

Websites: [http://www.mypage.tsn.cc/orarc/page2.html] and [http://www.portmacquarie.yourguide.com.au/viewclub.asp?clubid=1044] e-mail : vk2bor@tsn.cc

January 2007 **Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ**

PRESIDENT: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557 VICE PRES: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583.8360 TREASURER: John McLean VK2KCE 6584.6220 SECRETARY: Jim Neil VK2VIV 6581.2481

President's Report

I want to wish all our Club members, near and far, a very happy New Year and trust that the pre- \Box ceding week's festivities and aftermath have in no way diminished the possibility of that occurring!

On New Year's Day I was thinking about the

things we wish each other at this time of year. Things like a "Merry Christmas", "Happy, pros-perous and healthy New Year" etc. . We very easily and glibly say these things to each other, but it is quite likely that we give little if any thought to these possibilities actually happening in the life of the re-cipient of our greeting. For example, a di-vided family or a family who has just suffered traumatic loss might have considerable difficulty experiencing any great "merriment" over Christmas and a person suffering a terminal illness is not going to be particularly encouraged by wishing them a "prosperous and healthy" New Year.

My thoughts along these lines were no doubt influenced by the death of a good friend just a day short of the New Year. The previous two weeks had been taken up with the difficult task of farewelling family members and friends and one would have thought there was little possibility of merriment over Christmas and certainly no chance of looking forward to a "Happy

New Year". And yet, in spite of the circumstances, there was considerable joy and thankfulness in that family since they had a contident assurance in what lay ahead, an assurance that was in no way tied to the uncertainties or unknowables of the coming year. Sure, there was the grief and sorrow of separation but not the hopelessness of "those who have no hope." By contrast, I can never forget witnessing many local funerals among our very primitive locals in Papua New Guinea when the cacophony of wailing could be heard for miles. For many of them, there was "no hope". "Hope" in this context is not 'wishful thinking" but "confident expectation!" There's a huge difference

We live in uncertainty – that's life. Despite all the prognostications and predictions about what might lie ahead, no one has ever been able to say with certainty what the next hour will bring, let alone the next year. I discovered a long time ago that if my "merriment" and 'happiness" were going to be tied to the vagaries and uncertainties of an unknowable future, I was going to be sadly disap-pointed. A bit like pinning all my hopes for (Continued on P_2)

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Down The Coax

Friday Night Get-togethers January 12th & 26th 7.00pm

Coffs Harbour's CHADARC Annual Field Day Sunday 21st January

February Monthly Meeting Sat. 3rd February at 2.00pm

Friday Night Get-togethers February 9th & 23rd 7.00pm

March Monthly Meeting Sat March 3rd at 2.00pm

E-mail directory.

Reflects ALL changes notified up to 30th December, 2006 VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au VK2EM (Bruce) brucee@iprimus.com.au VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felglow.com.au VK2YB (Roy) identity@midcoast.com.au VK2YB (Roy) identity@midcoast.com.au VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au VK2AYD (John) hensenjo@ozemail.com.au VK2BEL (Allan) belly@tsn.cc VK2BOR (ORARC) vk2bor@tsn.cc VK2BOR (ORARC) vk2bor@tsn.cc VK2CJM (Chris) Chris@CalmDowns.org.au VK2CLL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au VK2CLL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au VK2EV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au VK2EV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au VK2LEV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au VK2CMX (Steve) haddie 007@hotmail.com VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au VK2VIV (Jim) jim.neil@gmail.com VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au VK2ZCV (Bill) vsi54224@bigpond.net.au VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@tsn.cc VK2ZK (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvg.com.au VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvg.com.au VK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@tsn.cc VK2FBRG (Barry) fgilson@bigpond.net.au VK2FILHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 Mhz

