

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

May 2002

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Bruce Walker
VICE PRES: Bob Brodie
TREASURER: Roy Burges
SECRETARY: Alan Nutt

VK2HOT 6583.8360 VK2EJK 6582.0592 VK2YOR 6583.9349 VK2GD 6582.3557

President's Report

Hi All,

The Field Day is getting closer and preps are starting to fall into place. We have received some great prizes for the raffles and some other donations are still to be picked up. Remember



this is a full club effort. With out this day we would be up for higher yearly membership fees which can be paid at the June meeting, Field Day, or at the July meeting and prior to the AGM.

I was pleased with the attendance by Club Members at the John Moyle Day and the Town Green event for the older people (Reports on these events elsewhere in this great edition).

I understand that the classes being run by Larry (VK2CLL) dropped down to just two attending on the Wednesday nights. This is not the best I do not now their reasons for not attending. I remember when I attended and considered pulling out a lot of times because I could not fully understand it BUT I stuck it out with the idea that some how it might sink in or fall into place down the track and it did.

See you at the Friday nights or the Saturday Meetings or talk to you on the nets on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Cheers

Bruce (VK2HOT) President (the AGM is getting closer))

Down The Coax

Friday Night
Get-together
May 10th & May 24th
7.00pm

June Meeting
Saturday 1st June 2002
2.00pm

Field day Weekend Sat 8th-Sun 9th June 2002

Friday Night
Get-together
June 14th & June 28th
7.00pm

July Meeting Saturday 6th July 2002 2.00pm

In This Issue:

111 11112 12	suc.
Item.	Page No.
President's Report	
Bewn The Coax	1
Net Controller's Rester	2
It's A Small World	3
John Moyle Field Day	2
Field Day Raffle	3
Grey Mardigras	3
Food for Thought	3 4 7 18
True Story	4
Sydney's First Newspaper	4
Smart Glass	5
l'ederal News	6
e-mail Directory	6
Wented	6
It Can!	6
Membership Register	. 8
and the same of th	

Net Controllers Roster.

Sundays

Wednesdays

	May		
		VK2AYD	May-01
VK2OA	May-05	VK2HOT	May-8
VK2TT	May-12	VK2MAZ	May-15
VK2AIF	May-19		May-22
VK2FSH		VK2HBM	

	June		
VK2JJ	Jun-02	VK2EI	Jun-05
VK2BZD	Jun-09	VK2EJK	Jun-12
VK2OA	Jun-16	VK2ATM	Jun-19
VK2AIF	Jun-23	VK2AYD	Jun-26
VK2TT	Jun-30		

	July		
	ELECTRICAL TO	VK2DAL	Jul-03
VK2BZD	Jul-07	VK2EI	Jul-10
VK2EJK	Jul-14	VK2HBM	Jul-17
VK2HOT	Jul-21	VK2FSH	Jul-24
VK2JJ	Jul-28	VK2GD	Jul-31

	Augu	St	
VK2MAZA		VK2ATM	Aug-07
VK2DAL A		VK2AYD	Aug-14
	ug-18	VK2HOT	Aug-21
VK2TT A	ug-25	VK2MAZ	Aug-28

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

After reading the Ernie Sloman life story in March edition of Oxtales, I decided to check my old ZB1HLW log. (ZB1 has now been replaced by 9H1 - Malta GC). Sure enough, there was an entry. ZB1AI QSO 10FEB54 both CW and AM on 20m. CRE Ernie Sloman RN, then living at 51 Zebra St, Burzabugga and operating from Kalafrana.

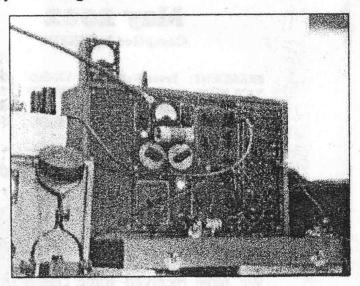
At the time I was also serving in the RN working with the ACSWS. My rig was a B2 Spy transceiver (20w) with an outboard VFO and modulator. CW was created with a pump handle. (I have pics of this setup if anyone is interested).

Dee and I lived in an apartment block in Sliema. Our apartment was on the ground floor but my 20m dipole was on the flat roof way above. No TV in those days and no RFI to worry about.

I've attached a pic I found of my ZB1HLW station. The B2 transceiver fitted into a wooden suitcase. Xtal locked. 6L6 pa. CW only, so I built an outboard modulator. The forerunner of the TS-100. We had /P facilities 55 years ago.

