



OXTALES

First published 1980

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Sundays at 0900
Thursdays 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-sixth Anniversary Year

May 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: Jim Neil	VK2VIV	6581 2481

President's Report

ORARC 2017 Field Day



The ORARC 2017 42nd annual Field Day takes place on Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th of June during the Queen's Birthday Weekend. The venue will be the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall in Matthew Flinders Drive, Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie.

The Field Day dinner will be at 6pm on Saturday the 10th of June at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Ocean Drive. ORARC has booked tables and the full menu is available with payment as you order. The Golf Club has a new caterer this year and the prices are very reasonable. The food is excellent.

The Field Day will have all the usual attractions with fox hunts on both days, disposals; bring your items to sell, no commission charged, barbeque lunch both days with bacon and egg breakfast available both days. Don't miss out on the traditional fruit salad and ice cream dessert following

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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
C4FM digital mode capability
VK2RCN-1 APR Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

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**ORARC Field Day Saturday and
Sunday 10 and 11 June 2017.**

Down the Coax

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

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 May 2017 2:00 pm**

**World Telecommunications Day
Tuesday 17 May 2017. AX prefix permitted**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 May 2017 7.00 pm**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 June 2017 2:00 pm**

**ORARC Field Day
Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 June 2017
Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall
Matthew Flinders Drive, Port Macquarie
Field Day Dinner Golf Club Sat. Night 6pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 16 June 2017 7.00 pm**

**Winter VHF/UHF Field Day
Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June 2017**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 July 2017 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 July 2017 7.00 pm**

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

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

May 2017

VK2FMGM	May - 07	VK2EM	May - 04
VK2CHC	May - 14	VK2ZHE	May - 11
VK2TT	May - 21	VK2ICQ	May - 18
VK2FMGM	May - 28	VK2EM	May - 25

June 2017

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

July 2017

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

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Sunday lunch. As usual, tea and coffee and biscuits will be free throughout the two days to those who have registered.

Sunday is the trading day for the commercial traders.

Radio Supply from Bellingen <http://www.radiosupply.com.au/> will have stock brought in especially for the Field Day. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol VK2FCSR.



Jaycar <https://www.jaycar.com.au/> will also have a stand at the Field Day this year. If you don't already have one you will be able to pick up a new Jaycar catalogue.



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

It was hoped that Andrews Communications <http://www.andrewscom.com.au/> would be able to attend this year but unfortunately that wasn't possible.

Roda Antennas <http://www.roda->

antennas.com.au/ have advised that they are unable to attend this year but they will be attending next year. Their display at Wyong this year was very interesting. Have a look at their products on line.

David Tavener VK4ICE has closed down VK4ICE Communications but he and Wayne Love VK4WC will be still be attending the Field Day as visitors. David has donated some nice prizes for the Field Day. Thank you David.

Remember to bring your latest project along and enter it into the Home Brew competition and display. Last year the Home Brew competition was very popular with some excellent projects on display. This year we are expecting even more entries than ever with several amateurs working hard to complete projects in time for the Field Day.

ALARA <http://www.alara.org.au/> will be there again this year. Thank you to Dot VK2DB and John Bishop VK2ZOI.



ARNSW <http://www.arnsw.org.au/> will be in attendance as usual. Thank you to Tim Mills VK2ZTM and Mark Blackmore VK2XOF.

Club member Peter McAdam VK2EVB will be demonstrating the SharkRF OPENspot digital radio hotspot. This stand-alone hot spot has a UHF multi mode digital radio transceiver which has the ability to cross connect to several of the common digital mode systems via the Internet. For example you can use your
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C4FM digital radio to communicate with DMR stations on distant DMR repeaters or rooms. The OPENspot is an impressive device and several ORARC members purchased one after seeing Peter's demonstration at the Urunga Convention.

Club member Bruce Ekert VK2EM will be demonstrating his portable digital HF station at the Field Day. Bruce will be only too happy to explain what equipment is needed and how easy it is to set up and operate the digital modes.

Arthur Monck VK2ATM will be demonstrating various digital HF modes using a USB connection to a Yaesu FT-991 transceiver.

Please make yourself available when calls are made for assistance in running the Field Day. By sharing the workload we can all enjoy the weekend without anyone being overworked. It is important to make the field day a success as it is the major fund raising activity for the year.

