

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

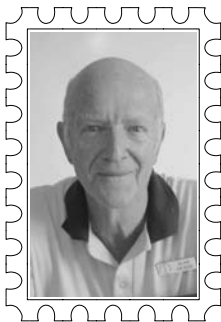
January 2009

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6584 9639
 VICE PRES: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534
 TREASURER: John McLean VK2KC 6584.6220
 SECRETARY: Jim Neil VK2VIV 6581.2481

President's Report

And so we start 2009 – a New Year, traditionally a time when we want to wipe the slate clean and start over with everything new! New resolutions, new car, new gear and so on.



I wonder what it would be like if there was no time demarcation, no end of week, no end of month or year and everything just flowed from one day to the next? Would we still have the same desire to renew, to start afresh?

I believe the desire to renew is a very distinctive characteristic of our humanity. For many, the desire to start over is strengthened when the past has been unsatisfactory, difficult, perhaps even traumatic. Without the possibility of change, we would find ourselves locked permanently into circumstances and situations over which we apparently had no control. Unfortunately, this is exactly the condition which faces most potential suicide victims who see no release from what they perceive as an impossible, unchangeable situation.

Now I'm not suggesting that we are all going out to cap ourselves just because the XYL won't agree to our purchase of a new all bells-and-whistles transceiver. What I am saying is, when it comes to the serious issues of life which, from our perspective, may appear irreversible or

unchangeable, we need to be reminded that nothing remains static forever and there is always the possibility and even the expectation of change.

The real difficulty that we face is the inability to change ourselves! External circumstances we can change, manoeuvre, manipulate but when it comes to our own internal condition, the solution seems so often to evade us. New Year resolutions, no matter how sincerely made, all tend to evaporate within days or weeks and we discover that, within ourselves, nothing *really* seems to change. We must finally come to the conclusion that, to effect internal change, assistance outside ourselves is required. Our society recognises this reality and has made some effort to provide assistance through various support groups, like AA or QuitLine for example.

Once upon a time, when a piece of equipment fell over, I would immediately attack it myself and often solve the problem. These days, with increasing complexity and miniaturisation, I now resort to the manufacturer or his agent who, knowing the finer detail of the gear, is better placed to find the fault and make repairs. In the same way, when we need an internal repair job, isn't it better to seek the advice of the Maker? Works far better than a New Year resolution!

- El Presidenté

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Down The Coax

All future scheduled meetings will be held in the new S.E.S. Building in Central Road Port Macquarie, unless otherwise advised.

Friday Night Get-Togethers

Fri 9th & Fri 23rd Jan. 2009 7.00pm

Coffs Harbour Radio Expo

Sunday 18th January 2009,

St John's Church Hall,

McLean St, Coffs Harbour

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Field Day

Wyong Racecourse,

Sunday 8th February 2009

February Monthly Meeting

Saturday 7th Feb. 2009 2.00pm

Friday Night Get-Togethers

Fri 13th & Fri 27th Feb. 2009 7.00pm

March Monthly Meeting

Saturday 7th Mar. 2009 2.00pm

E-mail directory

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to
31st December 2008*

VK2AG (Lewis) lewisgreen@bigpond.com
VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2EM (Bruce) brucee@supernerd.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au
VK2KC (John) vk2kce@bigpond.com
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@midcoast.com.au
VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYD (David) dvdply@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYQ (John) hansenjo@ozemail.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
VK2GPG (Paul) pauliejane@bigpond.com
VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc
VK2IEV (Joe) rbivona@bigpond.com
VK2DMX (Steve) haddie_007@hotmail.com

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays

Wednesdays

January 2009

VK2TT	Jan-04	VK2ZCM	Jan-07
VK2OA	Jan-11	VK2ATM	Jan-14
VK2VIV	Jan-18	VK2ZHE	Jan-21
VK2TT	Jan-25	VK2EI	Jan-28

February 2009

VK2OA	Feb-01	VK2AYD	Feb-04
VK2VIV	Feb-08	VK2ZCM	Feb-11
VK2TT	Feb-15	VK2ATM	Feb-18
VK2OA	Feb-22	VK2ZHE	Feb-25

