



OXTALES

First published 1980

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Sundays
(during EADST at 0900)
(during EAST at 0830)
Every Thursday at 1930

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>

ORARC's Forty-fifth Anniversary Year

September 2016

Compiled by VK2AYQ & VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell	VK2ZHE	6582 0534
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge	VK2ICQ	6584 6872
TREASURER: Larry Lindsay	VK2CLL	6587 1155
SECRETARY: Jim Neil	VK2VIV	6581 2481

President's Report

AGM

At the AGM in August this year it was particularly pleasing to see a few new faces amongst those elected. Congratulations to all the office bearers elected at the meeting. Thank you to Returning Officer David Harding VK2AIF for taking the chair and conducting the election. I am honoured to have been elected President and Public Officer for the 2016 – 2017 year. Congratulations to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ on being elected Vice President. Thank you to Jim Neil VK2VIV for taking on the very important position of Secretary. Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for continuing as Treasurer. Welcome to new Committee members Steve Wynn VK2ZSW and Dennis Meade VK2DAM who joined Arthur Monck VK2ATM to fill the three Committee positions.



Thank you to outgoing President Lyle Smith VK2SMI for his dedicated stewardship over the last two years which has vitalized the club and set a high standard for the
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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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Please make sure that outstanding membership fees are paid to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

Down The Coax

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

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 September 2016 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 16 September 2016 7.00 pm

Manly Warringah Flag Pole Contest
Saturday 17 September 2016 – 10:00 am

WESTLAKES FIELD DAY
Sunday 18 September 2016
York Street Teralba

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 October 2016 2:00 pm

Sat & Sun 15 and 16 October 2016
59th Jamboree On The Air
Port Macquarie & Wauchope

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 October 2016 7.00 pm

37th Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 23 October 2016

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 November 2016 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 November 2016 7.00 pm

ORARC Christmas Party
And Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 December 2016

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 AEST)

Thursdays
(1930 AEST)

September 2016

VK2FMGM	Sep - 04	VK2ICQ	Sep - 01
VK2CHC	Sep - 11	VK2EM	Sep - 08
VK2TT	Sep - 18	VK2ZHE	Sep - 15
VK2FMGM	Sep - 25	VK2ICQ	Sep - 22
		VK2EM	Sep - 29

October 2016

VK2CHC	Oct - 02	VK2ZHE	Oct - 06
VK2TT	Oct - 09	VK2ICQ	Oct - 13
VK2FMGM	Oct - 16	VK2EM	Oct - 20
VK2CHC	Oct - 23	VK2ZHE	Oct - 27
VK2TT	Oct - 30		

November 2016

VK2FMGM	Nov - 06	VK2ICQ	Nov - 03
VK2CHC	Nov - 13	VK2EM	Nov - 10
VK2TT	Nov - 20	VK2ZHE	Nov - 17
VK2FMGM	Nov - 27	VK2ICQ	Nov - 24

(Continued from front cover)

incoming Committee to build on. Lyle did not seek re-election due to his other commitments but I am certain that we will see him back on the Committee in the future. In the meantime, Lyle has taken on the roles of VK2BOR station manager and QSL manager several other duties so he will continue to be an active contributor to club activities.

At the AGM, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ was recognized as Clubman of the Year for his extremely valuable contribution to the club as Webmaster. Paul has rebuilt the ORARC website to an extremely high standard and continues to update it with both club news and breaking Amateur Radio news at least several times each week. The website has become an ambassador for the club and the Amateur Radio service as a whole that we are very proud of. Yes, Paul was re-elected as Webmaster and his tireless work continues. Thank you Paul.

A full list of all the Office Bearers elected at the 2016 AGM is included in this issue of Oxtales.

Silent Key

Sadly, we have to record the passing of esteemed Life Member Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV on the 29th Of August 2016. His very well attended funeral service was held on the 5th of September 2016. As this issue of Oxtales has been published later in the month than usual we have been able to include the Silent Key: Vale VK2ZCV.