The Field Day program is included with this issue of Oxtales. The program can also be downloaded from the ORARC website http://www.orarc.org/?tribe_events=orarc-field-day-2017

John Moyle Memorial Field Day

Thank you and apologies to all the club members who had volunteered to participate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day this year. We had planned to set up VK2BOR in the club's Communications Caravan in the carpark of Sancroix Reserve on Saturday the 18th of March 2017. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the operation at the last minute due to a forecast of strong wind and heavy rain. The decision proved to be prudent as the strong wind and rain did in fact arrive on the Saturday. This is the first time that we have had to cancel an outing due to adverse weather. Thank you to the

members who participated in the Field Day



from their home stations.

Urunga Convention

Thank you to those who attended the Urunga Convention over the Easter Weekend on Saturday the 15th and Sunday the 16th of April 2017. As usual, there was a good contingent of ORARC members at Urunga. Congratulations to ORARC club member Grahame O'Brien VK2FA on his well-deserved win in the Urunga Scramble.

The foxhunts were keenly contested with a large contingent of dedicated hunters again making the pilgrimage to Urunga to do battle with the locals. Most of the hunters are coming to Port Macquarie on the June Long Weekend to contest the Field Day fox hunts. The exception is Bryan Ackerley VK3YNG who fox hunts at the Mount Gambier Field Day each year. Mount Gambier in South Australia also holds their Annual Field Day on the June Long Weekend.



*Winner of the Urunga Scramble Grahame VK2FA
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*Another familiar face the barefoot fox hunter Jeff
VK2BYY*

Maritime Museum Heritage Week Display

Thank you to the members who ran the ORARC display at the Port Macquarie [Maritime Museum Heritage Week Display](#) on the 27th of April 2017. Special thanks to Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE who set up the display and special thanks to Trevor Thatcher VK2TT who loaned his vintage telegraph for the display.



*The stars who will also appear in the
Maritime Museum's Newsletter.*

*Arthur VK2ATM, Dave VK2AYD and Bob
VK2ZRE*

Yaesu FT-991 Firmware Upgrade Night



At the March ORARC Friday Night Get-Together on the 17th of March 2017 Paul Colledge VK2ICQ very kindly ran a clinic to upgrade the firmware of members' Yaesu FT-991 transceivers.



The FT-991 is an all mode HF/VHF/UHF base station transceiver covering all the Amateur bands from 160 metres to 70 centimetres. As well as the usual USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM etc analogue modes, the FT-991 can operate in the Yaesu Fusion C4FM digital voice mode which is available on the club's VK2RPM 146.7 MHz and 438.525 MHz and the VK2RCN 438.425 MHz repeaters. The FT-991 features Automatic Mode Selection (AMS) which enables the transceiver to automatically detect and switch between the analogue FM and the digital C4FM modes.

The FT-991 was fully described in the September 2015 issue of Oxtales which is
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Available on the ORARC website Oxtales archives at <http://www.orarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/oxtales1509.pdf>

The club has an FT-991 transceiver.

As the FT-991 is a modern digital software defined radio, the firmware is able to be updated to include the improvements and enhancements that are developed by the manufacturer during the life of the transceiver. After the transceivers at the clinic were upgraded they incorporated the same firmware as the very latest production batch of FT-991 transceivers.

A total of 5 transceivers were upgraded at the clinic. This included the club's FT-991 transceiver. A further clinic may be run at a later time as at least two members were unable to bring their FT-991 transceivers to the March clinic.

The club is indebted to Paul VK2ICQ for doing the research and the setting up to upgrade multiple radios in a surprisingly short time. The upgrades went very smoothly and those members who took their radios to the clinic are enjoying the best possible performance from their FT-991 transceivers.

An enhanced version of the FT-991 is now also available. It is the FT-991A [https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?](https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&en)

[cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&en](https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&en)
[cProdID=490C4A71118AD0F4E825E89D8](https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&en)
[21B73BB&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0](https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&en)

which has a real time spectrum scope. The FT-991 also has a spectrum scope but it is not real time. At any time you can take a snapshot of the band activity as a single sweep. The FT-991 uses the same receiver that is used for reception for the spectrum scope so the receiver audio is muted for the duration of the sweep. The FT-991A uses a second receiver for the bandscope so the the bandscope is always sweeping in real time without affecting the receiver that is used for listening. Naturally, the FT-991A is a little more expensive than the FT-991 as it is fitted with an extra receiver. It is possible

to retrofit the second receiver to the FT-991 but this must be done at the factory so radios must be sent to Japan for this upgrade.

Telegraph Point VK2RCN Repeater Site

The new VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre repeater equipment is now almost ready for installation at the Telegraph Point repeater site. At the recent Wednesday morning working bees the plinth and collar for the duplexer RF filters have been fabricated and painted. The plinth is black as all plinths should be, and the collar is resplendent in three coats of marine varnish. Thank you to expert brush wielders Rob Frost VK2CRF and Arthur Monck VK2ATM.