March 2009

VK2OA	Mar-01	VK2EI	Mar-04
VK2VIV	Mar-08	VK2AYD	Mar-11
VK2TT	Mar-15	VK2ZCM	Mar-18
VK2OA	Mar-22	VK2ATM	Mar-25
VK2VIV	Mar-29		

April 2009

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

May 2009

VK2OA	May-03	VK2ZHE	May-06
VK2VIV	May-10	VK2EI	May-13
VK2TT	May-17	VK2AYD	May-20
VK2OA	May-24	VK2ZCM	May-27
VK2VIV	May-31		

June 2009

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

E-mail directory (Continued)

VK2TMG (Brett) breree@gmail.com
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@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) jaidanl@bigpond.com
VK9FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com
VK2FRTH (Bob) miastar@aussieisp.net.au

THE TREK

As many of you know, Dee and I spent November in the USA. We do this trek most years to celebrate Thanksgiving with our friends. Originally it was at our old home in Pennsylvania, but two years ago Dick (W4AOP) and Meredith moved to Arizona. From lush green grass to volcanic desert! You may remember D & M from the 1998 when they led a convoy of 20 motor homes – with 40 hams – and visited our home here in King Creek where we had an ORARC BBQ.. D & M now live at Camp Verde Arizona on a very private Airpark.

This park is located on a plateau,

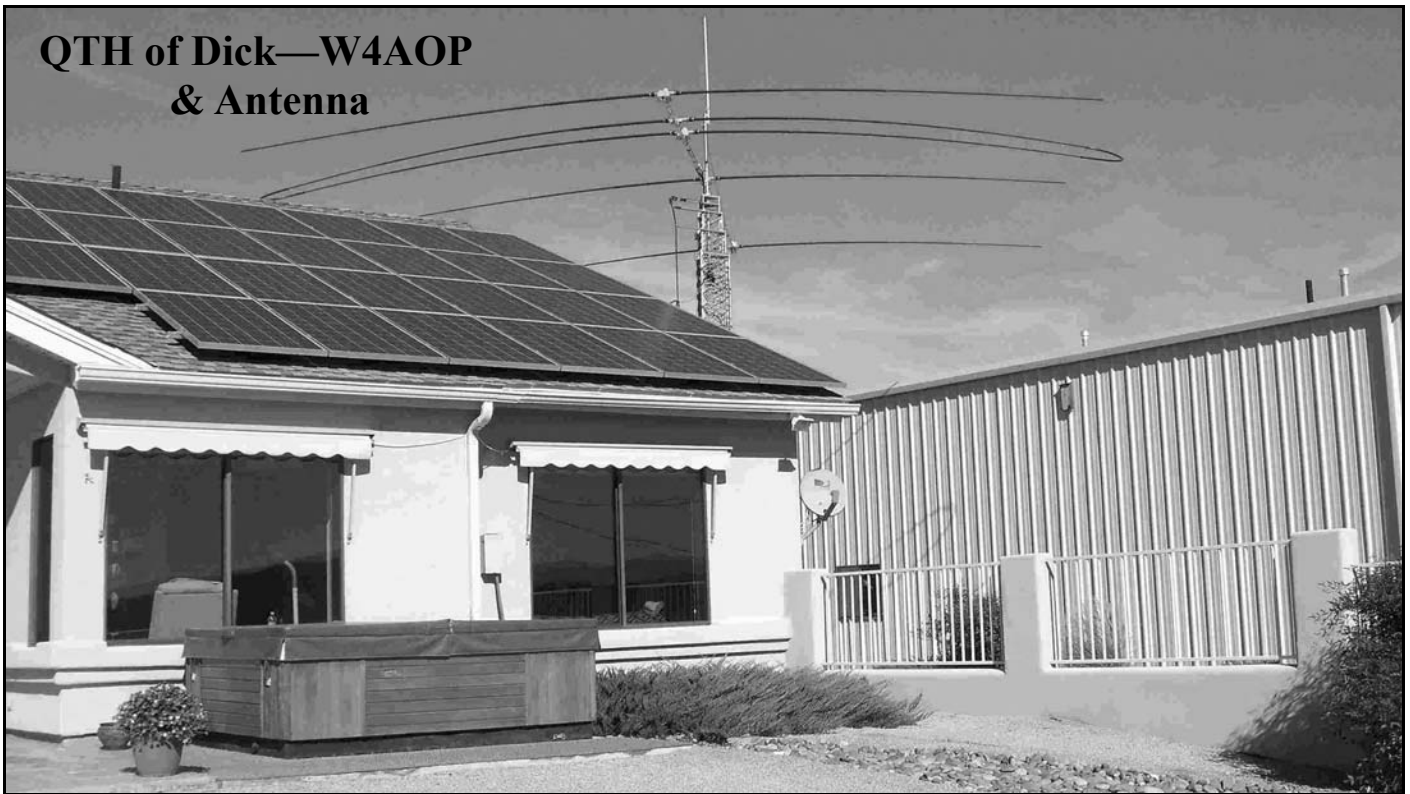
does!

