

# OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club e-mail address: vk2bor@orarc.org

Club Website: www.orarc.org

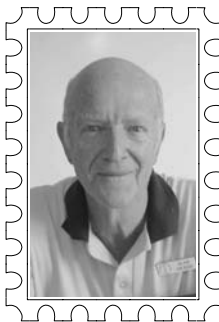
## May 2008

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

Following a preliminary discussion last week with officers of our local SES unit regarding possible future meeting space and storage facilities in their proposed new premises in Central Road, our Secretary and myself were encouraged by the very co-operative approach taken by Ray and Tim Richards.



Initially it appeared that any storage space might be out of the question but Tim suggested the possibility of four or so of our club members actually joining the SES which would then give our Club full access to all the facilities on the SES site, including trailer storage, when their building is completed next October.

While discussion remains very much in the preliminary stage at this point and our respective Executives have yet to approve the suggestion, we believe it is nevertheless a very positive step in the right direction. We had already considered the possibility of re-establishing a WICEN group within our Club, believing this may be a possible link to the SES but we were also aware that there was reluctance on the part of some of our members to be involved with WICEN.

If some of our Club members were to join the SES, the following positive outcomes for our Club are worth considering:

- 1) No costs or fees are involved
- 2) We will retain full autonomy and identity

- 3) Protective clothing in the form of overalls and T shirts would be provided if and when required
- 4) No requirement to attend regular training sessions, with participation only in a brief orientation course
- 5) Availability of storage space for both equipment and trailer with full access
- 6) Lecture hall availability with full facilities, eg. data projector, DVD player etc.

The benefits to the SES, on the other hand, are:

- 1) Access to our Club's communications expertise
- 2) An alternative communications network in the event of emergencies
- 3) Availability of extra volunteers if needed.

While some of our members may have reservation about involvement with the SES, it should be pointed out that the relationship with the SES would be one of mutual cooperation and respect.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## Down The Coax

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

### Friday Night Get-togethers

May 9th & 23rd

7.00 pm

### Friday Night Get-togethers

June 6th (SES Bldg - F/Day W/E Preps)  
& 27th ( at PCBC)

7.00pm

### June Monthly Meeting

Cancelled Saturday 7th June 2008  
(Clashes with Field Day W/E day-1)

### ORARC Field Day Weekend

Sat 7th & Sun 8th June

See Page 7 for Programme

### July 2008 Monthly Meeting

Saturday 5th July 2008

2.00pm

### E-mail directory

Reflects ALL changes notified up to  
27th April 2008

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au  
VK2EM (Bruce) vk2em@iprimus.com.au  
VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au  
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@midcoast.com.au  
VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au  
VK2AYD (David) dvdply@midcoast.com.au  
VK2AYQ (John) hansenjo@ozemail.com.au  
VK2BAL (Les) lnbjanes@tpg.com.au  
VK2BEL (Allan) belly@tsn.cc  
VK2BOR (ORARC) vk2bor@westnet.com.au  
VK2CJM (Chris) Chris@CalmDowns.org.au  
VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au  
VK2CLL (Larry) vk2cll@clearmail.com.au  
VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc  
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au  
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmondson@midcoast.com.au  
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  
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au  
VK2VIV (Jim) jim.neil@gmail.com  
VK2YOR (Roy) rjburges@bigpond.com  
VK2ZCM (Craig) vk2zcm@dodo.com.au  
VK2ZCV (Bill) wsi54224@bigpond.net.au  
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@westnet.com.au  
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au

## Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays**  
(0830 Local)

**Wednesdays**  
(1930 Local)

(Pattern has changed)

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

### July 2008

VK2OA	Jul-06	VK2AYD	Jul-02
VK2VIV	Jul-13	VK2ZCM	Jul-09
VK2TT	Jul-20	VK2ATM	Jul-16
VK2OA	Jul-27	VK2ZHE	Jul-23
		VK2EI	Jul-30

### August 2008

VK2VIV	Aug-03	VK2AYD	Aug-06
VK2TT	Aug-10	VK2ZCM	Aug-13
VK2OA	Aug-17	VK2ATM	Aug-20
VK2VIV	Aug-24	VK2ZHE	Aug-27

