



# OXTALES

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

**July 2002**

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583.8360  
VICE PRES: Bob Brodie VK2EJK 6582.0592  
TREASURER: Roy Burges VK2YOR 6583.9349  
SECRETARY: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557

above positions a lot of thought because if they are not filled then the club will fold, so do your bit for the club. Ring or tell me which position you would gladly do.

Cheers from Bruce VK2HOT,  
President O.R.A.R.C. Inc

## President's Report

Hi All

Another Field Day's over and it created a problem in the store-room with a lack of space.



The above matter was talked about on the Wednesday night net (12<sup>th</sup>) with the idea of parking a trailer at the bottom of the steps and throwing the stuff that has no use out.

Well I rolled up for the usual Friday night get together (14<sup>th</sup>) and we were all into it, that is the big clean up. It took about an hour and a half and it was all done and very little needed to be tossed out. That was stage one with stage two being the cupboard and the book area to be sorted out.

To those who helped I say "Thank you".  
**LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN.**

It was also suggested that on the 1st Friday after each meeting that the members be instructed by Arthur VK2ATM on the programs in the computer as to how they work. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday night could be taken up constructing interface cables for our own use.

The AGM and we will need a full executive. That is the President, Secretary and Treasurer. We have to fill these positions. Another problem position is that of Field Day co-ordinator. You must give the

## Down The Coax

**Friday Night  
Get-together**

**July 12th & 26th  
7.00pm**

**August Meeting**

**Saturday 3rd August 2002  
2.00pm**

**Friday Night  
Get-together**

**August 9th & 23rd  
7.00pm**

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**September Meeting**  
**Saturday 7th Sept. 2002**  
**2.00pm**

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## **FIELD DAY REPORT**

Well, what a fantastic Field Day!

Saturday did not start out to well with the hold up at getting the gear out of the store room. The rain did not stop anything from happening. The snag sizzle was good for the 23 that paid up.

Sunday with sunshine was appreciated. The rego desk was busy once again with a total of 79 through the door which was a bit up on the previous year. Very social and laid back was how I viewed the weekend. Maybe without the dealers it gave people more time to chat.

I would like to thank those who assisted with the field day. It made my job easy to the point where I was walking around looking for something to do. I even had a go at a practice fox hunt which I found to be a bit hard to start with but with the right gear loaned to me by Brian VK2BE, it was a piece of cake.

The upstairs activities on the computer were well appreciated by all that viewed the screen. The new computer seems to work really well thanks to Arthur VK2ATM. Bill VK2ZCV supplied heaps of programs which I am still looking at.

The display by Jim VK2BZD gained a lot of interest. The noise of the machines was enough to turn heads.

We finished early and with a quick clean up of the hall and all the stuff returned to the club store room I was home by 4 pm which was great. Once again THANKS for a good team effort.

Bruce-VK2HOT (Field Day Co-ordinator)

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## **Field Day RESULTS**

### **2-M Talk In**

Won by VK2BZC Paul  
Prize: Set of Jumper Leads.  
Navigator : Jim (VK2BZD)  
Prize "Guinness Book of Records"

### **80-M One Transmitter**

Won by Arnold (VK2ADA)  
Prize: Plaque on Stand.

### **2-M One Transmitter**

Won by Arnold (VK2ADA)  
Prize : Key Ring

### **10-M One Transmitter**

Won by Arnold (VK2ADA)  
Prize: Coffee Cup

### **2-M Pedestrian**

Won by Chris (VK2YMW)  
Prize : Medal on Stand

### **Fox Hunt Champion**

Won by Arnold (VK2ADA) Woolgoolga  
14 Points  
Prize: Bob Todd Holden Trophy plus \$50  
Dick Smith Voucher.

### **Runner Up**

Won by Chris (VK2YMW) Hornsby  
13 Points  
Prize : Bob Todd Holden Trophy

### **Best Presented Fox-Hunt Vehicle**

Craig (VK2HBM) San Crox  
Prize : Bob Todd Holden Trophy and  
Car-Care Kit

### **Home Brew**

Won by Bill (VK2ZCV) Port Macquarie  
for 2-M Yagi Antenna Design  
Prize : Cordless Drill

### **Men's Lucky Door**

Basket of Bits & Pieces  
ROSS VK2DVZ (CUNDLETOWN)

## Ladies Lucky Door

- 1<sup>ST</sup> 2 Bottles of wine—Helen (XYL of VK2YMW)  
2<sup>ND</sup> Carry Bag—June (XYL of VK2ADA)

