



# 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

ORARC's Forty-second Anniversary Year

## Club Nets on VK2RPM

146.700MHz

(CTCSS 91.5Hz)

Every Sunday at 0830

Every Thursday at 1930

## July 2013

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534

VICE PRES: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583.8360

TREASURER: Keith Anderson VKFKJA 6586.3988

SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534

### President's Report

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President



The ORARC 2013 Field Day was a great success over Saturday and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of the June 2013 over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Not only was the Field Day a great success, it was definitely our best Field Day for many years, both from an enjoyment point of view, and from a financial point of view, as evidenced by the smile on the face of Treasurer Keith Anderson VK2FKJA.

The many visitors who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and many reported that they had already booked accommodation for next year. As well as the regular contingent from Sydney and environs, this year a large Newcastle group from the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list also includes home towns such as Umina Beach, Woy Woy, Lemon Tree Passage, Booral, Forster, Taree, Wingham, Coopernook, Moorland, Kempsey, Grassy Head, Bellingen, Thora, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Lismore, Brisbane, Guyra, Werris Creek, Canberra, and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular.

(Continued page3)

## 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

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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Don't forget to join  
or renew your WIA  
membership.

<http://www.wia.org.au/>



## **Down The Coax**

**Monthly meetings held in the S.E.S. Building Central Road,  
Port Macquarie.**

**Monthly Meeting  
Saturday 6 July 2013 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 19 July 2013 7.00 pm**

**Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 3 August 2013 2:00 pm**

**Monthly Meeting Saturday 3 August**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 16 August 2013 7.00 pm**

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 17 and 18  
August 2013. VK2BOR at Lighthouse Saturday afternoon  
then to VK2ZHE QTH**

**Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 7 September 2013 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Gettogether  
Friday 20 September 2013**

**56th Jamboree On The Air  
19 and 20 October 2013**

## **Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz**

**Sundays  
(0830 Local)**

**Thursdays  
(1930 Local)**

### **July 2013**

VK2CHC	July - 07	VK2ZHE	July - 04
VK2TT	July - 14	VK2EM	July - 11
VK2CHC	July - 21	VK2ZHE	July - 18
VK2TT	July - 28	VK2EM	July - 25

### **August 2013**

VK2CHC	Aug - 04	VK2ZHE	Aug - 01
VK2TT	Aug - 11	VK2EM	Aug - 08
VK2CHC	Aug - 18	VK2ZHE	Aug - 15
VK2TT	Aug - 25	VK2EM	Aug - 22
		VK2ZHE	Aug - 29

### **September 2013**

VK2CHC	Sep - 01	VK2EM	Sep - 05
VK2TT	Sep - 08	VK2ZHE	Sep - 12
VKCHC	Sep - 15	VK2EM	Sep - 19
VK2TT	Sep - 22	VKZHE	Sep - 26
VK2CHC	Sep - 29		

**Email Directory continued**

(from page 1)

Thank you to everyone who attended. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year.

The Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall in Matthew Flinders Drive again proved to be a great venue with plenty of room in the hall and no parking problems. This year the weather was fine throughout the two days of activities although it did lightly rain very briefly on the Saturday morning.

The Field Day certainly broke all records for the amount of disposals equipment. The photographs of the inside of the hall tell the story! The Neil Sandford VK2EI deceased estate items weighed in at over 2 tons! The Alan Nutt VK2GD deceased estate items weighed in somewhat less but still occupied several tables. By the time members and visitors added their disposals items the hall was a sea of tables making it a bargain hunter's Mecca. Just as well the perimeter tables were quarantined for the traders to add their goods! Many people reported sensory overload! There was still room for the Homebrew display which was also sported a record number of entries.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with many complimentary comments regarding the venue and the excellent catering together with the strong support from the traders who attended. No-one went hungry and lots of people found great bargains from the traders who had brought stock in especially for the Field Day. The bargains from the disposals tables were legendary. Everyone went home with at least something. Many people did say that they wished that they had brought larger vehicles to the event!