Note the TWO keys on the table. One for left and one for right hand! The key on the left is the one I still use today, a McElroy Streamkey. The one on the right is the "issued" one.

I should add, because of the size of the apartment, the rig was located beside the bed. (We had only been married a year). Let your thoughts drift..!



73 David VK2AYD

John Moyle Field Day

Well what a great day at the Lighthouse. All the gear was erected and equipment tested with time to spare prior to the 0100 start. With the operators in position and mic in hand (in ZCV'S case foot on pedal), we started the event with good signals coming in on both HF and 2 meters.

On HF the operators were VK2HOT (Bruce) and VK2EJK (Bob), while on 2 meters they were VK2ZCV (Bill), VK2EI (Neil) and VK2GD (Alan).

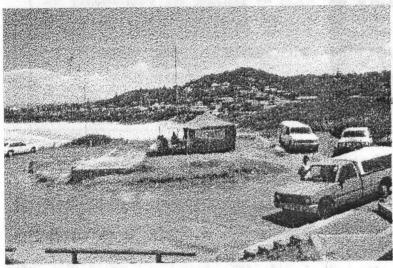
On 20m we spoke mainly to VK's and at the end, a few OS stations. One contact to CU3DJ (Azores islands) and one to YA7ACO (Afghanistan). This one had me puzzled as he was not on QRZ etc. Could be a slim. On 2 meters SSB the furthest contacts were Mollymook to the South and Maleny to the North.

The results are as follows:

BAND	CONTACTS	POINTS	
2M FM	20	40	
2M SSB	23	514	
70 CM FM	2	4	
HF	41	82	
TOTAL	86	640	

A great time was had by those who attended and after packing up at the site and unloading the equipment etc., at the Club Rooms, it was great to get home, take the shoes off and knock the top off a cold beer.

Cheers from VK2HOT Bruce



The Scene of Crime Pix by Bob (VK2EJK)

Field Day Raffle Tickets

In the enveloped that carried this copy of OX-TALES, members of ORARC Inc., would have received a small booklet containing five (5) tickets for our major raffle. These tickets are for members to purchase themselves, or sell to others who may be interested in supporting our club as well as winning a substantial prize. Details of the prizes are on the small cover slip of the booklet.

Ticket butts and the associated cash, are requested to be in the hands of the Treasurer by the close of our monthly meeting on 1/6/2002.

Grey Mardigras
Sunday 24th March turned on a fine morning for the Grey Mardi Gras display at the Town Green. The usual early morning stalwarts were on hand at 8:30 to erect the gear and the tent went up smartly- too smartly it seems. Due to an oversight we had been allocated a "no go" area. Down came the tent and off to a new site without power and as usual Bill

VK2ZCV came to the rescue with a battery. By this time the ranks had swollen and ORARC yellow shirts and caps where very prevalent

The display included on air receiving, vintage gear and Club literature. CW reception was the best draw card which I guess would warm the hearts of a few of our members. The morning did not draw a large crowed who apparently were saving their selves for the feed and the concert at the RSL.

It is worth noting some of the contacts we made. A new resident Ham now knows that there is a club in town, a disc jockey wanted to obtain Morse tapes, a lady was most interested in the A.R magazine and spent some time reading the articles, particularly the ALARA section and a member of the Four Wheel Drive Club enlightened us about the Club radio bases around Australia. There were others and our position along side the main pathway gave us plenty of exposure and together with the good support from members it must have gained us some additional prominence in the town.

Thanks to those who attended.

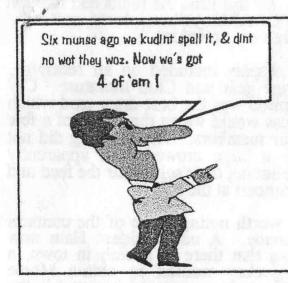
Bob VK2EJK

Food for Thought

In a recent conversation with some visitors from the Port Stephens area, I picked up this little gem. One visiting couple, quite active in the amateur theatrical scene, were most interested in the recent event at Port Macquarie, the "Grey Mardigras". Apart from the overall appeal of the concept, the actual title took their fancy. A clever title, they thought.

They have been considering a similar event somewhere in their area, which they hope might include their local theatrical activities... open air plays, drama on the streets etc. Consideration is now being given to suggesting to the organisers that their event be called "The Grey and Thespian Mardigras". Be vigilant... it could happen!

