

# OXTALES

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Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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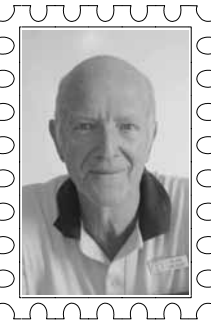
## January 2008

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557  
 VICE PRES: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534  
 TREASURER: John McLean VK2KCE 6584.6220  
 SECRETARY: Jim Neil VK2VIV 6581.2481

### President's Report

I would like to follow up my comments regarding chance and logical irrationality which I talked about in my November column last year. Not because I want a soapbox but because I believe that, basically, we are rational people who can nevertheless be conned into accepting pseudo-scientific hypotheses that simply do not hold up under close logical scrutiny.



That even great minds can be deceived into accepting the irrational and illogical is clearly demonstrated when one considers the now famous dictum of Niels Bohr that "A great truth is a truth of which the contrary is also a truth." Bohr was so confident of the correctness of this statement that he emblazoned it on his family coat of arms with the equivalent Latin motto *Contraria Sunt Complimentaria*. Just in case you've forgotten, it was Bohr who gave us the first reasonably accurate picture of the structure of the atom.

What Bohr had overlooked, deliberately or not, was the impossibility of the contrary which is simply a restatement of the logical law of non-contradiction, i.e. a statement cannot be both true and false at the same time and in the same relationship. Bohr's dictum was not an act of arrogance but rather an act of desperation to justify the unjustifiable. When scholars choose to deny the law of non-contradiction, they do

it selectively, when it suits them, in order to escape a logical trap.

Returning briefly to the use of the word "chance". It is not correct to infer, as some have, that "chance" is "a word void of meaning." It is true to say that *chance* is invented by or because of our ignorance but it is certainly not void of meaning. It has valid use as a concept regarding mathematical possibilities. It is also meaningful in common language when we say that two people meet "by chance" or "coincidence." By this we mean that the meeting was not planned by the parties involved but we cannot say that such a meeting was an event without a cause. There would have been many factors which lead to two people being in the same place at the same time and so meeting "by chance" but it would be totally incorrect to assume that either party was at the meeting point by the *causal act* of chance. As we pointed out previously, you cannot attribute any causal power to a non-entity. So let's be cautious in our use of the word, particularly when we are trying to describe events about which we have little or no knowledge.

Alan Nutt VK2GD

El Presidente

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## Down The Coax

**Coffs Radio Expo**  
**St Johns Church Hall**  
**McLean Street, Coffs Harbour**  
**January 20th 2008**

**Friday Night Get-togethers**  
**Jan. 11th & 25th**  
**7.00 pm**

**February 2008 Monthly Meeting**  
**(See New Venue Page 7)**  
**Saturday 2nd Feb 2008**  
**Meeting 2.00pm**

**Wyong Field Day**  
**17th February, 2008**

**Friday Night Get-togethers**  
**Feb. 8th & 22nd**  
**7.00pm**

**March 2008 Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday 1st March 2008**  
**2.00pm**

**Urunga Radio Convention**  
**Easter Saturday and Sunday**  
**22nd & 23rd March 2008**

### **E-mail directory.**

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to  
1st January 2008*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au  
VK2EM (Bruce) vk2em@iprimus.com.au  
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VK2BOR (ORARC) vk2bor@westnet.com.au  
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VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au  
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VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc  
VK2IEV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au  
VK2KCE (John) vk2kce@bigpond.com  
VK2DMX (Steve) haddie\_007@hotmail.com  
VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com

## **Net Controllers' Roster**

**Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz**

### **Sundays**

### **Wednesdays**

#### **January 2008**

VK2VIV	Jan-06	VK2ATM	Jan-02
VK2TT	Jan-13	VK2ZHE	Jan-09
VK2OA	Jan-20	VK2EI	Jan-16
VK2VIV	Jan-27	VK2AYD	Jan-23
		VK2GD	Jan-30

