July 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

All things, both good and bad, finally come to an end one way or another and, since not even ladies’ hairdos can really claim to be “permanent”, it is now time to bow out of the presidency of our Club and hand over the baton to the next in line. It really has been an honour to serve our Club and my thanks goes to all who have given their willing support over the past three years, particularly our hardworking Executive.

I must have written around eighteen “Oxtail” columns over this period which is probably the hardest task the President has to perform! I have tried to make the column informative, challenging and, at times, even controversial since it can become very ho-hum if all we can talk about is the latest piece of gear, a new antenna or the latest QSL with Outer Transphobia.

Ultimately we need to recognise that life is about relationships, not “things”, which is why we have a Club in the first place. Our type of Club is based primarily on a common interest, namely amateur radio which, in itself, is so diverse that it can attract members from widely different backgrounds. I personally have valued the many times I have sat, chewing the fat with other club members, discovering new information, technical and otherwise, and broadening my understanding of our hobby and life generally. Don’t minimise the importance of those occasions.

As a final, sneaky bit of controversy, I watched a program recently which, to my mind, put the final nail in Darwin’s coffin. Darwin made a statement which said in effect, “If it can ever be shown that a complex organ cannot develop (Continued on page 2)
Please Note that:
Fees are payable by the 1 July 2009

President’s report continued from page 1
through successive, small evolutionary changes, then my theory utterly falls to pieces.” Now, in Darwin’s day, the understanding of cell structure was extremely limited and the single cell was understood to be one of the simplest structures. However, since the discovery of DNA and RNA in 1953, our understanding of even the simplest cell has shown it to be extremely complex. More to the point, it has been shown that each individual cell has what can be termed an “irreducible complexity” which just says you can’t have A without first having B and you can’t have either A or B without C, D and E in that order. You don’t put the roof on first before the walls go up and neither roof or walls go together without the slab being poured first.

Hmmm – chance randomness or intelligent design? Who orders the correct sequence? And when do you know you have it? I’ll leave you to ponder that one. Alas, poor Darwin.

Alan Nutt VK2GD El Presidente
Field Day Financial Report by John VK2KC

Our attendance was definitely down, and I did notice that with this years banking there weren't any $100 bills in the takings. Perhaps an indicator of the tough times.

We sold only 19 steak sandwich tickets, with a combined total of 52 sandwiches however I am sure that we cooked many more steaks. We did sell all of the sausages, but had a tray plus a few steaks left over.

The total that will be banked will be $1265.20 that includes all except the DVD's sold, that is expected to be around $11.

Last year we banked $1073.65, so things aren't so bad after all, we have had a windfall in that because of our presentation of the BBQ and the tables to the Sea Scouts, they waived this years club donation for the use of the hall, which is a saving of approximately $200. This in effect put us ahead of last years income.

I have no attendance figures on last years field day, but I am sure we had over 100 in attendance.

John
VK2KC

Break up of the income:

- LUNCH 197.00
- SALES 293.70
- DOOR 370.00
- RAFFLES 293.00
- TOTAL $1,153.70

Other facts and figures

Tickets Sold
- Lunch tickets
- Steaks 19
- Sausages 33
- Entry Tickets 74
- Raffle main 126
- Raffle Ladies 19

Field Day Results

Congratulations to the following:

Lucky Door Prize
Kevin Dawson VK2CKD

Major Prize Draw
1st John Van Denderan VK2SWR
2nd John McDonaugh VK2VY
3rd Jim Neil VK2VIV
4th Lew Green VK2AG
5th Jamie Campbell VK2YJC

Ladies Draw
1st Pam Green
2nd Jenny Martin
3rd Coralie Dawson

Guessing Competition
1st Arnold Austin VK2ADA
2nd John Alcorn VK2JWA
3rd Paul Webster VK2BZC

Fox Hunts
2m Mobile Multi 3 Jeff Pages VK2BYY
80m Ped Multi 3 Jeff Pages VK2BYY
2m Talk In Chris Williams VK2YMW
Scramble Bruce Ekert VK2EM
80m mobile Charlie Loomis VK2ZYZ
40m Ped Jeff Pages VK2BYY
2m mobile Chris Williams VK2YMW
2m ped Cameron Williams

Champion Fox Hunter
Chris Williams VK2YMW
Home brew Telescope or An interesting accomplishment by Lewis Green VK2AG

Who has not been fascinated by the reality of the night sky? It has defied the logic of the ordinary man’s mind who seeks to know what is out there. There are plenty of books which tell the story of the universe. When I was taken along to the Astronomical Society of Victoria in 1963, I was enthused, and seized the opportunity to build my own telescope.