Trevor (VK2TT)



In-vig-i-late vb -lat-ed; -lat-ing

[L invigilatus, pp. of invigilare to stay awake, be watchful, fr. in- + vigilare to stay awake -- more at vigilant] vi (1553): to keep watch; esp, Brit: to supervise students at an examination ~ vt: supervise, monitor --

In-vig-i-la-tion n -- in-vig-i-la-tor n

True Story.

Recently, when I went to McDonald's, I saw on the menu that you could have an saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets: "We don't have half dozen nuggets' said the teenager at the counter. "You don't!" I replied. "We only have six, nine or twelve", was the reply. "So I can't order half a dozen nuggets but I can order six?" "That's right." So, I shook my head and ordered six MCNuggets!!
Ed: makes you feel old—doesn't it?

Anon

Found by John (VK2KJB)

Sydney's First Newspaper

Whilst sifting through some family archives the other day, I came upon a copy of the Sydney Sun, published on Thursday, March 16, 1978. It contained a feature supplement which was a replica of the first issue of Sydney's first newspaper, "The Sydney Gazette, And New South Wales Advertifer", published on Saturday, March 5, 1803... Vol.I Number 1. Published "BY AUTHORITY". An opening address makes interesting reading. Here it is, presented in appearance as close as my 2nd Millennium publishing package will allow...

ADDRESS.

Innumerable as the Obftacles were which threatened to oppose our Undertaking, yet we are happy to affirm that they were not infurmountable,

however difficult the talk before us.

The utility of a PAPER in the COLONY, as it muft open a fource of folid information, will, we hope, be univerfally felt and acknowledged. We have courted the affiftance of the Ingenious and Intelligent :--

We open no channel to Political Difcuffion, or perfonal animadverfion :--- Information is our only Purpofe; that accomplifhed, we shall confider that we have done our duty in an exertion to merit the Approbation of the PUBLIC, and to fecure a liberal Patronage to the SYDNEY GA-ZETTE.

And then follows this little Lu-lu!!! JOHN JAQUES, TAYLOR

At the Back of the General Hofpital Sydney, RESPECTFULLY acquaints the PUB-LIC that in confequence of the reduction that has lately taken place in the Prices of many Articles of common Confumption, he has been enabled to make an Abatement in his Charges, and that all Orders with which he may be honoured fhall be carefully and punctually executed.

(Haven't seen one of those for a long time ! Ed.)

And of course

SHIP NEWS.

On Saturday, the 12th ultimo, arrived the Caftle of Good Hope. Mr. Allan McAfkell, Mafter, from whence fhe failed the first of December last; fhe made Ceylon the 15th of the fame month, and, in her way hither paffed through Bafs's Straits. She brought 307 Bengal cows in excellent condition (a few only excepted, which were rejected by Government), none of which have died fince their landing. She also brought 4 India mares and 2 horfes (one of which is an Arabian stallion), a quantity of fpirits, fugar, rice, piece goods, and various other articles. Of the cows, 250 were received by Government at the Contract price, i.e. 281 per head; and there can be no doubt of this great increase of breeding cattle foon lowering the price of animal food.

The Caftle of Good Hope is the largeft fhip that has ever entered this portm, and measures about 1000 tons. During the paffage fhe loft 12 cows and 1 horfe; fell in with no other veffel, and met with no accident. Her paffing through Bafs's Straits inftead of going round Van-Dieman's Land, confiderably fhortened her paffage, and faved many cows.

The rule that covered the use of the symbol "f" instead of "s", (sometimes) has always intrigued me. Does any member know the rule, or when such usage actually ceased? One would have needed to exercise extreme care in its usage.

— Trevor (VK2TT)

Smart Glass Gets Another Schooner Sooner

- A Selected item from the Sydney Morning Herald, dated April 4th 2002—Via QNEWS

The tedious business of trying to catch the waiter's eye for a refill may be over.

A Japanese company has devised a high-tech glass that sends a signal to restaurant staff telling them instantly when you are ready for another drink.

iGlassware, invented by Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories in Massachusetts, is inspired by the radio tags used to thwart shop-lifters, NewScientist reports.

Each glass has a microchip and a thin radiofrequency coil in its base, and its sides are coated with a thin, transparent conductive film.

That makes the glass behave like a capacitor, a device that stores an electrical charge between two conductive plates separated by an insulator.

In this case the glass's base and sides are the conductive plates, while the drink is the insulator.