#### **February 2008**

VK2TT	Feb-03	VK2ZCM	Feb-06
VK2OA	Feb-10	VK2ATM	Feb-13
VK2VIV	Feb-17	VK2ZHE	Feb-20
VK2TT	Feb-24	VK2ZEI	Feb-27

#### **March 2008**

VK2OA	Mar-02	VK2AYD	Mar-05
VK2VIV	Mar-09	VK2GD	Mar-12
VK2TT	Mar-16	VK2ZCM	Mar-19
VK2OA	Mar-23	VK2ATM	Mar-26
VK2VIV	Mar-30		

#### **April 2008**

VK2TT	Apr-06	VK2ATM	Apr-02
VK2OA	Apr-13	VK2ZHE	Apr-09
VK2VIV	Apr-20	VK2EI	Apr-16
VK2TT	Apr-27	VK2AYD	Apr-23
		VK2GD	Apr-30

#### **May 2008**

VK2OA	May-04	VK2EI	May-07
VK2VIV	May-11	VK2AYD	May-14
VK2TT	May-18	VK2GD	May-21
VK2OA	May-25	VK2ZCM	May-28

#### **June 2008**

VK2VIV	Jun-01	VK2ZCM	Jun-04
VK2TT	Jun-08	VK2ATM	Jun-11
VK2OA	Jun-15	VK2ZHE	Jun-18
VK2VIB	Jun-22	VK2EI	Jun-25
VK2TT	Jun-29		

### **E-mail directory.**

*(Continued)*

VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au  
VK2VIV (Jim) jim.neil@gmail.com  
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VK2ZCV (Bill) wsi54224@bigpond.net.au  
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VK2FPRG (Paul) pauliejane@bigpond.com  
VK9FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

**APOLOGIES FOR LATE PUBLICATION**

**Due to a health "glitch" experienced by  
your Oxtales Editor, and some late  
developing news (see page 7 for details of  
new meeting venue), January OXTALES  
is late hitting the streets! Sorry.... Ed.**

## Necessity is the Mother of Invention

“A need or problem encourages creative efforts to meet the need or solve the problem.” That saying appears in the dialogue *Republic*, by the ancient Greek philosopher Plato. Various later “wise men” have been credited with similar variations of the expression... the Latin 'Mater artium necessitas', after Victor Hugo had a go at it, became “Necessity is the mother of invention”... but there have been many others who have had a lash at it.

This old saying was recently exemplified in the Working-bee environment of ORARC. The hard workers of the ORARC who do all of the "moving and shaking" to keep our club's hardware functional, which includes those installations out on towers in the region (e.g. VK2RPM and VK2RCN), recently encountered a challenge.

The long-recognised de-sensing problem existing at VK2RPM's 2-meter FM repeater was placed on the agenda of items seeking a solution. To address this problem, it was decided to fit the repeater with a set of 6 new cavities.

Well... Henry, VK2ZHE, provided six pre-loved cavities, with a design frequency of 136Mhz-143Mhz (adjustable), which would do the job, *if* they could be modified to be tuned for use with our 2-metre repeater.

Who accepted the challenge to do the “pruning” job? John, VK2KCE, our Treasurer, and Neil (VK2EI), either volunteered, or “were volunteered”, to undertake this rather critical and specialised task. The work required first shortening the outer cases, each of which had a diameter of 150mm, and then would come the task of shortening the inner 3.5 cm dia. tubes, and providing each one with 12 slots of 20 mm length.

A hacksaw, in the the skilled hands of Neil (VK2EI), employing diligence, perseverance, and surgeon-like competence, brought the outer case lengths to the required dimension in fine style, with minimal trauma suffered.

