

# OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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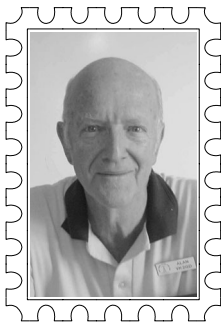
## March 2008

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

Talk about chalk and cheese – what a tremendous difference between our old venue and our new one! Our thanks to Jim for ferreting out the new location at Port City Bowling Club. I must confess I wouldn't have given it a thought so it pays to think outside the box .....



All we need now is something more suitable and accessible for storage of our gear and we are pretty much home and hosed.

There have been some rumblings of late amongst those involved in assessing candidates for our various amateur licences. Part of the problem involves the volume of paper-work that is required to complete the assessment process, particularly when the candidate wishes to apply immediately to the ACMA for the granting of a licence. It takes almost as much time to complete all the relevant details on the application forms as it does to do the exam! Seriously. With discussions currently taking place between the WIA and the ACMA regarding further WIA involvement in the accreditation process, the problem is likely to escalate to the point where the time spent by volunteer assessors in administration details is likely to be increasingly out of proportion to the task for which they volunteered in the first place. It is similar in many respects to the teaching profession where one became involved initially be-

cause of a love for teaching, only to find as time progressed and one moved further up the administrative ladder that less and less time was spent in front of a class and more and more time was spent behind a desk.

I don't profess to have an answer to this potential problem, only to suggest that a proper balance needs to be found between the tasks carried out by volunteers in the WIA and the paid bureaucrats in the ACMA. I'm also mindful of the fact that I only have a tiny view of the whole process while others have a much bigger picture with which to work.

I was surprised that my column in the last two issues of "Oxtales" where I challenged some of our commonly held notions about "chance" didn't draw any flack. Perhaps this was because 1) it went straight over the top, 2) it wasn't worth getting into a fight over or 3) you agreed with the logic of my argument.. Never mind – researching it was fun but it does lead to some pretty serious thinking or rethinking down the track for many of us who perhaps take "hypotheses" on board a little too easily and without much question.

Alan Nutt VK2GD  
 El Presidente

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# Down The Coax

All Monthly Meetings and Friday Night  
Get-togethers will be at Port City Bowling Club,  
unless otherwise advised.

**Friday Night Get-togethers**  
**March 14th & 28th**  
**7.00 pm**

**Communications for Car Rally**  
**Saturday 15th March**

**John Moyle Field Day**

**Sat. 15th & Sun. 16th March**

**From 0100UTC (Noon local) Sat till**  
**0059 (Noon local) Sun.**

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

**April 2008 Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday 5th April 2008**  
**2.00pm**

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

**May 2008 Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday 3rd May 2008**  
**2.00pm**

## E-mail directory

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to  
25th February 2008*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au  
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# Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays**  
(0830 Local)

**Wednesdays**  
(1930 Local)

## 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 | VK2ZHE | Apr-02 |
| VK2OA  | Apr-13 | VK2EI  | Apr-09 |
| VK2VIV | Apr-20 | VK2AYD | Apr-16 |
| VK2TT  | Apr-27 | VKGD   | Apr-23 |
|        |        | VK2ZCM | Apr-30 |

## May 2008

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| VK2OA  | May-04 | VK2ATM | May-07 |
| VK2VIV | May-11 | VK2ZHE | May-14 |
| VK2TT  | May-18 | VK2EI  | May-21 |
| VK2OA  | May-25 | VK2AYD | May-28 |

## June 2008

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| VK2VIV | Jun-01 | VK2GD  | Jun-04 |
| VK2TT  | Jun-08 | VK2ZCM | Jun-11 |
| VK2OA  | Jun-15 | VK2ATM | Jun-18 |
| VK2VIV | Jun-22 | VK2ZHE | Jun-25 |
| VK2TT  | Jun-29 |        |        |

## July 2008

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| VK2OA  | Jul-06 | VK2EI  | Jul-02 |
| VK2VIV | Jul-13 | VK2AYD | Jul-09 |
| VK2TT  | Jul-20 | VK2GD  | Jul-16 |
| VK2OA  | Jul-27 | VK2ZCM | Jul-23 |
|        |        | VK2ATM | Jul-30 |