The telescope shown here in the photographs is the one I built and is a Newtonian Reflector 7ft in length with an 8ins diameter mirror reflecting up to the eyepiece with a focal length F8. The 8ins mirror took me approximately 120 hrs to grind to the required configuration judged 12ft back from the reflection of a smaller than pin hole light beam. (I first had to construct the light beam apparatus and its complexities.)

The mirror was, in fact, ground from a Corningware glass disc 8ins X 1in thick. This was done by using another Corning-ware glass disc on top with cutting powder between the two and rubbed to the required shape. It was ground first to a perfect spherical shape, then polished to a complicated shape, to conform to the incoming rays which are parallel rays only, as are all the light rays from space. The mirror was polished to smooth out the glass after cutting with various grades of carborundum powder. The mirror was professionally aluminised. Glass, as used in our windows and other places is, in fact, optically as rough as heavy sandpaper as I found out when viewing Saturn through a window at home with the finished telescope. Saturn appeared as a complete square.

Mounting the unit was another of the many tasks. This one is called an equatorial mount, set at the Melbourne distance from the equator of 34 degrees. This means, as we watch any object in the sky, that since we are spinning at 1000 miles per hour approx. watching the object it can be seen to move across the eyepiece. So, the telescope has to be moved one way only, to compensate and to keep the object in the eyepiece. Various magnifications can be achieved by using separate eyepieces. We are moving at many different speeds and directions at the same time and significantly faster than 1000 miles per hour. All of the planets and their satellites are clearly viewable as are many things such as sunspots, solar flares, hydrogen gas clouds. black holes, galaxies and many, many more. As you will know our galaxy is the Milky Way and we are on the edge. Australia is internationally known for research into the Magellanic Clouds where it is thought that new galaxies are forming. These are hydrogen gas clouds which can be easily viewed with the naked eye, if you know where to look.

Lewis Green VK2AG
Awards and prizes for field day events

The Field Day dawned with a brisk shower of rain however this gave way to a fine warm winters day with vivid blue skies. Many visitors were most appreciative of the fine weather and the attractiveness of the Hastings River as seen from the Field Day venue.

The club’s caravan received many glowing commendations and really looked the part with its paint job and fit out.

Fox hunts went off admirably under the leadership of Craig VK2ZCM and an enjoyable time was had by the competitors.

The clubs trailer was loaded up with ‘preloved’ equipment that could be taken away for a donation. Most people made at least one trip to the trailer looking for those bits and pieces that could be really useful one day!

Interesting to see that none of the old computer equipment was wanted not even the lead or old monitors.

Trade and radio club tables whilst not extensive offered an interesting array of equipment.

Various trade and radio club displays
The auction of the Country Energy certificate for $100 was enthusiastically conducted and won by Arthur VK2ATM

Winners of Fox hunts Cameron Williams, Chris Williams, VK2YMW (Champion) Charlie VK2ZYZ and Jeff VK2BYY, Presenter Craig VK2ZCM
**The Aging Amateurs** by David VK2AYD

I've just finished the 'All Asia DX CW Contest'. Not the best as HF conditions were ratchet.

I won it back in '83 and thought I could do it again - ha ha. By Saturday midnight I was ready for bed!

My head ringing from the static on the LF bands. The HF bands had long shut down, though I did work one JA on 10..!

The exchange was a signal report plus your age. Now statistics are revealed. The average age was 55. The oldest was 83. Only two stations under the age of 30. Perhaps CW is really dead. I'll try again next year.

73
David VK2AYD

**HAM RADIO IN SPACE: THREE NEW MICRO CUBSATS LAUNCHED** from David VK2AYD

Three new ham radio microsats have been launched and are now on-orbit. The three tiny birds are identified as PHARMASAT-1, HAWKSA T-I and POLYSAT CP6. All three were launched on Tuesday, May 19th from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

PHARMASAT-1 is from Santa Clara University. Its transmitting on 437.465 MHz in AX.25 data protocol at 1200 bits per second. HAWKSA T-I was the work of the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences. Its on 437.345 MHz. Last but by no means least is POLYSAT CP6 sponsored by the California Polytechnic State University. Its on 437.365 MHz with 1200 bit per second data in AX.25.

Web reports indicate that good signals have been received from Pharmasat-1 and from Polysat CP6. (ANS)

**Useful Link** by John VK2KC

I came across this link:
http://www.retrevo.com/samples/index.html?cmpid=Email

It has over 100,000 downloadable manuals on consumable electronics.

'Never Lose a Manual Again

In case you forgot, Retrevo will store the manuals for all your gear and gadgets.