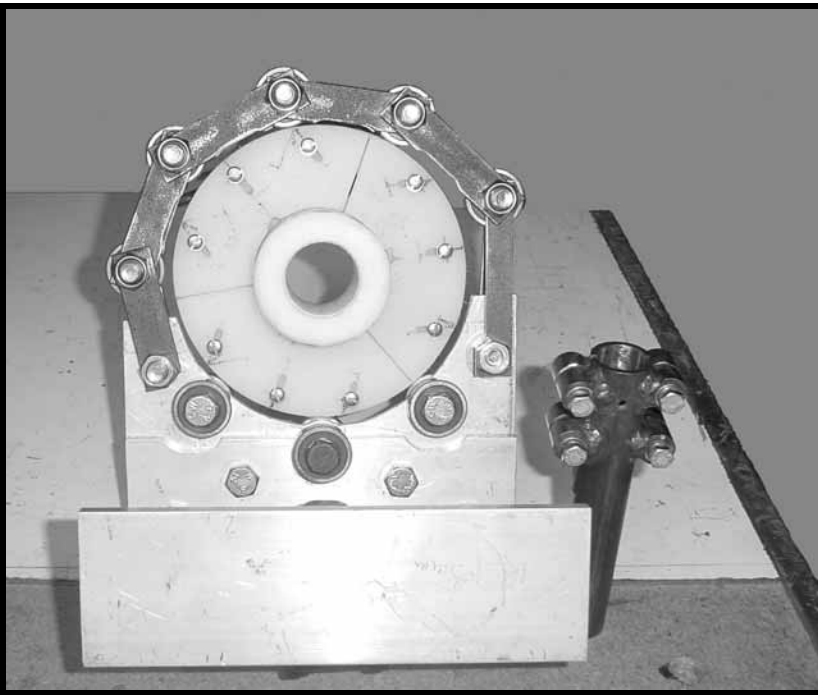
The surgery on the inner tubes was far more tedious and difficult, because of their fixed locations within their cavity cases. The construction of these cavities, designed around the requirements for maximum VHF conductivity, demand a welded joint between the inner tube and one end of the case. Each of tubes were therefore fixed in their confined areas, totally inaccessible by Neil's hacksaw, with nothing else available, short of innovative ingenuity, to “get shot of” the 25-30 mm of their excess length. Additionally, it was required to provide each inner tube with the 12 longitudinal slots, each 20 mm long, equally spaced around the circumference of each tube. This all called for specialised hardware.

John's workshop is particularly well equipped, but the specialised nature of the work required to be undertaken on the inner tubes, demanded a massive exercise that involved superb innovation, a modicum of trial and error, many, many hours of concentrated effort, and heaps of encouragement led by VK2ZHE, all of which culminated in a successful outcome that was, to put it succinctly, “Just what the Dr. ordered”. In essence, a clamping device to hold each “patient” steady with respect to a lathe's centre, but still allowing job-rotation against the cutting tool, was designed and fabricated, together with some Ad-hoc cutting tools that facilitated the longitudinal slotting task.

A comprehensive and graphic description of the exercise, from its very beginning to its glorious end, has been compiled by John. His document has been produced as a .pdf file, and is available free of charge to any interested member or reader who may seek to receive a copy.

His story covers fully the ideas that were conceived, tried, adopted (or abandoned), covering even the mini disasters along with the triumphant successes. Overleaf, is pictured the “lynch-pin” upon which the final outcome was forged. It shows the unique device that was custom designed and fabricated to hold a “patient” steady and central along the “operating table” (the bed of John's lathe) whilst it (the “patient”) was rotated to enable the lathe's cutting tool to perform its therapeutic function, i.e. remove the evil, unwanted 25-30 mm of length. The circular “wheel-like” objects shown in the assembly, are common ball-races, fitted with steel “axles” that are linked together with steel straps, much in the style of a cycle driving chain. The accompanying illustrations, taken from various angles in the operating theatre, shows a “patient”, fully anaesthetised, in a state of blissful rotation, undergoing the therapy that will soon lead to a new and useful life together with its five siblings on the picturesque summit of Middle Brother.