## August 2008

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| VK2VIV | Aug-03 | VK2ZHE | Aug-06 |
| VK2TT  | Aug-10 | VK2EI  | Aug-13 |
| VK2OA  | Aug-17 | VK2AYD | Aug-20 |
| VK2VIV | Aug-24 | VK2GD  | Aug-27 |

## E-mail directory.

*(Continued)*

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VK2YOR (Roy) rjburges@bigpond.com  
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VK9FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

## Car Rally 15th March

John, (VK2KCE) ORARC's Club Co-ordinator for the forthcoming rally, wishes to advise the membership of the arrangements so far put in place for this event:

*The up and coming Car Rally, is a NSW state Championship event, to be run on the 15th March. All those participating are required to meet at the SES building at 8:30am to load the equipment and travel to Kendall Showgrounds where we set up the Base comms site. Then those who are travelling out to man a check point, will leave from there to meet up with their escorts.*

*Please bring a clipboard, writing instrument and mossie repellent! By the time the "Oxtales" is published, hopefully Scott Keys, the Event Secretary of the Hastings Sporting Car Club, will have final details of the actual course.*

*Feel sorry for Scott, as one proposed stage has had a huge amount of dirt pushed over it by the contractors of the Coopernook to Herons Ck deviation and has to be deviated and shortened. On one stage, a bridge has been washed out and has to be shortened. A 6 ft diameter tree has fallen across another road on another stage! Scott is hoping that the Forestry will remove this tree to allow this stage to be run. Then there is the rain!*

*Bill VK2ZCW and I carried out a reccie" on Friday 15th Feb., to check if the points which we are manning are accessible by VHF and UHF. Much to our surprise only one point will need an external antenna to achieve Q5 sigs.*

*VK2KCE has made up a 3 element beam antenna to see if that will put in a clearer signal from that point, if not, then that point will be a HF link back to base.*

*Judging from the test, the planned "parrot repeater", which was to be situated on top of Comboyne Rock, may not be needed, but that need may change as the stage courses may have to be changed at the last moment.*

*My sincere thanks for all those who cheerfully put their hand up and volunteered to help in any way, and even Les, VK2APE has volunteered to come up from Morrisset to help out!*

73

John (VK2KCE)

## And I didn't Know It!

A day or so ago, whilst idly thumbing through an elderly Encyclopædic Dictionary, my attention was caught by this little gem, that was nestled within the Rhyming Slang chapter :

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Dr. Crippen.</b> Dripping, fat (c 1910). [From the name of a murderer, the first to be trapped by wireless telegraphy.]</p> |
|---|

The "trapped by wireless telegraphy" bit, immediately brought to mind many members of our fraternity (VK2AYD was high on the list!) who have also been "trapped", "captured", whatever, by the lure and romance of wireless telegraphy... but, of course, none of them have been murderers!

So, I thought I would investigate Dr. Crippen's association with what I had assumed must surely have been a very early, compulsive foray into the world of Amateur Radio.

Naturally, I "Googled" Dr. Crippen\* but very smartly found that my hastily formed assumption was entirely wrong. The hapless Dr. Crippen seems to have had no association with our hobby at all. From the facts gleaned it could easily be argued that it is highly likely that he would have held this field of human endeavour in deep disdain, right up until that fateful instant when the hangman pulled the pin on the trap-door beneath the doctor's feet.

Trevor (VK2TT)

\*See bottom of Page 6, this issue, for the URL. It's worth a read.

## Insuperable Obstacles

An interesting extract from an article appearing in "The Sun" (Sydney) on May, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1928. The article was titled "Chances of Television Remote", and it reflected a less than optimistic view of the future of the now ubiquitous "Goggle Box". Here is that article:

At first glance the wide distinction between a still and moving picture is difficult to understand. But, even at the fastest, a motionless image takes fully fifteen minutes to transmit from one point to another. It is sent, as it were, in a series of dots, of varying size, like a newspaper block, or in lines of different thickness, and pieced together at the receiving end, the ensemble having the same form, naturally, as the original arrangement. Broadly, the same could be done with ordinary telegraphy by means of an elaborate code, if sufficient time was available.