The plinth and collar for the 6 metre duplexer RF Filters Ray VK2JU and Rob VK2CRF

Planning has been in progress for some time to replace the mast guys and to install the VK2RCN 6 metre repeater folded dipole antenna as part of the mast refurbishment. The replacement of the guy wires is currently on hold due to various difficulties in finding suitable people to
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undertake the work. As mentioned in the March 2017 issue of Oxtales, there is a possibility that an FM broadcast transmission site may be established in the vicinity of the repeater site. It is hoped that these matters will be resolved soon so that the planned work can be expedited.

Old Fire Station – Hay St, Port Macquarie



As was reported in the March 2017 issue of Oxtales, the old Fire Station in Hay Street, Port Macquarie, has been vacant since Fire and Rescue relocated to the new Fire Station in Central Road, Port Macquarie, next door to SES. A number of ORARC members expressed interest in the possibility that ORARC could make use of the building. To that end, at the ORARC February 2017 meeting, a subcommittee was formed to investigate the options regarding the old Fire Station.

At the March 2017 ORARC meeting Jim Neil VK2VIV provided an interim report on the sub-committee's investigations up to the 20th of February 2017. The report listed points which had been considered, and possible logistics to be explored. Concern was expressed regarding how the ongoing expenses of utilizing the building could be funded. The magnitude of possible expenses had not yet been determined.

At the April 2017 ORARC meeting the sub-committee was unable to report any

significant progress. The sub-committee is continuing its investigations and will report back to the May 2017 monthly general meeting.

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group



The recently formed WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group has been formally recognized by NSW State WICEN and Steve Wynn VK2ZSW has been appointed as the coordinator.

After the conclusion of the ORARC June 2017 Monthly General Meeting the WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region will hold its monthly meeting. Current and prospective WICEN members are invited to attend the meeting. A few more members are needed in order to make a viable Region. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should contact Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, or just come along to the meeting.

The next local WICEN event will be the Alzheimer's Australia Memory Jog and Walk at Port Macquarie on Sunday the 4th of June 2017. This event is a good opportunity for new members to be introduced to WICEN. Please contact Steve Wynn VK2ZSW if you are able to assist.

More information on WICEN may be found on the WICEN (NSW) website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au>

VK2BOR Club Station

After the ORARC Field Day the club station VK2BOR will participate in the following events in the next few months.

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Mark your calendar now:

The Remembrance Day Contest which takes place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th of August 2017

The 20th annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend which takes place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 19th and 20th of August 2017

The Scouts and Guides 60th annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) which takes place on Saturday and Sunday the 21st and 22nd of October 2017.

There will be more details regarding the RD Contest and the Lighthouse weekend in the July issue of Oxtales.

New Callsigns

Congratulations to Ivan Southwell who was previously VK2FIJN and is now VK2IJS, to Bob Small who was previously VK2FBOB and is now VK2BIG, and to Steven Brown who was previously VK2VTH and is now VK2KDX. Ivan, Bob and Steven recently passed their Advanced licences at the assessments which club Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL ran with the assistance of Ross Barlin VK2DVZ who came to Port Macquarie from Taree for the day.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

Follow up notes from the Blast From the Past in the March edition of Oxtales. Mention was made of the 2007 Gosford Field Day of a piece of Amateur Radio equipment that was specially discounted by \$500 for the Field Day from its advertised price of \$17,000. The editor asked if any member remembered what the equipment

was. Henry VK2ZHE remembered what the item was and supplied the following information.



The radio was an Icom IC-7800 series. This set sold in Australia for \$17,000 (US\$10,000).

The set was a very sophisticated HF and 6 Metre Base Station with a 200 Watt output.

The IC-7800 family is still in production in 2017 as the IC-7851. The current list price has increased to Australian price of \$20,000. Those members interested would be pleased to know that its currently available on special from Strictly Ham for a mere \$13,895 dollars. The set is pictured below.

The set covers HF and 6 metres. The



specification are to exacting professional standards. The set represents “state of the art” equipment with features that eventually will be incorporated into lower priced equipment in the future.

Ed Note The original comment of “ . . . That it would be hard to gain XYL acceptance into the shack!. ” I think still stands.

Thanks to Henry VK2ZHE for providing the information.



WIA News

WIA AGM convention has something for everyone

Date : 19 / 04 / 2017

Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

Hopefully by now you have booked your place to attend the WIA AGM Convention at Hahndorf South Australia on the weekend of May 19-21.

