

# 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

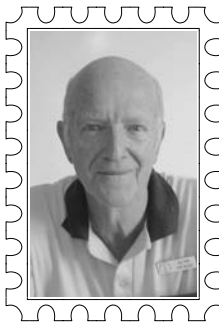
## March 2009

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

The highlight of this issue of "Oxtales" is undoubtedly the official opening of the new SES building in Central Road. Our thanks to all those club members who attended the opening function, which went off very smoothly and on time. While there are still final details regarding storage and so forth, which are yet to be sorted out, it is obvious that we have the potential for some real progress in the coming months. I doubt there are many other radio clubs, which have the sort of facilities, which are now available to our members through our association with the SES.



Many of our club members who attended the opening chose to wear a uniform consisting of an SES tee shirt and an ORARC cap, which proved to be a good combination. While we will certainly be involved in some SES activities down the track, we must be careful not to lose our ORARC identity in the process.

Our thanks to John 2KC, Jim 2VIV, Bill 2ZCV and others who have managed to unscramble the SES frequency listings which have allowed us to now make some sense of the SES communications network. Initially there seemed to be some secrecy about what frequencies were being used, since only channel

numbers were mentioned. In the end, however, it appears that the actual frequencies were just not known.

At this point, no provision has been made for the installation of any HF antenna(s). However, the SES boys are keen to establish contact with their counterparts on Lord Howe Island and this will obviously require an HF system of some description since there is no reliable contact on VHF over that distance. I'm sure, with the expertise available through our Club, we can come up with an appropriate low-profile antenna, which will do the job satisfactorily.

On a completely different note, I found myself embroiled in some nastiness in recent weeks. I was initially contacted by a person who identified himself as president of one of our southern radio clubs, seeking information about one of our former club members. I was only able to give some sketchy information and, fortunately, said nothing untoward or scurrilous. I subsequently discovered that this person was not who he said he was and he had reported his conversation with me in an  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

### In This Issue :

Item.	Page No.
President's Report	Front Cover
Down the Coax	2
E-Mail Directory	2
Net Controllers' Roster	2
Vale Johan Lundell	3
Vale Ron Wyles	4
For Sale	4
Changes to club Schedules	4
60 Years of Contesting	4
Hastings SES HQ Grand Opening	5
ORARC Caravan Restoration Progress	7
Membership Register	Rear Cover



## 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.

### John Moyle Contest

#### Club participation

Saturday 14th March

11.00am-6.00pm

### Friday Night Get-Together

Fri 27th March 2009 7.00pm

### Car Rally (Burrawan Forest Drive)

Sunday 29th March 2009

0830-1730

### April Monthly Meeting

Saturday 4th April 2009 2.00pm

### Friday Night Get-Together

Fri 24th April 2009 7.00pm

### May Monthly Meeting

Saturday 2nd May 2009 2.00pm

### E-mail directory

Reflects ALL changes notified up to 1st March 2009

VK2AG (Lewis) lewisgreen@bigpond.com  
VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au  
VK2EM (Bruce) vk2em@tpg.com.au  
VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au  
VK2KC (John) vk2kc@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  
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@tvlg.com.au  
VK2ZYZ (Charley) rameses32@yahoo.com  
VK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@westnet.com.au

## Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

### Sundays

(0830 Local)

### Tuesdays

(1930 Local)

#### March 2009

VK2OA	Mar-01	VK2EI	Mar-03
VK2VIV	Mar-08	VK2AYD	Mar-10
VK2TT	Mar-15	VK2ZCM	Mar-17
VK2OA	Mar-22	VK2ATM	Mar-24
VK2VIV	Mar-29	VK2ZHE	Mar-31

#### April 2009

VK2TT	Apr-05	VK2EI	Apr-07
VK2OA	Apr-12	VK2AYD	Apr-14
VK2VIV	Apr-19	VK2ZCM	Apr-21
VK2TT	Apr-26	VKATM	Apr-28

