

OXYTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

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Club Website: www.orarc.org

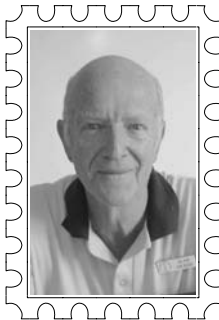
July 2008

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 have spent the greater parts of the last four months furiously packing in preparation to moving house in a few days time. I just cannot believe the amount of sheer "junk" I have accumulated over the last eleven years. Now I know this will sound heretical to some of our die-hard members for whom every piece of electronic gizmo is sacred, but, in the cold light of day and in an endeavour to be realistic, I have to confess that many of the bits and pieces I have carefully stored for "future use" will never be used even if I live another hundred years.



The same can be said of the accretion of books and magazines, many of which I find I have never read nor am I likely to read. Even expensive technical manuals, some costing over \$120 and useful in their day, are now way out of date and of no use to anyone – I can't even give them away.

The situation is even more ridiculous when I realised that much of this useless material I brought from Sydney when we moved to Port years ago and has never been touched since. Why do I persist in lugging this baggage around with me every time I move? Just because it "might come in handy one day"? I guess there is something of the bower bird mentality in all of us, perhaps more in some than others. I suggest you take a critical look around your own shack/garage/workshop and draw your own

conclusion!

The reason for my concern over this common characteristic is the realisation that one day somebody, be it relative, club member or friend, is going to have to sort through my residual pile of bits and pieces after I have fallen off my perch. I know that many of our club members would gladly help in this task, as we have done many times in the past but I believe, with a little forethought and some considerate action ahead of time, we can make the task a little easier for those involved.

How about an accurate list of saleable gear that can be properly disposed of. Clearly labelled storage of other useful small parts can also save much time and effort, both now and later! There will still be the inevitable "junk" to be disposed off but let's try to minimise those items, even if it hurts to part now with some of those "might be useful" parts, mags and books etc.. It will certainly make life a lot easier in the long run for all concerned.

— Alan Nutt VK2GD

El Presidenté

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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

July 11th & 25th

7.00 pm

August 2008 AGM & Monthly Meeting

(See enclosed notice and Agenda)

Saturday 2nd August 2008

2.00pm

Friday Night Get-togethers

August 8th & 22nd 2008

7.00pm

International Lighthouse

& Lightship weekend

Sat 16 - Sun 17th August

VK2BOR at Tacking Point LH

Sat 10.00am - 4.00pm

See Details P 4

Remembrance Day Contest

Sat 16th-Sun 17th August

VK2ZHE's Shed 4.00pm Sat - 6.00pm Sun

See Details P 4

September Monthly Meeting

Saturday 6th September 2008

2.00pm

E-mail directory

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to
30th June 2008*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2EM (Bruce) brucee@supernerd.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) cpedmond@midcoast.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc
VK2IEV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays

(0830 Local)

Wednesdays

(1930 Local)

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	VK2ZCM	Oct-22
		VK2ATM	Oct-29

November 2008

VK2OA	Nov-02	VK2ATM	Nov-05
VK2VIV	Nov-09	VK2ZHE	Nov-12
VK2TT	Nov-16	VK2EI	Nov-19
VK2OA	Nov-23	VK2AYD	Nov-26
VK2VIV	Nov-30		

December 2008

VK2TT	Dec-07	VK2ZCM	Dec-03
VK2OA	Dec-14	VK2ATM	Dec-10
VK2VIV	Dec-21	VK2ZHE	Dec-17
VK2TT	Dec-28	VK2EI	Dec-24
		VK2AYD	Dec-31

E-mail directory.