The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular with a record 75 people enjoying good food and a pleasant social evening. The numbers exceed the booking that ORARC had made but the Golf Club rose to the occasion by bringing out extra tables for another party booking so that the Field Day diners could all sit together. Next year we will book more tables! Official Field day photographer David Newey VK2DFN worked overtime to cover all the tables. Yes, there are photos of everyone. Of course it's not possible to include them all in this issue of Oxtales but David's extensive photo gallery is available on line at

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/109457090511514177529/109457090511514177529/posts>

There are 24 photos taken at the Field Day Dinner so you are sure to find yourself there. Over the weekend David took 403 photographs which occupy 859 MB! Well done David. Thank you for a great record of the weekend.

*One of David's many photographs of the Dinner*



This year yet another record was broken. The number and quality of items entered in the Homebrew display was an all-time high. Gary Ryan VK2ZKT displayed a range of very professionally home built accessories and test equipment. Bruce Ekert VK2EM brought along two home made loop antennas, one for HF, and one for 6 metres. He set these up on the balcony to demonstrate his very compact battery powered QRP portable station. This created a great deal of interest. The disposals tables were searched for suitable variable tuning capacitors by numerous amateurs inspired to build their own loop antennas! David Pilley VK2AYD displayed his 40 metre CW QRP equipment. Paul Webster VK2BZC displayed his Arduino and Raspberry Pi digital projects. As Paul's accompanying documentation explained; the "brewing" is in the development of the software. The judges were faced with the very difficult task of selecting a winner. Paul's display was declared the winner with all the other entries being highly commended. It is very pleasing to see home brewing alive and well. Next year there will be more table space provided for an expected even larger number of entries. Paul will be invited to present a lecture at a forthcoming club meeting to share his knowledge and to inspire others to put the Arduino and Raspberry Pi platforms to work. A number of prospective home brewers were noted conspiring to purchase one or both of these platforms which are available at very affordable prices.

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*(from page 3)*

Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was even more intense than usual. The transmitters hidden by foxes Brian Linsley VK2BI and John Winchester VK2FGAA sent the hounds searching in perfect conditions. Stalwart fox Larry Lindsay VK2CLL was very sad to have to miss his first Field Day in several decades. He had a good excuse though with the birth of a new grand daughter. Thank you to John Winchester VK2FGAA for stepping into the breach. Congratulations to Fox Hunt champion Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach, and to Runner-up champion Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby. Top hunters Craig VK2ZCM, Chris VK2YMW, Ashley VK2XSO and Jeff VK2BYY all have their names engraved on the perpetual trophy as Fox Hunt Champion in previous years and are always keen to again see their names engraved on those little shields added to the trophy each year. This year Jeff VK2BYY prevailed. Keen hunters Gerald Hill VK2IO and Rodney Sommerville VK2TI who won individual hunts this year are just as keen to see their names on those little shields! We can expect some spirited competition at next year's Field Day.

Thanks to many generous donations the raffle and lucky door prizes were of a very high standard. Raffle first prize winner Brian Linsley VK2BI took home the much coveted Digitech PLL all band AM/FM/SSB portable receiver donated by Jaycar Port Macquarie. John Winchester VK2FGAA who was assisting Brian in hiding the Foxhunt transmitters took home the second prize of a pair of high quality Blaupunkt DJ112 headphones donated by Radio Supply of Bellingen. Lady Luck obviously rewards working hard running Field Day activities as third prize of a cordless drill donated by VK4ICE Communications went to Steven Hadfield VK2KK. Sixth prize winner Bill Brooke VK2ZCW added the WIA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mug donated by Amateur Radio NSW to his collection. These mugs are becoming scarce and are now a collectors' item.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of a Baofeng UV5R VHF/UHF 2metre/70 centimetre FM hand held transceiver went to an overjoyed John Bishop VK2ZOI. You could hear a pin drop when that draw took place! Leonie McGuinness VK2FHRK took home the second prize 56 piece screwdriver set. Third prize winner Richard Barlow VK2FRJB won the WIA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mug donated by Amateur Radio NSW.

