shift, praying fervently nothing would go wrong! Part of my learning curve required familiarisation with an extensive OH&S Radiation Hazard
(Continued on P10)



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Down The Coax
Friday Night Get-togethers
November 10th & 24th
7.00pm

December Monthly Meeting
Sat. 2nd Dec
At the Xmas BBQ Picnic
San Crox Park
Picnic Begins at 10.00am

Friday Night Get-togethers
December 8th & 22nd
7.00pm

January Monthly Meeting
Sat Jan 6th at 2.00pm

Coffs Harbour's CHADARC
Annual Field Day
Sunday 21st January
(See notice in this OXTALES)

E-mail directory.

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to
30th October, 2006*

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VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvsg.com.au
VK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2FBRG (Barry) fgilson@bigpond.net.au
VK2FJKD (Jim) jaidanl@bigpond.com
VK2FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

Net Controllers' Roster
Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 Mhz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Wednesdays
(1900 Local)

November 2006

VK2VIV	Nov-05	VK2ZCM	Nov-01
VK2TT	Nov-12	VK2ATM	Nov-08
VK2OA	Nov-19	VK2ZHE	Nov-15
VK2BZD	Nov-26	VK2AYD	Nov-22
		VK2EI	Nov-29

December 2006

VK2VIV	Dec-03	VK2GD	Dec-06
VK2TT	Dec-10	VK2ZCM	Dec-13
VK2OA	Dec-17	VK2ATM	Dec-20
VK2BZD	Dec-24	VK2ZHE	Dec-27
VK2VIV	Dec-31		

January 2007

VK2TT	Jan-07	VK2AYD	Jan-03
VK2OA	Jan-14	VK2EI	Jan-10
VK2BZD	Jan-21	VK2GD	Jan-17
VK2VIV	Jul-28	VKZCM	Jan-24
		VK2ATM	Jan-31

February 2007

VK2OA	Feb-04	VK2ZHE	Feb-07
VK2BZD	Feb-11	VK2AYD	Feb-14
VK2VIV	Feb-18	VK2EI	Feb-21
VK2TT	Feb-25	VK2GD	Feb-28

March 2007

VK2OA	Mar-04	VK2ZCM	Mar-07
VK2BZD	Mar-11	VK2ATM	Mar-14
VK2VIV	Mar-18	VK2ZHE	Mar-21
VK2TT	Mar-25	VK2AYD	Mar-28

April 2007

VK2OA	Apr-01	VK2EI	Apr-04
VK2BZD	Apr-08	VK2GD	Apr-11
VK2VIV	Apr-15	VK2ZCM	Apr-18
VK2TT	Apr-22	VK2ATM	Apr-25
VK2OA	Apr-29		

Wanted:

2m Beam, 3 to 7 element for vertical use
to VK2RPM and portable use.
Coax - 12m of RG8 or equivalent low-loss
cable for 2m use.
HF Boat anchor - something cheap and
cheerful for some nostalgic fun.
Preferably working or easily repaired.
All enquiries to Brett, VK2TMG via email:
emu@midcoast.com.au
or
Phone: 02 6582 5956

2007 Call Books

Our Secretary has ordered the 2007 Call Books.
Cost is \$22 each.
Please pay Treasurer ASAP

Home Weather Station

By Arthur VK2ATM

Components:

Home Weather Station Kit (Radio Supply P/L) Cost \$230
Old Pool Filter casing.
2 x 10 volt Solar Panel
4 x AA Nickel Metal Hydride Batteries in holder
Home brew regulator board
Strip of 25mm x 4mm x 600mm Aluminium
Old 12 volt ball-bearing computer fan

Features:

Clock Time and Date
Wind direction and Speed
Inside and Outside Temperature
Barometric pressure, Rainfall and Relative Humidity
Pressure trend chart and Weather Forecast
Wind Chill factor at temps below 10 deg C.



Building:

First the old pool filter casing was marked around the equator using a piece of string and marker pen. Then a second line 50mm further down was drawn. The casing was sawn around both lines and the ring discarded. This is to enable the top section to overlap the bottom on reassembly.

