OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC
PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS VALLEY

OXTALES

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

November 2002

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT:	Alan Nutt	VK2GD	6582.3557
VICE PRES:	Bill Brooke	VK2ZCW	6581.0547
TREASURER:	John Bailey	VK2KHB	6583.9349
SECRETARY:	Bill Sinclair	VK2ZCV	6583.9302

President's Report

There seems to have been a lot of Club activity one way and another this month which is a pretty good sign. Firstly, our congratulations to Craig, 2HBM who received notification this week that he was successful at the recent AOCP examinations. Looks like a change of call sign coming up shortly, mate!! Well done.

Secondly, our thanks to Bill, 2ZCV and Roy, 2YOR who have jointly taken up the vacant secretary position. Our thanks also to the teams who provided communications at the Billy Cart Classic on Sunday, 12th October and the Sea Scouts at the JOTA exercise in Port on Saturday, 19th October. No dramas at either event, apart for some minor hardware problem with our computer at JOTA. We had an interesting hook-up with scout troops at Branxton and Berowra via the Gosford 2m repeater which was accessible due to an unexpected duct during the evening.

There has been some progress in the repair of our Tele Point repeater cavities although one of the acquired pieces of test gear has itself required some serious maintenance before being put to good use. I plan to have discussions with staff at Radio Rhema this coming week about their proposed changes to the mast at the Red Hill site which will require the relocation of both our receiving and transmitting antennas. We also want to know what further upgrades Rhema are planning and whether these changes are likely to have any adverse effect on our equipment.

Several Club members have reported ongoing interference from a local trucking or delivery company breaking into our Middle Brother 2m repeater. When the interference triggers the repeater, it does not itself appear audible on 146.1 MHz, suggesting that it is possibly the result of inter-modulation with some other service at the Middle Brother site. This sort of interference is not easy to track and we are continuing investigation and enquiries to try and locate the company concerned.

Don't forget to volunteer for a tech talk at one of our monthly meetings. Any subject of general interest will be most acceptable.

73's from Alan,
VK2GeeDee
President, ORARC

In This Issue :

Down The Coax

Friday Night
Get-together
Nov 8th & 22nd
7.00pm

December Meeting
Saturday 7th December 2002
2.00pm

Friday Night
Get-together
December 13th & 27th
7.00pm

January Meeting
Saturday 4th Jan 2003
2.00pm

Net Controllers Roster.

Sundays		Wednesdays	
	November		
VK2EJK	Nov-03	VK2FSH	Nov-06
VK2OA	Nov-10	VK2GD	Nov-13
VK2JJ	Nov-17	VK2ATM	Nov-20
VK2MAZ	Nov-24	VK2ZHE	Nov-27
	December		
VK2DAL	Dec-01	VK2AYD	Dec-04
VK2BZD	Dec-08	VK2HOT	Dec-11
VK2TT	Dec-15	VK2MAZ	Dec-18
VK2OA	Dec-22	VK2GD	Dec-25
VK2AIF	Dec-29		
	January		
		VK2HBM	Jan-01
VK2FSH	Jan-05	VK2EI	Jan-08
VK2JJ	Jan-12	VK2EJK	Jan-15
VK2BZD	Jan-19	VK2ATM	Jan-22
VK2HOT	Jan-26	VK2ZHE	Jan-29
	February		
VK2AIF	Feb-02	VK2AYD	Feb-05
VK2TT	Feb-09	VK2DAL	Feb-12
VK2BZD	Feb-16	VK2EI	Feb-19
VK2EJK	Feb-23	VK2HBM	Feb-26
	March		
VK2OA	Mar-02	VK2FSH	Mar-05
VK2JJ	Mar-09	VK2GD	Mar-12
VK2MAZ	Mar-16	VK2ATM	Mar-19
VK2TT	Mar-23	VK2AYD	Mar-26
VK2ZHE	Mar-30		

From Crystal Sets to Radio Resurrection

(From Ernie—VK2BUE)

It's a long, long time ago since I made my first crystal set. I got the carborundum crystal at Woolworths in London, when I was eleven years old, complete with instructions on how to wind the coil etc., and of course, the "cat's whisker'.

My uncle erected a single wire antenna spanning our long garden between two fir trees. We could see the BBC early transmitting antenna on Muswell Hill at Alexander palace. Frequency was 150Kcs. My uncle thought I was a clever laddie - but I thought it was all a simple operation.

