



OXTAILS

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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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March 2007

Compiled by VK2AYQ with much assistance

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Presidents Report

This month's "*Oxtails*" looks like being a somewhat shorter version than normal owing to the unexpected absence in Sydney of our erstwhile editor, Trevor, VK2TT, whose XYL, Phyllis, has been seriously ill. The production effort has therefore fallen to our assistant editor, John, VK2AYQ who has picked up the task at short notice. Our thanks for filling the gap, John, and we trust that Phyllis has a speedy and uncomplicated recovery after her surgery.

Our Treasurer, John, VK2KCE and John, VK2CIF have also had recent bouts with their respective surgeons and we wish them likewise a quick return to good health.

We are continuing our search for a suitable alternative meeting place once our SES friends vacate the present building. Due to some delays in the construction of their new premises on Central Road, the need is still not urgent. Even so, we want to be well prepared when the time finally comes to

vacate. The present consensus of our members and the Committee favours renting suitable premises rather than attempting to build or add to some existing structure. The reason for this is obvious when one considers the considerable ongoing costs involved in owning property and the need to comply with a multitude of local government regulations. While we currently have some funds in hand, we need to remember that these funds are, unfortunately, not renewable. In a rental situation, apart from a suitable meeting area, we also need to consider adequate and secure storage space for our equipment.

Our thanks again to the team who have been working regularly each Wednesday morning at Henry's QTH to refurbish, reconstruct, reconstitute and reinstall our repeater equipment. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done before we finish the project but the work is progressing well. (Continued p 2)

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Down the Coax

Friday Night Get-togethers

March 9 and March 23 7:00 pm

April Monthly Meeting

Sat 31 March (brought forward)

Friday Night Get-togethers

April 13 and 27

E-Mail Directory

Reflects changes up to 30 December, 2006

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2EM (Bruce) brucee@iprimus.com.au
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VK2AYB (Roy) identity@midcoast.com.au
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VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYQ (John) hansen@ozemail.com.au
VK2BAL (Les) brintek@bigpond.com.au
VK2BEL (Allan) belly@tsn.cc
VK2BOR (ORARC) vk2bor@tsc.cc
VK2CHC (Chris) Chris@CalmDowns.org.au
VK2CJM (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au
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VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@felglow.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc
VK2IEV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au
VK2KCE (John) hrbe@bigpond.net.au
VK2DMX (Steve) haddie_007@hotmail.com
VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2VIV (Jim) jim.neil@gmail.com
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VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@tsc.cc
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au
VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au
VK2ZTM (Tim) c/-info@tvq.com.au
FK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2FBRG (Barry) fgilson@bigpond.net.au
VK2FJKD (Jim) jaidanl@bigpond.com
VK2FLJI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

Net Controller's Roster

(Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM)

Sundays

(0830 Local)

Wednesday

(1900 Local)

March 2007

VK2OA	Mar 04	VK2ZCM	Mar 07
VL2BZD	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	TBA	Apr 11
VK2VIV	Apr 15	VK2ZCM	Apr 18
VK2YY	Apr 22	VK2ZCM	Apr 25
VK2OA	Apr 29		

May 2007

VK2BZD	May 06	VK2ZCM	May 02
VK2VIV	May 13	VK2ATM	May 09
VK2TT	May 20	VK2ZHE	May 16
VK2OA	May 27	VK2AYD	May 23

June 2007

VK2BZD	Jun 03	TBA	Jun 06
VK2VIV	Jun 10	VK2ZCM	Jun 13
VK2TT	Jun 17	VK2ATM	Jun 20
VK2OA	Jun 24	VK2ZHE	Jun 27

(Presidents report continued)

I believe we need to reinvigorate our Friday night meetings and would welcome suggestions as to how we might accomplish this. I know there is a considerable amount of expertise among our club members and a wealth of interesting information that could be shared. I suggest we take the opportunity to pass some of this information on before it is lost forever. (I've already forgotten more than I've retained and that is a bit of a worry!) If you have a topic of interest,

not even necessarily related to amateur radio, then take time one Friday evening to share it with us.

I know we have discussed possible club projects that could be undertaken and we need to kick these ideas around and come up with a program that will make Friday evening meetings an attraction to our members.

*Alan VK2GD
El Presidente*

Wyong Field Day

The 18 February brought another day of fine hot weather and a large contingent of Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club members to the annual Wyong Field day.

After a healthy walk from the back of the car park, the sound of a helicopter alerted me to an alternative way of travelling. Yes, it was Dick Smith arriving and avoiding any parking problems and congestion. Dick Smith seemed to radiate a huge amount of energy as he walked the showground and stalls, with a quick quip and a cheery hello along the way.

A large contingent of flea market stalls contained a variety of interesting gear. Henry VK2ZHE was heard to remark “..that one never knows what bargains may be unearthed at these stalls...” I saw some pristine collectors items such as FT101’s that appeared to be in “new out of the box” condition, and complete TS520 stations with all accessories that appeared to be hardly used.

The display of amateur gear at the special ‘Wyong Field Day’ price of around \$17,000, a saving of more than \$500 provided great interest and a discussion topic. It was intriguing to see state of the art equipment that will slowly filter down the price range in the future. However, the consensus was that it would be hard to gain XYL acceptance of such a set into the shack!



