



OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club email address: vk2bor@orarc.org

Club Website: <http://www.orarc.org>

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Sundays 0900
Thursdays 1930

ORARC's Forty-sixth Anniversary Year

November 2017

Compiled by VK2AYQ & VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ 6580 9912
TREASURER: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL 6587 1155
SECRETARY: Steve Wynn VK2ZSW 6585 3327

President's Report

November 2017

President's Report



JOTA 2017



On Saturday the 14th of October ORARC club members set up one station for the 60th

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ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

MIDDLE BROTHER

VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 146.700MHz - I/P 146.100MHz

VK2RPM 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123Hz)
O/P 438.525MHz - I/P 433.525MHz
C4FM digital mode capability

VK2RPM-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

TELEGRAPH POINT

VK2RCN 2 metre (Voice)
O/P 147.000 MHz - I/P 146.400 MHz

VK2RCN 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123 Hz)
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz

VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

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Down the Coax

Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held in the
S.E.S. Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 November 2017 2:00 pm

WICEN Mid North Coast Antenna Day
Sunday 5 November 2017 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sancrox Reserve

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 November 2017 7.00 pm

Spring VHF-UHF Field Day
12 noon Sat 25 to 12 noon Sun 26 November 2017

White Ribbon Port Macquarie Coastal Walk
Sunday 26 November 2017

ORARC Christmas Party
Saturday 2 December 2017
Long Point Winery Picnic Area
From 9 am. BBQ Lunch 12 noon
No December Monthly General Meeting

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 December 2017 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 January 2018 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 January 2018 7.00 pm

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

Nov 2017

VK2CHC	Nov - 05	VK2ICQ	Nov - 02
VK2FMGM	Nov - 12	VK2EM	Nov - 09
VK2CHC	Nov - 19	VK2ZHE	Nov - 16
VK2FMGM	Nov - 26	VK2ICQ	Nov - 23
		VK2EM	Nov - 30

Dec 2017

VK2CHC	Dec - 03	VK2ZHE	Dec - 07
VK2FMGM	Dec - 10	VK2ICQ	Dec - 14
VK2CHC	Dec - 17	VK2EM	Dec - 21
VK2FMGM	Dec - 24	VK2ZHE	Dec - 28
VK2CHC	Dec - 31		

Jan 2018

VK2FMGM	Jan - 07	VK2ICQ	Jan - 04
VK2CHC	Jan - 14	VK2EM	Jan - 11
VK2FMGM	Jan - 21	VK2ZHE	Jan - 18
VK2CHC	Jan - 28	VK2ICQ	Jan - 25

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annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). VK2BOR operated from the club's communications caravan adjacent to the Port Macquarie Sea Scouts' Boatshed at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River. VK2BOR operated during the daylight hours of Saturday the 14th of October only.



Communications caravan set up Mark VK2FMGM on guard!



Part of the crew for the day Dennis VK2DAM, Lyle VK2SMI and Mark VK2FMGM around the porcupine helping unload

Due to the unexpected unavailability of

Scouting resources this year it was not possible to run the planned second JOTA station at the Wauchope Scout Hall.

The Port Macquarie JOTA station was very busy this year as Port Macquarie became a District Camp with Scouts and Guides very keen to make their on-air contacts.

HF propagation was a little better than it was last year. Horizontal dipoles supported by a central portable flagpole were set up along the river bank for the 40 and 20 metre bands. As usual one leg of the 40 metre dipole was over water as it spanned over the boat ramp. This year the feed point of the 40 metre dipole was elevated an extra 2 metres to ensure that there would be more than sufficient clearance for the tall masts of some of the sailing boats using the ramp.



Central portable flagpole set up

VK2BOR made many contacts on 40 metres and all the scouts and guides patiently waiting for their turns on air got

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to talk with JOTA stations in NSW, ACT and Queensland. Many stations were heard on 20 metres but very few of them were JOTA stations. A far cry from the great HF DX contacts that we took for granted during previous solar cycles, but much better propagation than in some of the recent years.



Henry VK2ZHE in a characteristic pose operating VK2BOR.

The opening address for the 2017 60th anniversary JOTA and 21st anniversary JOTI was delivered by Chief Scout of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove and Chief Guide of Australia Lady Cosgrove. The opening address was transmitted by VK2WI on the usual VK2WI broadcast frequencies. A digital audio file of the opening was obtained so that those who missed hearing the opening over the air could listen to it later.

This year we did not end up working any JOTA stations via EchoLink through the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater from VK2BOR. A couple of JOTA stations did connect early in the day to carry out some tests, and to ascertain that the VK2BOR JOTA station had Scouts and Guides on

site and would be available for contacts in the event that HF radio propagation became unfavorable. It was comforting to know that we had an alternative means of making on air contacts in the event that it was needed.

At Port Macquarie the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts set up varied range of outdoor activities and a sausage sizzle. The outdoor activities were very popular and nicely complimented JOTA. The Jamboree on the Internet was set up with several computers under a marquee erected adjacent to the Communications Caravan. This year was the 21st JOTI. JOTI was popular but interestingly, most Scouts and Guides ranked talking on the radio for JOTA, sailing and canoeing, and Morse Code as their favourite activities.