### September 2008

VK2TT	Sep-07	VK2EI	Sep-03
VK2OA	Sep-14	VK2AYD	Sep-10
VK2VIV	Sep-21	VK2ZCM	Sep-17
VK2TT	Sep-28	VK2ATM	Sep-24

### October 2008

VK2OA	Oct-05	VK2ZHE	Oct-01
VK2VIV	Oct-12	VK2EI	Oct-08
VK2TT	Oct-19	VK2AYD	Oct-15
VK2OA	Oct-26	VKZCM	Oct-22
		VK2ATM	Oct-29

### E-mail directory.

(Continued)

VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvq.com.au  
VK2ZYZ (Charley) rameses32@yahoo.com  
VK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@westnet.com.au  
VK2FBRG (Barry) bgilson11@hotmail.com  
VK2FHKO (Horst) horstko@bigpond.com  
VK2FJKD (Jim) jaidan1@bigpond.com  
VK2FPRG (Paul) pauliejane@bigpond.com  
VK9FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

(Continued from p1 President's Report)

If our members are in agreement with the suggestion as outlined, we will then invite those prepared to become members of the SES to indicate their willingness to do so. We will then be in a position to move to further discussions, leading ultimately to a formal arrangement which is satisfactory to both organisations.

Alan Nutt VK2GD

El Presidenté

## Local Member Exposed in Rural Press

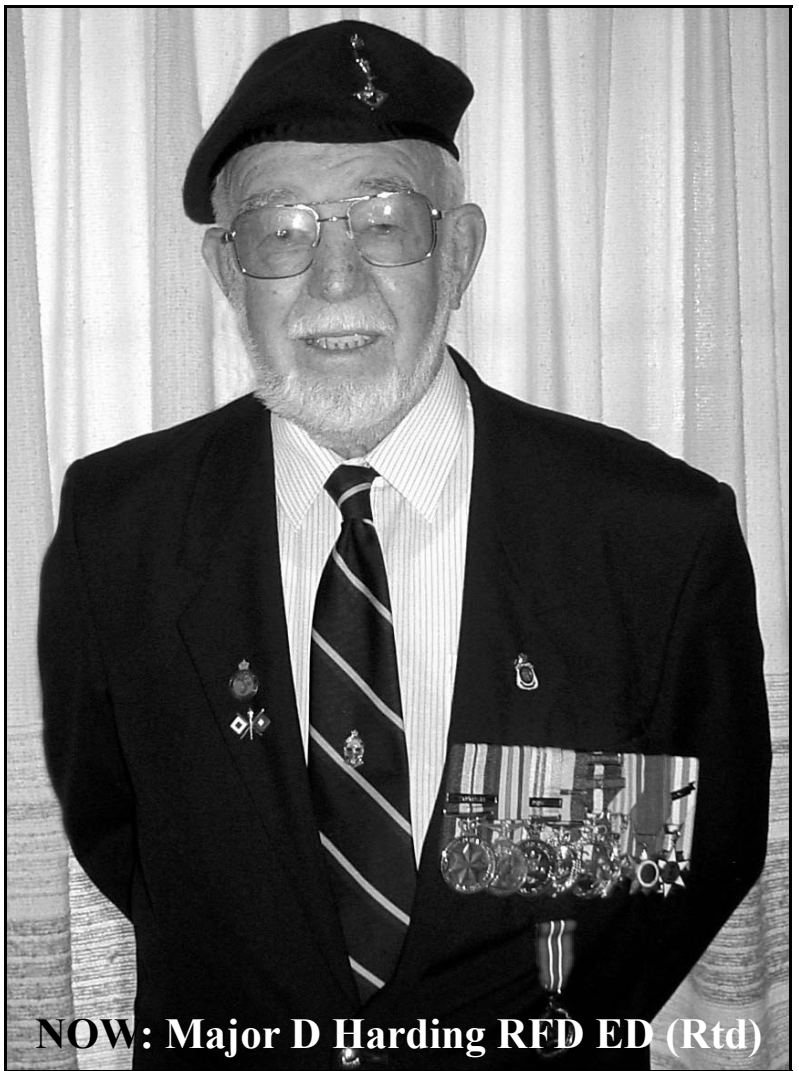
Local ORARC member, David Harding, VK2AIF, of Wauchope, appeared in the "Wauchope Gazette" on 24th April. David's Curriculum Vitae, together with two pictures, was published in one of a continuing series of articles, "Salute Their Service" compiled by Wauchope RSL sub-branch Media Director, Greg Cavanagh.