(Continued)

VK2KCE (John) vk2kce@bigpond.com
VK2DMX (Steve) haddie_007@hotmail.com
VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2UPR (Paul) vk4upr@dodo.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
VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvsg.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) lhbluelag@bigpond.com
VK2FRTH (Robert) miastar@aussieisp.net.au

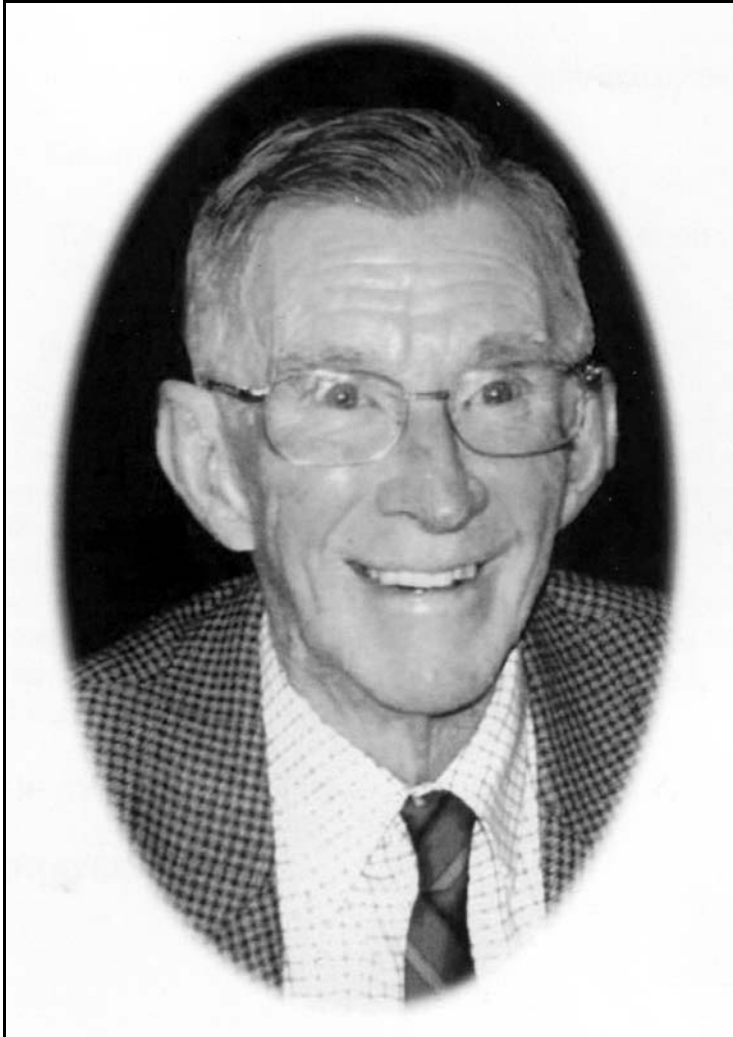
Vale Baden Athol Gleeson, VK2MOQ

Baden was born on 30th May 1922 into a close and loving family in East Maitland and was the eldest of five children. His early childhood was spent in Narrabri NSW. He attended St Josephs College in Sydney as a boarder. Joined the Royal Australian Air force in 1940 serving in a Sunderland Squadron in England and Scotland until his discharge in 1945.

Marriage, working life, retirement and many eventful years followed with extensive

overseas travelling with his loving and caring wife Valerie.

They retired to Port Macquarie in Dec 1991 where, in the latter half of 1993, Baden sat and passed his Novice licence. They decided to move north to Tweed Heads in March 1994 followed by a spell over the border at Hellensville. Baden retained his Oxley Region ARC



membership during their spell north. In December of 1996 they returned to Port Macquarie. Baden was a member of several clubs including Oxley Men's Probus Club, Mixed Probus Club of Port Macquarie, RSL, Airforce Association plus several others. Consequently the Chapel was filled to capacity for his farewell.

John, Stephen, Marc and Amanda are his surviving children. Their families and his sister Patricia also survive him.

My contact with Baden and Valerie occurred soon after our arri-

val in Port Macquarie in early 1998. Baden was already then suffering health problems followed by a steady decline until he passed away peacefully on 17th May 2008. He was always cheerful and really enjoyed the ORARC sausage sizzles.

Time cannot steal the treasures that we carry in our hearts.

— Neil Sandford, VK2EI

Health Hazard

As most of you know, I am a keen HF contester and have been taking part in them for 60 years. Never without a health problem - until now! It comes to those that play and wait!!

The Oceania DX CW Contest in October is one of my favourites. It is only a 24 hour contest and at my age that's about my endurance level. This contest is a great opportunity where the world call you and some of the rare DX pops out of the woodwork.