The various games of skill included several different forms of target accuracy and consistency. The stand-on wobbleboard with a maze of barriers through which a golf ball had to be rolled by gravity to a hole was one of the most challenging. The wobbleboard was supported by an inflated inner tube which resulted in a very lively platform.



The Maze board is resting on an inflated inner tube. This activity is not nearly as easy as it looks, as some of us found out!

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Scout ingenuity demonstrated in building this medieval looking machine. Balloons filled with water are put in the container and then the launching arm is pulled back and released. The distance the balloon travels is quite surprising!

The string telephone with a particularly long string required great teamwork by the two people using it to keep the string taut and clear of obstacles so that it would work. It worked surprisingly well when correctly deployed. The balloon bursting “TNT” activity punctuated the entire day with loud bangs. The participants wore protective earmuffs and glasses as they pumped up the balloons by hand but spectators had to stand well back!

Despite overnight rain the day remained fine at the JOTA site but it was noticeably cooler this year than in previous years. The cooler day didn’t deter anyone from participating in the water based activities such as sailing and canoeing. The water slide into the river which guaranteed that the participants would get wet was surprisingly popular. There were no complaints from those patiently queuing in the warmth of the caravan waiting for a turn at the microphone to make on air JOTA contacts!



Arthur VK2ATM and Kate a.k.a Quokka (Scout name) Joey Scout Leader of 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts make a JOTA contact.

Thank you to the many members who helped to make JOTA such a great success. As already mentioned, those who originally volunteered to run the Wauchope station, instead came to Port Macquarie which doubled the numbers at the VK2BOR station at McInherney Park. This was greatly appreciated as the JOTA District Camp status made for a very busy day.

Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Henry VK2ZHE and Ivan VK2FIJN. The teamwork in setting up the caravan, supervising and operating the radio, and then packing up at the end of the day made for a very enjoyable day. (Continued on next page)



**7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie
Ph. (02) 6581 4476**

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Beechwood Billycart Classic



This year the Beechwood Billycart Classic was held on Sunday the 22nd of October 2017. This event is run down the longest course in Australia. It is about 5 kilometres long. As usual, ORARC members provided the safety communications for the event. The safety communications is critical to the running of the Classic. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for taking over co-ordination of the many volunteers who were needed to man all the check points, and to set up and operate the communications for the commentary vehicle, the finish and public address interface, the net control and the liaison with first aid.

Stalwart Richard Court VK2CHC began the co-ordination but had to relinquish the role when he was unexpectedly diagnosed with a serious medical condition. We all wish Richard well for his treatment and recovery.



Lyle VK2SMI briefs the crew, Stuart VK2FSTU and Steve VK2ZSW in foreground with Dennis VK2DAM on the side.

Thank you to all the volunteers. Callsigns included VK2SMI, VK2ICQ, VK2FPDC, VK2AYD, VK2DAM, VK2FMGM, VK2ATM, VK2CLL, VK2BIG, VK2ZRE, VK2FSTU, VK2ZSW, VK2AYQ, VK2ZHE and VK2ZCM.

Those who participated in the day will recognize themselves in the group photographs included in this issue of "Oxtales". As can be seen in the photographs, some of the club members are in their WICEN uniforms. The event was recognized by WICEN so the WICEN members received credit for the time spent participating in the event.



Bob VK2BIG and Bob VK2ZRE at the briefing. Those WICEN uniforms are just so white.



Paula VK2FPDC, Bob VK2BIG, Bob VK2ZRE, Steve VK2ZSW, Dennis VK2DAM, Arthur VK2ATM and Larry VK2CLL at briefing.
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Paul Colledge VK2ICQ again enjoyed an adrenalin fueled white knuckle ride in the commentary vehicle. Lyle Smith VK2SMI provided the public address interface and the liaison with the officials.

The event ran smoothly. The leading carts managed some serious speeds down the mountain and provided a great sight for the spectators who watched from their favourite strategic vantage points. The lead cart reached speeds in excess of 100 kilometres per hour which pushed the commentary vehicle to its limits to stay ahead.

A very interesting entry this year was a very sturdy three wheel cart which had been heavily ballasted to take advantage of the extra momentum that results when a heavy mass travels at high speed. Unfortunately, the strategy did not work on the Beechwood course as the cart was too heavy for the pusher to build up initial speed on the downhill start and simply too heavy to push when the cart slowed on the couple of small uphill inclines along the course. In the end the cart had to be towed up the last rise by a motor vehicle.



The significant rolling resistance of the substantial wheels that were needed to support the heavy cart mass and the high air resistance resulting from the absence of aerodynamic fairing of the open frame construction conspired to limit the maximum speed that could be attained on the downhill sections. By comparison, the lightweight streamlined lead cart which had very low rolling resistance and minimal

aerodynamic drag quickly built up high speeds on the downhill sections and carried more than enough momentum to coast up the rises.



The streamlined shape of the car enables high speeds to be achieved.

The streamlining also extends to the back of the car where the 'pusher' crouches out of the slipstream.