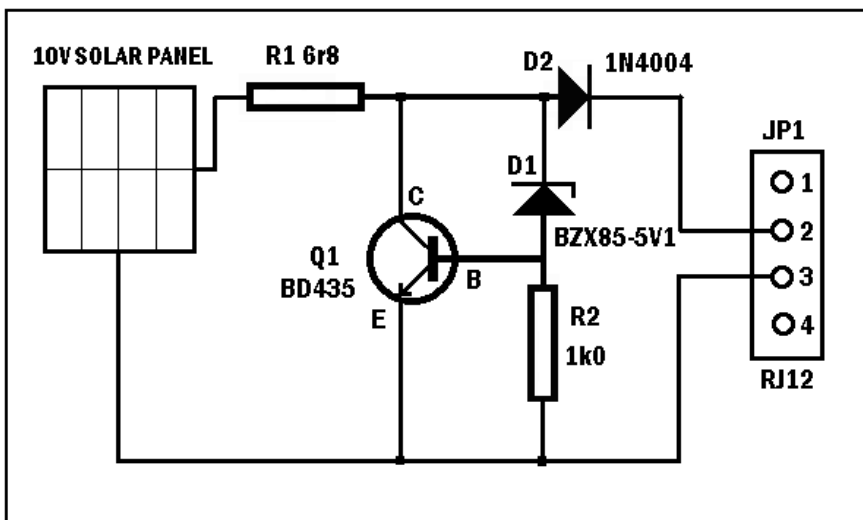
Ventilation slots (24 in all) were cut in the bottom section with an upward slant to avoid water getting in during storms. The bottom section was scalloped as well at its top edge to allow further ventilation at the overlap. The top section already had a 200mm hole with a lip, so this was used to mount a 300mm aluminium plate on 10mm standoffs to give a ventilation outlet. The fan was mounted in this hole with straps to centre it and a cone shaped shroud made from a takeaway tub with the bottom cut out to direct the inlet airflow.

Two painted hardwood feet were mounted on the bottom spaced to straddle the Kliplock roofing where it is to be installed.

The Regulator, Transmitter and battery box were mounted inside the bottom half on a suitable piece of form-board which just happened to fit nicely.

The Wind Speed and Direction Sensor pole were mounted on the top plate with the Rain gauge on the aluminium strip off to one side.

Solar Panels were mounted on the top north facing side of the case. One panel was used for the power supply regulator and battery charging. The other panel drives the fan with a temperature sensor controlling the fan speed attached to the back-plane of the solar panel with silicone glue.



The regulator for power and battery charging is a simple excess bypass type using a BD435 NPN on a heat sink mounted outside the bottom case on the shady side, driven by a C5v1 zener from the rail with a 1k resistor to earth from the base. The Emitter is connected to ground. The 8-10v output from the solar panel is current limited to this positive rail with a 6r8 7w resistor to the Collector. The rail is then fed to the battery via a power diode to prevent reverse discharging and provides 5.6 volts at the power lead to the transmitter and sensor unit.

When there is no sun the batteries provide 5.3v for approximately a month's operation. The wiring is all interconnected using RJ12 plugs and sockets to allow easy dismantling.



The display unit can be mounted in any convenient location within radio range of the 430Mhz transmitter which sends a burst of data every 2 minutes. It has internal backup batteries, but is normally supplied from a 240v plug pack.

Problems:

It became apparent early on, that the shield over the Temp sensor and Transmitter was inadequate to prevent sun on the surface from causing excessive temperature readings, up to 41° C by 9 am. This meant that a Stevenson Screen as used by Meteorological Services was needed. The old fibre-glass pool filter casing solved this.

Another solution is to use a number of flower pot drainage saucers inverted and with bottoms cut out, then spaced apart with bolts and spacers, leaving the topmost one intact.