RD Contest and ILLW

This year the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day contest took place over consecutive weekends in August 2016. This enabled the club to operate VK2BOR for 24 hours in both events at different locations.

RD Contest 2016

Larry VK2CLL very generously invited the

club to set up the cub's communications caravan and operate VK2BOR in the Remembrance Day contest at his new property at Huntingdon on Saturday and Sunday the 13th and 14th of August 2016. This proved to be an excellent HF location in very pleasant surrounds and is located only a short distance west of Wauchope.



Larry VK2CLL's farm site perfect weather; extensive views and a good HF operating location.

Thank you to all the members who participated in the weekend. It was a great success in all respects. The willing hands made setting up and packing up seem effortless. Callsigns included Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Richard Court VK2CHC, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Jim Neil VK2VIV, Peter Kucera VK2MPK, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, Craig Olsen and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his trailer mounted mast and HF antennas. The mast made it easy to erect the dipole antennas for 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres. The HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan gave a choice of antenna polarization on most bands. Signals on both transmit and receive were consistently significantly better on the horizontal dipoles.

VK2BOR made a very respectable number of contacts for a total score of 341 points.
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The incentive multipliers for 160 metres, and for contacts in the small hours of the morning, made the 24 hour operation and the erection of the 160 metre dipole very worthwhile.

The weather during the weekend was perfect. Those members not operating the station enjoyed the Saturday evening warming themselves around the fire that Larry very kindly kept burning in his outdoor brazier. This has to be one of the club's most pleasurable social evenings. The photos hint at the enjoyment. Richard VK2CHC provided some music!

In addition to the opportunity to enjoy the rural setting, no one went hungry. Chef Richard Court VK2CHC ran the barbeque to produce delicious lunches on both days, dinner on Saturday night and a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning. Richard camped overnight in his tent so he had the bacon and eggs sizzling on the barbeque bright and early on Sunday morning. Commiserations to Barry Gilson VK2LBG who originally volunteered to be the chef for the weekend but was unable to attend as he came down with the 'flu.

Thank you to Peter Kucera VK2MPK for towing the caravan to Huntingdon. Unfortunately, Peter then had to work during the weekend so missed out on being able to attend during the contest itself.

Those members who were unable to participate in this year's RD Contest missed out on arguably the best club activity for many years. Thank you to Larry VK2CLL for being the perfect host. I must also thank Penny for so kindly baking the delicious cakes and cookies that we washed down with the proper brewed coffee that Larry served us for morning and afternoon tea.



Please see page 8 of this issue for additional photographs of the weekend.



International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

The club's communications caravan was set up at the Tacking Point Lighthouse on Saturday the 21st of August so that VK2BOR could participate in the 2016 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on both Saturday and Sunday. Thank you to Barry Gilson VK2LBG for towing the caravan to the lighthouse early in the morning. Fortunately, Barry had recovered sufficiently from his previous week's 'flu to enable him to tow the caravan to and from the Lighthouse. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for claiming our usual spot for the caravan. As can be seen from the photographs, the site was a little crowded this year as half of the carpark was occupied by a security compound for the equipment for the lighthouse site improvement works.



Barry VK2LBG, Jim VK2VIV and Lyle VK2SMI outside the security compound showing the cramped conditions. (continued on next page)

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A few members of the public, fishing rods and all, walked under the caravan annexe on their way to and from the Little Bay beach below the car park!



Note narrow pathway around the caravan on the way to the beach; however the general public did not seem to mind.

There was rain out to sea on Saturday morning but thankfully it remained offshore and we remained dry unlike some of the other lighthouse groups up and down the coast. Lyle brought his trailer mounted mast which greatly simplified erecting the HF dipole antennas that he provided for 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres. The length of the 160 metre dipole always makes it challenging to support the ends of antenna clear of ground and undergrowth at the lighthouse. Well done to the intrepid members who went bush to do the deed! The HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan gave a choice of antenna polarization on most bands. As was the case during the RD contest the previous weekend, signals on both transmit and receive were consistently much better on the horizontal dipoles.

