



OXTALES

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Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

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

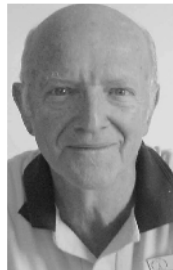
May 2007

Compiled by VK2AYQ with much assistance

President: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582 3557
Vice Pres: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583 8360
Treasurer John McLean VK2KCE 6584 6220
Secretary Jim Neal VK2VIV 6581 2481

Presidents Report

Sadly, we have to advise the passing of Phyllis, XYL of our "Oxtales" editor, Trevor, VK2TT, on the morning of 28th April. After a long and difficult illness, we had hoped Phyllis was finally on the road to recovery but this was not to be. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Trevor and the family at this difficult time. .



I wonder if you have ever noticed the degree to which the "them" and "us" thinking has permeated our western culture. Someone once said if you're going to die dramatically, don't do it by drowning on your own in the capsizing of an overloaded ferry on the Ganges River in India. (or any other third world country, for that matter) You'll only get a page five mention in the morning papers. On the other hand, if you're part of an Aussie tourist group that suffers the same fate anywhere in the world, the story will run on page one for days with endless analyses of the disaster by various pundits, together with streams of TV footage, real or imagined.

Even this week, the same sharp distinction can be seen between the reporting of the 120 killed in one day's car bombing in Baghdad and the 32 killed at the Virginia University, USA the following day. Which incident attracted the most TV coverage? Which incident was the more horrendous or brutal? The Virginia incident was brought even closer to home by interviewing some of the five Australians attending the college.

I didn't see any interviews with Muslim families devastated by the Baghdad bombing - or did I miss something? Is it that we have been lulled into accepting that killings in Iraq are to be expected and therefore no longer important or newsworthy or are we simply glad that it was "them" and not "us" who suffered?

I believe we have lost any real concept of a global "we" in the equation. This is why I still value Amateur Radio as a realistic and practical way of establishing and maintaining my awareness of cultures other than my own. When we make a DX contact, we are not primarily concerned with the ethnicity, political or religious association of our contact.

Sure, the country is important, if only for a new QSL card towards our DXCC, but the other issues don't even rate a mention. Amateur radio is perhaps the only hobby where you can sit and chat on equal footing with kings and presidents, street sweepers and garbage collectors. To my mind, this goes a long way to regaining some of the lost "we"ness in our cultural and social awareness. We, *together*, are radio amateurs. Let's make sure we keep it that way.

Alan VK2GD

El Presidente

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Down the Coax

Friday Night Get-togethers

May 11 and May 25

7:00 pm

June Monthly Meeting

Sat 2 June

Friday Night Get-togethers

June 7 and 21

E-Mail Directory

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
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VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
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VK2YOR (Roy) rburgess@intercoast.com.au
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VK2ZCV (Bill) wsj54224@bigpond.net.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au
VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au
VK2ZTM (Tim) c/-info@tv.com.au
VK2FABJ (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)

May 2007

VK2BZD	My 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	June 10	VK2ZCM	Jun 13
VK2TT	Jun 17	VK2ATM	Jun 20
VK2OA	Jun 24	VK2ZHE	Jun 27

July 2007

VK2BZD	Jul 01	VK2ZCM	Jul 04
VK2VIV	Jul 08	VK2ATM	Jul 11
VK2TT	Jul 15	VK2ZHE	Jul 18
VK2OA	Jul 29	VK2AYD	Jul 25

Field Day Sponsors

Sponsors are urgently needed for our Field Day. Please could we make a concerted effort to obtain sponsors for the day.

A hard copy Sat Nav

I came across a Web Site that is good for planning a trip or finding your way to a destination.

Called multimap URL www.multimap.com
You enter your start address and destination and the program will show printable maps and will also print a turn by turn list with distances from start point to finish. A bit like a Sat Nav Unit hard copy.

Jim Neil VK2VIV

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc

Field Day Weekend 2007.

All members are invited to attend our annual field day weekend, to be held on the Queen's Birthday weekend, Saturday/Sunday 9 to 10 June 2007.

The venue is again the Sea Scout Hall, in Buller street Port Macquarie, on the western side of Kooloonbung Creek, next door to the Country Comfort Motor Inn.

Saturday afternoon will be spent setting up the venue for the various displays. However early arrivals may wish to register early and have a social chit-chat and have a snack.

Practice Fox Hunts, probably three, will be held on Saturday afternoon and a '2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt' will take place after the evening snack.

On Sunday, there will be displays by leading suppliers of Amateur Radio equipment and we may peruse the disposal tables.

A BBQ lunch will be provided for all registered attendees. Tea and Coffee will be available free of charge through out the day. Soft drink will be on sale at sensible prices!