My station is an FT1000MP with full computer interface. The computer is very necessary for logging, auto keying and keeping the QSO rate high.

At 0800z I joined the fray, determined to match VK4EMM with his super antenna farm and VK7GN who was my partner in the World Radiosport Contest a few years back. Murphy was sitting on the operating desk.

After one hour, my computer locked up and the operating programme refused to function. Panic! The solution was to go manual to paper logging and keying.

I'm naturally left handed, but can use an el-keyer with either hand. So out with the big pad, the keyer moved to the right hand and the pencil in the left.

It was going great, but I knew I'd lost a lot of time fiddling with the computer and needed to catch up. All bands except 10 metres were open.

After a few hundred QSO's my right hand fingers using the paddle keyer seemed to have a mind of their own.

Half way through the contest my right shoulder started to ache and by the end of the contest I had severe RSI in the sholder.

A week later I still hadn't found a cure for the constant ache, though it was now low level. The nearest relief was to use a micro computer low frequency pulse electro-acupuncture device. 2Hz is suppose to release endorphin and 100Hz dynorphins. I'm also looking for a good operating programme for Windows XP

Whatever - EL-KEYERS CAUSE RSI - try explaining this to a Doctor...!
— 73 de VK2AYD

Another Advanced Licensee

Congrats to Paul Graham who was VK2FPRG. Paul has moved up to Advanced Call status with his new call VK2GPG.

All Free to Collect at QTH of VK2AIF

21 el UHF TV Antenna (Good Cond)
Could be modified to ham 70cm

Homebrew 6-metre Linear (not working)
contains H/P VHF output tube with 2
heavy duty power transformers, lots of
good bits e.g. vernier dial, meters knobs,
switches etc.

A commercial AM/FM Portable Radio
And lots more all free, gratis
and for nothing.

Telephone 02 6586 4980

Remembrance Day and the International Lightship and Lighthouse Contests

Henry, VK2ZHE has advised OX-TALES of the following strategic plans that are in place to accommodate the tight schedule involving ORARC's participation in the above contests over the weekend of Sat 16th-Sun 17th August:

On Saturday the 16th of August the club will operate VK2BOR from the Tacking Point Lighthouse from 10:00 until 16:00 hours local time in the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend. We will then adjourn to the comfort of VK2ZHE's shed to operate VK2BOR in the Remembrance Day contest from 18:00 local time until as late in the evening that people wish to stay.

We will recommence operating in the RD contest at 08:00 local time on Sunday morning 17 August, and continue until 18:00 on Sunday evening.

The barbeque will produce a sausage sizzle at 17:00 on Saturday evening, and at lunch time on Sunday.

There will be a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning.

Everyone is invited to participate in both events. There is no charge for the sausages and bacon & eggs.

MEMBERSHIP SUBS DUE

01-07-2008

**We have entered the new
financial year. Please ensure
that the Treasurer receives
your 2008-2009 membership
fees ASAP**

ORARC's 2008 Field-Day Weekend

The weather was not particularly kind to us for our annual Field-Day Weekend, held on Saturday/Sunday 7th-8th June. Saturday started off reasonably, but became showery in the afternoon, with Sunday marginally worse. This did not spoil attendance nor the success and enjoyment that the event brought forth.

Registrations were in excess of 100, not including the Trade exhibitors who attended. Overall attendance exceeded last year by 30. This result equalled our 2006 attendance.

Overall co-ordination of the event (which included some weeks of vital lead-up preparations) was in the capable hands of our Secretary Jim, VK2VIV—Thanks Jim for the sterling job so well done.

Jim was supported on the day by a large team to attend to the various important functions that such an event involves.

Feeding of the multitudes was undertaken by an experienced, hard-working, capable catering crew:

BBQ: Barry, FBRG Chief Cook, Assistant Cooks: Steve, VK2DMX & Joe, VK2IEV, with Carol Neil handling sales.

Registration Desk: John VK2KCE, Roy, VK2YOR, Fay Gilson & Carol Neil.

FoxHunts: Larry VK2CCL, Jim, VK2VIV, Paul, VK2FPRG.