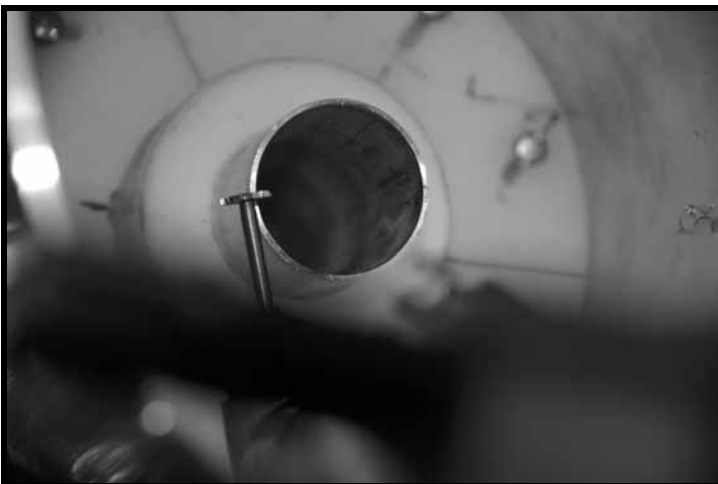
John, whose ingenuity and experience played the leading role in this particularly tricky project, has expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the other members of the club who also participated in various ways, with particular mention made of Neil (VK2EI) for his hacksaw skills, and his enviable ability to act as a human “travelling-steady” on the lathe over one tricky period, and of Henry (VK2ZHE), for his support, encouragement, and supplying the six “patients” that underwent the conversion process.



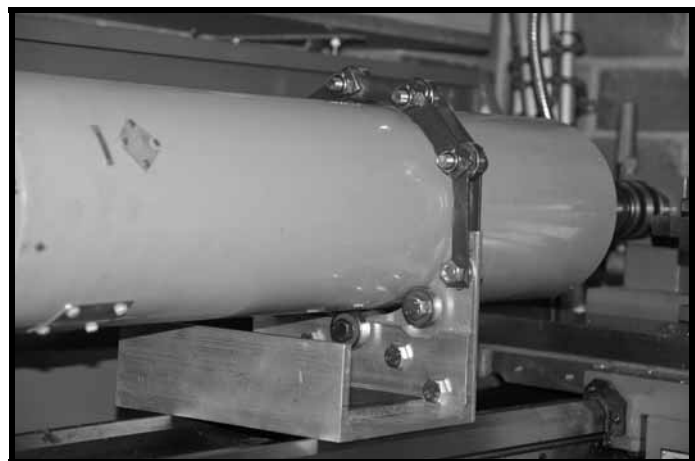
**Left: John's innovative "clamping and steadying device" that accurately maintains the cavity assembly's precise position in the lathe whilst allowing it to rotate and undergo machining of the inner central tube for length adjustment. A most effective outcome of Plato's gem of wisdom from way back in pre-Christian times.**



**The "patient" on the operating table undergoing the "procedure."**



**Above: After the excess length was removed, the slots then had to be cut... Which is why all the above had to happen! ...**



**Above: The "patient" in recovery... fit and well.**

## Christmas Barbeque 2007

The 2007 Christmas barbeque was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December to coincide with the December monthly general meeting. Much discussion took place regarding the wisdom of holding the Christmas outdoor function on the first weekend of December due to the history of rain attracted by the Touch Football competition, which is held in Port Macquarie on this same weekend each year. Obviously, the decision to defy the odds was the correct one.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of December did fall in a wet week but the Saturday dawned fine and sunny. The most important decision was to select the correct venue. Settlement Point Park proved to be just that. Perhaps it was the large roof over the picnic tables, but despite the many dark clouds on the horizon, the rain stayed away. The roof was essential as it provided very welcome shade from the hot December sun that beat down on the park all day. The temperature remained very comfortable in the shade thanks to the cooling sea breeze that blew in across the Hastings River.

The attendance was very good. It was great family day with plenty of stimulating conversation and much sharing of good food.