The Program will follow in the main last years.

Saturday

1200 Registrations at the Sea Scout Hall
1330 Practice 2 Metre Fox Hunt
1445 Practice 80 Metre Fox Hunt
1630 Practice 10 Metre Fox Hunt
1830 2 Metre Talk-In Fox Hunt.

Sunday

0830 Field Day Opens
0900 Fox Hunt 80 Metre
1030 Fox Hunt 2 Metre
1200 Lunch Raffle and Lucky Door Prize
1300 Fox Hunt 10 Metre
1430 Fox Hunt
1530 Presentations.

Registration Fees (Includes Sunday's BBQ Lunch)

OM's	\$15.00
XYL's, YL's &	
Children 12 years and over	\$10.00

THE PASSING OF AN ERA

David A. Pilley VK2AYD

Or should I say "The Demise of Telegraphy"
I have been taking part in Field Days for 60 years. My first was in 1947 operating with G2DBF in the U.K.. Everything, including the receiver, was home built. The transmitter had a 6L6 in the final and the ability to squeeze ten watts out it was a challenge. No electronic keying, microphone or computer, just a pump handle and a pencil and paper. Everything ran from car batteries and all this under canvas. Since then I have taken part in many Field Days around the world and watched the changes with fascination.

This year (2007) I was looking forward to operating with VK2BOR at Lighthouse Beach in the John Moyle Field Day but I was unable to make it. So I decided I'd have a go on my own locally in King Creek if only for 6 hours.



David Pilley VK2AYD at King Creek

I have a Kenwood TS-50 and all the necessary attachments fitted in an attaché case ready for any emergency that may arrive. A vast difference from the B-2 I once had in a wooden case in my early days. The weather was great so I found a shady Cadagee tree, nosed the car into the southerly side and set up my station on a card table. This time I had an electronic keyer.

The antenna was a base loaded 2.4m whip that I

have used on the car in the past. I connected the 40 metre coil to the base and mounted this on a 1.8m al. tent pole and ran a 5m counterpoise to the next nearest tree.

No computer this time, just the old pencil and paper to kindle the memory. At the witching hour (01.00z) I tuned 40 metres from 7001 to 7035 kHz. Not a whisper of a signal. I called CQ; no response. Was my antenna really working!? I grabbed my RF monitor out of the car. Yes! I was showing RF. I tuned up the band – lots of phone stations, everyone S-9. So what's happening down the CW end. It was dead. Well not quite. In the first hour I worked 3 stations on CW!

I thought of my last HF contest where 120 stations an hour was possible – but that was yesteryear. This is 2007. By the end of the first 3 hour session I had only 8 stations in I had only 8 stations.

This year (2007) I was looking my log. I kept checking the other bands. A 9M4 had a pile up on 21 MHz, nothing on 14mHz. The second 3 hours was not much better and I did say hello to a few stations I had worked in the first 3 hours. In desperation I changed to 14 MHz where there were a few JA's and R stations to exchange reports with. By the time the 6 hours was up I had only 15 QSO's recorded

At 0700z I switched off. Dismantled my station and drove home, wondering if my key would one day be an antique. In time it could even make the TV Antique show. Perhaps I should donate it to a museum.

But have no doubt, I'll be back again next year – if only to say hello to those few friends I met this year. Maybe go digital or even find a microphone.



*Dave Pilley's Briefcase Station
(Complete with watch)*

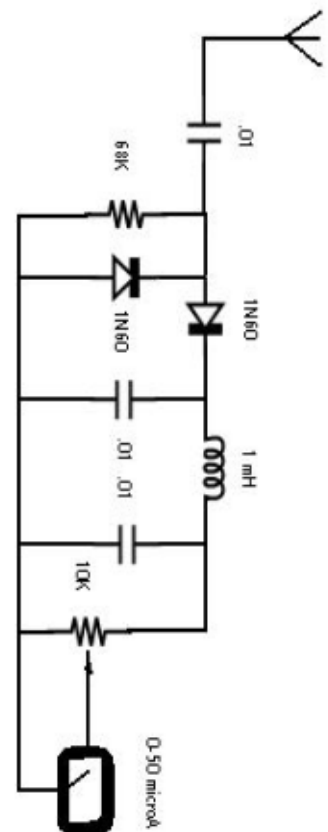
R.F. METER

de VK2AYD

Winter is here and it's a great time to use the evenings to create a few new additions to the shack. A simple project that is extremely useful is a RF Meter. You can make the complete unit in just a few hours and the parts are every-day items. I use mine for tuning the antenna, looking for maximum radiation, especially with the mobile and portable rigs.

It's also a good tool for plotting antenna radiation patterns.