This year the main race was run and completed before the junior event started. As always, Beechwood put on entertainment with food and drink stalls to make the Classic an enjoyable family day out. In keeping with tradition, the weather remained fine despite the forecast of rain.



Junior races featured the more traditional billy cart construction.

Henry VK2ZHE and Dave VK2AYD look on.

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The above Billy Cart was originally built and raced by our club member Craig VK2ZCM many years ago and is still raced in the event today.

The organisers formally thanked ORARC for its role in helping to make the Classic safe and enjoyable. ORARC has been promised a cheque for \$150.00 as a kind donation which will greatly assist with club projects. We look forward continuing our long-standing support and participating in next year's event.



Those WICEN uniforms certainly do stand out. Craig VK2ZCM, and Larry VK2CLL modeling their Yellow Club Shirts with Steve VK2ZSW and Stuart VK2FSTU in their 'whites'!

AMSAG Car Rally

On Saturday the 28th of October 2017 ORARC provided the safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally which ran in the Bulls Ground area near Herons Creek. The finish destination was at the Blacksmiths Inn at Johns River. A refueling and time recording point was set up in the carpark behind the Royal Kew Hotel.



Callsigns participating in the event included VK2ZSW, VK2SMI, VK2CRF, VK2ZRE, VK2FSTU, VK2KC, VK2FMGM, VK2DAM, VK2SJJ, VK2BIG, VK2CLL, VK2AYQ, VK2HOT, VK2MPK, VK2ATM and VK2ZHE.

Radio communications were provided at the start and finish of the competitive stages, and at various check points and road closures along the route. In addition, stations were set up at the refueling point at Kew, and at the Blacksmiths Inn at Johns river.

The Mid North Coast Region WICEN gazebo was set up at the start where Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Steven Johnson VK2SJJ operated. The ORARC Communications Caravan was set up in the carpark behind the Kew Royal Hotel where Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE operated. Rob Frost VK2CRF and Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU
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operated from the Blacksmiths Inn at Johns River.

The Amateur Radio communications between all the points worked very well with excellent signals via both the 146.7 MHz 2 metre and 438.525 MHz 70 cm VK2RPM repeaters at Middle Brother Mountain. The Rally Organisers also had simplex UHF CB communications between their vehicles and various checkpoints. Due to the terrain some locations did not have reliable CB communications and Peter Kucera VK2MPK operated a UHF CB relay point.

The rally car stage times were recorded at the Kew refueling point and then transmitted to Blacksmiths Inn at Johns River via the VK2RPM 70cm repeater so the rally organisers at the had the times at Johns River prior to the arrival of the cars.

The co-ordination of the ORARC safety communications for the rally and liaising with the Rally Organisers was a time consuming task ably executed by Steve Wynn VK2ZSW. There were various changes made to the requirements in the lead up to the rally. There were other rallies running on the same weekend so marshals were at a premium. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the very successful communications for the rally.

Please see the separate article written by Steve Wynn VK2ZSW in this issue of "Oxtales" for more details of the rally communications. As with JOTA and the Beechwood Billycart Classic, The AMSAG Rally was recognised by WICEN so the WICEN members were credited for the time spent in providing the safety communications for the event.

The ORARC Communications Caravan provided an excellent operating environment for the communications at the Kew refueling point. The carpark at Kew is unsealed so care was taken to strategically

place the caravan so that the wind blew the dust away from the caravan. The generator was placed on a dry spot in the grassy area beside the carpark. The generator could not be heard in the caravan. Just as Arthur VK2ATM and I were congratulating each other on the quietness in the caravan, a B Double truck pulled into the carpark and left a refrigerated trailer behind in the other side of the carpark. Its refrigeration plant could be heard in the caravan but the noise wasn't too distracting.



Note refrigeration trailer parked on other side of car park!



A well set up communications caravan at Kew with the Royal Kew Hotel a short distance away on the corner below.



On the morning of the rally there was an accident on the Dennis Bridge over the Hastings River west of Port Macquarie. The accident blocked both directions of the Pacific Highway for the entire morning.
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The news of the resultant chaos due to the diversion of light traffic via Pembroke and the Oxley Highway to the “donut” to rejoin the Pacific Highway convinced Henry VK2ZHE and Arthur VK2ATM to tow the caravan from Port Macquarie to Kew via Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills and Laurieton. Steve VK2SJJ coming from Bellingen and Bob VK2ZRE coming from Kempsey had to traverse the Pembroke diversion and then together with those coming from Wauchope encountered the Oxley Highway roadworks on the way back to the Pacific Highway.

During the afternoon at Kew a great number of sirens could be heard and RFS and other emergency services could be seen speeding southwards along the Pacific Highway. First reports said a car accident had occurred near Johns River but it soon became clear that it was the crash of a Cessna twin engine aircraft between the highway and the railway line near a private airfield not far from Johns River.

Fortunately by the time VK2ZHE and VK2ATM headed back to Port Macquarie with the ORARC caravan the Pacific Highway between Kew and the “donut” interchange with the Oxley Highway was flowing freely so an uneventful return journey was made by that route.