The business of the AGM was notified in the March edition of Amateur Radio magazine. Material will be made available to financial members of the WIA. The more than 100 people for the AGM on May 20, need to register for entry which begins at 8.30am Adelaide time.

Those attending the AGM will get a copy of the 20 page history booklet 'Some South Australian Experimenters, Their Activities and Legacies'.

The weekend also has the launch of the new book *Wireless Men & Women @ War* and a new iPhone application for portable activation alerts.

On Saturday afternoon will be technical talks followed by a traditional dinner on Saturday night, and on Sunday an array of outdoor activities and displays and a tour of Birdwood Motor Museum.

There is now a special award program VK5WOW and on the AGM convention weekend VI5WOW to promote the WOW theme of the program. Full details of it are at this [Link](#).

Current WIA Hot Issues

Editor's note: The following item is from the WIA website and deals with the process that has to be followed before Amateurs are able to use any new bands approved by the International Telecommunications Union. As may be seen from the article the establishment of a new band is quite a exhaustive process. The article has been broken into 2 parts and the second part will appear in a future edition of Oxtales.

60 metres dreaming - how long do we have to wait?

Author : The WIA Spectrum Strategy Committee

A new band was allocated to the Amateur Service at the last International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. When will Amateur Radio Operators have access? A simple question with a complicated answer. This short article will look at some of the factors that affect band access.

Given that radio waves can travel long distances and that radio frequency interference can severely limit the utility of radio communications, our fore-fathers recognised the need to cooperate globally on managing the Radio Frequency spectrum. The ITU(1), a specialist agency of the United Nations, has the task of managing the use of the RF spectrum between 8.3 kHz and 275 GHz. Every three or four years the ITU convenes a WRC to revise the Radio Regulations to account for changes in the use of the RF spectrum.

The ITU Radio Regulations are an *(continued on next page)*

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International Treaty and the WRC-12 revisions to the Radio Regulations were ratified by Australia on 1 March 2013(2). The WRC-15 revisions to the Radio Regulations are currently being considered by the Australian Parliament (3).

In Australia the Radiocommunications Act 1992(4) is the overarching law that governs the way the RF spectrum is used and this law is a result of parliamentary debate by our elected members of parliament. Two sections of the Act cover other legislative instruments which may require updating, one such instrument is the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan (ARSP)(5). Extracts from Sections 30 and 33 of the (current) Radiocommunications Act 1992 show:

30 Spectrum plans

(1) The ACMA may, by legislative instrument, prepare a spectrum plan.

Note: For variation and revocation, see subsection 33(3) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901.

(2) A spectrum plan must:

(a) divide into such number of frequency bands as the ACMA thinks appropriate so much of the spectrum as the ACMA thinks necessary for the purpose of regulating radiocommunications under this Act; and

(b) designate one or more bands to be used primarily for the general purposes of defence; and

(c) specify the general purpose or purposes for which each other band may be used.

33 Publication etc. of plans

(1) Before preparing a spectrum plan or a frequency band plan, the ACMA must, by notice published on the ACMA's website:

(a) state that a draft of the plan is available for public comment; and

(b) set out the draft plan; and

(c) invite interested parties to make representations about the draft plan on or before the day specified in the notice.

(2) The day specified under paragraph (1)

(c) must be at least one month later than the

day on which the notice is published.

(3) A person may, not later than the day specified under paragraph (1)(c), make representations to the ACMA about the draft plan.

(4) The ACMA:

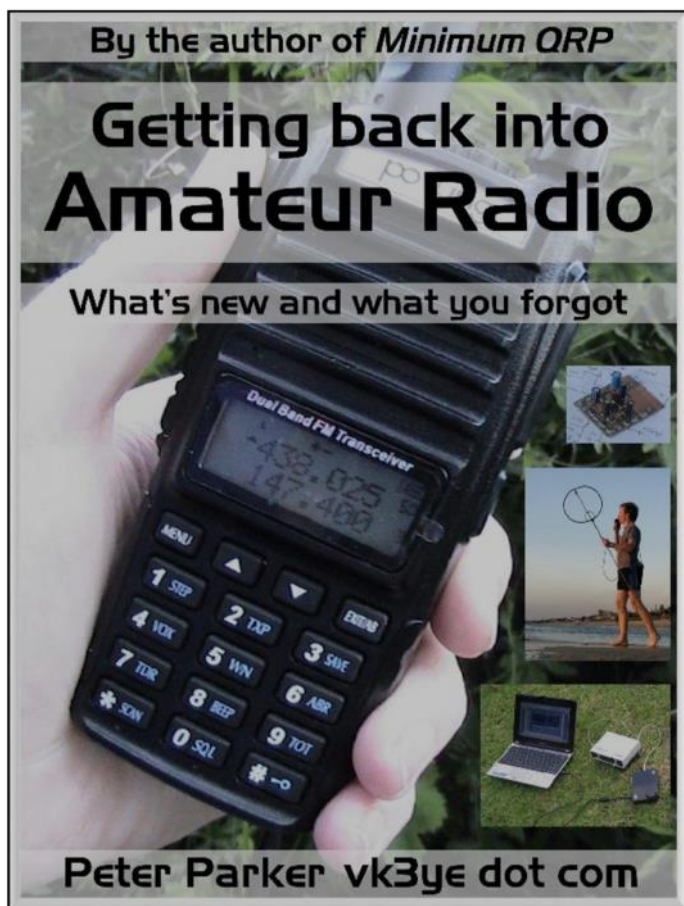
(a) must give due consideration to any representations so made; and