The Lucky Door first prize of a Quality Street Sweet Assortment for those without Callsigns was won by Coralie Dawson. Second prize of a chocolate block went to Helen Williams. Third prize winner Sue Boyd who was celebrating her birthday. Ever discrete the magnitude of the birthday is a well guarded secret!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but it would be remiss of me to not mention the hard working volunteers who kept us so well fed throughout the weekend. Barbeque master chefs Barry Gilson VK2FBRG and Richard Court VK2CHC and their helpers under the watchful eye of kitchen manager John Bailey VK2KHB all deserve special mention for producing a never ending supply of delicious hot food. The generosity of the benefactors who so kindly donated all the prizes and most of the food is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desks at the entrance to the hall. Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Saturday and then packed everything up and vacuumed the carpet on Sunday afternoon. Finally, thank you everyone who attended the Field Day.

We are particularly indebted to major traders Radio Supply of Bellingen and VK4ICE Communications from Brisbane. Thank you also to the other traders and exhibitors, John Alcorn VK2JWA, Amateur Radio NSW, and ALARA (Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association).

A full report on the Field day appears in this issue of Oxtales, and is complete with an extensive picture gallery and a complete listing of prize and trophy winners.

The 2014 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be held at the same venue as this year's Field Day, the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall. The dates are Saturday and Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June of the 2014 Queens Birthday Holiday long weekend.

Education continues to be a very important function of our club and WIA Assessors Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Ross Boyd VK2RR have been busy. The Friday night Standard Licence classes are still in progress. Congratulations to Paul Colledge VK2FPBC,

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Thomas Rae VK2FORT and Alex Dorahy VK2FOAB who recently passed the Standard Licence theory and regulations and are now awaiting their new call signs. The Friday night classes will also cover the theory for the Advanced Licence. There are already several students for this class. Training and Assessments for the Foundation Licence will be run over a weekend very soon as there are several candidates waiting. If you know of anyone who would like to obtain their Foundation Licence, or would like to upgrade, please contact the club's Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CCL.

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th August 2013 will be a busy one. This year both the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) and the Remembrance Day Contest (RD Contest) coincide and fall on this weekend.

The club's communications caravan will be at the Tacking Point Lighthouse during daylight hours and club station VK2BOR will operate in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. Come along and support this operation. Again as usual there will be a free hot dog lunch with biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks provided in the caravan.

The 2013 Remembrance Day contest commences at 1pm local time on afternoon of Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. During the Saturday afternoon club station VK2BOR will operate in both International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day contest from the Tacking Point Lighthouse. At about 4pm the club communications caravan will be moved to the QTH of VK2ZHE and VK2BOR will continue to operate in the RD contest on Saturday night and on Sunday until the conclusion of the contest at 1pm local time on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. On the Saturday evening the barbeque will be lit and a barbequed sausage and steak evening meal will be provided. Operation will continue until late in the evening. Operation will recommence on Sunday morning with a barbequed bacon and egg sandwich breakfast. Sunday lunch will be a sausage sizzle at noon to maintain stamina until the conclusion of the contest at 1pm on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. The contest runs for 24 hours, hence with the earlier starting time the finishing time is also earlier than in previous years. The rules have been simplified and contacts may now be made with stations in the same call area. The incentive of

double points per contacts on 160 metres remains. See the WIA web site <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/> for details. Everyone is invited. There is no charge for the food which includes biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Finally, a gentle reminder that the club's Annual General Meeting will be held in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie at 2pm on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2013. The notice of this meeting, and the agenda appear in this month's Oxtales. All positions fall vacant at the AGM. Please consider nominating for one of the positions to help run the club. Your club needs you and your expertise! Note the Notices of Motions from the Committee in the agenda. The AGM must ratify the previously announced \$5 increase in the annual subscription rate for Ordinary and Family Membership commencing on 1 July 2013. Note that the rates for Distant and Associate membership grades remain the same as in previous years. We look forward to Jim Daniel VK2FJKD being awarded Life Membership in his 85<sup>th</sup> year. There will be a short August Monthly General Meeting immediately at the conclusion of the AGM.