David's life story makes an interesting and impressive narrative, covering his origin as the son of a WW1 Light Horse Soldier, through his schooling years, early occupations, his service history from 1949 to 1984, his post-military occupation, and finally, retirement.

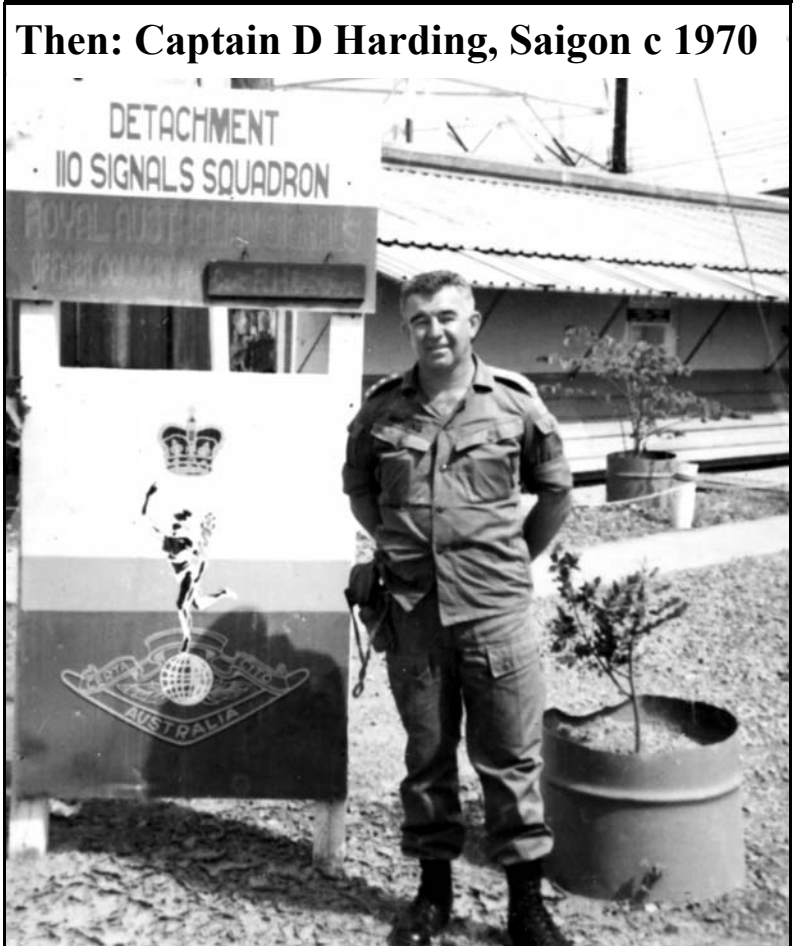
Beginning his military career in the CMF, and later moving into the Regular Army, he saw service in the 1955 Maitland floods, the Vietnam conflict, in Papua New Guinea attached to the Royal Australian Army Medical corps involved in malaria research, and as Staff Officer at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. His movement through his service career took him to the rank of Major.

A paragraph in the media article gave the ORARC some exposure too: *"David is still an avid amateur radio operator, being a member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club which covers the Hastings Valley, and spends many hours in contact with like-minded enthusiasts around the world. His call sign, VK2AIF, depicts his long association with the Australian Army."*

It was quite fitting that David's "salute" article appeared in the "Wauchope Gazette" on the day prior to ANZAC Day.



**NOW: Major D Harding RFD ED (Rtd)**



**Then: Captain D Harding, Saigon c 1970**

## A multi-band Rotatable Antenna

(From John, VK2KCE)

I was made aware of this multi-band rotatable dipole after Henry VK2ZHE emailed me a copy of the original article that was published in the Dec 2007 issue of QST by Geoff Haines N1GY.