As the level of drink falls, so does the insulation and this progressively raises the charge that goes through to the microchip in the glass's base.

When the microchip receives the "full" charge, that means the glass is empty, so it sends a top-up signal to the waiters' station via a small radio coil built into the table, using a frequency similar to those used by mobilephones.

Every glass has its own ID, and its charge is provided by a radio frequency signal also provided by the table coil.

The downside to iGlassware is that it is intrusive - the restaurant knows what you have ordered and how fast you have drunk it.

But, says Ronald Cole, an expert in hotel and restaurant management at the University of Delaware, iGlassware is bound to be a hit.

"Our studies show that if there is a long delay between beverage order time and fill and subsequent refill, customers tend to feel less satisfied about the entire dining experience," he told New Scientist. (Maybe we should get some of these for the June Field Day to help clear the backlog of soft drink? Ed.)

Federal News

EMR limits delay

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) has advised that there has been a further delay in the introduction of mandatory electromagnetic radiation limits for amateur stations.

These now won't apply for new amateur stations until 1 July, 2002, at the earliest, with the controls to apply about three months later to all stations.

As previously announced, the new EMR standards for radio amateurs will be based on a self-assessment of their stations, with most expected to pass the requirements within the need for changes.

The Amateur Service is among the final group of licensees in Australia to be required to comply with the Radiocommunications Electromagnetic Radiation Human Exposure Standard 2001.

In documentation supplied to WIA Victoria, the ACA states that there are three levels of compliance.

Level 1 is where the average total power fed to all antennas is less than 100 watts. Most amateur stations will fall within Level 1, which is to be exempt from demonstrating compliance.

Level 2 is for stations with transmitters of more than 100 watts, and they will be required to be self-assessed for compliance.

Level 3 is higher power commercial installations, and these will require measurements by qualified person or an accredited laboratory.

The ACA proposes to hold a workshop for representatives of licensee groups in Canberra this month to address the more complex issues of implementation of the EMR limits.

The WIA continues to work very closely with the ACA which is to produce an easy guide to help radio amateurs understand the new requirements and how to assess their station for compliance.

-- Contributed by Jim Linton, VK3PC

E-mail Directory

(Reflects changes notified up to 1.5.02)

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au VK2FT (Jason) jasonm@tsn.cc VK2GD (Alan) anut@ozemail.com.au VK2JB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au VK2JJ (John) jjones@felglow.com.au VK2TT (Trevor) gramps@felglow.com.au VK2VY (John) vk2vy@bigpond.com VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au VK2CLL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au VK2DAL (David) davsmith@ecopost.com.au VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc VK2EJK (Bob) bobro@bigpond.com.au VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@oceania.net VK2HBM (Craig) martins@dodo.com.au VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au VK2ZCV (Bill) bilsinvk@oceania.net VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@bigpond.com VK2ZHE (Henry) henry.lundell@airservices.gov.au

Wanted

486 PC Mother-board with 8MB Memory For Club BBS Up-grade Ring John VK2VY 02 6582.0020

It Can!

It has been said that "lightning does not strike in the same place twice". Well, I believe that it can... It did at my QTH.

Way back in May 1997, Thor took a potshot at me. The strike, and its achievements, were reported in OXTALES during that year, and here, 5 years down the track, I am doing it again... reporting it in OXTALES, that is.

Fortunately, I was better prepared this time. I had previously learnt that leaving devices plugged into AC power outlets (even though the outlets are turned off) afforded little or no protection. This time, on the Tuesday prior to Easter, I received timely warning of the approaching storm activity. With calm deliberation, I acted.

ALL unpluggable appliances were removed from the AC supply outlets, and all antennae were disconnected. I sat back and relaxed and awaited the storm's arrival to simply watch it all, secure in the knowledge that everything was safe. How wrong I was!

At 6.45pm, about 30 minutes after my preparations were complete, there was an explosion/blinding flash. It took place about 20 metres from my QTH front door, in the foliage of a large gum tree through which the horizontal leg of my 80MX Delta Loop Antenna "just" passed. There was no loss of AC mains supply, or any noticeable accompanying voltage surge, but the leg of my Loop antenna was severed in twain as though cut with a gas torch. This is precisely where the antenna was clobbered, and more severely mutilated, in the 1997 incident.

My reaction was still one of total calm and complacency. I had beaten old Thor at his game of "cook the ham gear"... or so I thought. Because the storm activity hovered around over the next few hours, I did not plug anything back into the AC mains, but awaited the crystal clear day that dawned on the Wednesday.