The many willing hands soon had the caravan and the station fully set up. We were congratulating ourselves and about to enjoy morning tea when the club's generator firstly faltered and then steadfastly refused to



provide any output despite the engine still running. After a quick investigation of the options to generate mains power, Paul Jones VK2DEL came to the rescue and offered the club the use of his Honda inverter generator for the weekend. The offer was very gratefully accepted and after a quick trip to his home to collect it, Paul's generator sprang into action and the station again had mains power. The Honda inverter generator neatly fitted under the weather cover that normally protects the club's generator. The caravan is fitted with back up batteries so VK2BOR remained on air while we were without mains power.



Richard VK2CHC and Ray VK2JU at the operating position of VK2BOR

VK2BOR made a total of 62 contacts with both Lighthouse and home stations during the weekend. However, unlike the previous weekend when there was no QRN and propagation was good, the persistent distant thunderstorms during the Lighthouse *(continued on next page)*

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weekend created nuisance daytime QRN and the severe night time QRN on the lower bands greatly limited the number of 80 and 160 metre contacts able to made.

As with the RD contest, Paul VK2ICQ brought along prospective amateur Craig Olsen on Saturday evening and they joined Lyle VK2SMI for the night owl shift. To compound the difficulty in making contacts through the static crashes, the night turned very cold. It must have been very cold indeed as Lyle VK2SMI who normally doesn't feel the cold at all, said that he was still cold despite running the heater in the caravan and wearing his alpine rated jacket. Fortunately the morning sun thawed him out over breakfast.



Richard VK2CHC models the latest warm Chef gear on a cold morning.

Chef Richard Court VK2CHC ran the barbeque to produce a very welcome delicious sausage sizzle dinner on Saturday night and a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning plus a sausage sizzle lunch on Sunday. Saturday Lunch was the traditional hot dog lunch which was very popular.

Concentrating on the task Rob VK2CRF operating.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the weekend. Callsigns included Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Barry Gilson VK2LBG, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Jim Neil VK2VIV, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Paul Jones VK2DEL, David Pilley VK2AYD, Richard Court VK2CHC, Ivan Southwell VK2FIJN and harmonic, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Paul Romaine VK2UPR, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, Craig Olsen, Ray Mullins VK2JU, John Hansen VK2AYQ and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE plus visitor Scott Hapgood VK2UBQ, Secretary of the ORANA Region Amateur Radio Club at Dubbo. A couple of other out of town visitors also called in to look at the station while visiting the Lighthouse.



Dennis VK2DAM, Dave VK2AYD and Arthur VK2ATM share a moment

Below Ivan VK2FIJN introducing a potential amateur perhaps?



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Richard VK2CHC operating with John VK2AYQ logging.

Donation by Arthur VK2ATM of Honda inverter Generator to ORARC

After the Lighthouse weekend Arthur Monck VK2ATM very generously purchased a new Honda EU20i inverter generator and donated it to the club. A very appreciative group of members thanked Arthur for his generosity at the club's 3rd of September monthly general meeting. The photograph taken at the meeting shows some of the members with Arthur and the new generator. Arthur supplied the generator with its custom made protective cover and a service pack.

The club had considered purchasing a new generator last year when the club's generator failed during the VK2BOR 2015 ANZAC day operation at Wauchope. However, it was decided to have the stator winding of the old generator rewound instead. The generator then had operated faultlessly until it failed again at the Lighthouse. This time, it turned out to be the alternator capacitor and one of the field diodes that that had failed. The generator has been repaired again but it will now be the back-up for the new generator. The Honda inverter generator is much quieter than the old generator, and as an added bonus is able to run the microwave oven in the caravan which the old generator was unable to do.

Thank you to Arthur for a most thoughtful donation that will benefit the club for many years to come.