## Major Raffle

- 1<sup>ST</sup> \$100 BIG W Open Order  
KEITH VK2KDL  
2<sup>ND</sup> \$50 Westport B/C Meal Vouchers  
JOHN-VK2KHB  
3<sup>RD</sup> 2 Bottles Cassegrain Wine  
DAVID-VK2AYD  
4<sup>TH</sup> Carton of Toohey's Beer  
BRUCE-VK2HOT  
5<sup>TH</sup> Win Radio Tee Shirt  
ADAM MARTIN  
6<sup>TH</sup> Carton Hahn Beer  
NEIL-VK2EI  
7<sup>TH</sup> TORCH  
ERNIE-VK3BUE (Tenterfield)  
8<sup>TH</sup> Computer Back-up System  
GRAHAM-VK2TRM(KENDALL)  
9<sup>TH</sup> Box of Bits & Pieces  
GARRY-VK2NW (MAITLAND)

## SOME FIELD DAY FACTS

AMATEURS VK2 =	64
VK4 =	1
NON AMATEURS =	5
XYL'S/YL'S =	9
	<u>79</u>

## OF THE VK'S

LOCAL REGION =	31
SOUTH OF P/MAC =	15
NORTH OF P/MAC =	14
WEST OF P/MAC =	5

## Pedal Radio

### "A social masterpiece"

Firstly, a few steps backwards before a few steps forwards.

For those who have not read of John Flynn's life and the Flying Doctor Service and the anointment of his heir apparent or Fred McKay, these texts I commend to you.

Both Flynn and McKay knew that the communication problems of 2 million square miles required attention, and each was aware that the solution was radio. Radio was well on the way in the 20's but how to bring it to the bush was the problem.

If they could obtain electric supply, this would answer the question. Fred McKay persisted with his endeavours and realised that if you could generate electrical energy through personal exertion, the problem could be solved.

As it transpired, during Fred McKay's searches, he was informed that there was a brilliant young mechanic in an Adelaide garage who could possibly help him wind a generator and of course it was Traeger who, due to his outstanding technical knowledge, was able to resolve the McKay problem.

No doubt much has been written since, concerning Traeger's work. Whilst the writer has only been recently introduced to transmission lines, radiation and propagation, I would be grateful if readers who are familiar with the early pedal radio, could help with explanations or references to publications by learned bodies of yesterday.

To begin: I have seen a picture of an old tourer with spigot and socket mast sections lashed to the tops of the car doors and gear stowed on running boards.

So next: we assume that in the beginning, there was a base station in a reasonable sized rural centre and we have radio on a station property out in the donga.

So somebody set it up, and of course radio was well established in the twenties as many Oxley members are well aware, although the property radio no doubt needed lots of fiddling, this must have been cause for concern, which brings me to directional antennae and matching losses etc.

No doubt efficiency was at a premium. So, initially what was the antenna configuration? It would have had to have given maximum radiation in the direction of the base station, notwithstanding that other stations came later, the radiation pattern would necessitate a differ-

ent configuration. So for now how was it done?

I am led to believe that there aren't trees in these areas. So when our intrepid wanderer mounted his bits and pieces mast, what then ?

A long wire to the house, bearing in mind this is the prototype, and further, what did they use for matching, an ATU, or what did they do? It must have been simple and no doubt roller inductors were around in the twenties. And to keep kicking the ball, was the prototype pedal in existence, or was it a cranked generator? This could have been a possibility, since the gramophone was fitted with an excellent governor.

Sure as time progressed, there must have been lots of mods. With higher masts, later technology, vertical dipoles, or whatever and many base stations and many more rural properties and, I believe, Traeger developed a Morse Typewriter.

In conclusion, I can only express my greatest respect and admiration for these three distinguished men, who have carved a place in the history of our great country.

I await patiently with feverish expectation, your replies and guidance in the seeking of this knowledge.

Will Jamieson (VK2XXU)

### Net Controllers Roster.

**Sundays**

**Wednesdays**

**July**

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

**August**

VK2MAZ Aug-04	VK2ATM Aug-07
VK2DAL Aug-11	VK2AYD Aug-14
VK2OA Aug-18	VK2HOT Aug-21
VK2TT Aug-25	VK2MAZ Aug-28

**September**

VK2AIF Sep-01	VK2GD Sep-04
VK2FSH Sep-08	VK2HBM Sep-11
VK2JJ Sep-15	VK2EI Sep-18
VK2BZD Sep-22	VK2EJK Sep-25
VK2OA Sep-29	

**October**

VK2AIF Oct-06	VK2ATM Oct-02
VK2TT Oct-13	VK2AYD Oct-09
VK2BZD Oct-20	VK2DAL Oct-16
VK2EJK Oct-27	VK2EI Oct-23
	VK2HBM Oct-30