Sunda (0830 Lo	ays ocal)	Wednesdays (1900 Local)		
VK2TT VK2OA VK2BZD VK2VIV	Jan Jan-07 Jan-14 Jan-21 Jul-28	uary 2007 VK2AYD VK2EI VK2GD VKZCM VK2ATM	Jan-03 Jan-10 Jan-17 Jan-24 Jan-31	
VK2OA VK2BZD VK2VIV VK2TT	Feb- 04 Feb-11 Feb-18 Feb-25	r uary 2007 VK2ZHE VK2AYD VK2EI VK2GD	Feb-07 Feb-14 Feb-21 Feb-28	
VK2OA VK2BZD VK2VIV VK2TT	M ar-04 Mar-11 Mar-18 Mar-25	urch 2007 VK2ZCM VK2ATM VK2ZHE VK2AYD	Mar-07 Mar-14 Mar-21 Mar-28	
VK2OA VK2BZD VK2VIV VK2TT VK2OA	Apr-01 Apr-08 Apr-15 Apr-22 Apr-29	pril 2007 VK2EI VK2GD VK2ZCM VK2ATM	Apr-04 Apr-11 Apr-18 Apr-25	
VK2BZD VK2VIV VK2TT VK2OA	May-06 May-13 May-20 May-27	l ay 2007 VK2ZCM VK2ATM VK2ZHE VK2AYD	May-02 May-09 May-16	
VK20A VK2BZD VK2VIV VK2TT	5	VK2EI ine 2007 VK2GD VK2ZCM VK2ATM	May-23 May-30 Jun-06 Jun-13 Jun-20	
VK2OA	Jun-24	VK2ZHE	Jun-27	

(Presidents's Report Cont'd)

good DX on ionospheric prediction charts which, while vastly better than many of our other so-called predictions, still fall way short of 100% certainty. As was said years ago "I may not know what the future holds but I know

As was said years ago "I may not know what the future holds but I know the One Who holds the future!" That's the sort of assurance I want and that's the sort of 2007 I wish for you! Not the wishful, wistful hope that it just might pan out all right – perhaps.

Alan VK2GD El Presidente

San Crox Christmas Bash

2006 was probably one of the most eventful years for the club during the last couple of decades. As well as celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the formation of ORARC with a special function at the Marian Centre in October, our members provided communications facilities for two car rallies, along with our usual participation in the Beechwood Billy Cart Classic communications arrangements and our continued involvement in the regular popular amateur field day events, and JOTA. The 100th edition of **OXTALES** hit the streets, and the introduction of regular weekly sessions of a much appreciated Working Bee, saw the club's repeater facilities enjoy a significant "shot-in-the-arm" from this dedicated group's productive efforts. (See picture below - Right– VK2ZHE with the rack for VK2RPM on show at the event)

A wind up of this eventful year's events took place on Saturday, 2nd December 2006, when some twenty-seven members and their XYL's, friends, and two "harmonics", fronted up at the San Crox Recreation Centre to join in our annual Christmas BBQ/Picnic. It was pleasing to see the younger generation represented to give a really authentic family atmosphere to the event. A big welcome to Adeania and Andrew, daughter and son of Steve VK2MDX and XYL. We hope Santa was kind to you both! This event marked the final gathering of the club for 2006. It included the December monthly meeting,





Above: Tooling up for the big "Cook-up".

Left: All intent upon the Meeting proceedings. conducted at the venue following the BBQ lunch.

The weather was kind, warm &



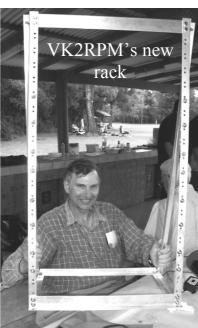
kind, warm & friendly, in a lush, green and well manicured venue.

The ritual of passing on the The Stirrer's Helmet" was conducted with the usual aplomb, pomp and circumstance by Bruce VK2HOT, the 2006 holder. The new deserving recipi-ent of this tenyears-old prestigious artefact was John, VK2CIF. Congratulations John! You can now wear this unique decora-

tive head-dress with pride. You must now consider the candidates for next year's presentation and ensure that only the most deserving member gets to take it on board for the duration of 2007.

Despite some shortcomings related to the normally satisfactory BBQ facilities at the venue, the willing cooks produced an admirable result that satisfied the hunger of the attendees.