Thanks Arthur VK2ATM

Foundation Licence Training and Assessment Weekend

The club ran a very successful training and assessment weekend for the Foundation Licence over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 27th and 28th of August 2016. There are now 6 successful candidates awaiting the issue of their Foundation Callsigns. Thank you to nominated assessor Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for arranging and running the weekend, and to assessors Grahame O'Brien VK2FA who came up from Newcastle, and to Ross Barlin VK2DVZ who came from Taree to assist with the assessments.



Training and assessment with Grahame VK2FA Larry VK2CLL and Ross VK2DVZ

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JOTA 2016

The 59th annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 15th and 16th of October 2016. It is also the 20th annual Jamboree on the Internet. The club will run two JOTA stations.

VK2BOR will operate as usual on the Saturday from the club's Communications Caravan which will be set up at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie a short distance from Settlement City. Please come along and assist with the VK2BOR operation.

The second JOTA station will be at the Scout Hall in Wauchope. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for providing his communications caravan for the station and for co-ordinating the planning this station for the Wauchope and Camden Haven Scouts and Guides. It is intended to operate this station during both the afternoon and evening on the Saturday, and on Sunday as well. Please come along and help to make the Wauchope JOTA station a great success. Lyle will ask for names at the October Monthly General meeting.

Beechwood Billycart Classic

The 37th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic takes place on the morning of Sunday the 23rd of October 2016. Richard Court

VK2CHC is co-ordinating the club's involvement in this event. If you haven't yet offered your services and are able to attend, please contact Richard as soon as possible. The event is a very popular and our role of providing the safety communications is very important. The main race down the mountain starts at 11:00 am. This year the children's race will start at 11:30 am. The racing concludes at 12:00 noon so it won't be a long day.

Christmas Party

Don't forget the club's Christmas party on the normal December monthly general meeting date of Saturday the 3rd of December 2016. More details in November Oxtales.

2017 Field Day

The 2017 Field Day is only 9 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 10th and 11th of June during the 2017 Queens Birthday Holiday long weekend.

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their memberships this year. Only a couple of membership subscriptions are still outstanding. These have been denoted with an asterisk in the Membership Register on the back page of this issue of Oxtales. Welcome to the new members who have recently joined.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President



Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. List of Office Bearers Elected at the AGM 6 August 2016

At the Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club which was held on Saturday the 6th of August 2016, the following office bearers were elected:

- President:** Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
- Vice President:** Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
- Secretary:** Jim Neil VK2VIV
- Treasurer:** Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
- Committee Member 1:** Steve Wynn VK2ZSW
- Committee Member 2:** Dennis Meade VK2DAM
- Committee Member 3:** Arthur Monck VK2ATM
- Public Officer:** Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
- Repeater Chairman:** Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
- Oxtales Editor:** John Hansen VK2AYQ
- Oxtales Co-Editor:** Trevor Thatcher VK2TT
- VK2BOR Station Mgr:** Lyle Smith VK2SMI
- QSL Manager:** Lyle Smith VK2SMI
- Welfare Officer:** Barry Gilson VK2LBG
- Publicity Officer:** Richard Court VK2CHC
- Webmaster:** Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
- Education Officer:** Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
- Club Historian:** John Bailey VK2KHB
- Social Director:** Barry Gilson VK2LBG
- WIA Liaison Delegate:** Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
- Member Liaison Officer:** Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Blast from the Past

Looking back at the September 2006 issue of Oxtales it contained the following article about Bill VK2ZCV (SK) which recognised his valuable contribution to the club over many years.



Bill - VK2ZCV -

Awarded Life Membership of Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

August 2006

“Bill's long and dedicated membership of ORARC was formally recognised by the club when he was awarded Life Membership at our August AGM. His contributions to the club, over more than three decades of membership, have been many, and sustained. Repeater development and maintenance, and organisational work over many Field Day Weekends have been just two areas where Bill's skills and dedication have won him the recognition that led to this award. Congratulations Bill!”