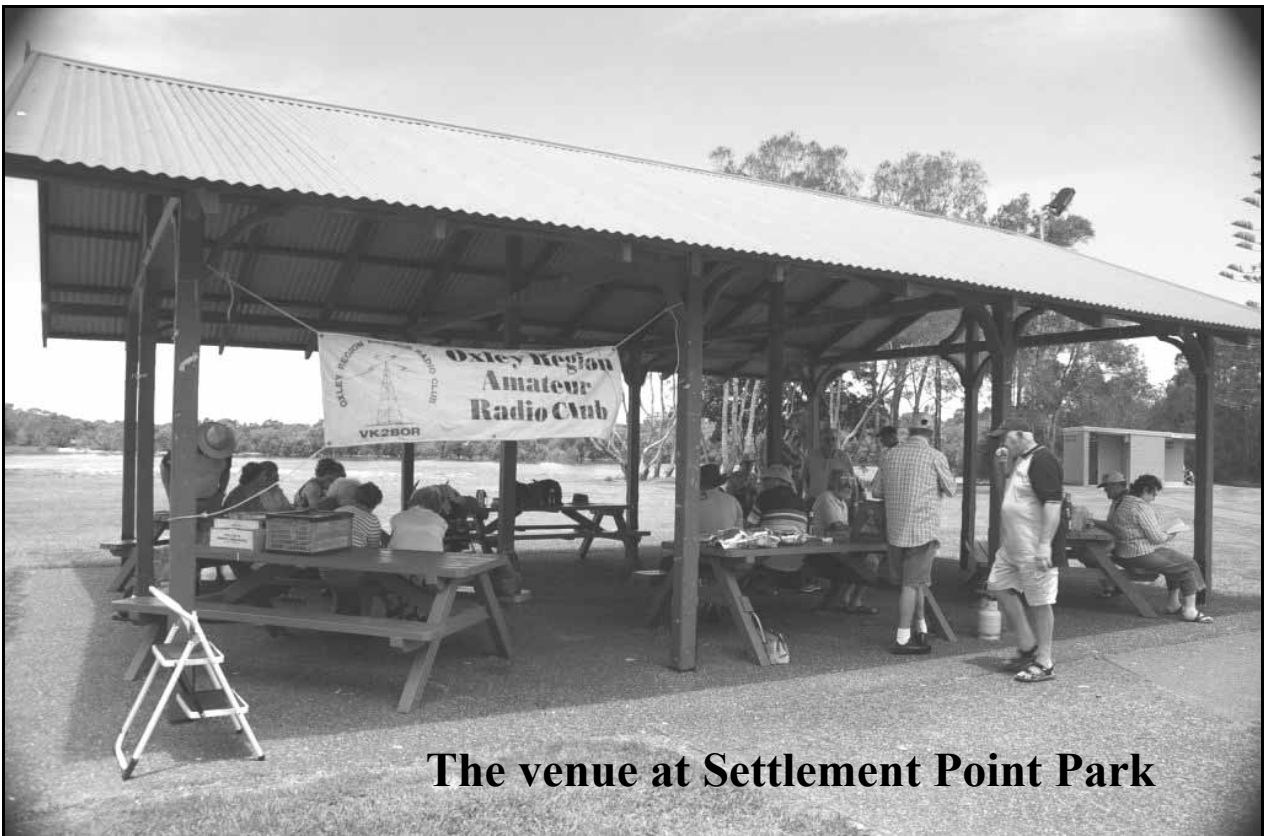
Joe Bivona, VK2IEV, very generously shared his very tasty Panetonne which disappeared very quickly indeed. There were many who came back for a second helping. Joe was responsible for introducing this traditional Italian egg bread with candied fruit to many who had not previously tried it. Of course, those of us who were already familiar with the delicacy particularly appreciated Joe's generosity. Thanks Joe.

The formal Monthly General meeting business was completed in record time with the executive very comfortably ensconced at the "official" picnic table. One particularly pleasant item of business for President Alan Nutt VK2GD was to present an engraved club name badge to Horst Koppel VK2FHKO of Lake Cathie in recognition of his attaining the Foundation Licence.