The club's 2007 pictorial Calendar was ready for distribution by sale to those attending, and sales were very encouraging.



(There are still copies available from the Treasurer or Secretary at a cost of \$5 each should members wish to secure one to keep track of the club's programme for 2007. The quality of the paper, and the colour of the pictures are both significantly better than our first attempt for the 2005 year.) Lots of pictures were taken by the growing group of digital camera owners. A sample of the shots taken are included in the following columns of this. Thanks to all the contributors. Space did not allow inclusion of all pictures that were taken.



The Venue at San Crox Recreation Area



Left: The "Chefs" giving the snags a workover. Bill VK2ZCV, Chas VK2FSH, and Steve VK2DMX— Congratulations on the acquisition of the Advanced licence and the new call sign, Steve. (Who are the guys hiding behind **ZCV's left** shoulder and **DMX's** left shoulder?)

Technology Marches On?

John, VK2KCE, writes :-Came across this gem of an ad via Ebay!

1C-100 41" Magnetic Mount Antenna 1C100 NEW, SEALED IN BLISTER PACK! Longer Whip than most magnet mount antennas means it will get out futher!!!! this antenna gets out!!

I thought that the length of the whip determined the resonant frequency!!!!

The spelling mistake is theirs too!!

73 de VK2KCE

Another Interesting Programme

(Contributed by Jim, VK2VIV)

Hi

Just to let everyone know of a new computer program for amateur radio.

It is called QSOnet and is like Echolink without all the hassles of opening ports of the computer router to access. It is an animated radio transceiver on you computer that operates just like a normal radio without the RF. Ideal if you are in a housing situation where you can't put up antennas or cause RF interference.

You need to register before November 1st to be eligible for the 90 days free trial. Even though it will cost after that I think it will be a big hit and can only get better.

Try it. Only for Hams.

(you will need to send a photo or email copy of your Ham Radio licence when registering)

- Jim Neil VK2VIV

A Pleasing Response

I was chasing a Ranger DX5054 100-watt all mode 6m transceiver, and there have been a few sold on Ebay for very inflated prices. Ranger Communications in the US sold out their remaining stock for \$US369.00 (\$Aust470.00). The one I found on Ebay sold for \$Aust570.000!

In my quest to find one, I emailed Ranger Comms in USA to see if anyone of their distributors had one, but nothing was available.

Out of the blue this email turned up:

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!!! RCI-5054DX-100 6 METER TRANSCEIVER

Recently, we received an e-mail from you about interest in purchasing our RCI-5054DX-100 6 Meter, 100 Watt all mode radio. At that time we had planned to discontinue that model as interest seemed sporadic.

Due to recent overwhelming response, we have decided to put this radio back in pro-duction and will have them available around late March. We are unhappy about the long lead time, but it is beyond our control due to component delivery times.

If you are still interested in purchasing this radio, it would be best to pre-order as there appears to be pent up demand for it. Once available, we will ship to you without delay. The cost will still be at the very attractive price of \$Aust445.00 or \$US349.00 plus shipping.

Please also let other 6 Meter fans know about this as continued production is always related to interest. Our plan is to continue this model as long as there is interest from the 6 Meter world.

If you would like more information on this radio prior to your purchase, Service Manuals are available for \$10.00. User Manu-

als are free of charge. For ordering radios or manuals, please contact us at 800-668-6314 or

sales@rangerusa.com Thanks, from the crew at Ranger.