The article interested me as I had already built a single frequency version of the antenna featured.

After a fruitless search to procure the octagonal mount that Geoff N1GY used here in VK land, I decided if I wanted one I would have to manufacture it from the ground up.



My version of the Octopus features any 4 of the AR HF bands, I have 80, 40, 20, & 15m installed in the photos, but its easy to drop the array and replace the HF mobile whips with a pair of your choice. I currently also have 17, 12, 10 & 6m whips to fit if I want to operate on those bands.

The whips known as "Workman" or "Hamsticks" are quite common in the USA, and can be purchased for as little as \$us14.00 each. Those who attended the Wyong Field Days will be shocked as an almost identical type were on sale at a well known purveyors stand of ham equipment. I think they were priced at well over \$80 each! I get quite frustrated and annoyed at such huge profit taking and the way Aussie AR ops are at the mercy of a few greedy suppliers. No wonder "Grey" imports are on the increase!

But I digress.

The actual mount was machined up out of a 3" billet of aluminium, and after the holes were drilled and tapped; 3/8" NF thread for the whips around the edge, the billet was then sliced in two, and separated by 8 mm and then oval shaped pieces of a cutting board (XYL was agreeable and donated me the board!) made up and more holes were drilled and tapped to 6mm in the alloy to allow the two pieces of alloy to be sandwiched between the poly pieces to insulate the halves from each other. Then a piece of angle, actually made from a piece of alloy channel was shaped and this then became the mount plus the mount for the SO-239. I used a piece of alloy channel as no angle was available to give me the depth to allow 2 x U bolt mounts.

The Octopus took quite a few hours of machining, as is the case with anything made as a prototype. In all, 14 holes had to be drilled and tapped accurately, quite fiddly indeed!

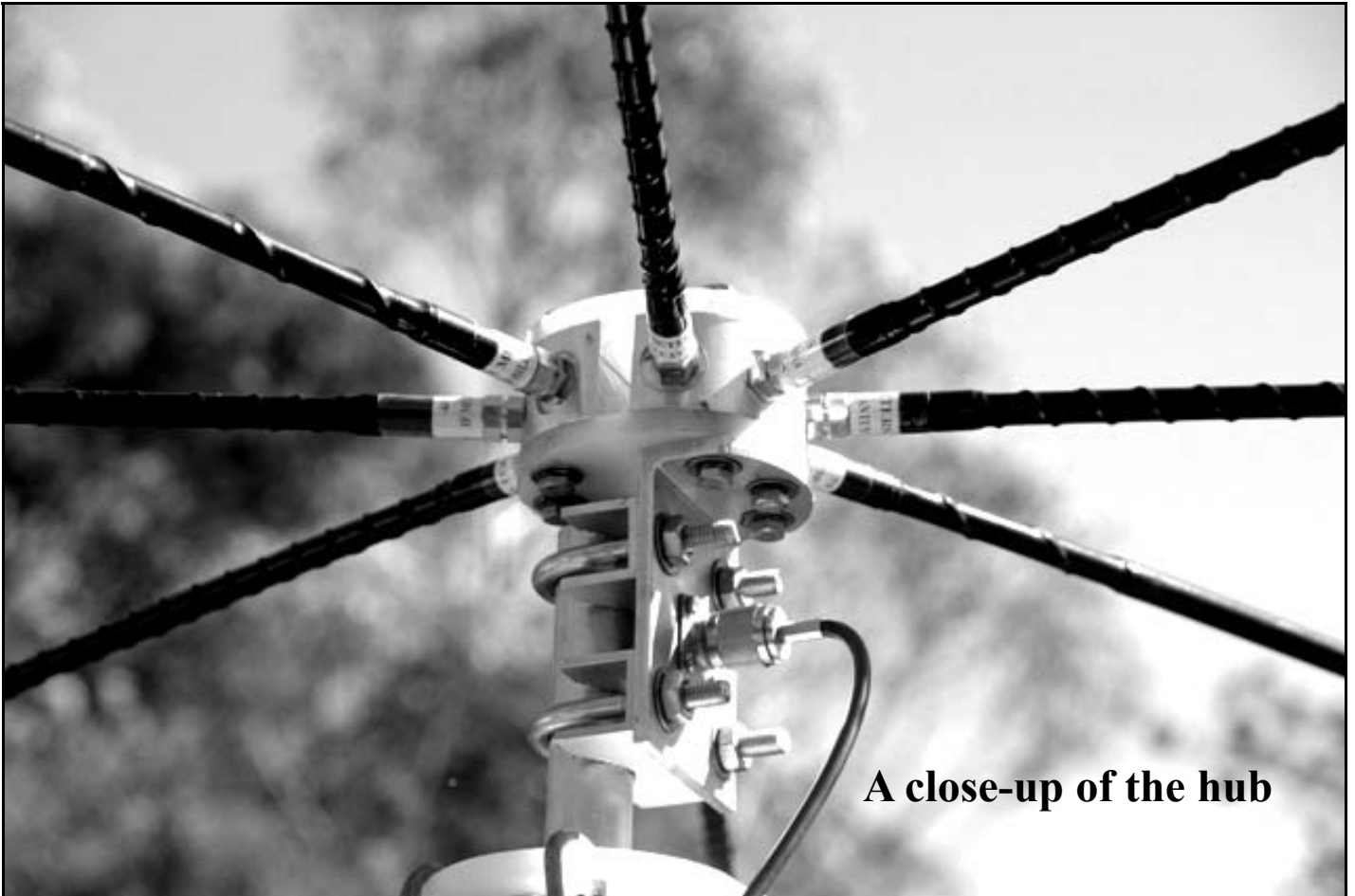
I am still in the process of tuning each frequency, as I found that out of the box, 80 & 20m are perfect, but 40 & 15m need some extra surgery to enable them to operate on the AR frequencies. I have found in the past if a mobile whip resonates too high in frequency a small capacitive hat in the form of a 3" aluminium disc fitted just below the stainless steel section of the whip, this will drop the resonant frequency on 80m about 500KHz.