#### May 2009

VK2OA	May-03	VK2ZHE	May-05
VK2VIV	May-10	VK2EI	May-12
VK2TT	May-17	VK2AYD	May-19
VK2OA	May-24	VK2ZCM	May-26
VK2VIV	May-31		

#### June 2009

VK2TT	Jun-07	VK2ATM	Jun-02
VK2OA	Jun-14	VK2ZHE	Jun-09
VK2VIV	Jun-21	VK2EI	Jun-16
VK2TT	Jun-28	VK2AYD	Jun-23
		VK2ZCM	Jun-30

#### July 2009

VK2OA	Jul-05	VK2ATM	Jul-07
VK2VIV	Jul-12	VK2ZHE	Jul-14
VK2TT	Jul-19	VK2EI	Jul-21
VK2OA	Jul-26	VK2AYD	Jul-28

#### August 2009

VK2VIV	Aug-02	VK2ZCM	Aug-04
VK2TT	Aug-09	VK2ATM	Aug-11
VK2OA	Aug-16	VK2ZHE	Aug-18
VK2VIV	Aug-23	VK2EI	Aug-25
VK2TT	Aug-30		

### E-mail directory(Continued)

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

(Continued from page 1)

email to the former club member concerned. Unfortunately, not only was his report wildly inaccurate, but just blatantly untrue. It pays to be more than a little cautious when speaking to unknown characters on the phone, the internet or even on air. Too many characters these days have their own private agenda and don't hesitate to involve unsuspecting others in promoting that agenda.

Alan Nutt VK2GD

El Presidenté



### **Vale Johan Lundell**

It is with sincere sorrow that we have to report the passing of Johan Valter Lundell, beloved father of our Vice President Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE.

Johan passed away peacefully on January 24th 2009, following a period of declining health. He was aged 85 years and 3 months, and was known personally to many of our club members. Although not an amateur radio hobbyist himself, (fishing was his favourite relaxation) Johan was most supportive of our club, providing assistance with transport and logistics on many occasions.

The support and care rendered to Johan throughout his period of ill health by Henry, with assistance from his family members, is well recognised within the club and community.

Members of the ORARC were well represented at Johan's celebration funeral at the Chapel at Innes Gardens Memorial Park Crematorium, Port Macquarie on February 2nd, 2009.

Through the pages of OXTALES the club membership expresses sincere condolences to loving wife Gunnel, sons Henry and Robert, and daughter Margaret, and Grand Children.

## Vale Ron Wyles 1930-2009

Some of our members may remember Ron who was a member of ORARC in the late 90's. Sadly, Ron passed away on Thursday Jan 29th

He was a keen Short Wave Listener who enjoyed both SSB and Digital modes of communications and monitored Packet Radio off our repeater at Middle Brother. Ron spent most of his life as a Technician for Telecom and, very appropriately, his email user-name was 'rtty'.

Beside Amateur Radio he was a past President of Oxley Probus and in recent years helped out at the Maritime Museum.

### FOR SALE

On behalf of the widow of the late Ron Wyles, the following 2 items of equipment are for sale:

SANGEAN ATS909 Comms RX.

153kHz-30mHz + 87-108mHz.

All Mode. Inbuilt Antenna

Very sensitive. C/W manual \$50

Dual Tracking PSU

+5V & 0-35V variable \$15

Contact David VK2AYD

02 6585 2647

## Changes to Club Net Schedules & Friday Night Get-togethers

At the March monthly meeting, decisions were taken to adjust the schedules for the Club's 2-Metre nets and the Friday night Get-togethers.

1. The Wednesday night club nets on VK2RPM's 2-M voice repeater will move to Tuesdays. The time will remain at 1930 local. This change became effective as from Tuesday, February 10th, 2009.

2. The two Friday Night Get-togethers per month will reduce to one Friday per month.

This gathering will now take place on the *fourth* Friday of each month.

The above changes were deemed necessary to enable more convenient inter-working between our ORARC commitments/schedules and our SES commitments/obligations.