Part of the Wyong Field Day ‘Flea Market’.

It was interesting to see the range of amateur equipment on display by major suppliers including Port Macquarie’s John Fettell Communication. There appeared to be a greater emphasis on computer related products both in the new and preloved gear sections.

The Wyong Field day was a timely reminder that our own field day is only a couple of months away and of how much work goes into producing a successful event.

Around the Dial

Hello welcome to ‘Around the Dial’. As I am just filling in for our erstwhile editor Trevor VK2TT there has not been a chance of contacting many

people to ask for Oxtales copy or photographs. Consequently, I am including a couple of articles that caught my attention that could be of interest to our group.

First up a short piece on Dr Robert Adler that was found on the RSGB web page.

Dr Robert Adler, who jointly invented the TV remote control, has died at the age of 93. Born in Vienna, Austria in 1913, Dr Adler came up with his revolutionary invention while working for Zenith Radio in the US. The TV remote was not his only invention. He also developed the gated-beam tube, a technology that was used in many early ham radio SSB transmitters and transceivers. The purpose of the gated-beam tube was to suppress carrier signals. His other inventions included noise-gated synch clippers and automatic gain controls for stabilising television reception. Meanwhile, his contribution to low-noise travelling-wave tubes was important in military communications. Later he applied the new principle of parametric amplification to electron beams.

Dr Adler was a member of the US National Academy of Engineering, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1997, he and fellow engineer Eugene Polley won an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for the invention of the TV wireless remote control.

Is this the ultimate mobile set up?

An interesting story and picture from the RSGB web page



As part of the RSGB's commitment to promoting amateur radio, the RSGB's mobile radio shack is on the road. It is available to support those giving demonstrations to wide non-amateur audience such as schools, colleges, youth groups as well as attending county shows etc.

With the aid of our specially equipped Mobile Radio Vehicle called GB4FUN, we are able to put on a practical demonstration of Amateur Radio whatever the weather. Amateur Radio appeals to all ages and is a great teaching aid as it involves not only the science of communication, but geography, languages, social skills, and of course, fun!

The vehicle is fully equipped with HF, VHF and UHF all mode radios. Plus full Satellite capability, It has a built in 5 kW generator for use in rural sites, and a fitted external telescopic mast making GB4FUN self contained.

It takes approximately 1 hour to set up the mobile station so it can be on the air demonstrating Amateur Radio soon after arrival on site.

The introduction of 'morse free' examinations in the USA has sparked a renewed interest in Amateur Radio. The following is from the ARRL website.

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 28, 2007 The avalanche of Amateur Radio license and license upgrade applications prompted by the FCC's elimination of Morse code as a licensing requirement is well under way with no end in sight. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that paperwork from upward of 450 Amateur Radio exam sessions held since the new rules went into effect February 23 has arrived so far this week.

"We've been seeing some of the largest brand-new Technician sessions ever," Somma said. "These examination sessions are huge, and a ton of new Technician license applications has been coming in -- sometimes 60 or 70 at a clip." Somma says license upgrade traffic also has been brisk, and, with some 650 examination sessions already on the [calendar](#) for March and more arriving daily, it doesn't look like the pace will slacken anytime soon.

Among the growing stack of incoming paperwork February 28 was a package from a session held in the Bahamas for 56 US citizens more than likely retirees and members of the cruising and sailing communities in the Caribbean. Somma said it included applications for 12 new Technician licensees. The rest were upgrades.

Finally some news from the home front from the WIA Website.

ACMA Measures BPL Emissions at Mt Beauty in response to Interference Complaint by Ian Paul, VK3LJJ

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) performed background noise and emission measurements at the Mt Beauty BPL trial in Victoria, over the 20th-21st February. The measurements were in response to an interference complaint lodged with ACMA by Ian Paul VK3LJJ

WIA applies for Medium Frequency band allocation

The WIA has applied to the ACMA for experimental access to a small band of frequencies near 500 kHz.

Amateur radio operators in the United States, Sweden and Germany have recently been granted experimental access to frequencies just above 500 kHz. Applications for access to this band have also been lodged by the NZART and the RSGB.

"We conducted a poll last year of Australian radio amateurs to ascertain if there was an interest in a similar

allocation in Australia". WIA Director, Glenn Dunstan VK4DU said. "We received numerous enthusiastic responses".

The WIA submission requests a temporary/experimental MF amateur allocation be made for the frequency range 505-515 kHz.

"This proposed allocation places us above the guard band around the distress and safety channel at 500 kHz, and lines up with the current amateur MF allocations in Europe and the US", Glenn said.

The WIA recognises that the former marine distress and calling frequency of 500 kHz remains so designated in the International Radio Regulations (guard band 495-505 kHz), and that this status will not be changed until WRC-11 at the earliest.

"The WIA requested a temporary amateur allocation, rather than an experimental (non-amateur) licence, as it is our view that this represents the most suitable access mechanism", Glenn said.

"Many administrations forbid communications between amateur and non-amateur stations, and an Australian non-amateur experimental licence would thus preclude many weak signal propagation opportunities with overseas stations.