PA System: Bill VK2ZCV

Radio Station Display: Arthur, VK2ATM & Neil, VK2EI.

Hamstuff Production & Sales: Arthur, VK2ATM.

Coffee Table: Bill, VK2ZCW.

Hall Set Up: Craig, VK2ZCM (assisted by all present).

Meet & Greet: President Allan, VK2GD & Vice President Henry, VK2ZHE

Clean up and Gophers: Coralie Dawson

Prize Winners

Lucky Door: Barrie VK2FBRG (Embroidered Towels) & (Salt & Pepper Grinder)

Raffle: Grahame, VK2FA,
Bill, VK2ZCV,
Coralie Dawson,
Larry, VK2CCL

Fox Hunts

1st 2M 2Tx: Craig, VK2ZCM

80m 2TX: Craig, VK2ZCM

2nd 2M 2Tx: A 3-way tie & on a count-

back, two prizes were awarded to Jeff, VK2BYY & VK2BI

Fox Hunt Champion Trophy Craig, VK2ZCM (Pictured below, receiving his awards)



Home Brew Competition

Won by Neil, VK2EI

Runners UP:

John, VK2KCE & Craig, VK2ZCM.

Best Presented Amateur Vehicle:

Arnold, VK2ADA

Trade Tables

Radio Supply

Fettell Communications

VK4ICE Communications

Wicen (John Alcorn)

Sea Rescue Display

Sponsors

The Good Guys

Fettell Communications

Radio Supply

MNCARG

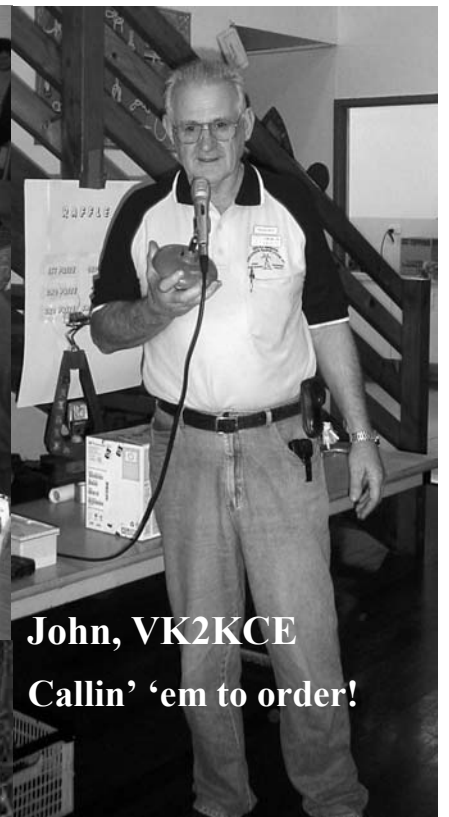
One new member, and two “returning members” were signed up for the 2008-2009 Financial year: Robert Heaton, VK2FRTH, of Hat Head, is our new member. Welcome to the club, Robert. To Paul Romaine, VK2UPR, and Paul Webster, VK2BZC, a warm welcome back to the fold.

— Trevor, VK2TT

(With more than a little help from Secretary, Jim, VK2VIV)



A Market Place Scene on the Sunday



John, VK2KCE

Callin' 'em to order!



**Bill, VK2ZCV & Bill, VK2ZCW
Weather watching!**



Wauchopians VK2OA & VK2AIF

Below: Some of the hungry attendees queuing up for Barry's nutritious creations while VK2UPR indulges in a little bit of CIY.



Above: VK2KCE's "Octopus" antenna was put to good use over the weekend. It provided the signal source (and outlet) for the various demonstrations that Arthur (VK2ATM) & Neil (VK2EI) conducted over the two days.

(Thanks to Arthur, VK2ATM & Craig, VK2ZCM for providing the extra images after the OXTALES Paparazzo's camera battery expired!)

A Handy Pulse-Generator & Signal-Tracer

(by Craig, VK2ZCM)

This handy device was submitted by our industrious member, Craig, VK2ZCM. Craig's supporting notes are:

All the parts came from my junk box .