The chefs led by Barry Gilson, VK2FBRG, barbequed the sausages and steak to perfection on the park's electric barbeque after setting up a screen to deflect the wind. The sausages were delicious and everyone remarked on how tender and tasty the steaks were.

Many members were spotted taking notes and photographs of the portable HF antenna system that John McLean VK2KCE set up. The mast and guying system came in for some close scrutiny. Everyone was impressed at the arrangement of the horizontal helical whip dipole at the top of the mast. There are bound to be at least a few similar antenna systems under construction inspired by John's demonstration.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this one of the best club Christmas parties we have held. Commiserations to those who were unable to attend this year. We all look forward to next year's event. The committee has taken note of the request to reinstate the fruit salad and ice cream to make the day perfect.



**The venue at Settlement Point Park**





**Horst (VK2FHKO) Receiving his membership badge from President Alan (VK2GD) . Welcome aboard Horst!**



**The December monthly meeting in progress, following the BBQ lunch.**

**Below: L to R is Treasurer John, VK2KCE; El Presidente Alan (VK2GD) and Secretary Jim (VK2VIV), conducting the meeting and reporting to the membership.**



**“Many members were spotted taking notes and photographs of the portable HF antenna system that John McLean VK2KCE set up.”** →



## **New Meeting Venue for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club**

### Members

As you may be aware, the SES building is planned for future demolition and eventually we will have to find a new venue to hold meetings. Rather than wait till this happens the committee decided to be proactive and secure a new venue, preferably one that is air conditioned and has ground floor access.

To this end we have secured the **function room** at the Port City Bowling Club for our monthly meetings and their **committee room** for the Friday night gathering. We may be able to use the function room if it is not being used on Friday nights, this will be a suck and see exercise.

The club is in Owen St. with parking out the front and out the back near the tennis courts. The back parking may be better if we use the committee room on Friday nights which is outside the building alongside the back bowling green.

The function room is upstairs but there is a lift. Facilities exist such as overhead projector, video, and TV

When entering the club it will be necessary to **sign in at the front desk.** unless you are a member. Besides being convenient it would be good to cement relations if some of our members where members of the club. There are benefits that virtually recoup the fee. Social membership about \$5.

Coffee and biscuits will be arranged at a small charge.

The move to the new venue will be **FEBRUARY** general meeting - **2nd Feb. 2.00pm-** then each second and fourth Friday night at 7.00pm.

**THERE IS NO CHARGE TO US FOR THE USE OF THE CLUB ROOMS.**

Below is the URL of the club web site.

Club Web Site <http://www.portcity.com.au/index.html>club

Jim  
VK2VIV (Secretary, ORARC Inc.)



# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 1st Jan 2008)

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	0405 040 953
4	L BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5	O BRODIE	BOB		VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
6	O BROOKE	AILSAL	(BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
7	O BROOKE	BILL	(AILSAL)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O BURGESS	ROY	(JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8801
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	A GRAHAM	PAUL	(JANE)	VK2FPRG	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
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		VK2BAL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.3789
24	O KOPPEL	HORST		VK2FHKO	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585 5992
25	L LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	BAGNOO	02 6587.1155
26	O LOOMIS	CHARLEY		VK2ZYZ	WAUCHOPE	-
27	L LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
28	O MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
29	O MARRIOTT	JOHN	(ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
30	O MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
31	O MCLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
32	O MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	-
33	D MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
34	H MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
35	L MONCK	ARTHUR	(WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
36	O NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
37	O NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
38	O NUTT	ALAN	(ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
39	O PILLEY	DAVID	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
40	O REES	BRETT		VK2FMG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5956
41	O RICHTER	ROY		VK2YB	VIA WAUCHOPE	02 6587.4232
42	O SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
43	L SINCLAIR	BILL	(CORALIE)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
44	D TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
45	O THATCHER	TREVOR		VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
46	D THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
47	O WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360

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