Just a bit of news along with the background information for the members. Regards, John (VK2KCE)

Coffs Harbour & Districts Amateur Radio Club Field Day

Sunday, 21st January 2007

St. John's Church Hall, McLean Street, Coffs Harbour

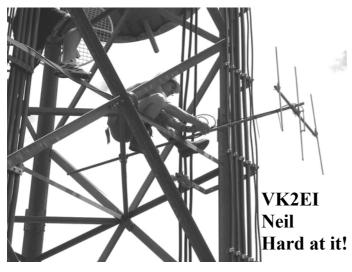
Time 8.30am to 3.30pm

On Rain, Hail or Shine

NEW LOCATION, NEW DISPLAYS, NEW EVENTS

VK2RPM Repeater Upgraded for Christmas 2006

The Middle Brother Mountain repeater site received some intensive attention in the two weeks before Christmas. The VK2RPM 2 metre 146.7 MHz VHF FM repeater was replaced with completely new equipment and the 70 centimetre UHF FM repeater service was restored with a new repeater operating on 438.425 MHz. A new dual band vertical collinear antenna at a height of approximately 30 metres with a clear view to both the north and the south is connected to the 70 centimetre repeater transmitter and receiver via a duplexer and is also connected to the 2 metre repeater receiver via a VHF/UHF diplexer. The 2 metre transmit antenna has been remounted further out from the tower on new hardware.



The installation of the two new repeaters and the aerial works are the result of many hours of work throughout the year by a dedicated band of volunteers under the guidance of Repeater Chairman Bill Brooke VK2ZCW. It has been a real team effort. Most of the preparatory work was carried out during the regular Wednesday morning working bees in VK2ZHE's shed, but several members also completed various key tasks at their homes.

The new repeater transmitters and receivers had to be brought up to specification, modified and tuned to the club's frequencies. As well, the new repeater controllers had to be constructed which required production of circuit boards from scratch, sourcing all the components, obtaining and programming the EPROMs, building the boards and finally testing them. The new repeaters were then assembled into a custom built aluminium rack frame and double screened coaxial cables made up for all the RF interconnections.



Finally the complete repeaters were soak tested into dummy loads in the workshop prior to being transported to the repeater site. The new dual band aerial and VHF/UHF diplexer was also workshop tested.

John VK2KHB has kindly built and donated a steel rack frame which will be used to test and store the spare repeater transmitters and receivers. Thanks John.

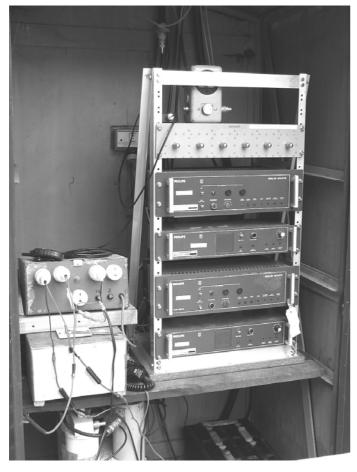
Working bees at the Middle Brother Mountain repeater site were held on Thursday 14th and Thursday 21st December in order to undertake the antenna work on the tower, and to install the new repeater equipment. Special thanks must go to Don McLean, who loaned his brother John VK2KCE his Diesel/gas powered Nissan Patrol four wheel drive station wagon (a most impressive vehicle) for the two trips to the mountain. This enabled the five participants in the two working bees to travel to the site in one vehicle together with all the tools and equipment. Thanks Don.

During the two on site working bees Neil VK2EI and Steve VK2DMX carried out the antenna work and John VK2KCE, Bill VK2ZCW and Henry VK2ZHE were the ground crew. Special thanks are due to Bill VK2ZCW and John VK2KCE for providing the antenna mounting hardware. Thanks also to Bill VK2ZCV, Jim VK2BZD and Graeme VK2ZIS who patiently checked out the performance of the new aerial and the two new repeaters from their home stations during the site works.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project so far including Bill VK2ZCW, Bill VK2ZCV, Arthur VK2ATM, Jim VK2VIV, Neil VK2EI, Craig VK2ZCM, Bob VK2XIQ, John VK2KCE, John VK2KHB, Steve VK2DMX, Bruce VK2HOT, Alan VK2GD, Jim VK2BZD, Trevor VK2TT, John VK2AYQ, Graeme VK2ZIS, Barry VK2FBRG and Henry VK2ZHE. Sincere apologies to anyone who has been inadvertently omitted from the list.