I built my unit in a plastic box obtainable from Tandy's. All components were mounted on a piece of Vero board.



THE MOYLE REPORT

Once again the Club went out to the Tacking Point Lighthouse for the John Moyle contest. The tent and all equipment was erected and radios were in place for the start at 0100 utc. The Club operated on 40m,20m,2m and 70cm with good results



The portable shack with Arthur's flying steed

With a break down as follows by VK and ZL.

State	40m	20m	2m	70cm
VK 1	2	0	1	0
VK2	32	3	8	2
VK3	13	0	0	0
VK4	26	2	0	0
VK5	10	5	0	0
VK6	3	1	0	0
VK7	3	1	0	0
VK8	0	0	0	0
VK9	0	0	0	0
VK0	0	0	0	0
NZ	0	2	0	0
TO-TALS	89	14	9	2

Some interesting stats for 2m and 70 cm: 591 km on 2 m SSB to vk1 and also a lot of contacts over 300km plus 150.3km on 70cm.

A great effort from Neil-VK2EI.

So now for the overall points:

The logs etc have been posted out and will we win-not sure as we were down about 100 points on last year.

Overall Point Scores

40m HF	178
20m HF	28
2m SSB	330
70cm SSB	50
Grand Total	586



Neil VK2EI hard at work



HF Team hard at work

Steve VK2DMX, Joe VK2IEV, Bill VK2ZCW
Bill VK2ZCV, Alan VK2GD

Cheers from VK2HOT-Bruce Walker-Station
Manager for VK2BOR

Let the contest begin



Alan VK2GD, Barry, VK2FBRG, Joe VK2IEV
Arthur VK2ATM

Around the Dial

(A selection of material relating to Amateur radio)

From the WIA website:

Two-Letter Callsigns

The WIA knows that many amateurs are very interested in the issue of two letter callsigns since ACMA ceased issuing more than 2 years ago.

The WIA has on a number of occasions sought clarification of ACMA's position.

In its most recent formal letter to WIA President, Michael Owen VK3KI, Alan Jordan of ACMA explained the steps that had been taken and the present position as follows:

"On 19 October 2005 ACMA implemented new Amateur licensing arrangements that included the introduction of three new licensing options under the Amateur licence type.

Under the new licensing arrangements, callsigns previously allocated under Unrestricted, Limited and Intermediate licences were carried across to the replacement Advanced licences. Under this arrangement, one of the blocks of callsigns that became available to ex Intermediate and Limited licensees under the Advanced licence was the block of callsigns having two-letter suffixes. Historically these callsigns have been highly valued amongst Amateurs. However, with the exception of Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, the anticipated demand for these callsigns would have exceeded the supply.

For this reason ACMA temporarily ceased the issue of two-letter callsigns while an equitable arrangement for their allocation was being developed.

Unfortunately, since October 2005, while some progress has been made on this project, ACMA has not had the resources to finalise this body of work. As you would be aware, ACMA is currently, in accordance with the 'Outcomes of the Review of Amateur Service Regulation', working to amend the Radio-communications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination No.1 of 1997 (the Amateur LCD) and introduce a Class Licence that will allow visiting overseas Amateurs to operate in Australia without having to take out an individual licence.

However, work on the Amateur LCD and the Class Licence is now coming to the point where resources can again be focused on the two-letter callsign pro-

ject. It is therefore anticipated that procedures to resolve this issue will be in place by the end of June 2007."

The WIA President commented as follows: I know that many have been very concerned at the inordinate delay, and in asking for formal advice, I had hoped that ACMA would at least explain the "equitable arrangement they contemplate. However, at least a deadline has been set as to when the matter will be finalised."

Perhaps the following item could be under the heading 'Be careful if you try this at home'. Below is an edited version. (I checked the date of the article to make sure it wasn't 1 April!)

Can Chicken Wire Antennas Work DX?

[Erik Weaver \(NOEW\)](#) on April 16, 2007

Can Your Chicken Wire Antenna Work More DX Than Mine?

. . . Over Memorial Day weekend once again chicken wire, lawn chairs, and shopping carts will be heard around the world under the call sign of K0S. The next Strange Antenna Challenge is upon us . . . using some scraps of metal you were about to throw away as trash! . . .

This unique event . . . presents a number of technical challenges. . . Things that have worked very well for me in the past include: chicken wire, chain link fences, metal tape measures, painting easels, and aluminum ladders. The chicken wire rolls are rolled into long tubes. I have bent them into a delta loop, used them as dipoles, and used them as vertical elements . . . Guessing antenna impedance is greatly complicated when using Strange Antennas . . . By far the easiest method of matching impedance is to use a transmatch.