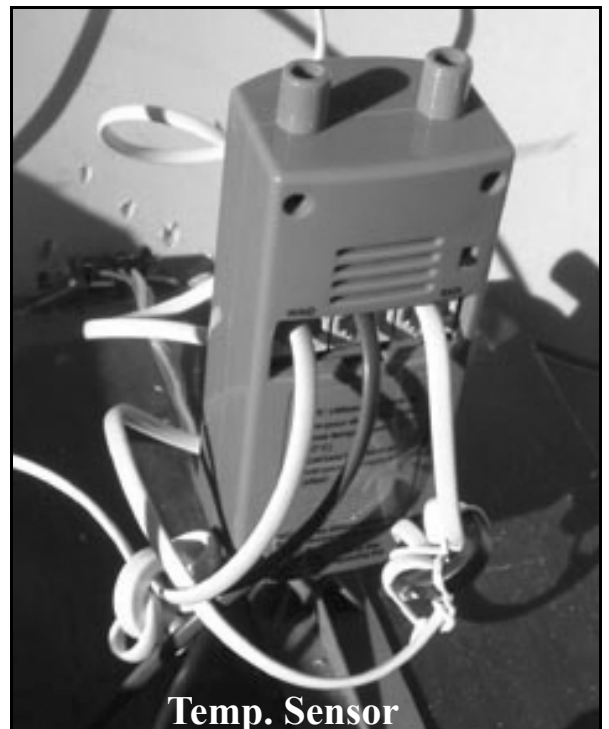
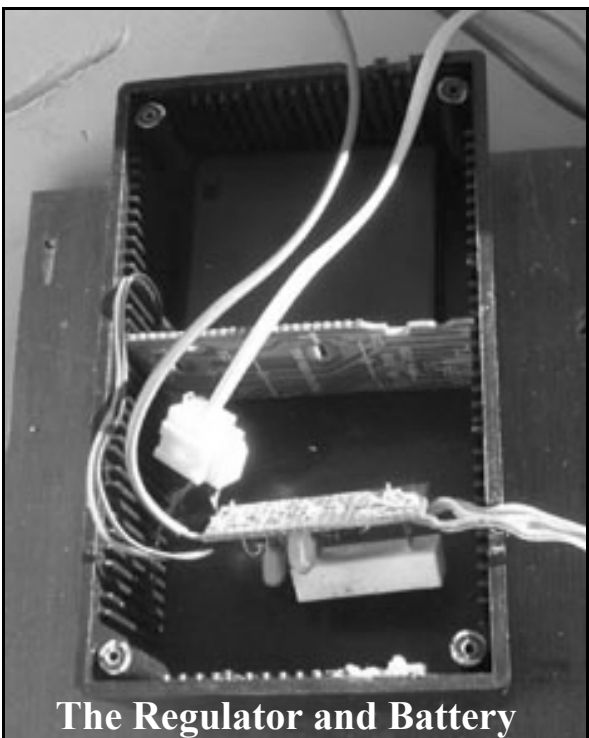
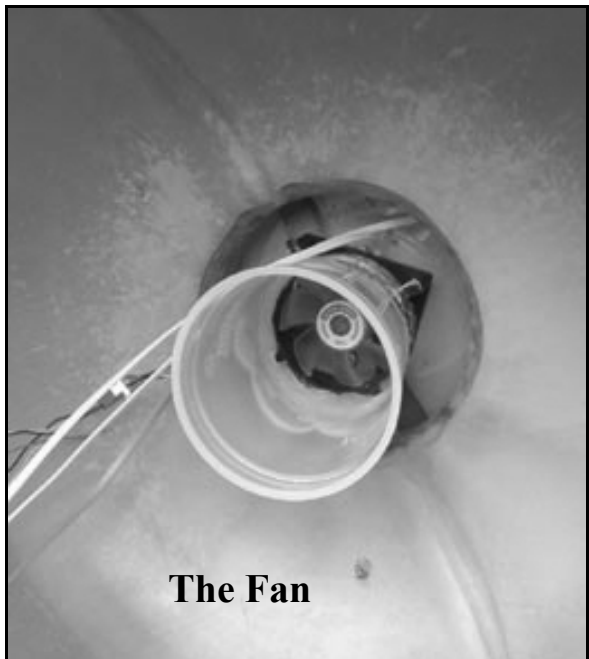
The internal battery compartment then posed a problem as the charging batteries produced enough heat to affect the temp sensor. So the batteries were removed to an external box in the regulator housing. Then the regulator pass transistor, with its heat-sink, had to be removed to the outside of the Stevenson Screen.

The next big problem arose when a severe thunderstorm caused the whole thing to lock up with no display but rows of --- instead of numbers on the screen. I had rolled up the excess supplied cabling neatly and tied it off with "twistems", inside the casing.

This was cured, I hope, by shortening the cables and fitting toroid chokes at the ends where the cables plug into the transmitter. Another big thunderstorm that arrived in early September produced no lock-up or display problems, indicating that this modification was successful.

The whole installation now has considerable "WOW" factor for visitors. □

De Arthur VK2ATM.



Comprehensive User's Manual?

Recently, John, VK2KCE, acquired a nice new hand-held spot light. It was accompanied by the usual manual of instructions. John thought it would be of interest to members to see the approach to consumer education that was employed in this case. Here is a copy of the "Manual".

Using Manual

This product searches the light for the strong light, can divide far light and near two kinds of methods of light and handles to lift, the shoulder carry on the back, the stand type three kinds of mode usages. The usage invited the careful reading manual and safe regulations before using.

A. Operation method:

- (1) Usage far near light, draw back transparent cover plank, stir switch to the position need.
- (2) The usage stand type will fix the knob to relax, after can make use of the support adjustment angle to the appearance need again the knob tight .
- (3) The product places need not hour to separate 1 month to turn on electricity each time 10-20 refresh once after minutes. Can prolong the electric cell service life thus.