I found I couldn't operate on 40 because of the noise, which I eventually tracked to the Satellite top-box.

Internet and telephones are inexpensive with all data transmissions being free – so I gave 'Skype' a big work out keeping in touch with home. I was impressed with the local repeater that covered the main stretch from Phoenix to Grand Canyon, about 350 Km. It's atop of a mountain about 12,000ft! Activity on the repeater was constant.

Dick is a 'gadgets man'. All telephone systems are interfaced with the computers so wherever you are traveling you are 'in contact'. The house is

QTH of Dick—W4AOP & Antenna



3500ft ASL and covers an area of about 150 acres. There are about 30 homes in the park, each on a couple or so acres. All have big aircraft hangers and all roads are taxiways! The runway runs the full length of the park. (You can see it all on Google Earth – just type "Beech Blvd Camp Verde Az" and it will take you there).

Dick has just installed an all-electric remote controlled 78ft crank up tower with a StepIR 40-10 beam on top. It cranks down to about 28ft. Dick is strictly a 'phone' ham so in anticipation I took my Morse key and PSK interface. I did get a few QSO's in as W7/VK2AYD.

You can use your VK call in the USA providing you prefix it with W?/ and carry a copy of your VK license. I also hold the call N3AFU but it doesn't cause the same stir as a VK2 on 80 metres

'gadget' controlled!

Wherever we traveled we had direct comms with the house, computer and radio – couldn't get away from it!

The house is totally solar powered by 30 panels, each capable of producing 208watts. On a cool winters sunny day they can produce 42 Kw. (They produce better in cool atmosphere than hot summer days). The surplus power not used is fed (via a converter) to the local Utility provider. In the case of power failure a gas fired generator cuts in within 2 seconds. (This actually happened one day). The entire system can be monitored on the internet. When I checked today (Dec 13) from my home here, they had produced over 10 Mw for the year and used 9Mw.

Two interesting events. One Saturday, a Uni club over in Prescott released a

helium filled balloon with 70cm equipment fitted. It reached a height of 96,000ft before being parachuted back to earth. It landed on an Indian reservation that was a minor problem, as they would only let one person enter to retrieve it!

Another very interesting day was spent with the Verde Valley Computer Club who had Robin Ziegler of Google Earth give an awesome lecture on Google Earth, how it is constructed and how to use it. There were 60 club members and 37 visitors present. The club is run by 'Grey Tops' and other than a small yearly fee (\$20), everything was free.

Every week there were classes covering everything from basic 'how to switch a computer on' to spread sheets, photography, video compiling, etc., together with a SIG (Special Interest Group). There was a Mentor for everything. All free. Home here we have to pay hundreds of dollars to attend classes. It's high time someone in Port created a similar club! People there

seemed to be much more community minded and consider ways to help the aging population within hurting the pocket.