Information about this special event can be found on eHam's May 2007 calendar of events, or on my web site (<http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/>).

One of the most bizarre antennas that have been made used two aluminium boats as the dipole. Apparently getting them into the air was quite a challenge (editor).

Slow Morse Transmissions

The following table might help some of us provide David VK2AYD with more contacts in the John Moyle competition next year.

VK2BWI	Nightly at 2000 local on 3550 kHz
VK2RCW	Continuous on 3699kHz and 144.950 MHz 5 wpm, 8wpm & 12wpm
VK3COD	Nightly (Mon-Fri) at 1030 UTC on 28.340 MHz and 147.425 MHz
VK3RCW	Continuous on 145.650 MHz, 5wpm & 10wpm
VK4WIT	Monday at 0930 UTC on 3535 kHz
VK4WCH	Wednesday at 1000 UTC on 3535 kHz
VK4AV	Thursday at 0930 UTC on 3535 kHz
VK5AWI	Nightly at 2030 local on 3550 kHz
VK5VF	Continuous on 145.650 MHz, 5 wpm & 12 wpm
VK6RCW	Continuous on 147.375 MHz, 3 wpm & 12 wpm
VK6WIA	Monday to Thursday at 2000 local on 3555 kHz and Tuesday at 2000 local on 146.700 MHz

Compact fluorescent lamps

VK2AYQ John Hansen came across a most unusual phenomena when replacing some incandescent light globes with compact florescent lamps. The lamps emit a low intensity flash every four to five seconds even when switched off. The effect is quite noticeable in a fully darkened room.

Measurement at the meter box between neutral to earth indicated zero volts. However when measuring the potential of the neutral line at the offending lamps, I found a voltage varying between zero and about 34 volts. At 34 volts there is a brief flash from the lamp and then the potential drops to zero again.

Has wonder anybody else has come across this effect?

Home brew anyone?



A couple of these for your linear?

WESTERN ELECTRIC TYPE 320A

HIGH POWER TRIODE VACUUM TUBE

Eight of these tubes were put into service in 1938 in the 500 kilowatt transmitter, XERA, at Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, designed by Jim Weldon.



The tube was developed by Bell Laboratories in 1937. The design engineer was Doctor H. Eugene ("Dick") Mendenhall, who was present at the site during initial tests.

The high efficiency "Doherty" linear power amplifier was used in each of the two 250 kilowatt amplifiers which were parallel combined.

Only nine of these tubes were ever built and no tubes ever failed in service nor during the four years operation which followed before the station was closed down. It has a "bright tungsten" filament (no thorium).

A crack in the lower glass was found to have occurred in one tube during the day's idle period and none of the Mexican janitors could remember hitting it with a broom handle.

From the following web site:
<http://www.olderadio.com/archives/hardware/WE320A.htm>

A note from the assistant editor

We are always looking for copy and articles for Oxtales. However your assistant editor will be away on an overseas trip during June and July. Consequently please send any Oxtales material for the July August issue to Alan Nut.

73's John Hansen VK2AYQ.

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

Membership Register

Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Telephone
1 O	BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2 D	BELL	ALAN		VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	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	AILSA	(BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
7 O	BROOKE	BILL	(AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8 O	BURGES	ROY	(JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
9 O	COULTER	KEVIN	(JUNE)	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
10 O	COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
11 O	DANIEL	JIM		VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
12 O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES	(PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
13 D	EKERT	BRUCE	(SUE)	VK2EM	EAST MAITLAND	02 4934 3025
14 D	ELLIS	STAN	(BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
15 O	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
16 O	GLEESON	BADEN	(VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
17 O	GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
18 O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME		VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
19 O	HADFIELD	STEVE		VK2DMX	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
20 L	HANLON	KEITH		-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
21 O	HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
22 O	HARDING	DAVID	(ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
23 O	JANES	LES		VKBEL	PORT MACQUARIE	
24 L	LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
25 L	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
26 O	MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
27 O	MARRIOTT	JOHN	(ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
28 O	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
29 O	MCLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
30 O	MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
31 D	MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
32 H	MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
33 L	MONCK	ARTHUR	(WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
34 O	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
35 O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
36 O	NUTT	ALAN	(ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
37 O	PILLEY	DAVID	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
38 O	REES	BRETT	(YVETTE)	VK2TMG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5956
39 O	RICHTER	ROY		VK2YB	VIA WAUCHOPE	02 6587.4232
40 O	ROTH	BILL		VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
41 O	SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
42 L	SINCLAIR	BILL		VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
43 D	TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	
44 O	THATCHER	TREVOR	(PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
45 D	THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
46 O	WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
47 O	WEBSTER	JIM	(MARY)	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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