(b) may, having considered the representations, alter the draft plan.

Following the WRC outcome, any proposed changes to Australian use of the RF spectrum will affect the ARSP and the Act sets out a process by which the ARSP is changed. It is apparent from the above process that there can be a substantial period of time for the process to be completed. One of the benefits of living in a liberal western democracy(6) is that everyone can have a say and that applies to the WRC preparatory process(7) through to the implementation of laws that enable our amateur activities. The 'flip-side of the coin' is that such a process may take significant time.

The process described in section 33 of the Act means that the incumbent services i.e. those services already in the band to be shared with the amateur service, must be consulted and their technical and operational needs must be considered. This means that consultation between the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the incumbent services, the Amateur Service and potentially other interested parties, must occur before usage of the band by amateurs can be authorised.

The final document of significance is the Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination 2015(8) (LCD). The LCD is different to the Act in that it was drafted by the ACMA, which was delegated by Federal Parliament to develop the specific technical and legal text which governs the operation of our amateur service. *(to be continued in a future edition of Oxtales.)*



Extracts from *Getting back into Amateur Radio*

A selection of short articles for exclusive use by Australian radio clubs. Free to use in club newsletters, email bulletins etc. if considered useful to members.

Item 1: What's changed in radio - equipment

Amateurs continue to be inspired by waves of surplus or cheap equipment. Sixty years ago it was heavy war surplus gear. Then there was VHF AM and then FM gear as commercial users moved to higher frequencies, narrower bandwidths and trunked systems. Later we benefited from satellite or microwave cast-offs. More recently we've had the global marketplace that is eBay, and the availability of modern yet cheap equipment.

If you haven't looked at new transceiver prices lately you're in for a pleasant surprise. It's a buyers' paradise compared to 30 years ago.

Back then transceivers only covered the HF bands and cost maybe a month's wage. All-mode rigs for 50, 144 and 432 MHz were separate units and cost a similar amount

each. A 160 metre to 70 cm station could have easily cost three months' pay, and we haven't even counted the accessories yet.

Today an all-mode 160 metre to 70 cm transceiver can be yours for maybe two weeks' income. And a basic 100 watt HF-only transceiver is down to a week's average wage.

VHF/UHF handheld prices have plunged even more. A 2m/70cm handheld was an expensive luxury in the 1980s and early 1990s. Today the cheapest eBay handhelds from China cost under \$US50. They may lack the quality control of the established brands but their presence in the market has improved affordability for all models.

Such low prices are now seen on HF as well. At the time of writing the Bitx40 prebuilt 7 MHz SSB transceiver module is available for \$US59. Solder a few wires and be on the air in an hour. The cheapest Morse transceiver kits go for under \$US10 but their low output power and crystal control makes achieving contacts 'challenging', to put it politely.

Online purchasing and payment systems have further cut prices. Thirty years ago most large cities had several radio shops but are now lucky to have one. Instead, a great deal of amateur gear is available online from both domestic and overseas suppliers. Online suppliers have lower overheads and prices but you need to weigh this up against support provided by local dealers.

Warranties have lengthened on the established brands. At one time HF transceivers were guaranteed for 12 months only. Now warranties as long as five years are offered. This, coupled with lower prices, makes buying new gear more attractive than it used to be.

Enjoyed the read? There's more in '*Getting back into Amateur Radio*' by Peter Parker VK3YE. It's available as an ebook through Amazon for \$6.99. Search the title on Amazon, like 'VK3YE Radio Books' on Facebook or visit vk3ye.com for more details.

Equipment from the Past

Larkspur C42 FM transceiver



The C42 is a VHF FM transceiver covering the frequency range 36 - 60 MHz, providing 241 channels at 100 kHz spacing, using the dial calibrations. Operation in-between channels is also possible.