Don't forget that membership subscriptions became due on the first of July 2013. You must be financial in order to vote at the AGM. There has been an excellent rate of renewals already paid in response to the subscription invoices which Treasurer Keith Anderson VK2FKJA recently sent out. If you are not able to do a direct deposit into the club's Holiday Coast Credit Union Account or pay the in person, please mail your payment to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444. President Henry Lundell VK2ZHE will be accepting payments in person at the July and August Monthly General Meetings, and at the Friday night get together on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. Ordinary membership is only \$40 per annum and distant membership is a mere \$10 per annum.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President



## ORAC Field Day 2013 Trophy Winners

Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerald Hill	Castle Hill
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2TI	Rodney Sommerville	Marsfield
Saturday 2 Metre Talk in Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Saturday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerald Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2XSO	Ashley Anderson	Kootingal
<b>Fox Hunt Champion</b>	<b>VK2BYY</b>	<b>Jeff Pages</b>	<b>Umina Beach</b>
Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
<b>Best Presented Amateur Vehicle</b>	<b>VK2YMW</b>	<b>Chris Williams</b>	<b>Hornsby</b>
<b>Best Home Brew Display</b>	<b>VK2BZC</b>	<b>Paul Webster</b>	<b>Port Macquarie</b>

## ORAC Field Day 2013 Prize Winners 2013

### Major Raffle

1st Prize	Digitech Portable Synthesised radio Receiver AM,, BC, Short wave AM/SSB, VHF BC, VHF Airband	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2BI	Brian Linsley	Booral
2nd Prize	Blaupunkt DJ112 Headphones	Radio Supply Bellingen	VK2GAA	John Winchester	Port Macquarie
3rd Prize	12 Volt Cordless Drill	VK4ICE Communication	VK2KK	Steve Hadfield	Port Macquarie
4th Prize	Xlogic 40 Channel UHF CB hand held pair	VK2ZHE	VK2FBRG	Barry Gilson	Port Macquarie
5th Prize	Digitech AM?FM LCD Alarm Clock Radio	VK2ZHE	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie
6th Prize	WIA Anniversary Mug	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2CCW	Bill Brooke	Port Macquarie
7th Prize	Omni Telephone Caller ID Display	VK2ZHE	VK2ATM	Arthur Mock	Port Macquarie
8th Prize	Bendao Tools Portable Vice	VK4ICE Communication	VK2XOF	Mark Blackmore	Sydney
9th Prize	Cadbury Dairly Milk Chocolate	VK2ZHE	VK1ZRE	Bob Ecclestone	Canberra
10 Prize	Jaycar Stubby Holder, magnifier and Carry Bag	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie

### Callsign Lucky Door

1st	Baofeng VHF UHF 2 Metre/70 CM handheld Transciever	VK4ICE Com-munications	VK2ZOI	John Bishop	Hornsby
2nd	SCA 56 Piece Screwdriver Set	VK2ZHE	VK2FRJK	Leonie	
3rd	WIA 100th Anniversary Mug	Amateur Radio NSW	VKFRJB	Richard Barlow	Bellingen
4th	Seilex analog Quartz Watch	VK2ZHE	VK2HCW	Colin Irving	Kempsey
5th	Electromechanical Pack	VK4ICE	VK2BI	Brian Linsley	Booral
6th	Hex Key Set	VK4ICE	VK2MAZ	Grant Snowden	Kempsey
7th	English Blazer Aftershave Set	VK2ZHE	VK2FIFA	George Lawrence	
8th	Cadbury Dairly Milk Chocolate	VK2ZHE	VK2RR	Ross Boyd	Lake Cathie
9th	Jaycar Stubby Holder and carry bag	Jaycar	VK2FIFA	George Lawrence	Bonville
10th	Jaycar Stubby Holder and carry bag	Jaycar	VK2TT	Trevor Thatcher	Wauchope