I have yet to fit and tune the 17, 12, 10 & 6 m whips.

I haven't tried the array on air yet, but because its only 18 feet in the air, I believe it will act like an NVIS antenna, so I do expect on 80 & 40 m long range will be limited.

That's my latest attempt at home brewing.

73 — John, VK2KCE.



**A close-up of the hub**

### **Net Controllers Wanted!**

A cursory glance at the Net Controllers' Roster over the past many months, will reveal that we are running a bit short on participants to control the Sunday morning Nets. Only three stations are listed there!

Worse still, one of those listed has been dragging his feet and not getting around to fixing his 2-M gear! BUT!! He has at long last done just that and will be taking on his responsibilities... effective immediately.

Thanks to Bill, VK2ZCV, and others, who have filled in for this "limping rower" for so long. *(I confess, it is I, your editor who has been so tardy, but the last 12 months have been rather tough for me,*

*personally. I am now feeling much improved, and, with my gear all repaired, I am looking forward to the resumption of my participation.)*

We do, however, need some additional support to reconstruct a bigger roster, particularly for the Sunday Nets. So what about it? How about some new blood being injected into the system? Is there anybody out there who would like to help out by joining us on the roster?... or perhaps one or two from the Wednesday's roster moving to Sundays... or perhaps a partial integration? Any views? But don't all speak at once, and flood the market! (Hi). But we do need to strengthen our nets to avoid a collapse.

73 de Trevor (VK2TT)

## Report on the Club Trailer

(From John, VK2KCE)

I have now moved the trailer to my QTH and have almost finished removing all the old paintwork.

It will be repainted in a prime coat ready for the finish coat, the colour of which we haven't decided yet. It was to go to get the "Blue Slip", but the fellow forgot and went away on holidays. I had a look at it and decided that we had to tidy the outward appearance of the unit. The paint has been stripped from the flat panels, the mudguards are next and the rust killer, then the primer. Just waiting for the rain to stop so I can proceed with the old paint removal, priming and then off for a Blue slip.

We have a workshop teed up for the construction of the body, and some volunteers, (not all club members) who will give us few Saturdays to cut out and fabricate the body.