My probe is cut from a bull dog paper clip lever, cut close to the pivot point. This makes the "pointy end" and cut half way around the "loop" end and this is the soldering end and also the hot glue end.

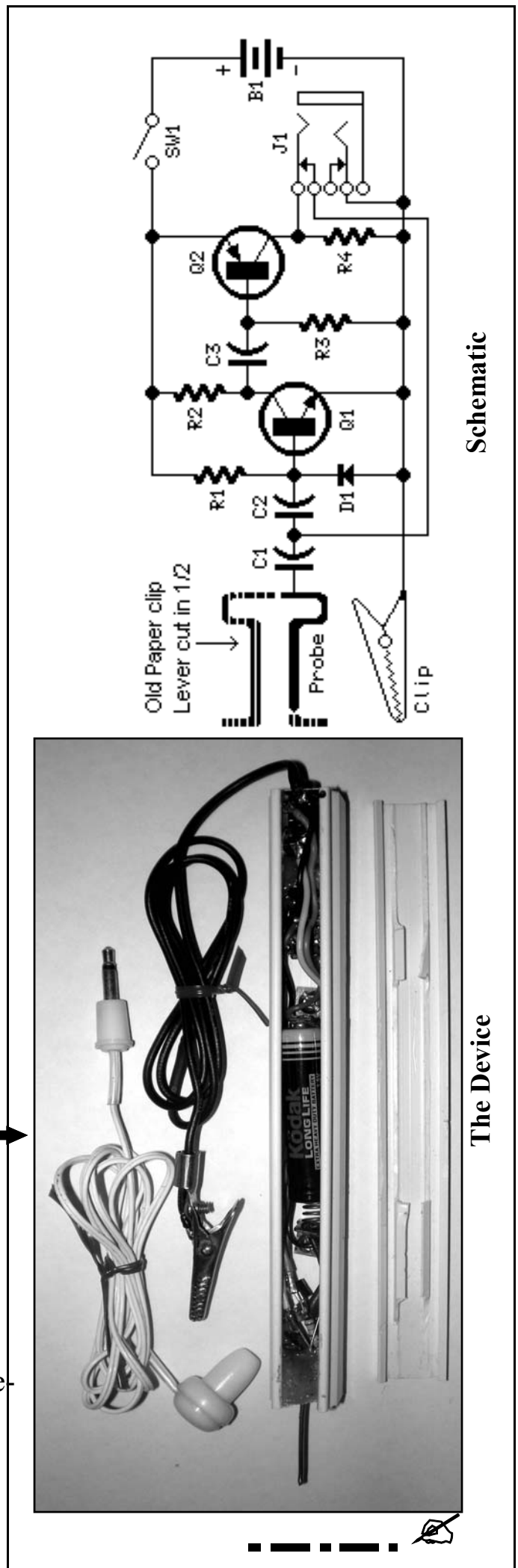
The half "c" shape is to stop the probe moving in and twisting around.

The circuit is built rat's nest style on the solder end of the probe then a AAA cell, a slide switch and Phono-socket is hot glued into the other end of an off-cut of 16mm x 16mm square section conduit, about 150mm long, with the ground wire and clip out the phono end.

The advantage of the square conduit over a round tube is that it has a clip-off cover that lets you see all the circuitry and change the battery.

See the picture and circuit diagram at right
Cheers.... Craig (VK2ZCM)

Craig acknowledges its origins from a website:
<http://www.redcircuits.com/Page59.htm>
should any member seek to obtain further details regarding functions and applications.





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 30th June 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	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554 1689
3	O	BIVONA	JOE (ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 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 (YULIA)	VK2EM	FORSTER	02 6555 4161
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)	VK2GPG	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	HEATON	ROBERT	VK2FRTH	HAT HEAD	02 6567 7537
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	ROMAINE	PAUL	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0428 466 075
44	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 1776
45	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 5830
46	L	SINCLAIR	BILL (CORALIE)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 9302
47	D	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	02 6646 5012
48	O	THATCHER	TREVOR	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2278
49	D	THOMPSON	DES (BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
50	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8360
51	O	WEBSTER	PAUL (CAROL)	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 3377

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