Editors note: Photograph shows Bill being presented with his life membership by the then President Bruce Walker VK2HOT.

Remembrance Day Contest 2016 Report by Steve VK2ZSW

The Remembrance Day Contest was held at the farm of Larry Lindsay VK2CLL.



Larry's farm a very scenic location

The day started well for those of us that were there, VK2CLL, VK2VIV and VK2ZSW, whilst Henry VKZHE negotiated the traffic grid lock in Wauchope caused by the Caravan Camping Show.



Henry VKZHE positions the ORARC Communications caravan on site. Dusk falls below



Lunch being prepared by Richard VK2CHC

Richard VK2CHC arrived and began to setup for lunch, then Lyle VK2SMI arrived and we began to setup the trailer mast and the caravan while Richard started the obligatory sausages and onions for lunch. Very hard to concentrate on antennae while the smell of snags and onions were wafting through the air. To cap it off Larry, being the generous host that he was, brought out some 'soft' drinks for us over worked, hot antenna setter uppers. We had to have a break and a rest, how can anyone keep going minute after minute in the hot sun when there are coldies waiting?



The very effective trailer mast built by Lyle VK2SMI in its transport position.

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Trailer mast deployed and ready for action.

Now where was I, something about a contest, oh yes, we had a break then back to work. Something like an hour later we finished erecting the trailer mast and aerials. I mean that was surely coffee time, so Larry, again to the rescue, made brewed coffee and supplied a variety of home-made cakes and biscuits, we needed the sustenance if we were to get on air and slave over a hot radio.



It is hard work setting up a station and it needs plenty of sustenance.

Larry VK2CLL to the rescue.



The impressive station site set up and ready for the contest.

Someone mentioned something about a contest so Henry went to work, warming the seat in the caravan, while racking up the contacts. Henry likes to do his own logging so the rest of us were busy eating cakes and drinking coldies and coffee, no not at the same time, fair dinkum, well maybe the coffee and cakes were consumed at the same time.

The caravan generator sprung into life, quietest it ever was too and funny but it did not use a drop of fuel, maybe because we tapped into Larry's mains supply for the van.

I think the biggest power drain would have been the radiator Lyle had on while trying to catch some zees, alright zeds, during the night, while he was supposed to be operating 160m. It was a cold night, I know, because Richard and Lyle told me. Richard spent some of the night in his tent, I am shivering thinking about it.



Real amateurs sleep in tents!

Richard VK2CHC setting up his tent preparing for a cold night!

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Larry had turned on a magnificent day of sunshine with a gentle breeze, and did I mention the brewed coffee, 'coldies' and cakes.



How many amateurs does it take to boil and egg? Richard VK2CHC holds one to demonstrate.

Above 'The Sunday shift' VK2SMI, Arthur VK2ATM, Larry VK2CLL, Henry VK2ZHE, Rob VK2CRF and Richard VK2CHC.

Sunday turned out another brilliant day, I arrived around 0830 while everyone was getting ready for another day of coldies, coffee and cakes, oh and contesting. Richard had the sausages, bacon and eggs on the barbie while someone toasted the buns. Later in the morning Larry brought out the brewed coffee and cakes again, it was hard work but someone had to do it.

I was a little peeved while contesting, I knew we were there for something, a good 25% of my contacts called me Henry, obviously re contacts from the day before, enough to give a guy a complex, anyway I got my own back by telling them Henry was outside having a coffee, this must have been for an hour, so everyone now thinks Henry takes hour long coffee breaks! Beside me was Rob VK2CRF ably handling the logging software. Being a male, I am always being told (by the wife) I can only do one thing at a time so Rob did the logging. I will not comment any further on the one thing at a time issue.

It was so hot in that corner of the van I

wondered if Lyle left the radiator on or the van was on fire. I hope it was the latter, otherwise Larry is going to have a massive power bill.