It should be noted that ORARC members, who are not also SES members, are welcome to attend on any of the SES Wednesday nights as a "replacement" for loss of the one Friday night Get-Together per month.

*Jim (VK2VIV)*

## Sixty Years of Contesting

(David—VK2AYD)

A while back I was asked if I'd write about my 60 years of contesting. Now that's a long story, so let me tell about some of the brighter events of contesting that has occurred to me during these years.

I experienced my first contest in 1947 operating with G2DBF in the RSGB Field Day. In those days it was under canvas and generally on the low bands (80/40). The receiver was a 1-V-1 and the transmitter ran 10 watts. Everything ran off batteries. The HT was derived from vibrators and rotary transformers. I was just 17 years of age and I was quite proficient with Morse code.

During the next few years I was in the Navy operating with various exotic call signs. During the 50's I spent a lot of time with G2HIF operating in all the VHF contests and freezing on top of various hills/and mountains in the UK.

The 60's were a mix as I was then living in Germany as DJ0TU or ON8IE and the station was not really set for contest, but ok for giving out points.

My first real 'heavy' contest experience was in February 1971. I had just moved to the USA. I arrived on a Wednesday. Thursday I received a call from N3RS asking me to join his team for the ARRL CW contest starting Friday evening at 19.00. When I arrived at his QTH it was an eye opener. In the basement were 5 bays each with Collins S line equipment. There were 5 other operators there. I was asked what band I would like to operate with the understanding that "We are in it to win it!" If you can't hold 120 QSO's an hour you were in trouble. Keying was either by bug or electronic keys. Yes they existed in those day. The most famous was the OZ7BO keyer using telephone exchange high resistance relays.

In those days there were no

computers, everything had to be recorded with a pencil. After the first 8 hours the duplicate check log was a nightmare and there were still another 40 hours to go.

The antenna system at N3RS was a dream. A beam for each band except 160m. 160 was also dedicated to the 10 m operator.

On the Saturday we were hit by an unbelievable snow storm with lightning, thunder and all the goodies the sky could offer. A big flash and the 160m antenna vaporised. Luckily it was not in operation and was grounded. I'm not sure if we won the Contest, but the bug had really bit me again and a few weeks later I joined the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) in Philadelphia who are dedicated to contests.

Two weeks after I moved into my new home the FRC gang erected a 40m high tower topped with a 6 element 20/15/10 beam. HF contesting was now a serious business.

The 80's took me to Australia. Since then I have taken part in at least 5 HF contests a year. These have been mostly CW contests as I don't really have the right voice for SSB.

I would love to participate in multi-op/multi station, but here in Australia there is not the same interest. We could be world leaders with the right enthusiasm.

The 90's brought in the computer and now logging was easier, so was automatic keying!

My biggest thrill, if you can call it that, was in 1996 when, with Martin Luther (now VK7GN) we represented Australia in the World Radiosport Contest held in California. This took place as part of the IARU Contest which is both CW and SSB. There were 52 teams from all around the world competing. They were the best of the best.

So what inspires me to enter contests? I guess it's something personal. A challenge. I like challenges. Winning is an achievement.

Since 1981 (28 years) as VK2AYD, I have participated in over 100 HF contests and proud to say I made 1<sup>st</sup> place in 40. The certificates are kept in my "Ham Brag Book".

Write yourself a Brag book – you'll be surprised what you've done that you've forgotten!

There is a lot of preparation and technical skills necessary to prepare and operate a contest station. You have to withstand up to 48 hours of hard operating. Right now with the sun-spot cycle being low and the MUF seldom going above 13

Mhz, there is more time to relax. In the high part of the cycle (next around 2013) logging over 2,000 stations in 100 countries is achievable but right now making a 1,000 is hard going.

What equipment do you need? The main need is antenna's, antenna's, antenna's! On HF auxiliary antenna's, such as verticals, are necessary to supplement the beam to ensure you are beaming the right path. On LF low noise is a problem so often the receiving antenna is separate from the transmitting antenna.