B. Safe regulation/warning

- (1) Doing not let the kid play, do not place the position that kid enough get.
- (2) Do not toward the person's eye irradiation , prevent from stab and wound eye.
- (3) Don't be place in lens aims at other easy burning, explosive substances, can't not to bear the heat, prevent from turning on the light but the occurrence troubles carelessly .
- (4) The usage circumscribe continuous work time of the far light of power supply of DC not to want to be over 40 minutes, prevent framing hot but affect the product service life .
- (5) Use don't touch the lens glass with human body by hand, prevent from the burn.
- (6) Refresh full want to pull out plug behind, prevent from refresh and other insecurities factor occurrence.
- (7) Need to replace the electric cell should lead red line of a head of aim at the electric cell "+" pole. The black leads the line a head of to aim at the electric cell " - " pole, connect anti - will burn the bad circuit and the occurrence troubles. Don't discard the electric cell dereliction and the devotion garbage boxes, to hand over to recover the section recovery.
- (8) Need to replace the lamp bulb to insure the lamp bulb to have already neared to the normal temperature, don't would not get in touch with the lamp bulb glass to prevent from break to harm the hand by hand and directly, product wants to insure after use cold go to the normal temperature be able to pack and place, the reflection bowl plates

the film mirror to face and don't touch and wipe to wash by hand, avoiding affect the reflection result, the lens glass can use the smoked alcohol of cotton to wipe to wash.

(Hmmm! Succinct?... Ed.)

Bago 100 Car Rally

ORARC members did another stint for the organizers of yet another CAMS car rally event in our local district. This time it was the Bago 100 Rally, which took place on Saturday 30th September.

A working party assembled at the club-rooms at 8.30am to load up the gear and transport it to the "Headquarters" site. The site of our "Headquarters" was the same as our previous rally exercise, on the Cowarra Access road, just eastwards of the dam.

All hands arrived at the control point nice and early to erect our car-port and an impressive array of antennae to cover the bands being worked (2-M via VK2RPM, 2-M simplex, 70cm, HF on 80M, and CB). The weather was kind, with perhaps just a whisker too much breeze to give it a 10-out-of-10 rating, but there were no complaints apart from an occasional expletive voiced when our "Headquarters" Portable car-port was given to billowing somewhat spinnaker-like in some of the "puffs".

Again the facilities that were available to all-comers at the control site, were highly commendable. The "canteen" operated by the Port Macquarie Motor Cycle Club provided an excellent menu.

To ensure that VK2HOT's frequent quality-control samples taken on the Bacon-and-egg-roll production line during the July rally were repeatable, most members present at "HQ" took time-out to validate Bruce's earlier findings.

Unfortunately for those members who ultimately had to head to the bush to man the various check-points, the nourishment amenities became a little out of convenient range... they had to "roll their own" for quite some hours during the running of the rally. However, quite a number were able to get back to the "canteen" after the completion of the last stage of the rally, and take advantage of the fare.

The nature and location of the terrain over which the various rally stages were conducted, resulted a requirement to use 80M at a couple of locations where 2M coverage was either not possible or unreliable. Voice relaying was also used on 80M after sun-down when QRN and QRM became troublesome. However, the quality of the coverage that was achieved

fully satisfied the requirements of the organizers.

In a "Thank you" message to John, VK2KCE (our club's interface member with the Hastings Valley Car Club), Scott Keys, President of HVCC, said "we could not have done it without your help, and we are already talking about the rally in 2007".

Happy to say, there were no nasty accidents or injuries to the competitors or those participating in support roles. It was an enjoyable event, stress-free, and devoid of drama. Pretty much copy-book stuff, really!

Those who participated in the comms roles, for, or on-behalf of the club, were:

Co-ordinators: John, VK2KCE; Arthur, VK2ATM

Checkpoint mobile stations: John, VK2KCE; Laurie, VK2ELN; Arthur, VK2ATM; Jim, VK2VIV; Barry, VK2FBRG; Neil, VK2EI; Bill, VK2ZCV; Tracy, VK2GTM; Henry, VK2ZHE, Steve, VK2MDX.

HQ Comms Car-port: Bruce, VK2HOT: John, VK2AYQ; Bill, VK2ZCW; Charles, VK2FSH; Jason, VK2FT; Jarrod Hiran, Dwain Loreberg, Jim, VK2FJKD; Trevor, VK2TT.

Dismantling of the HQ installation began immediately it became possible to progressively close down the established links as the last stage began to wind down. This meant that John, VK2AYQ who was sitting at the last operating position while the Car-port was literally "pulled down around his ears" as he received the final figures from the finish line. The wind had dropped by this time, so he was not exposed to the breeze...

just the chill of the night air that had settled in by 9.00 pm.