We can find more than 100,000 manuals for you.
Take advantage of this free service right now.
For example Retrevo has 1165 manuals for ACER products!'

Finally from the field day

Coralie, Fay and Jenny staffing the front of house at the field day.

Winners are grinners John VK2SWR receiving prize from Alan VK2GD and Neil VK2EI with Fox Hunt 'Wooden Spoon' award.

Charles VK2KCE and John VK2KHB looking for interesting bits and pieces.

Jim VK2VIV and Barry VK2FBRG and Jim as scooter mobile.
A Global Moon Bounce for Apollo 11

Radio amateurs from across the globe have been communicating this weekend using the 'moonbounce’ technique as part of the commemoration of the Apollo 11 landing 40 years ago in July.

They were able to engage in very clean and in depth conversations, but radio communication is not as fluid and immediate as with a telephone. It takes the radio signals 2.5 seconds to reach the moon, which meant waiting five seconds to receive each reply.

The contact between the groups was initiated by science buffs in Australia and the United States a few months ago. The so-called 'Moonbounce' came to an end on Sunday in Australia after 24-hours of radio chat. Organizers are hoping that it will become an annual event.

'Moonbouncing', is also referred to as Earth-Moon-Earth communications, or E.M.E. It requires a higher grade of ham-radio technology than what is used for typical government approved earth-bound communication. There are only 1,000 hams worldwide have ‘moon-bouncing’ capabilities. Event co-founder Robert Brand, who as a 17-year-old played a minor role in the Apollo missions by helping with telecommunications installations used by NASA in Australia, said the results were exceptionally clear.

There was "very little difference quality-wise" to some common radios, he said.

The moon’s spinning and rough surface tend to disrupt the signals, so they are forced to endure the interference armed with only luck and quite a bit of experience.

The hundreds of amateur radio hams joined together from around the world using as many parabolic radio antennas as they could find in order to send their voices 239,200 miles to the Moon and back, Brand told Reuters.

The even was meant to coincide with Apollo 11’s 40th anniversary on July 20, but they had to cooperate with the Moon’s orbit. Since the Moon does not orbit directly around the Earth’s equator, this was the most practical weekend for organizers to arrange.

Bill Anders, known for his photograph of Earth from space called “Earthrise”, was also taking part in the event.

While most involved were amateurs, operators of about 20 large dishes in the United States, Australia and Europe agreed to participate, including a 85.3-foot dish at Mount Pleasant in Tasmania and a 147.6-foot dish at Stanford University in the United States.

"The signals go up from these dishes in a tight beam to the Moon. They actually hit the ground and at an atomic level 'shake' all the atoms on the surface of the Moon," said Brand.

"It is still taking place as we speak."

“It’s the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest in amateur radio,” said Joseph H. Taylor Jr., a Nobel Prize winner and retired physics professor from Princeton University who has written software to assist radio buffs in communicating using a weak signal. “It’s possible, but only barely possible.”

Source: redOrbit Staff & Wire Reports
Band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz Now Available to Advanced Licensees Who Apply

Date: 11/06/2009
Author: Michael Owen - VK3KI

After an exchange of letters, the ACMA has advised the WIA that any amateur holding an Advanced licence may now apply to ACMA for a variation of their licence to allow operation on a secondary basis in the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz.

Amateur operation in that band is subject to a maximum radiated power of 1 Watt (e.i.r.p.).

Application for a variation of licence to allow use on the new LF band should be made on ACMA form R057 (downloadable from the ACMA website) to the Licensing, Allocations and Information Section, National Licensing and Allocation Branch, PO Box 78, Belconnen, ACT 2616 accompanied by the ACMA fee of $41.

ACMA amended the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan in January to allow amateur operation on this LF band, allocated to the amateur service at the ITU’s WRC in 2007, but has not yet amended the Amateur LCD or the Visiting Amateurs Class Licence to allow operation due, it says, to a lack of resources, and does not see itself being able to further progress the matter before the end of the current year.

The WIA suggested that as each Advanced amateur licence became due for renewal the necessary additional condition could be included in the licence as it was renewed, but again ACMA has advised that this would involve additional resources better applied in other directions.

However, ACMA will include the necessary conditions as a variation to each Advanced licensee who applies for a variation of his or her licence to allow operation on this band.