So what equipment do I use? The Transceiver is an FT-1000MP complimented with a FL-7000 Amplifier. The HF Antenna's are just a tri-band 3 element Yagi at 10 m high and verticals and dipoles about 9 m high for the LF bands. The computer is ancient and I use a logging programme called 'CT'. The most important piece of equipment I have is between my ears where filtering, memory and quick response is still working..!

Contesting is now a Radio Sport, so join us – you may even be able to claim medical compensation with lip RSI if you are a SSB operator. Digital contests are also becoming popular. RTTY and PSK are great and you only need about 20 watts to join in these tests.

---

## **Hastings SES HQ Grand Opening**

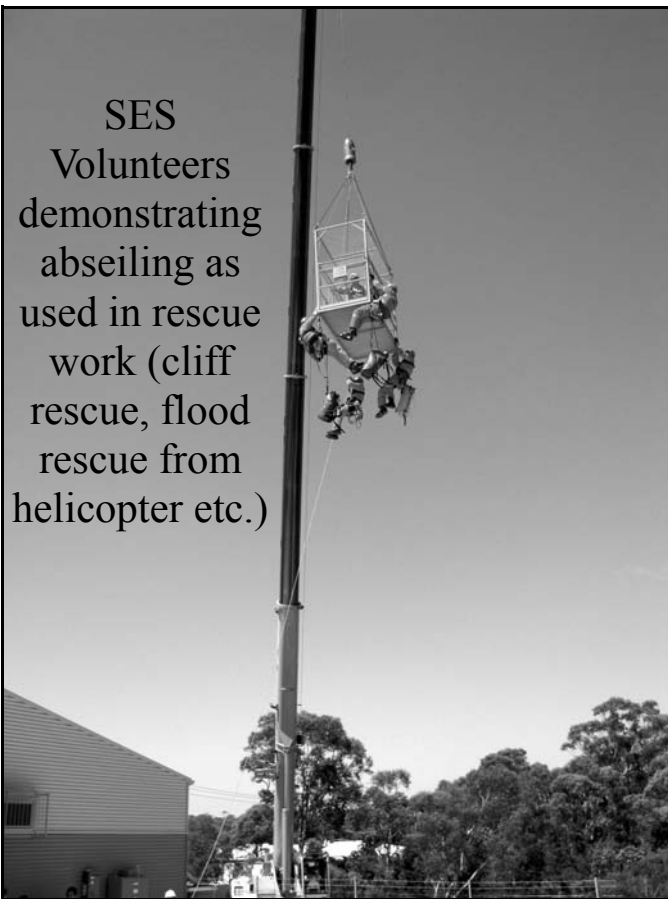
On Saturday 7th March 2009, the new Hastings SES Headquarters in Central Road, Port Macquarie was formally opened.

State Government MP Mr. Phil KOPERBERG, Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Emergency Services, officiated at the function.

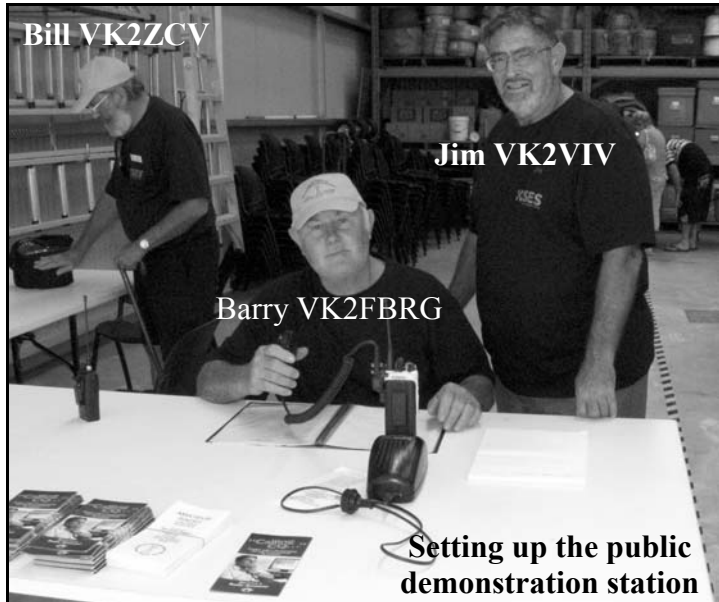
Following the official programme for the function, the HQ building was opened to the public for inspection and conducted tours.