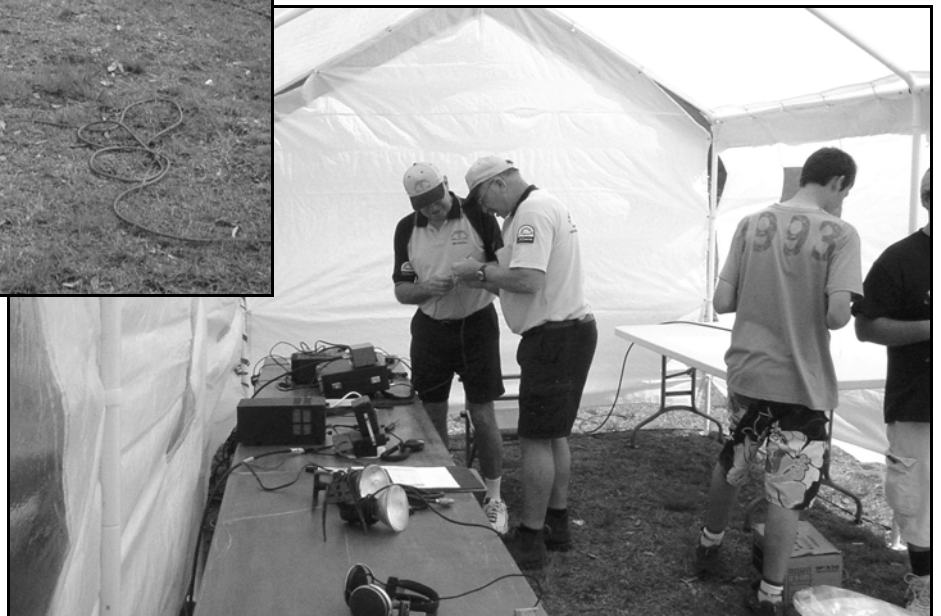
A big Thank-you to the club Co-ordinators, John & Arthur! □



Pictured at Left is a part of the group of participants who attended the rally exercise. In this shot, erection of the sturdy antenna had just been completed. The antenna, a homebrew job for the Citizen's Band, was provided by John, VK2KCE.

From L to R, you see Bill, VK2ZCV; Barry, VK2FBRG; Trevor, VK2TT; John, VK2KCE; Jarrod Hiran, Jason, VK2FT and Dwain Loreberg.

Right: Bill VK2ZCW with Bruce, VK2HOT getting the HQ Control Station established in readiness for action.



35th Anniversary Meeting

Our club's October general meeting was a special event. It was arranged to mark the 35th Anniversary of the club's formation back in the last millennium... 1971 to be precise.

Held at the Marian Function Centre in Ocean Drive Port Macquarie, on Saturday 7th October, it attracted an impressive gathering of thirty-five, which included club members and invited guests.

We must record here, the attendance list to maintain good historical data for the club's archives.

They were: (in call sign alphabetical order)

VK2EI, Neil Sandford
VK2FA, Grahame O'Brien
VK2OA, Allan Madigan
VK2TT, Trevor Thatcher
VK2ADA, Arnold Austin
VK2AIF, David Harding
VK2ATM, Arthur Monck *
VK2AYQ, John Hansen
VK2BZD, Jim Webster
VK2CLL, Larry Lindsay
VK2DDL, Stan Ellis
VK2DKN, Phil Wait
VK2EJK, Bob Brodie
VK2ELN, Laurie Newham
VK2FSH, Charles Edmondson
VK2HOT, Bruce Walker
VK2IEV, Joe Bivona
VK2KCE, John McLean
VK2KHB, John Bailey
VK2MDX, Steve Hadfield
VK2MEL, Paul Jones
VK2MOQ, Baden Gleeson
VK2TMG, Brett Rees
VK2VIV, Jim Neil
VK2WBK, Brian Kelly
VK2ZCV, Bill Sinclair
VK2ZCW, Bill Brooke
VK2ZHE, Henry Lundell *
VK2ZIS, Graeme Greenwood *
VK2ZTM, Tim Mills
VK2FABJ, Ailsa Brooke
VK2FBRG, Barry Gilson
VK2FJKD, Jim Daniel
Keith Hanlon
Noel Symington

*indicates Foundation Member

The Lead-up

The initial concept for the event was the product of Wendy Monck's devoted interest in things related to ORARC. Wendy had been counting the years! Her concept prompted enthusiastic support and action from the usual "coalition of the willing" and it all began to happen.