**November**

VK2HOT Nov-03	VK2FSH Nov-06
VK2JJ Nov-10	VK2GD Nov-13
VK2MAZ Nov-17	VK2ATM Nov-20
VK2DAL Nov-24	VK2AYD Nov-27

**December**

VK2BZD Dec-01	VK2HOT Dec-04
VK2TT Dec-08	VK2MAZ Dec-11
VK2AIF Dec-15	VK2GD Dec-18
VK2FSH Dec-22	VK2HBM Dec-25
VK2JJ Dec-29	

### **E-mail Directory**

(Reflects changes notified up to 1.7.02)

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  
 VK2OA (Allan) poss2oa@tsn.cc  
 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  
 VK2HOT (Bruce) brucew@tsn.cc  
 VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au  
 VK2ZCV (Bill) bilsinvk@fasternet.com.au  
 VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@bigpond.com  
 VK2ZHE (Henry) henry.lundell@airservices.gov.au

### **Did You Know?**

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ball point pens would not work in zero gravity.

Top combat the problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 million to develop a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, underwater, on almost any surface including glass

and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to 300 degrees C.

## The Russians used a pencil !

- Found somewhere by John (VK2KHB)

### The Extraordinary Life of Peter Lionel Heyliger Hill (12/10/1910 – 28/05/2002)

The passing of Peter Hill (VK2BZA), recently of Lake Cathie, saddened the Amateur Radio fraternity in general and the O. R.A.R.C. in particular. Peter was a Life Member of our club, and was our most senior member, in terms of age. We are indebted to his daughter, Imogen, for a comprehensive and interesting summary of Peter's extraordinary life. It is presented below :-

Peter was born in Georgetown in British Guiana and spent many holidays as a child on the islands of Barbados and St Kitts .

He was taught to shoot at an early age and shot his first crocodile (a baby one) at the age of ten.

At the age of seventeen, he left Georgetown to study electrical and mechanical engineering at the London Polytechnic. To supplement his income while studying he drove a London bus.

Peter and five other young hopefuls arrived in India in 1935 to take up posts of technical advisers to the Indian Army. They lived in the RIASC mess at Chaklala, three miles from Rawalpindi.

He met Isa Pollock, a young nurse who had recently arrived from England and married her at St Johns Church in Rawalpindi in 1937. They spent an idyllic month's honeymoon on a houseboat on the Dal Lake in Srinagar. The houseboat called the "St James Palace was magnificently carved and contained three bedrooms. A cooking shikari (boat) was moored next door. In early March they were the only holiday makers on the lake.

They were soon posted to Quetta in Baluchistan to replace army and airforce personnel who survived the disastrous earthquake there.

No buildings were considered safe and they had to sleep in Wana Huts at night

(tent over a low brick wall.). Peter enjoyed sailing and duck, partridge and quail shooting on the Hana Lake and around Quetta.

While living in India they employed large numbers of servants including a bearer whose duty it was to look after the master, running his bath and laying out his clothes to wear.

They set off by sea to England for a holiday and returned to Deolali. Their leisure time was spent dancing at the Officers Club, playing golf or touring.

Peter accepted a commission as a Captain in the Regular Indian Army and was posted to Risalpur on the border of Peshawar. He was soon promoted to Major in the newly formed Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

When the Second World War was declared Peter was given orders to prepare his workshop company immediately for the Western Desert. His wife, Isa, gave away all their possessions and followed him to Cairo six weeks after her first baby was born. She lived in a hotel in Cairo and saw him for 4 days every 6 weeks.

Peter returned to India in December 1941 in charge of a boatload of Italian prisoners and was posted to 45 Workshop Company in Poonā.

After some time the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Division was posted to Rangoon. Peter was most upset as he had drawn straws with a friend who received the more sought after post of Singapore . How lucky fate was on his side!

Peter arrived in Rangoon just in time to stage a retreat from the rapidly advancing Japanese army. The great retreat started at Myitthina and he walked over the mountains and down into the Hukwong Valley from Fort Hatz and over the Paktai Hills to Assam. The marathon walk in monsoon conditions with very little food, stretched for around three hundred miles. Only Peter and one other soldier survived and were both seriously ill with malaria and dysentery.

After a long recuperation he was posted to Hydrobad in the Sind Desert and of course his family with two children accompanied him.

Finally Peter was posted back to Secunderabad, his last home in India. In 1947 the regular British Indian Army Officers were offered a choice of joining the Indian or Pakistani armies or taking a package. Peter took the package and spent a year in England deciding on his future.