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Car Boot Sale

The Westlakes Amateur Radio Club will be running their 10th annual car boot sale in the grounds of their club rooms at Teralba on Saturday the 18th of November 2017. Starting time is 9 am. There is no charge for admittance. Lunch from the club’s barbeque and soft drinks will be available for purchase.

There are always great bargains to be had at the car boot sale. Teralba is a comfortable one day round trip from the Mid North Coast and ORARC members are always

made very welcome at these events. Those who have attended past car boot sales have always come home with bargains and tales of a very enjoyable day out.

Spring VHF UHF Field Day

The annual Spring VHF UHF Field Day takes place from 01:00 hours UTC on Saturday the 25th of November to 01:00 hours on Sunday the 26th of November 2017. This equates to 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday Eastern Australian Daylight Saving Time.

The contest rules are available on the WIA website at <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/documents/2017%20Spring%20VHF-UHF%20Field%20Day%20Rules.pdf>

The ORARC club station VK2BOR has participated in this annual Field Day in past years. However, this year club members are encouraged to participate from their individual stations. Members will be providing safety radio communications for the White Ribbon Coastal Walk on Sunday the 26th of November so it was decided against setting up VK2BOR in the field on the Saturday as this would have resulted in two club events on the one weekend.

White Ribbon Coastal Walk

ORARC members will be providing safety radio communications for the 2017 White Ribbon Coastal walk from the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club to the Port Macquarie Town Green on the morning of Sunday the 26th of November. The club has supported this annual event for several years. The safety communications requires operators at the start and finish, and at the major check points along the course. These points are Shelly Beach, Flynns Beach and Town Beach. Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

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Port Macquarie Hastings
domestic & family violence
specialist service

WHITE
RIBBON



is proud to once again present the

2017 WHITE RIBBON COASTAL WALK

Sunday 26 November 2017

Lighthouse Beach to
Town Green

OR

Flynns Beach to
Town Green

OR

Town Beach
Kiosk

7.30am - bus departs Town Green

7.50am - opening address and welcome at Lighthouse Beach
8.00am - walk commences from Tacking Point SLC

8.30am - bus departs Town Green

8.50am - opening address and welcome at Flynns Beach
9.00am - walk commences from Flynns Beach

10.00am - walk commences from
Town Beach Kiosk to Town Green

The White Ribbon Coastal Walk is a FREE community event consisting of walking the Coastal Walk from Lighthouse Beach, Flynns Beach OR Town Beach Kiosk to the Town Green to raise awareness about **White Ribbon Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**. It is for anyone with at least moderate fitness to undertake the 9km walk from Lighthouse Beach, the 3km walk from Flynns Beach or enjoy the paved surface from Town Beach Kiosk to the Town Green.

FREE buses will depart from the TOWN GREEN, taking participants to their choice of start for the walk, either Lighthouse Beach or Flynns Beach. Buses are not available to Town Beach Kiosk.

Registration is essential and must be received no later than Friday 24 November 2017. You can register online at www.pmhastingsdfv.com.au or fill in a registration form, available from Liberty Cottage 155 Gordon St or SNAP 110 William St.

To participate, **we request people wear a white t-shirt**. It is also recommended that participants bring a water bottle and wear a hat and sunscreen (slip, slop, slap).

Please Note – This Is Not A Race!

For further information, go to:

www.pmhastingsdfv.com.au or contact 6584 9102

Unfortunately, **pets are not allowed** between Lighthouse and Nobbys Beaches, the walk from Town Beach Kiosk is suitable for strollers, prams & mobility aids.

Proudly sponsored by



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As with all recent club major communications events, participation is recognized by WICEN so WICEN members will receive credit for their time in the field.

A full report on the walk will appear in the January 2018 issue of Oxtales.

Christmas Party

Members and their families and friends are cordially invited to attend the club's 2017 Christmas Party on Saturday the 2nd of December. While the party itself will feature the traditional sausage sizzle lunch followed by fruit salad and ice-cream provided by the club, the venue this year will be the same as last year, the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery at 6 Cooina Place, Lake Cathie. Cooina Place runs off Long Point Drive which in turn runs off Houston Mitchell Drive. This is the "Ghost Road" which runs between Ocean Drive just south of Lake Cathie, and the Pacific Highway. The location is easy to find but a map is available on the Vineyard web site at

<http://www.longpointvineyard.com.au/contact-us/>

Please see the separate notice of the Christmas Party in this issue of "Oxtales".

Thank you to Committee member Arthur Monck VK2ATM for securing the venue with free use of the picnic facilities for the ORARC Christmas Party. Last year's Christmas Party at this venue was very popular with everyone who attended. The Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery management was very pleased to welcome us back so we clearly made a good impression.

The Winery and the Art Gallery will be open on the day. Please take the opportunity to visit during the day.

The club's communications caravan will be not on site for the party but the club will still provide tea and coffee and soft drinks

as usual.