Wendy ferreted out the superb venue and Henry (VK2ZHE) promptly booked and paid for the venue as part of his contribution to the club, which enabled a firm target date to be set for the "Do".

Special mention must be made of Wendy's thought and work involved in making up all the individual prize bags, and for obtaining donations of prizes and for donating so many things herself towards the day.

The club's only financial outlay for the function was to meet the cost of a specially negotiated discount price for the Pizzas. (Wendy did the negotiating and ordering!). Henry donated (and on the day, prepared) the cocktail frankfurts, Wendy and Arthur donated and prepared all of the sandwiches, savouries, cakes and other food - including the Anniversary Cake. Arthur deserves special mention for his role in constructing the antenna tower that decorated the cake. *(It looked great but didn't taste nearly as nice as the cake... Ed.)*



On the day, VK2ATM, VK2KCE, VK2ZCV, VK2ZHE and VK2ZTM did the behind the scenes setting up the venue in the morning. VK2KCE and VK2ATM are to be commended for their sterling effort on the door. VK2AYQ was official photographer and thanks to VK2KCE for additional photographs. Bill VK2ZCW produced the certificates for the awards that were presented during the meeting.

The historical Photo-boards that had been prepared as a result of what must have been enormous time consuming research by Wendy and Arthur Monck, were major drawcards of interest at the function. These special boards, containing historical snippets and photographs, were on display and covered the foundation and chronology of the club, the field days, and the life-story of OXTALES from its creation until its 99th issue. Wendy and Arthur have handed these boards over to the club for retention as a reminder of our 35th Anniversary event, and to enhance our historical records.

Additionally, Arthur expended much time and effort in manipulating his shack resources to scan many megabytes of historic OXTALES issues to produce an Anniversary CD containing .pdf files of each of the 99 issues of our club newsletter.

(Copies of this CD are now available at a cost of \$5 to supplement the club's coffers)

And So it All Happened.

The event began with a luncheon, and was followed by the usual monthly meeting.

There were formal presentations of awards to members in recognition of their contributions over the years, and of course, the drawing of prizes for Lucky Door winners and competition winners. Unfortunately, our member who administered the competitions and draws was out of town at the time of compilation of OXTALES, and complete details were not available for inclusion in this issue. They will be included in next issue.

Herewith the details that we do have on hand:

The 3 Foundation Members, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Arthur Monck VK2ATM & Graeme Greenwood VK2ZIS were each presented with a framed certificate and a small gift.

The invited Guests, Phil Wait VK2DKN WIA, Brian Kelly VK2WBK Amateur Radio NSW, Tim Mills VK2ZTM, Arnold Austin VK2ADA and Grahame O'Brien VK2FA, were each presented with a certificate and a novel.

The other Life Members, Keith Hanlon, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV were each presented with a certificate and a mug. Life Member Bob Blyth VK2XIQ was unable to be present and his certificate and mug were hand delivered later by the Secretary.

There were 4 competitions:

1. Match the Babies with Call Signs
2. Crossword Puzzle
3. Sudoku
4. Technical Quiz

(Winners will be announced in the next issue of Oxtales.)

Special presentations were awarded to: Trevor Thatcher VK2TT in recognition of his long standing as Oxtales editor, and to Paul Jones VK2MEL in recognition of his effort as Outstanding Fund Raiser for 2006.

A coffee mug was presented to each of the 31 members who had served as an office bearer or held a position in the club.

Then came the drawing of the Lucky Door Prizes. There was a prize for everyone. Herewith the first seven:

- 1st Weather fax decoder kit - won by Brett Rees VK2TMG
- 2nd Wooden table lamp - won by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
- 3rd Ice-cream cake voucher - won by Tim Mills VK2ZTM. (Tim kindly donated the voucher back to the club)
- 4th Backpack - won by Bill Sinclair VK2ZHE

- 5th Backpack - won by John Bailey VK2KHB
- 6th Computer keyboard - won by Keith Hanlon
- 7th Computer keyboard - won by Phil Wait VK2DKN

A big "Well done!" to VK2HOT who, as MC, presented the awards; and to VK2VIV, VK2KCE and VK2ZCV for keeping proceedings running.

The ceremony of cutting the Anniversary cake involved a team effort... who could be more appropriate than the three attending Foundation Members? VK2ATM, VK2ZHE and VK2ZIS, armed with blades (resembling genuine blades of Toledo!) soon carved it up into portions for distribution. (See below)



Below: VK2ZCW, VK2FABJ, VK2EI





Above L to R: VK2ZTM, VK2ZIS, VK2AIF, VK2FA, VK2DDL



At Right:
Jim Daniel,
VK2FJKD



At Left: Henry,
VK2ZHE, in a vital
role within the
catering corps. The
masses were fed.
Nobody went home
hungry!