### Lucky Door Non Call Sign

1st	Quality Street Assortments	VK2ZHE	Coralie Dawson	Port Macquarie
2nd	Cadbury Dairy Milk	VK2ZHE	Helen Williams	Hornsby
3rd	Cadbury Dairy Milk	VK2ZHE	Sue Boyd	Lake Cathie
4th	Jaycar Stubby Holder	Jaycar	Jenny Macnaughton	Dorrigo

**ORAC Field Day 2013**  
**A story in pictures.**  
**Photography by David Newey VK2DFN**

The Field Day dinner at the Golf Club was a great success, plenty of good food and company. How many people can you recognise?



The venue Tacking Point Surf Club provided a great setting and look at that view.



The disposal area of the hall was a club record and there was something for everyone. More than 2 tonnes of equipment.

Who could resist the search for bargain. One never knows what could be lurking at the bottom of the trailer!



Trade Displays for everyone to browse.

Potential new young member?





## ORAC Field Day 2013



VK4ICE with a large display ready for business.

VK2JWA and Radio Supply table at left and disposals table in centre..



Paul VK2DEL talks business with John VK2KC at left



Grant VK2MAX offers advice about the disposal equipment



Bill VK2ZCV casts a critical eye over a potential purchase



ALARA came to the Field Day with a an extensive display of its operations. Dot VK2DB in the red below.





**OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.**

**Notice of 2013 Annual General Meeting**

**2pm Saturday 3 August 2013**

**SES Building, Central Rd, Port Macquarie NSW**

Members are hereby notified that the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club (ORARC) will be held at 2pm on Saturday 3 August 2013 in the SES Building, Central Rd, Port Macquarie NSW.

All members are cordially invited to attend the AGM and the August 2013 Monthly General Meeting which will be held immediately after the AGM is closed.

The agenda for the AGM is included in this notice.

The election of office-bearers, Committee members, officers and appointments will be conducted at the AGM.

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.

# Agenda for the ORARC Annual General Meeting to be held at 2pm on 3rd August 2013 in SES Building Central Road Port Macquarie.

Meeting Opened at        hours with President Henry Lundell VK2ZHE in the chair

Members Present:

Visitors:

Apologies:    Moved        Seconded        "That the apologies be accepted" Carried/lost

Minutes of Previous AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012 – Moved        Seconded        "That the minutes of the AGM be accepted as read" Carried/lost

Matters arising from Previous Minutes:

Appointment of Returning Officer: Moved        Seconded        "That        be appointed as Returning Officer for the election of office bearers" Carried/lost

Outgoing President Henry VK2ZHE then declares all positions Vacant and call on        to take the chair for the elections.

Election of Office Bearers & Appointments: (Nominations to be called from floor where nominations not received)  
Office Bearer    Nomination        Moved By        Seconded By

President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Committee Member 1:

Committee Member 2:

Committee Member 3:

Public Officer:

Repeater Chairman:

Oxtales Editor:

Oxtales Co-Editor:

VK2BOR Station Mgr:

Welfare Officer:

Publicity Officer:

Education Officer:

Club Historian:

Social Director:

WIA Liaison Delegate:

Member Liaison Officer:

Webmaster:

President elect to assume chair after election of the Executive Committee.

Reports –

Treasurer's report:        Moved        Seconded        "That the financial report be accepted" Carried/lost

President's Report:

Education Officer: Larry VK2CLL –

Any other reports:

Notices of motion from the Committee:

**Membership Subscription: Notice of motion from the Committee:**

*"That from 1 July 2013 the annual membership subscription rate for Ordinary Membership shall be \$40.00 per annum, Family Membership shall be \$40.00 per annum, Associate Membership shall be \$20.00 per annum, and Distant Membership shall be \$10.00 per annum."* **Seconded**        Carried/lost

**Life Membership: Notice of motion from the Committee:**

*"That Life Membership be granted to Allan Madigan VK2OA and Jim Daniel VK2FJKD"* **Seconded**        Carried/lost