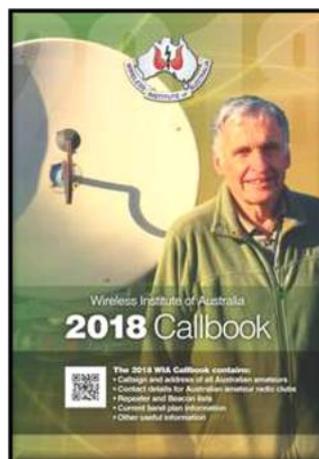
In the tradition begun last year, there will not be a December Monthly General Meeting during the Christmas Party. If business arises during December such items will be discussed at the normal December Friday Night Get Together at the SES Building at 7:30 pm on Friday the 15th of December 2017. The next Monthly Meeting will be the normal January Monthly General Meeting at the SES Building at 2 pm on Saturday the 6th of January 2018.

ORARC 2018 Calendar

Steve VK2ZSW has been busy creating the club's 2018 calendar. Calendars will be available at the Christmas Party for a mere \$2 each. The annual calendar has become a "must have" for every ham shack. The calendar is indispensable for putting a face to members' callsigns. In addition the information on the calendar will ensure that you never miss a club meeting or net.

The club is indebted to Jaycar Port Macquarie for subsidizing the printing costs of the calendar. This enables the calendars to sold for the low price of \$2 each.

2018 Callbook



The club will have a limited number of copies of the 2018 Amateur Radio Callbook available as soon as they are

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printed in late November. Price is yet to be confirmed but it is expected that they will be approximately \$25 each. Please contact club president, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE vk2zhe@orarc.org , to reserve your copy. Mobile phone number is 0427 947 921. The callbooks are running a little later than usual again this year so there will be a big rush for them when they are released.

Mid North Coast Region WICEN



Please contact Steve Wynn VK2ZSW if you would like to join the Mid North Coast Region WICEN. Meetings are held in the SES building in Central Road Port Macquarie after the conclusion of the ORARC monthly general meetings on the afternoon of the first Saturday of each month except December.

Get Well Soon

Long time club member Barry Gilson VK2LBG is finally back home after almost two months in hospital with a life threatening infection and serious complications. Barry is very appreciative of the concern shown by the members who visited him in hospital and kept the other members regularly informed of his progress. Our collective thoughts were with Barry during his time in hospital and we are all very relieved and pleased that Barry is now back home. We all wish Barry well in his recovery. We look forward to hearing Barry back on the air again.

As mentioned earlier in this report another

one of senior members Richard Court VK2CHC has been diagnosed with a serious condition. He has been undergoing tests which will determine the form that his treatment will take. As a club we all collectively send our thoughts and best wishes for a good outcome to Richard.

I wish all members and their families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

Welcome back to life member Lewis Green VK2AG.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

For Sale

Alisa Brooke has a Weber BBQ for sale from the estate of Bill Brooke VK2ZCW (SK). The BBQ has only been used a



couple of times and is in very good condition and has been kept undercover away from the elements.

The Weber Q comes complete with full gas bottle; cover, tools and the breakfast hot plate.

Asking price is \$200 which is less than a third of the price new.

Please contact Ailsa Brooke by phone (02) 6581

0547 if interested in this fine BBQ.



The ORARC Christmas party will be held this year at a fabulous new venue:

[The Long Point Vineyard & Art Gallery](#)

6 Cooina Place, Lake Cathie
Saturday 2nd Dec, 2017, at 10am.

(Please Note that there will **not** be a December Monthly meeting at this event.)

The Entrance Gate



(Below) The large viewing deck which overlooks the picnic area, has been reserved for our Christmas Get-together. There is one large table with seating, but it might be advisable to bring a chair and a small table if you have one. There is plenty of shade with a covered BBQ, and the toilets are nearby. Members can drive up to the area, unload, then park back under the shade of the trees.

The club will supply the usual BBQ meal, as well as a pre-lunch cheese platter.



AMSAG Car Rally

28 October 2017



We all gathered at the meeting point, did I mention Stuart FSTU was 5 minutes late!, the rally people had organised one of theirs in a ute to drop off our boxes of safety jackets, radios etc and more importantly, the goodies to eat. After a short few words, very unusual I know, we all dispersed to our checkpoints. Glad to report no one got lost, that we know of, OK one person did but I am not saying who it was, eh Bob.



Rob VK2CRF, Larry VK2CLL and Bob VK2BIG gather around the all important supply ute at the briefing point.

Drama after drama before the day began greeted us all. The SES was having a media day at the race course and probably expected some of our members to attend. Then a 2 car head on closing the Dennis bridge meant Bob ZRE and Steve SJJ had to find an alternative route to the Pacific Highway, at the same time because of the accident, the SES would have wanted our people there too.

Stuart FSTU was 5 minutes late at the meeting point, probably because he was following me, no we did not get lost, just caught up in all the re-routed traffic around the Dennis bridge accident, all the highway traffic was going past my street.

Steve VK2JJ and VK2BIG compare notes below left



Steve VK2ZSW admires Stuarts VK2FSTU's safety boots!



Above Mark VK2FMGM, Bruce VK2HOT and John VK2KC prepare to head out to their checkpoint.



Dennis VK2DAM poised and ready for action.