After it was all over, we had to have a coldie and some lunch before pulling everything down, and apart, so Richard did it again, sausages, bacon, eggs and onions went down well. Then it was time for deconstruct which took a tenth of the time that it took to construct. However it did take another hour for us to pack the van the way it should be done, said Henry.

Overall a great weekend, great fellowship and great food, oh and some contest contacts too. The views at Larry's are as good as it gets and so is the hospitality, thanks Larry. Looking forward to the next contest at Larry's.



Lyle VK2SMI, Richard VK2CHC and Larry VK2CLL relax around the fire whilst Richard provides the music.





WIA takes steps to reduce its postage costs

Author : Phil Wait - VK2ASD

Are your details correct on WIA membership records?

Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

In this digital age it's important to be correctly recorded with your current postal and email addresses, to make sure you are kept informed. The problem is made more difficult because of an anti-spam measure used by some internet service providers to no longer bounce invalid email addresses and organisations are unaware of changes to email addresses. This can and does affect membership renewal notices and the services through the Membership Management System called MEMNET.

It's easy to check your records online through MEMNET, and the small number who don't use email can update their details by using the Member Inquiry form.

MEMNET was launched two years ago and has about 75 per cent of the membership registered. It has now been substantially upgraded reflecting the comments received, making it more user friendly. It enables the digital edition of Amateur Radio magazine to be downloaded, participation in the WIA awards program, and more.

Get with the digital age by registering with MEMNET today, or check that your details are correct.



The hike in postage rates by Australia Post late last year has resulted in a review of how organisations communicate with customers and members. Banks and many other service providers are now encouraging their customers to receive notifications and accounts electronically. The ACMA, and all of government, prefer to use electronic methods including website logins, SMS messages and email.

The WIA is no different, and recently it has conducted a review of our postage expenditure, as mentioned at the annual general meeting on Norfolk Island. Of course some things must, for the time being at least, be sent through the postal system. However, the WIA has already taken steps to reducing postage where possible.

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Exam Service

The WIA Exam Service has been using the now very expensive yellow Express Post satchels to send out exam packs. This is changing to the red ordinary post satchels which are a little slower delivery but still have tracking. This action will have a minimal impact on Assessors as the majority hold sufficient exam packs, and are ordering them well in advance of assessment dates.

AR Magazine

The WIA has introduced a paper magazine opt-out system for members that only wish to receive the digital copy of Amateur Radio magazine, not the paper copy in the post. That will further ease the pressure on the postage costs. Members who don't wish to receive the magazine in the post should log into Memnet and select "Update Details" marking the check the box "Do Not Send Hardcopy AR Magazine". Alternately you can use the Contact WIA form on the WIA website and send a message to WIA National Office providing your member number and request to opt out from receiving the paper edition.

Remember, this is an Opt-out system - those members who still value their paper copy of AR Magazine delivered in the post will not be affected, and do not have to do anything.



**Changes in technology mean consumers
need to upgrade
Date : 22 / 08 / 2016**

A warning from Telstra is that the 2G mobile network is to be shut down at the end of November this year. The telecom company has written to its affected users advising them they need to switch to newer 3G or 4G technology.

Meanwhile, WIA members registered with MEMNET who use PC's and web browsers which are more than 10 years old such as Internet Explorer 6 or Opera version 5, will need to upgrade as support is being withdrawn for these early browsers.

Sunday the 28th August Omni Software the provider of the WIA's MEMNET service will be undertaking maintenance works and system improvements to support the latest security protocols, Omni have advised that any users affected by the upgrade will need to upgrade from their old Web browser versions. They advise that all versions of Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Internet Explorer 7 and above should be unaffected, although they recommend all users update their browsers to the latest version available.

The WIA apologises for the short notice given but timing of the change is purely in the hands of the MEMNET software provider.