(from the WIA Website)

From our ORARC Website

1880 Optical Telephone Transmission Patent

Alexander Graham Bell and Sumner Tainter were granted a U.S. patent in 1880 for a wireless telephone transmission method they invented where telephone signals are transmitted to a receiving party by means of light propagating through air instead of electric current flowing through wires. Their method involved modulating a light beam by reflecting it off a diaphragm that vibrated in sympathy with sound waves. The angle of the reflected light beam moved from directly toward to slightly away from a light-sensitive receiver as the diaphragm vibrated, causing the received light energy to be amplitude modulated with sound intelligence. They originally called their optical telephone system a ‘photophone,’ but later changed the name to ‘radiophone.’ The American Bell Company was granted a patent covering improvements to the method in 1897. Modern fiber optic transmission systems differ in detail, but are closely associated with the Bell and Tainter method in that they both transmit intelligence by means of modulated light energy.

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Notice of 2009
Annual General Meeting

2pm Saturday 1st August 2009
SES Building, Central Rd, Port Macquarie NSW

Members are hereby notified that the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club (ORARC) will be held at 2pm on Saturday 1st August 2009 in the SES Building, Central Rd, Port Macquarie NSW.

All members are cordially invited to attend the AGM and the August 2009 Monthly General Meeting which will be held immediately after the AGM is closed.

The agenda for the AGM is printed on the back of this sheet.

The election of office-bearers, Committee members, officers and appointments will be conducted at the AGM. This is item 7 on the agenda.

Nominations of candidates for election to the above positions should reach the Secretary, ORARC, PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444 seven days before the AGM. Please use the nomination form which is included in this AGM notice.

Also included in this AGM notice is a Proxy form which you may use to appoint a proxy to act on your behalf at the AGM if you are unable to personally attend. Completed proxy forms must be received by the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Please post your form to the Secretary, ORARC, PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444 in time to reach the Post Office box on Friday 3rd August 2007 at the latest.

Members are reminded that annual membership subscriptions for the year ending 31st June 2010 are due for renewal on 1 July 2009.

Jim Neil VK2VIV
Secretary, Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Annual General Meeting to be held at 2pm on Saturday 1st Aug 2009
SES Building Central Rd, Port Macquarie

AGENDA

Chairman: Alan Nutt - Meeting declared open at ............ hours

1. Welcome visitors.

2. Apologies
   - Motion to accept apologies
     Moved VK2......  Seconded VK2.....

3. Distribution of Proxies

4. Minutes of previous A G M held on 4 Aug 2008
   - Motion to accept minutes
     Moved VK2......  Seconded VK2.....

5. Matters arising from minutes.

6. Appoint Returning Officer to take chair for election

7. Election of officers & Appointments (Returning Officer to take chair for election)
   - Note: Call for nominations from floor if insufficient written nominations received prior to the meeting

   President ........................................... VK2......
   Vice President ...................................... VK2......
   Secretary ........................................... VK2......
   Treasurer ........................................... VK2......
   Committee Member 1 ................................ VK2......
   Committee Member 2 ................................ VK2......
   Committee Member 3 ................................ VK2......
   Public Officer ................................ .... VK2......
   Auditor ..........................................
   Repeater Chairman ................................ VK2......
   Oxtales Editor ...................................... VK2......
   VK2BOR Station Manager ............................. VK2......
   Welfare Officer ................................ ..... VK2......
   Publicity Officer .................................. VK2......
   Education Officer .................................. VK2......
   Equipment Officer .................................. VK2......
   Club Historian ..................................... VK2......
   Social Director .................................... VK2......
   WIA Liaison Delegate ............................... VK2......
   SES Coordinator .................................. VK2......

8. Treasurer’s annual report including audited financial statement:
   - Motion to receive & accept Treasurer’s Report
     Moved VK2......  Seconded VK2.....

9. Any other reports:
   President
   Repeater Chairman
   Oxtales Editor
   Welfare Officer
   VK2BOR Station Manager
   SES Coordinator

10. NOTICE OF MOTION--

11. General business
   *Honory members to be considered for renomination .................................................................

12. A G M closed at ............ hours  (To be followed by August 2008 Monthly General Meeting)
APPENDIX to the CONSTITUTION OF THE
OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

OFFICE BEARERS NOMINATION FORM

I Nominate ....................................................... for the position of

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member
(Strike out the offices which do not apply)

Name of Nominator .......................................................
Signature................................................................

Name of Seconder .......................................................
Signature................................................................

Nominee’s Agreement: I accept the nomination for the above position
Signature................................................................

________________________________________

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

I (1)................................., being entitled under the Rules of the Club to
vote at the forthcoming (2)...Annual General meeting

scheduled for (3)...Saturday 1st August 2009

do hereby appoint (4)..............................................

to act as my proxy on that occasion.

Signature:............................................... Date:.................................

Notes:
Print full name of Member
Annual, General or Special General
Date of scheduled meeting
Print full name of eligible Member acting as proxy
## OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
### MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.
(As at June 2009)

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