Bob ZRE and Steve SJJ set up at the race START and kept us all informed of details of cars as they left START to compete, they also acted as race CONTROL doing a brilliant job, even if they could not get the gazebo back into its bag, fair dinkum who can't get a gazebo back into the bag it just came out of.

Henry ZHE and Arthur ATM, left home at 0800 heading to the Kew Hotel radio relay point with VK2BOR in tow, where they sent all the race cars time details to rally HQ. Arthur doing a good job of relaying messages around when we were having difficulty talking to one another on the track. I think Henry was asleep in the back of the van but don't tell any I told you. Bit dark on Henry too, he had hamburgers from the pub while I was eating dust. *Ed note: Excellent food at the Kew Hotel!*

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Rob CRF and Stuart FSTU (funny way to spell Stewart) went all the way down to Johns River to copy details from the Kew Hotel crew and pass onto the rally HQ 'experts'. I listened on 70cm from time to time to hear them busy at it, and sending the times through kept them busy too. Stuart held the fort after Rob had to leave just before the end. I hope they got looked after at rally HQ. I heard there was some confusion about where they were supposed to setup, I could have told them where to go!!



The lonely view from Dennis VK2DAM's checkpoint before the cars came hurtling along.



Did someone mention Dust? The view from Bob VK2BIG and Steve VK2ZSW check points.

The rest of us mere mortals went to our designated checkpoints and ate dust while watching the race.



Bob VK2BIG's fully equipment checkpoint; chairs table food and water what more could one want?

A mostly uneventful race with the exception of the zero car, Matt and Josh Love, rolling 2.5 times, both are OK, Matt saying a simple driver error, the Mazda is

not doing so well. My checkpoint would have been excellent but for all the public wandering on the race track and standing in harm's way, we did see many spin outs and one 360 degree turn, I think the driver was uncertain which direction to take, why else would you do a 360?



Spectators safely watching the action plenty dramatic corrections to see without risking life and limb.



Nonchalantly watching the action as a car corrects for the corner!



Hmm must have provided an exciting time for the photographer (heart attack time for Steve VK2ZSW who had warned spectators about getting too close for comfort).

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the rally. Most of us met back at the meeting point to distribute passengers around, like revolving cars, people getting out one car and getting into another all over the place.



Part of the club's rally crew Mark VK2FMGM, Steve VK2ZSW, Bruce VK2HOT, John VK2KC, Larry VK2CLL, Bob BK2ZRE, Bob VK2BIG, Lyle VK2SMI, John VK2AYQ, and Steve VK2SJJ

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I thought everyone had a car these days. Then while we were standing there, sirens from all sorts of rescue vehicles flying down the highway (down is South, isn't it) heading to the unfortunate plane crash between Ross Glenn and Johns River.



Oops a real 180 degree turn before powering off on the low road



Check point 4 showing the almost 180 degree corner. Rally cars entered from the high road to the left and exited via the right hand lower road. This led to a most spectacular viewing corner.



A considerable amount of opposite lock being applied to control the slide around the corner.

Check point 6 was on a high speed corner as can be seen by the photograph below.



Rally fun in a ute



Is that a bomb on your footpath?

The following article was submitted by Dennis VK2DAM.

Dennis regularly walks around the block as part of his health regime. On Dennis's walks he would come across the following structures.



Hmm highly unlikely to be and explosive device!!



Ubiquitous green boxes sprouting on the footpath

Dennis being a curious technical person wondered what these devices did; and conducted some investigation into them.

The rectangular green boxes in fact house the terminations of the NBN fibre to the node cables from the local exchanges. These boxes are powered and will usually be found to be adjacent to a power line or may be connected by a trench. This connections is commonly called Fibre to the Node.

Some NBN customers may in fact have one of these type of boxes on their premises or in the basement, usually called Fibre to the Basement. These are usually associated with businesses or multiple residential units. Some really fortunate people may have a smaller box to their home where telephone and internet services are connected.

The more usual landline connection that most of us have is the Fibre to the Node where the final connection to the home is by the existing copper telephone lines. This is where the bomb on the footpath device is used.

Dennis does quite a bit of walking and one day found one of the bombs without its covering. This is what he found inside: See below. A technician was actually in the process of fixing a fault. The bundles of wires



that can be seen are the terminations of our home two pair telephone lines into the line that goes to the fibre node in the green rectangular box. The connection between the termination and the node may be short or quite tortuous. In fact the impedance of the twin pair telephone lines that

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eventually connects to the landline in a residence is a limiting factor to the maximum speed that internet services can be delivered. In fact some of these lines may go through several junctions in telephone pits or on power cables. Telstra for example has admitted in a recent news update that internet speeds of 100 Mbps are not possible over fibre to the node.

Thanks to Dennis for bringing us this fascinating article sparked by why was observed on a morning walk. Who knows what other interesting technical matters may be unearthed by future walks.

Blast from the Past

This is the section where we look at what was happening in Oxtales in years gone past. It is interesting looking at the November issue of Oxtales from 2007. The information comes from the archived Oxtales collection on the club's website that is maintained by Paul VK2ICQ (<http://www.orarc.org>).