Of course the crystal was just the beginning. I added a triode valve. I had already mastered the Morse Code, but you can't get CW on a crystal set, as such.

My uncle subscribed to F. J. Camms practical wireless. It wasn't long before I constructed my first T.R.F. Radio which embodied a reaction control, and hence the CW could be received. The first CW signal I got was Rugby Radio "GBR" and secondly, the Eiffel Tower "FLE". Well, thanks to "Practical Wireless", my valve knowledge increased into my teen years. The list went on... Triodes, Tetrodes, Pentodes, Heptodes, Hexodes and all the other "odes" - rather a pindaric sequence, in fact.

All this is leading up to bringing a 1930 HMV Radio back to life. One of my hobbies is doing just that.

Having acquired an old B11A radio set, I removed the chassis, and to my delight, the loudspeaker and dial assembly came out with it, and the dial cord was intact. It was a super-het type, using 1.5v miniature valves. I can't switch the set on because it uses two 45v dry batteries in series for the H.T. and one bulky 1.5v battery for the heaters, no longer available. This means I have to construct a PSU consisting of 90v DC and a 1.5v DC sources. It is simple enough and I do have a multiple HT and LT PSU that can supply up to 450v HT and variable heater volts from 1 volt to 12 volts. As far as the heater volts needed a 6.3 volt mains transformer with a diode rectifier bridge and a couple of Zener diodes will do the trick. The original batteries were positioned outside the radio and a mains unit built in a suitable insulated box would look a bit neater.

Don't forget the safety precautions and use the mains earth and double switching because it was a battery set.

I use a system. First you test the valves. That means you need a valve tester. I bought one, a Palec ET5, in 1957. Since then I've modified it so I can test picture tubes and valves such as those used in FT101E transceivers. This is achieved by wiring in various sockets on a small chassis, which can in turn be connected with an octal plug into the octal socket on the tester. Works a treat.

In this instance, I have a good set of valves and they are 70 years old. The output valve is a 3V4, that means a 3 Volt heater and it also means a centre tapped heater. That's all arranged anyway. One of the components in these old radios is notorious for causing problems and that is the waxed paper capacitor. They have a limited life and are prone to leakage. In RF and IF stages, they cause the radio to oscillate. In the audio stages they cause a positive voltage to appear on the valve grids causing distortion and overheating and the ruination of valves, especially the output ones. So I switch on the old radio without any valves in, and check the decouplers in the IF and RF circuits and the couplers in the detector and audio circuits. In this radio, I replaced two IF bypass and one audio coupler.

Next move. Put the audio output valve into its socket. The 3V4, it tested OK in the Palec, so we can assume the loudspeaker is ok too, but in any case click it with an analogue voltmeter on low ohms position, just to be sure.

Next, set up an audio generator and oscilloscope and have a look at the waveform. The radio uses an automatic biasing system to the grid of the 3V4 and any distortion will show a problem there. It is a simple voltage divider consisting of a 2 Megohm resistor and a 220 ohm resistor fed at the junction by the HT Negative - a rare trouble maker.

Next put the detector valve in. It is a detector and audio amplifier and AVC producer. Feed the audio oscillator signal into the volume control and recheck two components: (i) the audio coupling capacitor may be leaking
(ii) the grid leak resistor may have gone high. Replace if necessary.

Next insert the two IF valves. Set the signal generator to 457.5 KHz. Wrap the signal generator probe around the 1st IF valve and check the response. Swing the Generator about 10Hz either way to check the band-pass. A word of warning here about 'trimmers' I.F. transformers do not wander off frequency. The trimmers are usually 100 uuF. In the case of oscillation taking place, check for a damping resistor across the primary of the 2nd I.F. transformer. Usually about 75K to 100K across the trimmer. Never ever alter trimmers unless it's absolutely necessary. It rarely is.

Finally, insert the converter valve and connect the signal generator tuned to 819KHz, via a low value capacitor to the aerial input terminal and set the tuning to 819 KHz on the dial. If all is well, the ABC Regional Station "New England & Northwest, at Glen Innes should be received. If it's slightly off, a slight alteration of the oscillator coil trimmer (using an insulated rod adjuster - non metallised) will do the trick.

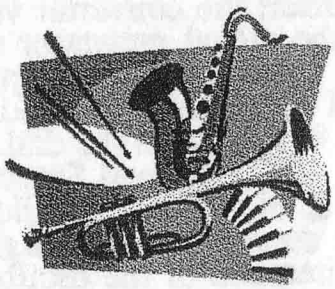
Actually, I am amazed at the clarity of this old B11A. The background is nice and quiet and hum free. I have a very satisfied owner. The total cost came to $125, because I bought a special P.S.U. completely transistorised, designed for old battery radios and very neat and compact.