He had applied for and was accepted for a

job with the Army of Occupation in Germany, when a letter came from a friend in New Zealand saying that it was "God's own country". Peter decided on impulse to pack up and go to New Zealand to look for a job.

He was offered the position of Mechanical Engineer at the Board of Works in Wellington. He bought a new house in Wainuiomata and enthusiastically took up gardening on the double block. In the first year he planted 240 cabbages and of course, could neither eat them or give them away.

His poor wife, who had never cooked or cleaned in her life, had two children under ten and another two children in the three years they were in New Zealand!

In 1951, with four children, he accepted a job as Chief Mechanical Engineer with the Melbourne Harbour Trust, and uprooting his tearful family once again headed for Australia.

The family settled in a lovely old home at Brighton Beach and enjoyed many happy years in his country retreat at Warburton on the Yarra Valley. He finally retired from the Harbour Trust in 1974.

He settled in Lake Cathie near Port Macquarie and with his usual enthusiasm studied to become a radio ham. This became his great passion.

He also loved driving and fishing and his large family of four children and eleven grandchildren.

His wife Isa died in 1995 after a long illness and he continued to live on his own with the help of several very kind ladies who cooked and cleaned for him.

Due to ill health he moved to the Canberra Nursing Home at the age of 91. Even though he was no longer able to walk unaided, his interest in ham radio continued.

He bought new equipment until about three months before his death. He was the eternal optimist and always thought the next piece of equipment would be easier to use. Unfortunately it wasn't and had to be returned to the store a few days later by a member of the family. He seemed quite content at the home surrounded by his loved and loving family and died peacefully on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2002.

Peter had a keen sense of humour and

delighted in practical jokes both at home and at work. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

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## Historic Graphical Artefacts

Would any member who attended the Christmas 2001 Get-together at VK2JJ;s, and has any photographs of the happening, John Bailey (VK2KHB), our Historian, would be pleased to receive copies.

Will (VK2XXU)

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## VK2EZQ In Range

E-mail received from Ted & Sue (Tue 25th June)

*Dear Trevor,*

*We have been for a short time anchored at Laurieton.*

*Unfortunately due to the engine installation time consuming muck up we missed the field day regrettably and will miss the club meeting.*

*We want to get on North as it is unpleasantly cold.*

*We are making passage to Noumea and Vanuatu again.*

*Was talking to Alan VK2GD the other day and he asked me what HF scheds I was on.*

*Would it be possible for you to publish the following as I would welcome some contacts.*

*Could even try CW, RTTY, Pactor, PSK31 and hope soon to have SSTV going.*

*All freqs +/-QRM*

*Message can be left with net controller to arrange sched or email us on the boat via radio email to:*

*vk2ezq@amsat.org*

*2030UTC 7087LSB Comedy Net, every day. VK2EZO net control fri and sat.*

*2100-2200UTC 14315 Tony's Net, ZL4HI*

*Fin, Every day, Message re Sched*

*0900NSW time Saturday, 10120/5, Good quiet band, should make islands.*

*Ted and Sue,*

*The Alice Colleen of Montreal.*

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## Field Day Weekend Caterers

The slaves who worked in the kitchen over the field day weekend included some

new blood. It was pleasing to have the younger generation actively engaged in the important task of feeding the multitudes. Adam Martin, and one of MAZ's harmonics (It could have been Nathan, but the name has escaped me) both provided

valuable support in food preparation and dispensing. Watch out lads, this club works willing horses!. Well done, and many thanks.

- Us Cooks and Bottle Washers.



### Where is it ?

A group of perplexed Fox Hunters at the June 2002 Field Day Weekend. The fox was in a drainage pipe, projecting from within the concrete-block wall (it is obscured by VK2HBM—Back to Camera)

**Membership subscriptions are now due. To ensure your continuing support for the club and continuity of receipt of OXTALES, please make sure that you renew your subscriptions for the 2002/2003 financial as soon as possible. The club needs your support more than ever. Check the membership list on Page 8. If you are not there, then the Treasurer had not received your renewal by 1/7/2002**

**Don't forget the 2002 AGM on  
Saturday 3rd August at 1400 Hours**



VK2ADA (Arnold) receiving his Fox Hunt Trophies from Il Presidenté, (Bruce VK2HOT), while proud XYL acts as "Trophy Bearer"



### OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

1st July, 2002

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.	
1	F	BILL	BROOKE	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	
2	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
3	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	
4	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
5	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	
6	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
7	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
8	F	LAURIE (ROBIN)	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
9	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
10	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278

F = Full Member D = Distant Member L = Life Member A = Associate Member