One thing that took my interest was a model Stirling Engine that had been running for two years. It requires no fuel such as petrol, or electricity, magnetism, etc. Runs solely off temperature differential



of a couple of C's.

It's well worth checking "Stirling Engines" on the internet. Fascinating. Why they have never been exploited is an interesting question. The model works on the temperature of the case of the radio being a couple of degrees above the ambient temp. Rotates at 90 rpm

So it's great to be home - I'm in the middle of the 10 m CW ARRL Contest, but the band has gone dead!
- 73 David VK2AYD

Christmas Function at Port Macquarie City Bowling Club

On Saturday, 6th December 2008, the O.R.A.R.C. Inc held its annual Christmas function indoors at the Port Macquarie City Bowling Club. The attendance was pleasing, with a head-count of 23 persons, which included members, their XYL's & visitors, turning up to enjoy the social interaction and the popular "As much as you can eat" smorgasbord luncheon provided in the Club's Bistro.

Pictured (at right) clockwise from end of table, we have, Coralie Dawson, Carol Neil, Pamela Green, Lewis Green (VK2AG), Verena Sandford, Neil Sandford (VK2EI) & Ailsa Brook (VK2FABJ)



Situation Report on SES Building Progress

The latest info is: We will be holding our Friday night meetings commencing 9th Jan 2009 7.00 pm at the New SES Building Central Rd. Port Macquarie.

We will also be holding all our General meetings commencing Sat 7th Feb 2009 2.00 pm at the new building.

The story is the SES still only have the construction keys and handover is expected any time now. This will include an Induction to the new building, handover of keys and alarm codes.

Representatives of all groups will be involved in this handover and that includes ORARC. The groups that are involved are the Council, Police, SES and ORARC.

Until we are issued with keys one of the construction key holders will give us access for our meetings.

The building is quite a luxury compared to the old building. It has a function room for seminars and the like - would hold in excess of 100 people - a multifunction room with adjoining kitchen (coffee and tea). For training sessions and lectures, there are such tools as large plasma TVs, interactive white boards, projectors and computers.

The administration area has 3 offices to accommodate the Controller, Deputy Controller and Training officer; toilets, large operations room and a communications room which is our responsibility. (This radio room will have two radio stations, VK2BOR split into HF and VHF/UHF and the SES and Police section).

Of course, there is the vehicle bay and store, with toilets and showers.

Those that have joined the SES will be asked to attend a radio information session (SES type radios) and familiarization in the operation room for those interested.