On entering the shack on that Wednesday morning, things looked their normal untidy best, and I was light of heart because of my "smart" isolation action of the previous evening. The feeling was shortlived. I plugged the main station PSU into the mains, switched on, and was immediately dazzled by the brilliant meter illuminations that resulted. I responded automatically by switching off, but it was too late. Damage had been done!

Initial investigation showed that the PSU was dishing out 23 Volts instead of the expected 13.8V. Closer investigations showed that the regulator chip in the PSU had died, for some reason. I soon found out a possible reason when looking around the shack. The dangling coaxial cable tail between the toroidal balun on the 80MX Delta loop and the ATU, had clearly arced over to the chassis of a TNC that was sitting on the shelf about 30-40cms away... a large burnt splotch in the TNC paintwork, and some molten fragments of the coaxial connector told some of the story. The TNC had been sitting on yet another TNC, which in turn had been plugged into the PSU at "strike-time". The current in the

arc had clearly traveled through all of chassis/earths of the inter-connected gear, and somehow found its way back to the earth via the steel in the reinforcement of the concrete slab on which the house is built.

Whether ALL the resulting damage was due directly to the strike, is not known, but I assume that at least the regulator chip in PSU must have died at that instant. Burnt out components in the TNC, HF transceiver, and VHF transceiver, were quite likely due to the over voltage from the PSU when I confidently switched on... but, who knows for sure? All units except the HF transceiver have been restored to working condition... I haven't started on the HF Transceiver exercise yet. Fortunately, component replacements in the other gear were confined to inexpensive Zener diodes, chips, and FET's, and more importantly they were located in accessible areas.

Outside of the shack we suffered a cooked ballast choke in a fluorescent light, and when the Hot Water Supply started feeling rather cool on the Thursday night shower, we found an open circuit heater element in the HWS tank. (Where does one find a repair man on Good Friday? It looked like a potentially "dirty-weekend" coming up, but that was fortuitously averted by the availability of a used working element kindly offered by a good Samaritan... Much appreciated, Tracy!)

As my learning curve continues to get steeper, I have added yet another precaution against lightning. I will now make sure that disconnected feeders are chucked out of the shack, and where possible, antennae are lowered, preferably to ground level. Maybe one should consider dispensing with antennae altogether, thus removing the requirement for gear to hang on the ends of them. Could be a cheaper and less stressful strategy to adopt? Nah! I am gonna stay with it for a while yet.

Trevor (VK2TT)





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

1st May, 2002

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.
F	JOHN (FLORENCE)	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
. F	JOHN (MARY)	BAYLIS	VK21B	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5703
L F	BOB	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	E TO SERVE
F	BOB (JOSIE)	BRODIE	VKZEJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
F	ROY W (JUNE)	BURGES	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
F	BRUCE	CLARK	YK2 MAZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5279
F	KEVIN (JUNE)	COULTER	VK2 MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
F	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9922
F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
D	STAN (BETTY)	ELLIS	VK2DDL.	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
1 F	BADEN (VALERY)	GLEESON	VK2 MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
2 F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
3 F	RICHARD J	HALL	VK2BX0	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.658
4 L	KEITH	HANLON		PORT MACQUARIE	
5 F	DAVID (ISOBEL)	HARDING	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4986
6 L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.534
7 F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.709
3 F	WILL (CAROL)	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.862
F	JOHN (THEA)	JONES	VK2JJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.452
DL	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL.	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.115
L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	it sairtain
2 F	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDI.	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.032
3 F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VKZOA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.204
4 F	JASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.042
5 F	CRAIG	MARTIN	VK2HBM	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.345
6 A	ADAM	MARTIN	-	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.345
7 F	JOHN (KARIN)	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.002
8 F	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.299
9 L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.131
0 F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.355
1 F	GRAHAM (LINDA)	PALMER	VK2TRM	KENDAL	02 6559.455
2 F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VKZAYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.264
3 A	GRAHAM (JENNIFER)	PILCHER		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.346
4 F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.583
5 F	BILL	SINCLAIR	VKZZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.930
6 D	ERNIE (CATHY)	SLOMAN	VK2BUE	TENTERFIELD	02 6736.138
7 F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.100
8 F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.873
9 F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.227
0 F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.836
	The state of the s				02 6582.403
41 F	JIM	WEBSTER mber D = Dista	VK2BZD ent Member L	PORT MACQUARIE = Life Member A = As	200 000