Public callsign list restored

Date : 14 / 08 / 2016

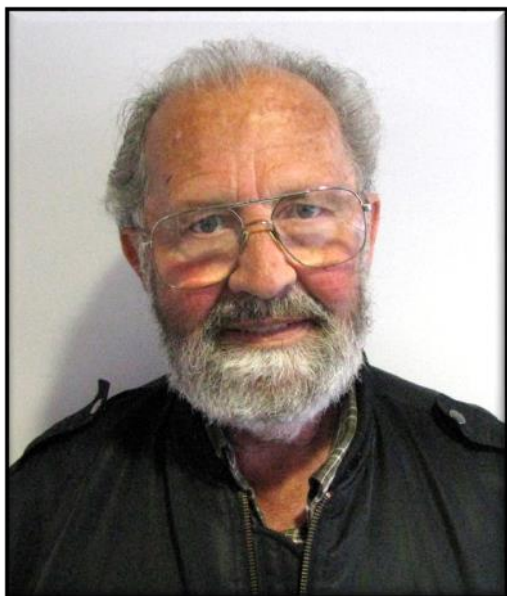
Author : Robert Broomhead - VK3DN

Prospective radio amateurs and those looking at their callsign choices are now able to do that online at the "Public List Of Available Callsigns" on the WIA website.

This follows the resolution of further teething problems with the ACMA's new SPECTRA system.

Silent Key

William Mackenzie (Bill) Sinclair



VK2ZCV

Bill passed away peacefully on Monday 29th August, 2016, aged 78 years. He had not long moved into assisted care at Emmaus after a period of rehabilitation in Wauchope Hospital following an earlier stroke.

Bill was born at Kurri Kurri on the 28th of July 1938 to Thomas and Christina Sinclair who had moved to the Hunter Valley from Scotland. Bill went to school at Abermain and Cessnock before attending the Caledonian College. He built his first radio at the age of 13.

After leaving school Bill worked for Taylors Radio followed by BHP and AWA in Newcastle before entering National Service in 1958.

He married Pamela in 1964 before moving to Tamworth in 1965. In Tamworth he worked for Pengilly's Radio before going into business for himself.

Bill and his family settled in Port Macquarie in 1975 where his location in Astronomers Terrace high on Transit Hill was the envy of many local Amateurs who could only dream of the DX that Bill was able to work with his impressive VHF antenna array. In Port Macquarie his employment included working for Peter Alexander VK2PA (SK) at Alexander's TV as a TV technician for many years before opening his own TV and video repair business "Lighthouse Televideo" at the Lighthouse Beach shops.

Bill joined the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club in 1975 and became a life member of the club in 2006 in recognition of his contribution to the club. He was a past President and Secretary and had served many terms on the ORARC Committee.

Bill was a very keen VHF and UHF weak signal operator and was a regular participant in the aircraft enhancement nets for many years. He built many projects as part of his hobby. His library of information and collection of hard to get components and equipment was legendary. He helped to build and maintain the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's repeaters for several decades. He was a keen proponent of foxhunting and many keen foxhunters had to work hard to find the lairs where Bill hid foxes at ORARC Field Days. Bill never missed a club event.

Bill first attended the Urunga Convention and the Central Coast Field Day in 1960. For over 50 years he had an almost perfect attendance record at both events.

Bill was an active supporter of the Scouting movement and through the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts he introduced several generations of Scouts to Amateur Radio through JOTA with the Radio Club. This legacy continues with the club setting up JOTA stations in Port Macquarie and Wauchope again this year.

Bill is survived by his three sons, John, David and Bryan, and their families to whom ORARC members extend their deepest sympathy.

The funeral service for Bill was held on Monday the 5th of September at the Chapel of the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Crematorium in Port Macquarie. The large attendance included a strong contingent of ORARC members.

At the service, Bill's family reminded us that Bill's favourite saying was that there were only two types of fruit cake, "good and better".

The Amateur Radio service is much poorer for Bill's passing and he is sadly missed.

Vale Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV

Submitted by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.