Left: Bago 150 Rally contestant. Digitally captured by Alan (VK2GD SK) just a few seconds before he was engulfed in a cloud of pure, rich-smelling, unfiltered Bago dust, spiced with gravel.



Editor's Note a similar sentiment from the recent AMSAG rally.

Familiar faces above Charles VK2FSH (now VK2KCE) Barry, VK2FBRG (now VK2LBG), Bruce VK2HOT, John VK2KCE (now VK2KC), (Henry VK2ZHE, Arthur VK2ATM, John VK2KHB



The Bago Rally went on into the evening. The crew of the Kendal Showground control centre. David VK2AIF, Arthur VK2ATM, Charles VK2FSH now VK2KCE, Alan VK2GD (SK) and Trevor VK12TT, vacant chair was usually occupied by John VK2AYQ taking picture!



The Club also provided communications for the Beechwood Billy Cart Classic. The above Billy Cart also featured in the 2017 event as per report in this issue of Oxtales. Interesting to note that all photographs were printed in black and white as there was no internet version of Oxtales it was a printed copy only.

The following is the report on the Billy Cart Classic from the November 2007 Oxtales.

Beechwood Billy Cart Classic

This annual charity event was conducted at the usual venue in the main drag of down- town Beechwood, on Sunday 21st October.

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In keeping with the previous arrangements over many past years, the O.R.A.R.C. Inc. membership provided the operators (and their equipment) to cover the various safety points along the route, the public address facilities, and a control station.

The O.R.A.R.C. members who took part were:

*VK2ATM (Arthur)
VK2ZCW (Bill)
VK2AYO (John)
VK2YOR (Roy)
VK2KCE (John)
VK2FSH (Charles)
VK2CHC (Richard)
VK2AIF (David)
VK2VIV (Jim)
VK2TT (Trevor)*

It was pleasing to note that Roy, who was unable to participate in last year's event, due to a stint in hospital, was back in the "hot seat" as Commentary Vehicle operator.

A refreshing aspect of this year's event was to note that our club did not miss out (as in a few previous years) in getting an honourable mention in the media list of supporting organisations that were involved on the day. Whilst our club name was incorrectly reported, it was probably "near enough" to indicate that somebody at least tried to give us some recognition.

Thanks to all members for their participation.

WIA News



WIA submission to the ACMA Interference Management Review
Date : 22 / 09 / 2017

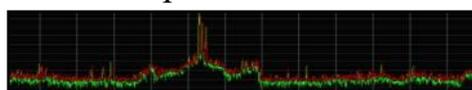
Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is concerned that the risk of interference to amateur communications may be considered low by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), when compared to other radiocommunications or telecommunications services. The WIA makes this point in a submission to the ACMA that is reviewing its Interference Management Principles.

The WIA advocates assurance within the Principles that the move to a market-based approach to interference resolution will not disadvantage the amateur service, or other not-for-profit services. The radio amateur population is widely dispersed with the majority living in urban environments surrounded by a multitude of electronic devices. Any relaxation or breach of the electromagnetic compliance framework, or electromagnetic interference management, would have a very detrimental effect on the low-signal level communications abilities of radio amateurs.

The WIA was disappointed to see the ACMA use the public benefit metric to justify a relaxation in interference Standards recently for BPL/PLT modems. It hopes that this example will not be extended to other recognised potential interference sources such as LED lighting, switch-mode power supplies, inverters, and solar power installations ... or for that matter, Wireless Power Transfer installations for transport applications. The general radiocommunications community has observed that the noise floor across the radiofrequency spectrum is rising due to the proliferation of electronic and electro-technical devices.

The WIA is keen to ensure that the ACMA continue to regulate supply of equipment and pursue spectrum management practices to minimise such pollution.



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WIA board had a busy October meeting

Date : 02 / 11 / 2017

Author : WIA Secretary

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) board of directors had a full agenda in October and made further progress on a number of matters affecting all WIA members.

Most items have background papers that are pre-read by directors before each monthly board meeting

Major discussions concluded were:

- The WIA Radio and Electronics Convention and AGM contact and arrangements
- Dispute Resolution process with an appointment to be made soon
- The WIA membership acceptance now handled by the office under delegation
- Update on the move of AR magazine to 6 issues and updates to contractual arrangements

- And the creation of an operational management team

Each month the board has had a report on finances, and October was no different. Directors reviewed the financial reports including a profit and loss statement. Four directors were to undergo training provided by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

One reported that he had completed all of the four eLearning courses, with three nearing an end to qualify for certificates.

Other matters discussed were:

- The readiness for the end of December audit

- Revitalisation of Committees with some inactive and not responding

- An information paper from the QSL Manager on the WIA QSL Bureaux

- And the Nominated Training Organisation reported on a Field Trial for On Line Remote Examinations involving an Australian citizen overseas

Matters also due to be finalised include a new WIA Regulation Postal Ballot for the Election of Directors, and a review of the meeting and agenda process.

WIA Committees

Vacancies

The following are vacancies are currently open if you would like to volunteer then please register via the seek volunteers website.