But, taking a similar picture, moving no fewer than 16 separate images per second must be transmitted if the result is to present a continuous effect to the human eye. Anything less would show a definite flicker. The problem immediately becomes a hundred times more involved.

Practically the only principle known at present is to pass a ray of light over the picture to be transmitted, up and down it, or across, so quickly, that the same ray of light, after going through the same transmission channels, will present a continuous image of the moving object when thrown on a screen at the receiving end. This sounds simplicity itself, but, apart from the acknowledged difficulty of transmitting by wireless a sufficiently accurate and fast-moving impulse, the primary difficulty still has to be overcome by "exploring" the picture, as it is termed, with a spot of light small enough to give good definition for obviously anything smaller than the spot cannot be defined -- and covering the picture with sufficient thoroughness, without overlapping, to give a clear reproduction.

In ordinary cinematograph work 16 separate pictures are thrown on the screen per second, the result being a continuous and even moving picture. These are 16 complete pictures; in television, for the same effect, a spot of light, indescribably small, would have to form, by travelling across the screen, each separate picture, every sixteenth part of a second, even before it showed any sign of "life." It has been computed that for really useful results, pulsations, first of light, which in turn are changed to electrical pulsations for transmitting, of more than one ten millionth part of a second, are essential. This is obviously impossible.

Dim reproductions have been sent by wireless on one or two occasions. Mr. Baird claimed to have sent a moving picture across the Atlantic, which was shown in a darkened cellar in New York. The Bell Telephone Laboratories, at tremendous expense and with the co-operation of some hundreds of people, sent a moving picture, barely recognizable, a distance of 22 miles. Beyond these, there have been few specific claims.

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*(Hmmm! ...Ed.)*

## Tools and Their Real Uses

*(From "the private engineer's lexicon" of John, VK2KCE)*

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly-stained heirloom piece you were drying.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned guitar calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "Yeou!"

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

**SKIL SAW:** A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters. Most often the tool used by all women.

**BELT SANDER:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**WELDING GLOVES:** Heavy duty leather gloves used to prolong the conduction of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the

wheel hub you want the bearing race out of.

**WHITWORTH SOCKETS:** Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16 or 1/2" socket you've been searching for the last 45 minutes.

**TABLE SAW:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

**EIGHT-FOOT LONG YELLOW PINE 2X4:** Used for levering an automobile upward off of a trapped hydraulic jack handle.

**TWEEZERS:** A tool for removing wood splinters and wire wheel wires.

**E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps neatly off in bolt holes thereby ending any possible future use.

**RADIAL ARM SAW:** A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to scare neophytes into choosing another line of work.

**TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST:** A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

**CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 24-INCH SCREWDRIVER:** A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

**AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.

**TROUBLE LIGHT:** The home mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin, which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105mm howitzer shells might be

used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids and for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads. Women excel at using this tool.

**STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:** A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.

**AIR COMPRESSOR:** A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts which were last over tightened 30 years ago by someone at Ford, and instantly rounds off their heads. Also used to quickly snap off lug nuts.

## ORARC Club Trailer Project Progress

After a lot of hard work by a small band of dedicated members, the trailer project has reached the first major milestone. The basic trailer is now roadworthy and is ready to be inspected for registration. Special thanks must go to John McLean VK2KCE and John Bailey VK2KHB who have done most of the hard work. Thank you to those members who have assisted with the many tasks so far.

The second phase of the project is to fabricate a new bolt on weatherproof top for the trailer. The original top did not provide full stand up headroom for the majority of our members. The new top will have full headroom. Also, prior to the club purchasing the trailer, the outer aluminium cladding had been badly damaged by hail so was in need of replacement. This was reflected in the affordable purchase price of the trailer and it provides the opportunity to rebuild the top to better suit the club's needs. The trailer will look like new when this work is completed.

The third phase will be the fit out of the trailer.

More details next issue.