The limited spectrum available precludes the use of wide band telephony type modes. The WIA submission proposes a maximum

necessary bandwidth of 200 Hz, to limit operation to CW and slow speed robust data modes, such as PSK31. This is the practice adopted in the current experimental MF amateur band in Europe and the US.

The WIA also proposed that because of the technical challenges involved, the MF band be only made available to Advanced class amateur stations.

It is also proposed that normal amateur output power limits be used.



Club Calendar for 2007

The above calendar in living-colour is still available from the secretary for \$5. An ideal gift to share. After all, why keep our likenesses to ourselves!

The John Moyle Contest

The John Moyle Contest is the time of year to transform this:



Into this:



Please Meet at the SES building 9.30am to pick up equipment and be ready to set up 11am. Please turn up even just to say Hi.

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

Membership Register
(As at 31 December 2006)

	Cat	Last Name	Given	Spouse	Call	Location	Tph
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN	FLORENCE	VK2KHB	P'MACQUARIE	026882 2192
2	D	BELL	ALAN		VK2BEL	COOLONGALOOK	0265541689
3	O	BIVONA	JOE	ROSE	VK2IEV	P'MACQUARIE	0405040953
4	L	BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	P'MACQUARIE	
5	O	BRODIE	BOB		VK2EJK	P'MACQUARIE	0265820592
6	O	BROOKE	AILSA	BILL	VK2FABJ	P'MACQUARIE	0265810547
7	O	BROOKE	BILL	AILSA	VK2ZCW	P'MACQUARIE	0265810547
8	O	BURGES	ROY	JUNE	VK2YOR	P'MACQUARIE	0265839349
9	O	COULTER	KEVIN	JUNE	VK2MAM	P'MACQUARIE	0265838325
10	O	COURT	RICHARD	LINDA	VK2CHC	BEECHEWOOD	0265856866
11	O	DANIEL	JIM		VK2FJKD	P'MACQUARIE	0265831933
12	O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES	PAT	VKFSH	P'MACQUARIE	026540495
13	D	EKERT	BRUCE	SUE	VK2EM	E'MAITLAND	0249343025
14	D	ELLIS	STAND	BETTY	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	0265547996
15	O	GIBSON	BARRY	FAY	VK2FBRG	P'MACQUARIE	0265838814
16	O	GLEESON	BADEN	VALERY	VK2MOQ	P'MACQUARIE	0265822018
17	O	GREEN	LEWIS	PAMELA	VK2AG	P'MACQUARIE	026584916
18	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME		VK2ZIS	MIDDLEBROTHER	0265594836
19	O	HADFIELD	STEVE		VK2DMX	PAPPINBARRA	0265876160
20	L	HANLON	KEITH			P'MACQUARIE	
21	O	HANSEN	JOHN	JUDITH	VK2AYQ	P'MACQUARIE	0265827932
22	O	HARDING	DAVID	ISABELLA	VKSAIF	WACHOPE	0265864980
23	O	JANES	LES		VK2BEL	P'MACQUARIE	
24	L	LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	WACHOPE	0265871155
25	L	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	P'MACQUARIE	0265820534
26	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN	DAWN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	0265852043
27	O	MARRIOTT	JOHN	ROSE	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	0265599245
28	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	JENNY	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 65853452
29	O	MCLEAN	JOHN	CORRINE	VK2KCE	P'MACQUARIE	0265846220
30	O	MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	P'MACQUARIE	0265842997
31	D	MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	0298681434
32	H	MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS PNT	0265593516
33	L	MONCK	ARTHUR	WENDY	VK2ATM	P'MACQUARIE	0265810960
34	O	NEIL	JIM	CAROL	VK2VIV	P'MACQUARIE	0265812481
35	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	ROBIN	VK2ELN	P'MACQUARIE	0265835387
36	O	NUTT	ALAN	ELAINE	VK2GD	P'MACQUARIE	0265823557
37	O	PILLEY	DAVID	DEE	VK2AYD	P'MACQUARIE	0265852647
38	O	REES	BRETT	YVETTE	VK2TMG	P'MACQUARIE	0265825956
39	O	RICHTER	ROY		VK2YB	P'MACQUARIE	0265874232
40	O	ROTH	BILL		VK2CWR	P'MACQUARIE	0265811776
41	O	SANDFORD	NEIL	VERENA	VK2EI	P'MACQUARIE	0265825830
42	L	SINCLAIR	BILL		VK2ZCV	P'MACQUARIE	0265839302
43	D	TARRANT	DAVID	AILEEN	VK2TBC	ILUKA	
44	O	THATCHER	TREVOR	PHYLLIS	VK2TT	WACHOPE	0265852278
45	D	THOMPSON	DES	BETTY	VK2FLHI	LORD HOWE IS	0265632152
46	O	WALKER	BRUCE	GWEN	VK2HOT	P'MACQUARIE	0265838360
47	O	WEBSTER	JIM	MARY	VK2BZD	P'MACQUARIE	0265824037

Category Key O= Ordinary, A=Associate, D= Distant, H= Honorary, L= Life.