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VACANCY

Privacy (& Complaints) Officer Uphold the rights of others

Applications are currently open for a Privacy (& Complaints) Officer. The Privacy (& Complaints) Officer oversees and undertakes all ongoing activities related to the development, implementation, maintenance of, and adherence to the WIA's policies and procedures covering the privacy of, and access to, personal information and complaints in compliance with federal and state laws.

Your assistance will be key in assisting the Wireless Institute of Australia board to manage the organisations compliance with its privacy obligations. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone wanting to gain experience within a compliance leadership role.

VACANCY

Strategy Committee

Applications are currently open for five members to join the newly formed WIA Strategy Committee. The Committee has been formed to:

Develop and recommend strategic goals of the WIA.

Provide advice that will strengthen the WIA's core competencies.

Identify investment opportunities and decision-making procedures that will enhance the benefit and quality of significant WIA investment decisions.

Being a member of the WIA's Strategy Committee is a significant opportunity to gain experience in formulating an organisa-

tional strategy. Your involvement will have an immediate, and long term, impact on an organisation with approximately 4,000 members.



Acknowledgement WIA information from the WIA Website (wia.org.au).

Equipment from the Past

In this section we look at radio equipment from previous years. This month a very interesting general coverage receiver from the Hammarlund Company.

The Hammarlund HQ100A Receiver



The Hammarlund Company was founded in 1910 by Oscar Hammarlund, an electrical engineer from Sweden. In the 1950s, the company was sold to Telechrome, who later sold it to the Giannini Scientific Company. It was sold again in the late 1960s to the Electronic Assistance Corporation (EAC), who owned it until the early 1970s when they closed the company and sold off the remaining equipment to The Cardwell Condenser Corporation.

The HQ100AC was introduced in 1962. It was the least expensive communications
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receiver in the Hammarlund line. The HQ100C was the successor to the HQ100, which was introduced in 1957. Both were general coverage receivers that tuned from .54 to 30MHz. The major difference between the two receivers was that the 100A had a true BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator) circuit for receiving CW and SSB. The HQ100 drove its Q-multiplier into regeneration for its BFO.

The Telechron clock/timer displays 24-hour time. The timer was used, according to "turn on the receiver ahead of anticipated operating time" so that it would be stable and at "a predetermined operating temperature." The radio drifted when cold, so a warm-up period helped frequency stability.

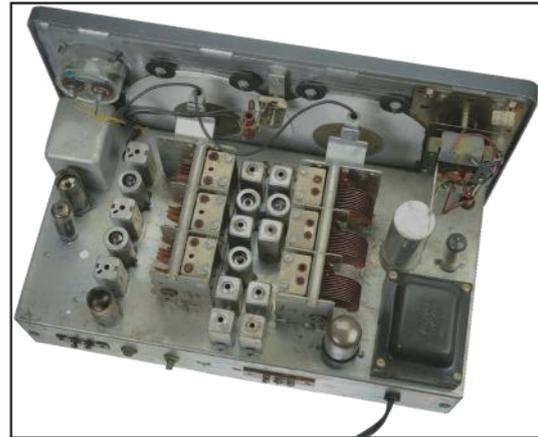
The HQ100AC was a single conversion, fourband, superheterodyne receiver that used 10 vacuum tubes. The IF frequency was 455 kHz.

The receiver had a noise limiter, AVC (Automatic Volume Control) circuit that Q-multiplier (a type of active band-pass filter), and a stable BFO. The power supply uses a 5Y3 rectifier and OB2 voltage regulator tubes for the B+. It has rear connections for an external antenna and a headphone jack.

Tuning was achieved using two large, black, fluted tuning knobs: MAIN TUNING and BAND SPREAD. Small flywheels attached to each tuning knob give them a 'feel'. A dial cord connected to each tuning knob turns both the tuning dials and the variable capacitors that use copper plates.

The MAIN TUNING dial and the BAND SPREAD tuning dials were translucent, light gray plastic illuminated by small incandescent lamps making it easy to see them through the two arched viewing windows. Band spread tuning was used to obtain a more spread out tuning range on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. In addition, there was a special "20BS" setting for 20 meter band spread.

The internal view shows the net layout and the number of valves.



An interesting version of this receiver also was built with the ability to transmit with 5 watts on the CB band. The rear panel had an access point where a single CB crystal could be inserted to enable transmission on AM CB.

Acknowledgements:

Shortwave Receivers - Past & Present (3rd ed.)
Otto Frosinn web page.
QST June 2014

The logo for Jaycar Electronics features the brand name in a stylized white font on a blue background. Below the logo is a red banner with the slogan "Better. More Technical" in white. At the bottom, the address "7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie" and phone number "Ph. (02) 6581 4476" are listed in red text on a white background.

Jaycar
Electronics
Better. More Technical
7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie
Ph. (02) 6581 4476

Reminder to order your copy of the 2018 call book from club president, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE vk2zhe@orarc.org approximate price \$25.

Reminder Club's Christmas party on Saturday 2 December at the Long Point Vineyard and Gallery see directions on page 14.