Amateurs found that these sets could be used without extensive modification on 52 Mhz.

The C42 sets were introduced as a replacement for the No19 radio set during 1955 and 1960. They were fitted in tanks (Centurion) and also in army Landrovers.

The station was comprised of a power supply (initially vibratory and in later years transistorised), the transceiver itself and an antenna tuning unit. The units were built solidly and hermetically sealed. Overall weight of a station was greater than 40 Kilos.

Technical Data

The set features a crystal calibrator for frequency adjustment. Transmit power is 15 watts (HIGH) and .25 watts (LOW).

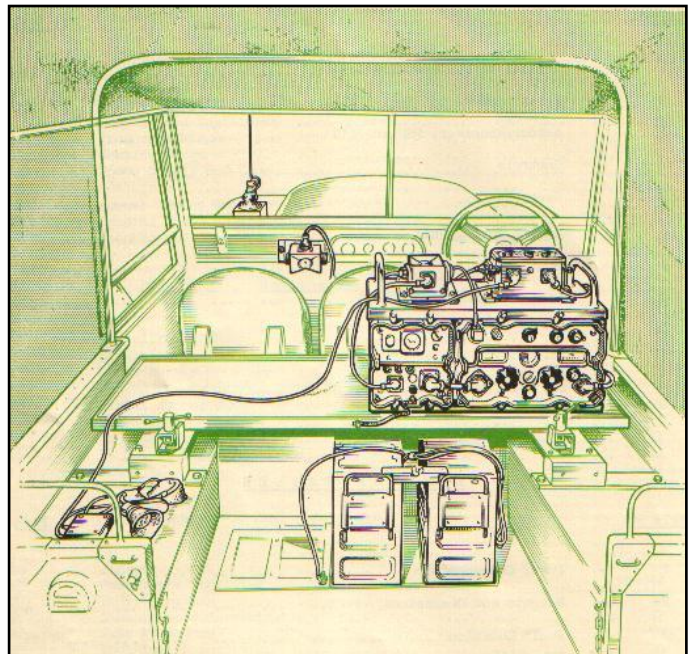
Also included is an intercom amplifier for use of the crew in the vehicle.

The average range, set to set, is 3-4 miles on LOW and 10-15 miles on HIGH, using 8' rod aerials.

After World War 2 the British Army changed virtually all of their tactical short range radios from HF amplitude modulation to VHF frequency modulation. The Larkspur equipment was extensively used by the armies of British and Commonwealth countries and a number of other countries.

Most of the Larkspur equipment was constructed with light-alloy boxes and Plessey type connectors. The sets were completely sealed and opening a set after thirty-five odd years usually revealed a virtually brand new interior.

Between 1955 and 1957 the radio equipment of all tanks and armoured vehicles of the Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) and Royal Artillery (RA) was exchanged for a new generation of sets, operating on VHF-FM. The radio equipment consisted initially of two basic models: An "A" set, Station Radio C42 or C45, with a range of about 10 miles, comparable with the "A" set of the 19 set. Secondly a short range "B" set, Station Radio B47 or B48, comparable with the 19 "B" set, primarily intended for inter-tank communication and supporting arms.



A Larkspur C42 Station fitted into a Landrover. The use of separate batteries meant that the who station could be taken out and used in a fixed land location if necessary.

The following sites were used in the compilation of this article:

vk2bv.org/archive/museum/c42.html

Users.monash.edu.au/~ralphk/C42@.html

WirelessfortheWarrior.Larkspur-REMLR.com

[Transmitter Receiver Larkspur C42 Military U.K.-Radiomuseum.](http://TransmitterReceiverLarkspurC42MilitaryU.K.-Radiomuseum)

Blast from the Past

The section where we look at club events from previous years. The photographs below were from the John Moyle Memorial Field Day in 2015 set up in McInherney Park.

The day was marked with very heavy rain and a thunderstorm in the after noon which made operations difficult. Despite the weather conditions 15 and 20 metres were open.



Rob VK2CRF, Craig VK2ZCM and Henry VK2ZHE operating in the dry!

Henry noted in his report of the event that:

"The caravan proved its worth as without it we would not have been able to set up a self contained portable station under such adverse conditions I've attached a few photos which Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE took on the day. Note the need for the lights to

be on inside the caravan at 13:45 in the afternoon! The creature comforts were a real morale booster . . ."

The following was taken from the May 2014 Edition of Oxtales. The two top photographs are from the report of the Urunga Radio Convention.

Yet again Kevin VK2CKD was hunting



foxes successfully and below Lyle Smith now VK2SMI (formerly VK2FCVI) received a prestigious award from Inge.