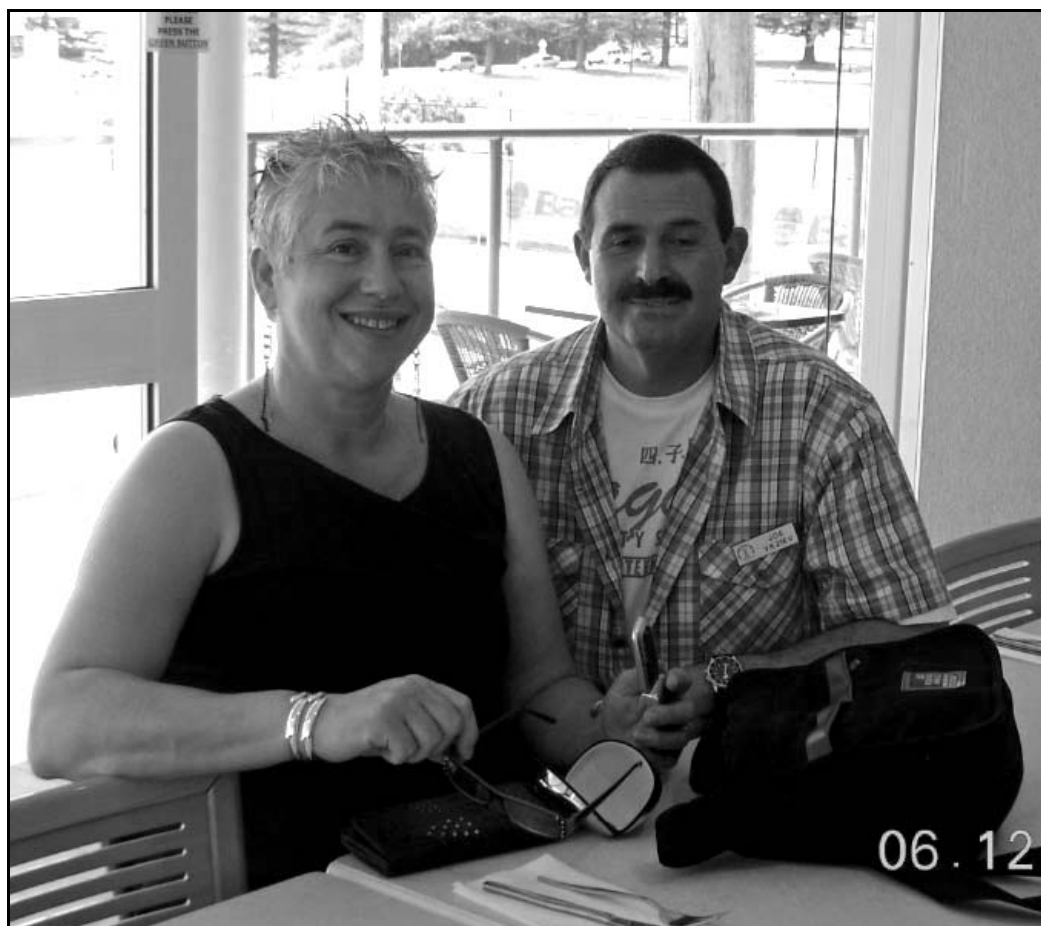
We would like to have a couple of our members in attendance each Wednesday night. This may work out at one or two Wednesday nights a month, it may also work out that the Wednesday night net could be run by the VK2BOR station, once set up.

Initially we will be setting up VHF and UHF radios and a dual band antenna on the roof. HF will be installed once we get permission for the antenna location.

The official opening is expected to take place in February.

- Jim (VK2VIV) - Secretary ORARC Inc.

**Rose & Joe Bivona
(VK2IEV)
smiling for the
photographer
(John, VK2AYQ)
at the ORARC
Christmas Func-
tion at PMQC
“Bowlo”**





This is a “long-shot” of a group taken at the Christmas function at Port Macquarie City Bowling Club. There is one person in the group that your elderly editor could not identify with certainty, so rather than risk making a “Boo-Boo” as is so common in local tabloids where incorrect names are given to pictured identities,

he refrained from naming anybody!

It is now up to the readers to see who can name each of the ten personalities appearing in the picture.

There is no prize for getting all names right. Sorry!