**Banking Arrangements: Notice of motion from the Committee:**

*"That the next 12 months the account remains with the Holiday Coast Credit Union and signatures changed to allow any two of the following members; President, Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer to be empowered to countersign cheques as per the clubs constitution. Any previous office bearers not elected to those positions are to be removed as a signatory of all banking accounts as soon as possible".* **Seconded:**        Carried/lost

General Business

Meeting Closed at:        hours

**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 Secunder.....**

**Signature.....**

**Nominee's Agreement:** I accept the nomination for the above position

**Signature.....**



**This page intentionally left blank to enable the  
AGM nomination form to be taken out without  
losing Oxtales material.**

## ORAC Field Day 2013

Registration The front Line. Coralie Dawson  
Fay Gilson and David VK2FRAB.



Hunters waiting to be unleashed Jeff  
VK2BYY, Rodney VK2TI, Ashley  
VK2XSO and Gerald VK2IO. Under starter  
Bruce VK2HOT



There is always room for one more antenna Ashley  
VK2XSO.



I prefer to hunt with my trusty steed. Chris  
VK2YMW

Whilst VK2BYY goes barefoot on the chase



Fox hunting either by on foot or by car was a popular event.

The fox awaiting discovery's Cleverly hidden by  
Brian VK2BI and John  
VK2FGAA.



Bruce VK2EM and Trevor VK2TT discuss a  
home brew antenna loop.

Paul, VK2BZC Raspberry Pi home brew





## ORAC Field Day 2013

Field Days provide an opportunity to share and explore set ups and experiments and to demonstrate equipment and services.

Intense concentration as Ashley VK2XSO makes the connection with screw driver in hand.

Bill VK2ZCW and Lewis VK2AG discuss the finer points of operating.



A case of many hands make light work? Ashley VK2XSO and Arthur VK2ATM assemble the project.



A set up with a view. The Tacking Point Surf Live Saving Club provide a picturesque venue for displays.



Loop antenna display by Bruce VK2EM

Bruce VK2EM shows Trevor VK2TT proof that it really does work



Henry VK2ZHE organises the prizes for the major raffles.



## ORAC Field Day 2013

Field days also provide an opportunity to win prizes for competitions and raffles.



Henry VK2ZHE presenting Chris VK2YMW with the trophy for Best Presented Amateur Vehicle.

Major raffle prize Henry VK2ZHE presenting Brian VK2BI with the Digitech Portable Synthesised radio receiver donated by Jaycar. Pam Linsley accepting on behalf of OM Brian VK2BI who was out hiding the foxes.

Jeff VK2BYY and Kevin VK2CKD with their Trophies, Perpetual Fox Hunt Champion and Jeff's 2013 Fox Hunt Champion Trophy.



Paul VK2BZC receiving his Best Home Brew Display Trophy



Rodney VKTI with 80 metre Pedestrian Trophy.



Helen Williams with her Lucky Door chocolate prize.



Above Arthur VK2ATM with raffle prize  
Left Coralie Dawson with her Lucky Door prize.





## ORAC Field Day 2013

A table full of trophies to be won.



Gerald VK2IO with the 2 metre mobile Fox Hunt Trophy

Ashley VK2XSO with his 2 metre pedestrian Fox Hunt Trophy



Sue Boyd celebrates her Birthday with her Lucky Door chocolate prize with Bruce VK2HOT and Henry VK2ZHE



Prospective Foundation Licence candidate Jenny MacNaughton XYL of David VK2BA





## Communications from the Past

Telstra recently had an exhibition of communications equipment from the past on display at Port Macquarie Library.

Trevor VK2TT was on hand to tell a few stories of his experiences in the communications industry.

Article printed in Port News Wednesday 3 July 2013.



Listen up: Italia Crisafi and her sister Siena try out phones from the past.

Pic: NIGEL McNEIL

## Trevor recalls yesteryear

Lisa Tisdell

TELEGRAMS were cutting edge communication in the 1940s and Wauchope's Trevor Thatcher was in the thick of the action as a telegram messenger.