"Congratulations to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI



(now VK2SMI) who took out "the most handsome amateur" prize of a chocolate Easter bunny."



From the edition of May 2014 Oxtales
"Hearty congratulations to Barry VK2LBG formally VK2FBRG on passing the examination to be upgraded to a Standard License holder."

Silent Key: Bob Brodie ex VK2EJK



Robert John "Bob" Brodie passed away at Macksville Hospital on Tuesday the 28th of March 2017 after a long illness. He was aged 93 years.

Bob was born on the 25th of February 1924 at Auburn, NSW. He was the elder son of Len and Ethel. Bob's younger brother, Don, was born in September 1928. Len was a railway fettler.

Bob attended Auburn North Primary School, and in 1940 he obtained his Intermediate Certificate at Granville Central Junior Technical School. Bob loved planes and as a boy he joined the Air League.

In 1940 Bob began work as an electrical fitter at Australian General Electric Pty Ltd in Auburn. About that time Bob and his brother Don joined the Western Suburbs Athletics Club. Don is still an active member and is currently President.

On the 12th of April 1947 Bob married Josephine Thomas on her birthday at St Stephen's Church at Auburn. The Air League provided a Guard of Honour at the wedding. Bob and Josie set up home in Harrow Road at Auburn. In 1950 with the birth of daughter Jennifer they bought land at Merrylands and Bob built a kit home with the help of his brother Don and friends.

While still working for AGE, Bob studied Industrial Management through International Correspondence Schools and received his Industrial Management Diploma in 1955. In 1957 he became an Industrial Engineer with W.D. Cryer

Printing and a year later became a Senior Methods Engineer with John Vickers Textiles. In 1961 he was Production manager at Casben's Clothing responsible for four factories and set up one of them.

In 1964 he commenced as a Senior Industrial Engineer at Comalco at Yennora. He was promoted to Chief Industrial Engineer and by 1975 was Divisional Industrial Engineer.

During his working life, Bob and his family continued to participate in athletics. The Brodie family was the first in their street to have television as Bob built the black and white TV described in Radio, Television and Hobbies magazine to which he subscribed.

Bob was a keen sailor and built his first yacht, a Hartley Trailer Sailer which was christened Bojo (Bob and Jo). He joined the Drummoyne Sailing Club and the family sailed every weekend. In October 1973, on the memorable day that the Queen opened the Sydney Opera House, they sailed in gale force winds until the race was called off. On the way back home they went to the aid of some young children who were in trouble in their boat in the strong wind.

The family often holidayed at Port Macquarie and enjoyed it so much that they purchased land in Vendul Crescent in the Riviera Beach Estate at Lighthouse Beach and built their retirement home there.

On moving to Port Macquarie Bob started a dog obedience school but found that there was nowhere local to buy the equipment needed, so he and Josie opened Brodie's Pet Shop, the first pet shop in the town.

Bob and Josie joined the Lake Cathie Bowling Club in 1978 and enjoyed the game and the camaraderie. Bob also joined SES in the role of Intelligence Officer.

In Amateur Radio Bob was a very keen DX chaser with a DXCC Honour Roll listing of 195 countries confirmed. His station overlooking Lighthouse Beach at Tacking Point was the envy of many Amateurs. His HF beam could usually be seen pointed out over the Pacific Ocean.

Bob was an active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and was a Life Member. He rarely missed a club event. He was also active in WICEN.

After selling the pet shop, Bob and Josie bought a caravan and enjoyed touring.

In 1990 Bob joined the Sea Rescue Group as a radio operator went on to set up the new radio base station at Town Beach and was awarded the Rotary Club's Pride of
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Workmanship Award in recognition of his efforts.

Bob and Josie raced their yacht Jacana with the Port Macquarie Yacht Club almost every week. Sadly, Josie passed away in 2006 after a long battle with lymphoma.

Bob continued to sail, supported by an all-female crew. At that time Jacana was the oldest yacht in her class and Bob was the oldest sailor in that class in Australia.

In a book about sailing in Port Macquarie written by one of Bob's sailing friends, Val Wake, she described Bob as "a wily sailor, with firm ideas about the right way of conducting himself and the business of sailing". Bob was very competitive and Jacana almost always featured in the results of the weekend races reported in the Port Macquarie News.

In later years Bob was kept active walking his own Labrador, Becky, as well as raising and training Guide Dog pups.

In 2013 Bob was hospitalised after a bad reaction to medication that he was taking for a chest infection. He went on to develop renal failure and was diagnosed with the onset of Alzheimer's Disease.