At this stage we are trying to finalise the interior layout so the interior can be constructed. This is the hard part as

the interior layout will dictate where doors and windows are to be, and position the benches for maximum efficiency.

Hoping this will be of some help and enlighten a few!

73

— John, VK2KCE

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## Kind Offer From John, VK2KCE

**"OXTALES"** received the following kind offer from John, VK2KCE:

*"I would like to offer to the local ORARC members, any machining they want done if they are constructing any gear. I won't charge for it, just for consumables. I do have on stock, billets of aluminium alloy and Delrin for insulators. So, if the club members are planning to make an antenna, or a mount, or anything in that area, I do have a bit of spare time and equipment that will help them achieve their objective."*

Thank you, John.

## Some Tips for Club Net Procedures

Jim, VK2VIV, has put together the following list of guidelines to assist new operators with some of the generally accepted basic procedures to follow when participating in club nets.

1. When invited to sign in by the Net Controller, listen before transmitting to avoid "doubling", then give your call sign to signify your presence, and await instructions.
2. Take note who is before you, and, more importantly, who is after you, so that you know to whom to pass it when you have completed your "over".
3. Maybe you called in late and do not know the station order. The best approach then is to pass it back to the station controlling the net.
4. If you do not know who is the Net Control Station, just use the term "Net Controller".
5. If you wish to call in after the net has started, wait till the end of an over and then call in. The Net Controller will advise you who you should follow.
6. Whilst there is no need to give call signs on each "over" on normal VHF QSO's, for nets it is customary to give your call sign and the other station's call sign each time you pass it over.
7. Keep transmissions shorter than 3 minutes, as the repeater will automatically "time-out" after 3 minutes, and will stay locked-out (inaccessible) for a period.
8. Each person will pass to the next in their turn.
9. If you don't intend to stay for the next round, indicate this to the net that it will be your last transmission, and sign.

— 73 de Jim, VK2VIV

# **OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

## **33rd FIELD DAY**

**June Long Weekend**

**Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June 2008**

**\$8 entry**

**(Sunday Mid-day BBQ is an additional cost)**

### **SATURDAY**

**8.00am—4.00pm Set Up Hall**

**4.00pm BBQ for workers**

**&**

**all attendees registered at that time**

### **SUNDAY**

**8.00am Field Day Commences**

**10.00am—2m 1 tx Fox hunt**

**12Noon—2.00pm BBQ operational**

**1.30pm— 2m 2tx Fox hunt**

**3.00pm 80m Fox hunt**

**4.00pm Presentation**

**Tea & Coffee available Free**

**Jim Neil VK2VIV Coordinator 02 6581 2481**

**See Website for more details**

**[www.orarc.org](http://www.orarc.org)**

**Sea Scout Hall Buller St. Port Macquarie**





# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 30th April 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	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 6583.8801
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	O	GLEESON	BADEN (VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
17	A	GRAHAM	PAUL (JANE)	VK2FPRG	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
18	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
19	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
20	O	HADFIELD	STEVE	VK2DMX	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
21	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
22	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
23	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
24	O	JANES	LES	VK2BAL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.3789
25	O	KOPPEL	HORST	VK2FHKO	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585 5992
26	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	BAGNOO	02 6587.1155
27	O	LOOMIS	CHARLEY	VK2ZYZ	WAUCHOPE	-
28	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
29	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
30	O	MARRIOTT	JOHN (ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
31	O	MARTIN	CRAIG (JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
32	O	MCLEAN	JOHN (CORRINE)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
33	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	-
34	D	MILLS	TIM	VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
35	H	MINAHAN	CHRIS	VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
36	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
37	O	NEIL	JIM (CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
38	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
39	O	NUTT	ALAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
40	O	PILLEY	DAVID (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
41	O	REES	BRETT	VK2TMG	LAKE CATHIE	Mob 0400 014 641
42	O	RICHTER	ROY	VK2YB	VIA WAUCHOPE	02 6587.4232
43	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
44	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
45	L	SINCLAIR	BILL (CORALIE)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
46	D	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	02 6646.5012
47	O	THATCHER	TREVOR	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
48	D	THOMPSON	DES (BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
49	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360

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