He started the job with the then PMG in 1942. The job involved delivering telegrams on a bike, sweeping the post office floor and doubling as a postman in the town of Yass.

"Sadly, during the war there were a lot of death notices and then we usually were accompanied by the postmaster and a minister of religion," Mr Thatcher said.

Telegram correspondence came in all forms from happy birthday messages to best wishes.

The 87-year-old said telegrams were the only form of reasonably speedy communication back then.

"The post was pretty good but not to the same speed as a telegram," he said.

Mr Thatcher, who was encouraged to learn morse code, went on to join the airforce and then the Overseas Telecommunications Commission which became part of Telstra.

He reflected on the history of telecommunications yesterday when a Telstra display was on show at Port Macquarie Library.

The display included a candlestick phone from the early 1900s, the ultra-modern touch phone of the 1960s and one of the earliest suitcase sized mobile phones on the market.

Telecommunications historian Murray Rasmussen encouraged visitors to share stories, information, photographs and history about the early days of telecommunication in



Looking back: Trevor Thatcher demonstrates use of morse code technology at Port Macquarie library yesterday.

the region.

"A lot of the major developments in telecommunications have happened in our lifetimes so there is much to be shared by getting out and talking to people," he said.

Port Macquarie is the second stop of a regional NSW tour.

The information collected on the tour will help telecommunication historians add to the public collection at Telstra's history museums in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

## Apollo11 – Canberra's vital role

When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Lunar surface It was called the "defining moment of the 20th century".

It is not very well known that those first fuzzy images were sent to the world from here in the ACT,

In this centenary year it seems appropriate that we should be celebrating what some might describe as Canberra's finest hour! So we will have a 2 Day event and reunion to be held near the lake at Questacon in July – the event will be called "Apollo11-Canberra's vital role". You will be able to:

**LOOK** – At displays of memorabilia from 1969 – many of the items have not been displayed before.

**LISTEN** – To 5 talks given by Apollo veterans and others – see <http://tinyurl.com/apollofest2> for a detailed schedule.

**TALK** – To those who were there. Catch up with your friends from 44 years ago.

**WATCH** – A total of 6 movies with a mostly Australian and Apollo flavour.

**ENJOY** – Continuous Videos and 7 shows by "The Excited Particles" Questacon's own theatre troop for the younger audience. \*\*

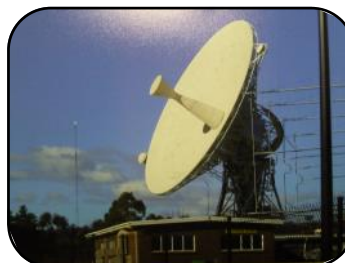
**WHERE** Questacon  
(<http://canberra.questacon.edu.au>)

**WHEN** – Sat 20th July and Sun 21st July 2013

So please spread the word around - there will be an official Questacon poster towards the end of next week and remember this is also a reunion for all those who have worked (or are still working) in the Australian tracking stations, and for Apollo enthusiasts.

So "pencil us in" and we hope to see you there {:-)}

From Bruce Ekert VK2EM





## High Altitude Balloon from Bendigo

From: VK2FKJA  
To: VK2ZCV  
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 9:22 PM  
Subject: Fw: [OZAPRS] High altitude balloon with image payload - Saturday 6th July

On 1/07/2013 9:11:11 PM, Andy%20Nguyen%20%28an%40comms.net.au%29 wrote:

Hi all,

FYI, our project team is planning to release a high altitude balloon from Bendigo this coming Saturday 6th July 2013 at 11am.

We will have an onboard camera sending images back via SSDV (<http://ukhas.org.uk/guides:ssdv>), which is basically broken up JPEG with some extra headers. RTTY will be used for radio transmission.

We do not expect to recover the balloon, and will appreciate any assistance with getting data from the payload along the path, in Victoria, Southern NSW, ACT, and Tas. See attached expected path.