Above L to R:
VK2AYQ,
VK2DKN,
VK2ZCV.



**Above L to R: VK2IEV, VK2FBRG,
VK2VIV.**

**Below L to R: VK2MEL, VK2WBK,
VK2HOT**



At Right:
VK2MDX,
VK2CLL.

Below: Self-explanatory Exotic Fillings!



JOTA 2006

The club participated in the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) again this year. Members set up HF and VHF equipment at the Sea Scout hall in Buller Street, Port Macquarie, on Saturday the 21st of October.

Murphy played his part in making the day a challenging one. A solar event on Friday resulted in an almost complete absence of HF signals until late on Saturday afternoon. The dial up internet access to EchoLink proved unreliable due to a problem with the telephone line in the upstairs room where the station was set up. Fortunately the EchoLink facility via the VK2RPM two metre repeater saved the day.

VK2RPM ran hot as the scouts and guides spent the afternoon talking with their counterparts in Alice Springs. After our group had spoken with everyone in Alice Springs we were called by an early rising G7 in Kidderminster on the River Severn in Worcestershire, UK. The scouts and guides gained a wealth of information on a wide variety of notable things related to the home of Worcestershire sauce. While the operator, Eddie, on his local two metre repeater didn't have any scouts or guides in his shack as it was only 7:30am, he patiently answered every question he was asked, and always added an interesting Worcestershire fact to each transmission. All those present on Saturday afternoon became experts on everything from the origin of the Penny Post to the birthplace of former New Zealand Prime Minister Walter Nash.

Bill VK2ZCV took on the marathon task of rebirthing two notebook PCs which Country Energy had kindly donated to the scouts. They were to be used for the Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) which runs in parallel with JOTA. However, Bill had to turn the notebooks with formatted hard drives into dial up internet terminals. Bill did a sterling job in successfully performing this miracle so that JOTI could continue during the evening. Fortunately the downstairs telephone line co-operated and the dial up connection ran reliably. Well done Bill.

Thank you to those members who participated in the day: Jim VK2VIV, Jim VK2BZD, Bill VK2ZCV, Bill VK2ZCW, Neil VK2EI, Charles VK2FSH, Steve VK2MDX, Barry VK2FBRG and Henry VK2ZHE

ORARC would like to thank the scouts and guides and their leaders for being so patient and organized as they participated in JOTA and JOTI and the other activities throughout the day. As usual

our ORARC volunteers were well looked after. Thank you.

Over a barbeque evening meal in the closing stages of the day we were treated to seeing the start of the 2006 NSW Fire Brigades Firefighters' torchlight procession which began in front of the Sea Scout Hall. This was the opening event of the NSW Fire Brigades Firefighters' Championships which ran all week in Westport Park. □

Kidderminster Facts: The birth of the Penny Post on the 10th of January 1840 which is considered to be the basis of the modern postal service, is credited to Sir Rowland Hill who was born in Kidderminster. The New Zealand Prime Minister from 1957 to 1960, Walter Nash, was also born in Kidderminster.

Henry (VK2ZHE)

President's Report (cont'd from P1)
manual for the site which detailed the "hot" spots to be avoided. All of these proved to be outside in the vicinity of the feeders and antennas. It was possible to walk about in complete safety inside the transmitter housings due to careful and extensive shielding. The actual operation of the transmitters is under the control of a special software program running on a conventional PC which interfaces with the 68000 CPU in each transmitter. All timed frequency changes and retuning are directed by this program which leaves little for the human operator to do unless there is a mains failure which then requires restarting the transmitters manually to allow them to catch up with the control computer which is held up by a large UPS.

Program material comes from the HCJB Melbourne studios on a multiplexed stereo ISDN line, left channel for TX1 and right channel for TX2. The Melbourne studio program control and the Kununurra transmitter control are time synchronized to within 4ms.

Enough for now. Time for a cool shower and early to bed as we head for Hughenden tomorrow.

Alan VK2GD

El Presidenté

<p>HamStuff 2006 CD's Set of 3 - Available from VK2ATM \$10 per set Proceeds to Club Funds Every Ham with a PC needs this excellent source of utilities & information. Get a set now !</p>

Beechwood Billycart Classic 2006

Sunday, 15th October saw eleven members of the ORARC front up at Beechwood for this annual classic event. The day was "warmish", but pleasant, and highly satisfactory for a family day out. Unofficial estimates of the crowd seemed to favour "guesses" ranging from 600 to 1,000-plus.