He made the hard decision to sell his Vendul Crescent house and make a farm change to Eungai to live with his daughter Jenny and her family.

There was a huge roll up of neighbours, old friends and relatives at his 90th birthday party in 2014 at the restaurant at Lighthouse Beach.

Sadly, with advancing ill health preventing him getting on air, Bob reluctantly let his long time call sign VK2EJK lapse a couple of years ago. He greatly valued receiving his printed copies of Oxtales which kept him in touch with club activities.

Bob is survived by his daughter Jenny and her family, and by his brother Don.

Bob's funeral was held on Monday the 3rd of April 2017, in the chapel at Bernard Laverty's Funerals in Macksville. Many relatives and friends from Bob's various interests including Amateur Radio attended the service.

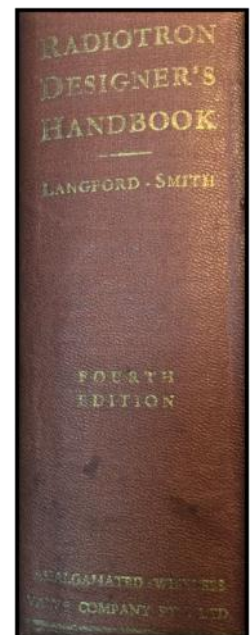
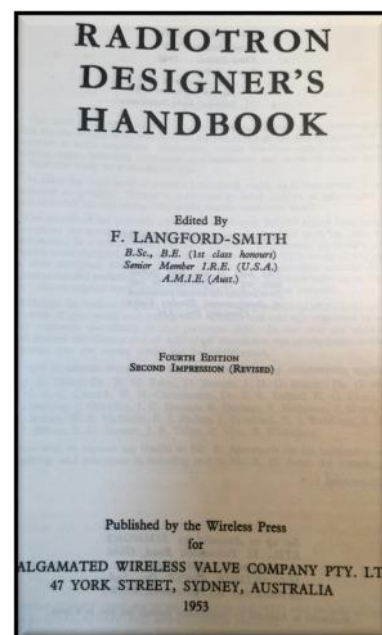
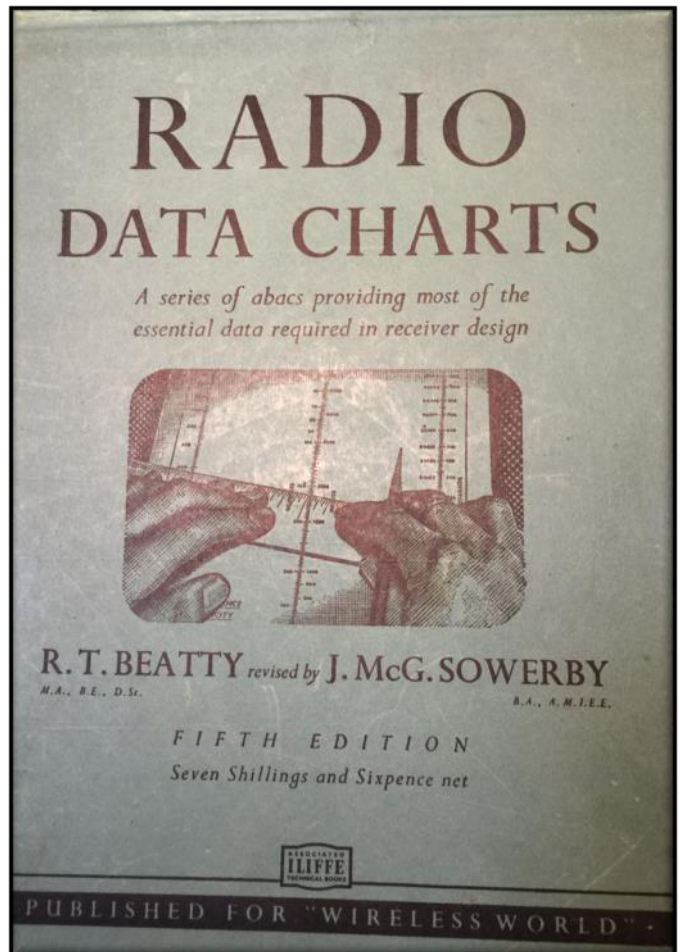
Vale : Bob Brodie ex VK2EJK

This Silent Key was prepared with the kind assistance of the family Eulogy given at funeral service.

Submitted by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE.

Radio Reference Books

June Burges has kindly donated the following reference books from the estate of the late Roy Burges VK2EJB (SK) to our club.



These valuable reference books are available for use by club members. Please contact the President Henry VK2ZHE for details.