— Henry (VK2ZHE)

### Some Handy Snippets

John (VK2KCE) has submitted the following little snippets that may be of help to some of our members:

*I have just discovered a Modem speed test site, just click on the link and see how fast your modem is.*

*The link:*

***<http://www.users.bigpond.com/speedtest/>***

*Thought it may be handy for those curious about their actual download speed*

*Also, I have at last found a utility which can disable the caps lock key and it's turned into a shift-lock key.*

*It's a simple .regfile, and can be reversed to restore the caps lock key to normal functionality.*

*I used to lever the key out of the keyboard!*

*Here is the site where you can download the utility*

***[http://johnhaller.com/jh/useful\\_stuff/disable\\_caps\\_lock/](http://johnhaller.com/jh/useful_stuff/disable_caps_lock/)***

On page 7 of this issue, is a reproduction of a a handy guide to preparing RG58 Style cable in readiness for terminating in various connectors used in the hobby. It could assist in removing some of the frustration that comes from the old "cut-and-try" method.

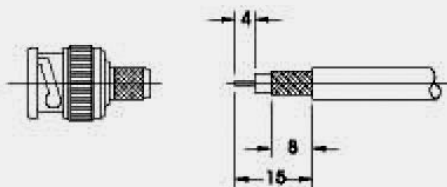
Acknowledgements to RF Industries for permission to reproduce the source document.

\* The "Dr. Crippen" website URL:

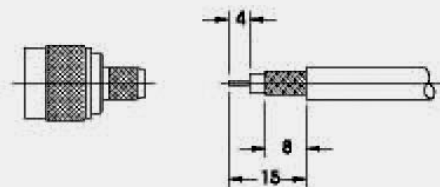
**[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~crippen/Dr\\_H\\_H\\_Crippen.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~crippen/Dr_H_H_Crippen.htm)**

# Installation

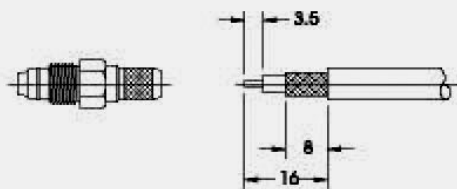
## Cable Preparation Details RG 58 Style Cable



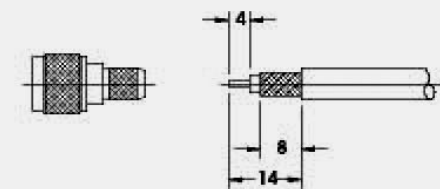
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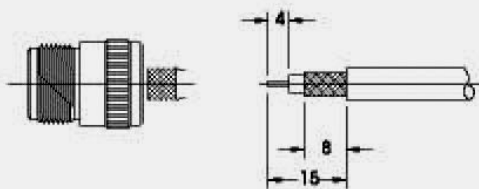
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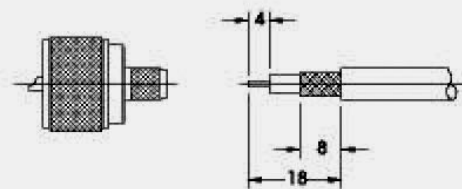
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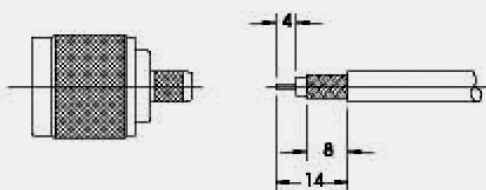
MPL-804/5



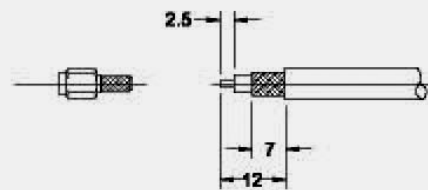
N-98



UHF-44



N-89



SMA-01/ 86/ 40

### Important Note:

Take care not to cut into the braid or centre conductor wires when trimming cables



**RF Industries Pty Ltd**

Absv 11 001 886 612

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# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 25th February 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   |             | VK2TMG  | LAKE CATHIE      | Mob 0400 014 641 |
| 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