Members of the ORARC who recently became members of the SES, manned the communications centre and interworked, on a public demonstration basis, with a specially set-up portable station located within the grounds of the HQ complex.

The pictures on the following page show some of the activities that took place on the day. Visiting members of the public were able to witness typical SES activities and inspect the comprehensive array of specialised hardware with which the SES volunteers are equipped for employment in emergency and disaster situations.



SES  
Volunteers  
demonstrating  
abseiling as  
used in rescue  
work (cliff  
rescue, flood  
rescue from  
helicopter etc.)

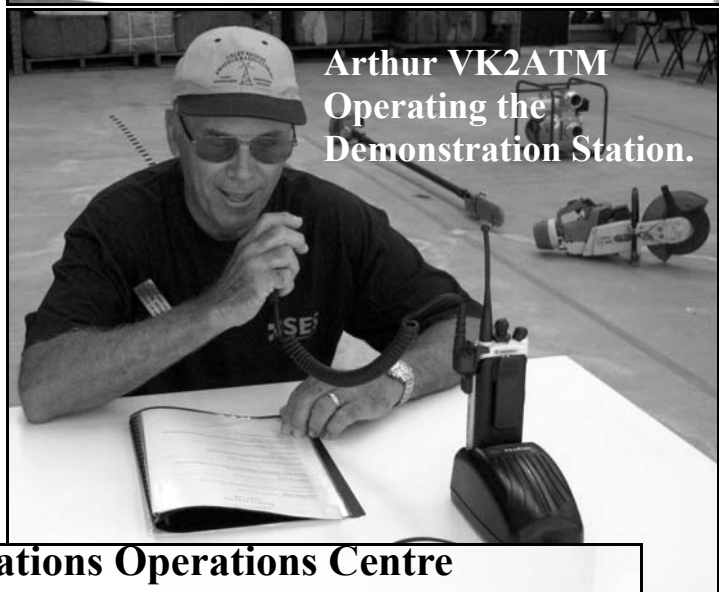


Bill VK2ZCV

Jim VK2VIV

Barry VK2FBRG

Setting up the public  
demonstration station



Arthur VK2ATM  
Operating the  
Demonstration Station.

**SES  
Opening Day  
Activities**

**The SES Communications Operations Centre  
with Henry VK2ZHE & Alan VK2GD at the controls**



## ORARC's Caravan Restoration Progress

After quite some months and many "Working Bee" sessions, our "Mobile Coms" caravan is getting close to completion of its major refurbishment project. Structural work on the frame, the tow-bar, floor, inside fittings, and outside preparation for repainting, have moved along as a result of persistent effort on the part of volunteers from the membership spending many "member-hours" on this important project. Below (left) is a picture taken shortly after its acquisition whilst located at Henry's (VK2ZHE) QTH. Much work was undertaken there, and it was later moved to Bill's (VK2ZCV) QTH (pictured at right) where further effort continues to be expended. The progress on exterior paintwork preparation is quite visible.

At the bottom of the page is a very recent picture which is stark evidence of the painstaking "steel-wooling" that has been required to get the surface into a condition ready for spray painting. This shot shows Jim (VK2VIV) & John (VK2KC), two major contributors of time and effort to reach the current state of progress. Let's hope the painting can be completed before the van's usage at the Car Rally on March 29th! Volunteers are still needed at the twice-weekly "Working Bees"!





# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 1st March 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