Club members were easier to count because of their distinctive shirts, and the hand-held weapons they carried. Those who turned up to participate in the communications for this charity fund-raiser were (in alphabetical order of call sign):

VK2EI, Neil
VK2TT, Trevor
VK2AIF, Dave
VK2BZD, Jim
VK2CHC, Richard
VK2FSH, Charles
VK2KCE, John
VK2MDX, Steve
VK2ZCM, Craig
VK2ZCV, Bill
VK2ZCW, Bill

This year, our normal "Thrill-seat" operator, VK2YOR, Roy, was on recuperation leave, having recently had a short stint in hospital. However, Roy kindly made his 2-M equipment available for installation in the commentary vehicle - Thank you, Roy! Greatly appreciated -. As a consequence, Steve, VK2MDX, was "volunteered" to fill the vacancy as this year's commentary vehicle operator. Following the down-hill dash in front of the competing bilycarts, Steve emerged unscathed, and with a noticeable twinkle in his eye. Clearly, he enjoyed the thrill of the chase!

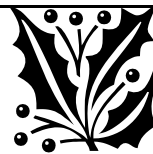
The control station, set up at Richard's QTH was manned by Charles, VK2FSH, to serve as a focal point for all eight radio points located along the course of the race.

Fortunately, there were no accidents or break-downs to mar the events. Four junior preliminary events stirred up the onlooker's excitement in readiness for the "big-kids" event that followed.

All fourteen starters in the main event completed the course without mishap, although one competing crew had the misfortune to run off the road, but soon got back on course.

ORARC's participation in the communications effort received a favourable mention in a subsequent media article which, in light of last year's disappointing omission, was pleasing. □

ORARC's



Christmas

BBQ Picnic

**Our annual Christmas function will
be held at
San Crox Reserve Recreation Area
On 2nd December. Roll up from
10.00 am onwards
(Same venue as last year)**

Car Rally Effort Recognised

Following ORARC's recent participation in the communications facilities for the Hastings Valley Sporting Car Club, our Secretary received a Certificate of Appreciation accompanied by a cheque for a donation of \$300 from that organisation.

This sort of recognition, together with the appreciative comments that were forthcoming from members of the Car Club, make it all worthwhile and a pleasure to assist in these community interest events.

There have been indications that similar events, mooted for the future, could again see us giving a hand with our rather unique hobby and resources. □

Equipment Room Clean-up

A working-bee is being arranged to do a clean-up of our equipment room at the SES HQ. The date is to be set at the November monthly meeting. Let's see a good turn-out to speed up this important task.

CHADARC Field Day

**The Coffs Harbour Field day is set down for Sunday, 21st January, 2007.
0830-1530.**

**Location: Anglican Church Hall
McLean Street, Coffs Harbour.
Entry fee: \$5**





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 31st October, 2006)

Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D BELL	ALAN		VK2BEL	COOLONGLOOK	02 6554.1689
3	O BIVONA	JOE	(ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0405040953
4	L BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5	O BRODIE	BOB		VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
6	O BROOKE	AILS A	(BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
7	O BROOKE	BILL	(AILS A)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O COULTER	KEVIN	(JUNE)	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
9	O COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
10	O DANIEL	JIM		VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
11	O EDMONDSON	CHARLES	(PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
12	D EKERT	BRUCE	(SUE)	VK2EM	EAST MAITLAND	02 4934 3025
13	D ELLIS	STAN	(BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
14	O GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
15	O GLEESON	BADEN	(VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
16	O GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
17	O GREENWOOD	GRAEME		VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
18	O HADFIELD	STEVE		VK2MDX	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
19	L HANLON	KEITH		-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
20	O HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
21	O HARDING	DAVID	(ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
22	L LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
23	L LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
24	O MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
25	O MARRIOTT	JOHN	(ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
26	O MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
27	O MCLEAN	JOHN		VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
28	O MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
29	D MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
30	H MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
31	L MONCK	ARTHUR	(WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
32	H MONCK	WENDY	(ARTHUR)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
33	O NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
34	O NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
35	O NUTT	ALAN	(ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
36	O PILLEY	DAVID	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
37	O REES	BRETT	(YVETTE)	VK2TMG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5956
38	O RICHTER	ROY		VK2YB	VIA WAUCHOPE	02 6587.4232
39	O ROTH	BILL		VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
40	O SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
41	L SINCLAIR	BILL		VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
42	D TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
43	O THATCHER	TREVOR	(PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
44	D THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
45	O WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
46	O WEBSTER	JIM	(MARY)	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

Category Key: O = ORDINARY A = ASSOCIATE D = DISTANT H = HONORARY L = LIFE