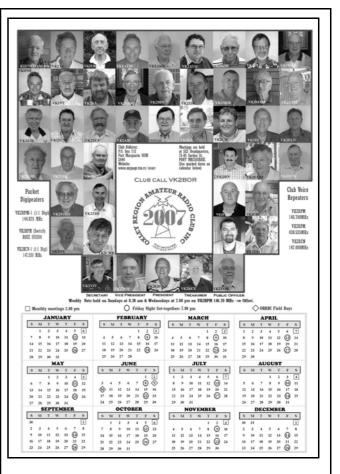
Special thanks are due to Trevor VK2TT for his assistance in fine tuning the keying characteristics of the Morse Code idents.

characteristics of the Morse Code idents. The Wednesday working bees are indebted to Wendy Monck, Corrine McLean and Carol Neil for providing the delicious morning teas which have sustained the workers in their toil throughout the year. The continuing high participation in the working bees is due in no small part to the attraction of the morning teas. A sincere thank you, ladies. The Wednesday morning working bees will continue in 2007 as the Telegraph Point VK2RCN UHF repeater and the spare VHF and UHF transmitters and receivers are still being worked on. New VHF and UHF duplexers are planned. A UHF antenna still has to be installed at Telegraph Point for the VK2RCN 70 centimetre repeater. Further site visits are still required to both Middle Brother Mountain and Telegraph Point in order to com-plete the outstanding work on both the FM voice and the digipeaters at the two sites. If the VK2RPM 70 centimetre repeater remains free of interference at Middle Brother Mountain, application will be made to permanently swap the VK2RPM and VK2RCN UHF frequencies so that VK2RPM will remain on 438.425 MHz and VK2RCN will oper-ate on 438.525 MHz.



The Re-Vamped VK2RPM (2-M & 70cm)

This is the end result of the fine workmanship executed by the dedicated membership of the Working-Bee that has been active over many months of the now departed 2006. What's more, it works like a "well-oiled-machine". Well Done & Thanks to all from all the users and members.



The Club Calendar for 2007

In case you haven't seen it yet, above is a grey-scale representation of it to give some idea of how it looks. It's better in living-colour, showing all the youthful features of our members as they appear in real life. A copy is yours, for \$5. A good memento to remind us of our fellow members, as we really are in 2007 AD. Get yours from the Secretary, or Treasurer.

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OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

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(As at 31st December, 2006)

	Cat	. Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
l	0	BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D	BELL	ALAN		VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554.1689
3	0	BIVONA	JOE	(ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 040504095
Ļ		BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5	0	BRODIE	BOB		VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
5		BROOKE	AILSA	(BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
7		BROOKE	BILL	(AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
3		COULTER	KEVIN	(JUNE)	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
)		COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
0		DANIEL	JIM		VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
		EDMONDSON	CHARLES		VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
2	D	EKERT	BRUCE	(SUE)	VK2EM	EAST MAITLAND	02 4934 3025
3	D	ELLIS	STAN	(BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
4		GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2FBRG	÷	02 6583.8814
5		GLEESON	BADEN	(VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
6	0	GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
7	0	GREENWOOD	GRAEME		VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
8	0	HADFIELD	STEVE		VK2DMX	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
9	L	HANLON	KEITH		-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
0	0	HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
1	0	HARDING	DAVID	(ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
2	L	LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
23	L	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
24	0	MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
25	0	MARRIOTT	JOHN	(ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
26	0	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
7	0	MCLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
8	0	MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
9	D	MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
0	Η	MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
1	L	MONCK	ARTHUR	(WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
82	Η	MONCK	WENDY	(ARTHUR)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
3	0	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
4	0	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
5	0	NUTT	ALAN	(ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
6	0	PILLEY	DAVID	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
7	0	REES	BRETT	(YVETTE)	VK2TMG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5956
8	0	RICHTER	ROY		VK2YB	VIA WAUCHOPE	02 6587.4232
9	0	ROTH	BILL		VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
0	0	SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
1	L	SINCLAIR	BILL		VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
2	D	TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
3	0	THATCHER	TREVOR	(PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
4	D	THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
15	0	WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
		WEBSTER	JIM	(MARY)	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037