ANTENNA LENGTH CHART

Freq. MHz	Wavelength - Feet				Wavelength - Metres			
	1/4	1/2	1/2+5%	Full	1/4	1/2	1/2+5%	Full
1.80	129.87	259.74	272.73	519.49	39.58	79.17	83.13	158.33
1.83	128.89	256.19	269.00	512.37	39.04	78.08	81.99	156.16
1.85	126.36	252.72	265.36	505.45	38.51	77.03	80.88	154.05
1.90	123.04	246.07	258.38	492.15	37.50	75.00	78.75	150.00
3.50	66.79	133.58	140.26	267.17	20.36	40.71	42.75	81.43
3.60	64.94	129.87	136.37	259.74	19.79	39.58	41.56	79.17
3.70	63.18	126.36	132.68	252.72	19.26	38.51	40.44	77.05
3.80	61.52	123.04	129.19	246.07	18.75	37.50	39.38	75.00
7.00	33.40	66.79	70.13	133.58	10.18	20.36	31.38	40.71
7.05	33.16	66.32	69.63	132.64	10.11	20.21	21.22	40.43
7.10	32.93	66.85	69.14	131.70	10.04	20.07	21.07	40.14
7.20	32.47	64.94	68.18	129.87	9.90	19.79	20.78	39.58
7.30	32.02	64.05	67.25	128.09	9.76	19.52	20.50	39.04
10.10	23.15	46.29	48.61	92.58	7.05	14.11	14.81	28.22
14.00	16.70	33.40	35.07	66.79	5.09	10.18	10.69	20.36
14.10	16.58	33.16	34.82	66.32	5.05	10.11	10.61	20.21
14.20	16.46	32.93	34.57	65.85	5.02	10.04	10.54	20.07
14.35	16.29	32.58	34.21	65.16	4.97	9.93	10.43	19.86
18.00	12.99	25.97	27.27	51.95	3.96	7.92	8.31	15.83
18.50	12.64	25.27	26.54	50.54	3.85	7.70	8.09	15.41
21.00	11.13	22.26	23.38	44.53	3.39	6.79	7.13	13.57
21.10	11.08	22.16	23.27	44.32	3.38	6.75	7.09	13.51
21.25	11.00	22.00	23.10	44.00	3.35	6.71	7.04	13.41
21.45	10.90	21.80	22.89	43.59	3.32	6.64	6.98	13.29
24.89	9.39	18.78	19.72	37.57	2.86	5.73	6.01	11.45
24.93	9.38	18.75	19.69	37.51	2.86	5.72	6.00	11.43
28.00	9.35	16.70	17.53	33.40	2.54	5.09	6.34	10.18
28.50	8.20	16.40	17.23	32.81	2.50	5.00	5.25	10.00
29.00	8.06	16.12	16.93	32.24	2.46	4.91	5.16	9.83

FORMULA'S USED 1 Metre = 3.281 feet

Length of 1/2 wavelength antenna in Metres =

$(300 \times 95 \times 5) / \text{Frequency(MHz)} = 142.5 / \text{Frequency(MHz)}$

Length of 1/2 wavelength antenna in Feet =

$(300 \times 95 \times 5 \times 3.281) / \text{Frequency(MHz)} = 467.54 / \text{Frequency(MHz)}$

NOTE: The 1/2 + 5% is used for inverted Vee Antenna's.

Above is a handy "Look-Up" chart contributed by David, VK2AYD that will enable antenna constructors to obtain precise design lengths for Dipoles and Inverted Vee "Sky Wires". It is a labour saving aid for those who do not own, or do not wish, to use a PC. For those who are PC ready/willing/able, there will be an XL calculator available for downloading (Free!) from the club's website. It will be capable of accepting a user-defined entry of any specified frequency, and within the twinkling of an eye, will calculate the appropriate length for the required antenna.





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.
 (As at 5th January 2009)

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	(Mob) 0405040953
4	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	-
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	DANIEL	JIM	VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 1933
10	O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES (PAT)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
11	D	EKERT	BRUCE (YULIA)	VK2EM	FORSTER	02 6555 4161
12	D	ELLIS	STAN (BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
13	O	GILSON	BARRY (FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
14	A	GRAHAM	PAUL (JANE)	VK2GPG	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
15	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
16	O	HADFIELD	STEVE	VK2KK	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
17	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
18	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
19	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
20	O	HEATON	BOB (KIM)	VK2FRTH	HAT HEAD	02 6567 7537
21	O	KOPPEL	HORST	VK2FHKO	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5992
22	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
23	O	LOOMIS	CHARLEY	VK2ZYZ	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2591
24	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
25	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK20A	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
26	O	MARTIN	CRAIG (JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
27	O	MCLEAN	JOHN (CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
28	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
29	D	MILLS	TIM	VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
30	H	MINAHAN	CHRIS	VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
31	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
32	O	NEIL	JIM (CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
33	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
34	O	NUTT	ALAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 9639
35	O	PILLEY	DAVID (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
36	O	REES	BRETT	VK2TMG	LAKE CATHIE	(Mob) 0400 014 641
37	O	ROMAINE	PAUL (BARBARA)	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1830
38	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
39	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
40	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
41	D	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
42	O	THATCHER	TREVOR	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
43	D	THOMPSON	DES (BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
44	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
45	O	WEBSTER	PAUL (CAROL)	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3377

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