All you need is a radio capable of receiving SSB at 434.650MHz, and a Mac/Windows/Linux computer with sound card input and access to the internet. High gain antenna is highly desirable.

See instructions at:  
<http://projectspaceballoon.net/ssd/>

The other details are:  
Frequency 434.650Mhz (+-10Khz), USB  
RTTY with 460Hz shift, 300 baud, 8 bit ASCII, no parity, one stop bit.  
Hardware is a Rev A Raspberry Pi, with a 25mW UHF transmitter module.

Antenna is a quarter-wave with radials.  
Expected "cruising" altitude is 20km.

You will be able to see the images on your computer if you can receive the RF signal directly.

## E Waste Disposal

From: David Pilley VK2AYD

Something of interest !

E-WASTE  
Want to get rid of that old 486 computer and monitor ?  
Port Macquarie Hastings Council has opened its various "Tips" for free for the disposal of

T.V.'s ,Computers, Towers, Key Boards and Mouse Faxes and Printers and Laptops.

This program will run for 12 months.

There are four disposal sites in the area. Cairncross, Kingfisher Road, Wauchope and Dunbogan.

**They will NOT accept**

**Broken/smashed TV's**

**VCR's DVD Players, Gaming consoles or hi-fi equipment**

**Appliances/microwaves**

**And other electrical equipment.**

So now is the time to clear out the shack, shed and workshop. Be aware it's only for a year, then you have to pay..!

## Tower Disposal

The following message was sent to John VK2KC

I was wondering if any club member may suggest, or even be interested in a structure, I call it a tower at 42 Buller Street, Port Macquarie.


Unfortunately I don't have a clear photo at this stage the structure is taller than the building and is located between the building and side fence of the property.

Regards,  
Virginia King

If any club member is interested in following this up please contact Henry, VK2ZHE, John VK2KC or John VK2AYQ for Virginia's telephone number.

## Blast from the Past


The following three advertisements were found on the back of the April 1996 Oxtales. They are the business cards of three of our well known members.



### LIGHTHOUSE

### TELEVIDEO SERVICES

- ★ ANTENNAS
- ★ T.V. & VIDEO
- ★ CAMCORDERS
- ★ AUDIO
- ★ MICROWAVES
- ★ P.A. SYSTEMS



PROPRIETOR


Shop 5,  
Cnr Watonga & Bourne Streets  
Port Macquarie N.S.W. 2444

Ph: (065) 82 1227

Can you guess which of our members were the principals and proprietors of the businesses and what are their call signs?




How different from the portable radios of today. I found this Old Ferris Portable Car Radio and the 1936 portable valve radio on display in the Kangaroo Island Museum



COMPUTER

## JVC PHILIPS

TV & Video Sales & Service




**Radio & Electrical Service**

27 Park Street P O Box 809  
Port Macquarie Port Macquarie  
NSW 2444 NSW 2444  
Tel (065) 83 1311

### HASTINGS RIVER

### BRAKE & EXHAUST

BRAKE, EXHAUST & SPARE PARTS SPECIALISTS



Manager

Unit 1, 6 Albert Circuit  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Phone 065 83 7400  
Fax 065 83 4341  
A/H 065 84 1998

## Vale Patricia Edmondson 9<sup>th</sup> July 1932 – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013

It is with deep sadness that we report that Patricia Edmondson passed away on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2013. All members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and their families join in extending sincere condolences to Charles Edmondson VK2KCE and family on their sad loss.

A large number of ORARC members and their partners attended the funeral service for Pat on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2013 in the Chapel at the Innes Gardens Memorial Park, Port Macquarie. Charles spoke lovingly of his happy and fulfilling 32 year marriage to Pat. Her long service to Probus and her significant contribution with Charles to the activities of the National Servicemen's Association since its inception were recognised. There was a large representation of members of both organisations at the service.

Members of the National Servicemen's Association formed a Guard of Honour for the final journey to the Lawn Cemetery.

Contributed by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

## Membership Fees are now Due

**Please note members must be financial to take part in the Annual General Meeting on August 3 2013**