[Note: I got the diagram and service notes relating to the old set from "Resurrection Radio" in Melbourne. They advertise in "Silicon Chip". Incidentally I subscribe to that excellent publication and when I've read it, I send it to LZ1AF, Dimiter Petrov who has been to visit me here in Tenterfield. He brought me a backward reading clock and my XYL the attar of 2000 Roses.]

History's Marvels

History records how the first union, and the first time-piece, came into being at the same time. Their simultaneous arrival took place when the soldiers in the army of Alexander the Great had become quite cheesed off with swinging their swords, from dawn to dusk, against the foe. The troops appointed the first shop steward to parley with Alexander about shorter hours for stints in the front line. The problem was that the watch had yet to be invented.

By mutual agreement it was decided that the problem could be solved satisfactorily in the following way. At the beginning of a shift in the front line, each soldier would tie a piece of rag around the wrist of his sword arm. When any given soldier's rag became well and truly soaked with sweat and blood, it was time to call it a day, and he was duly relieved from duty. This timing device was called "Alexander's Rag Time Band".



(The contributor of this item begged to remain anonymous and declined to name the source of this historical fact... but a name and address was supplied as a token of good faith... Ed)

The Story of the History of Call Sign VK2AIF

The call sign, VK2AIF, currently held by David Harding of Wauchope, has a colourful history. David, a member of the ORARC Inc., has put together the history of this call since it was first allocated. Here is his story of this significant three-letter call

I had associations with the call sign going back a number of years with my service in The Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

The call sign has been allocated since 1950. Holders were as follows:-

1950-55 Mr. G Fairweather of Broken Hill.

1960-61 2nd Division Signals Regiment Amateur Wireless (not Radio*) Club, Moore Park Sydney, NSW

1961-68 1st Division Signals Regiment Amateur Wireless Club 101 Signal Squadron) Ingleburn NSW

1975-89 Royal Australian Signals Association of NSW Amateur Wireless Club, Loftus St., Sydney.

VK2
Royal Australian Signals
Association of New South Wa
12 Loftus St,
Sydney, NSW. Australia. 200

(*Author's Note : "Wireless club" always used. The Army considered "Radio" was an American slang word).
During the period 1960-1989, I had personal contact with the call sign, firstly in 2nd Div. Sigs., and later with the 1st Div Sigs, as the "Custodian Officer" of the call sign. This was also the case with the Signals Association.

When the 2nd Divisional Signals Regiment was raised after WW2, in 1948, it was a unit made up of personnel from the Regular Army and the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) - now known as the Army Reserve.

The unit was based at Moore Park at the rear of the old Royal Easter Show Grounds. The regiment consisted of 24 officers and 472 other ranks, with equipment and vehicles to provide communications required by the Army Divisional Commander. (A Major-General who was required to command, control and fight his Army Division.

The main tasks of the Division were :-
(i) Divisional Wireless Nets
(ii) Divisional Telegraph Nets
(Line and Line carrier systems)
plus UHF Micro-wave systems.
(iii) Divisional telephone communications, plus support facilities such as despatch riders on motorcycles and jeeps, operators, maintenance person-

nel for all equipments and vehicles, cooks, storemen, line laying personnel, clerks, administration staff etc.

Yours truly was a member of the Regiment at that time and when the 2nd Divisional Signals Regiment was disbanded in 1961, and the new 1st Divisional Signals Regiment was formed at Ingleburn, I became a member of that regiment.

The task of the new regiment was, in the main, identical to the old 2 Divisional Signals, but as the Vietnam conflict was starting to gather momentum, it had extra personnel, equipment, and new generation communications equipment, also a new Amateur Wireless Club still using the call sign VK2AIF.

During the Vietnam conflict, VK2AIF/P was used for some excellent DX, and caused some 20-metre "pile-ups" all of course on the QT.

After 1990, the call sign lapsed and I had the honour of obtaining the call sign after my association with it for all those years.

- David (VK2AIF)

Congratulations to Craig (VK2HBM)

Craig sat for his AOCP Theory Examination on 18/09/02. As expected, Craig was successful at that event. Congratulations Craig ! Education Officer, Larry (VK2CLL) has now chalked up yet another successful student.

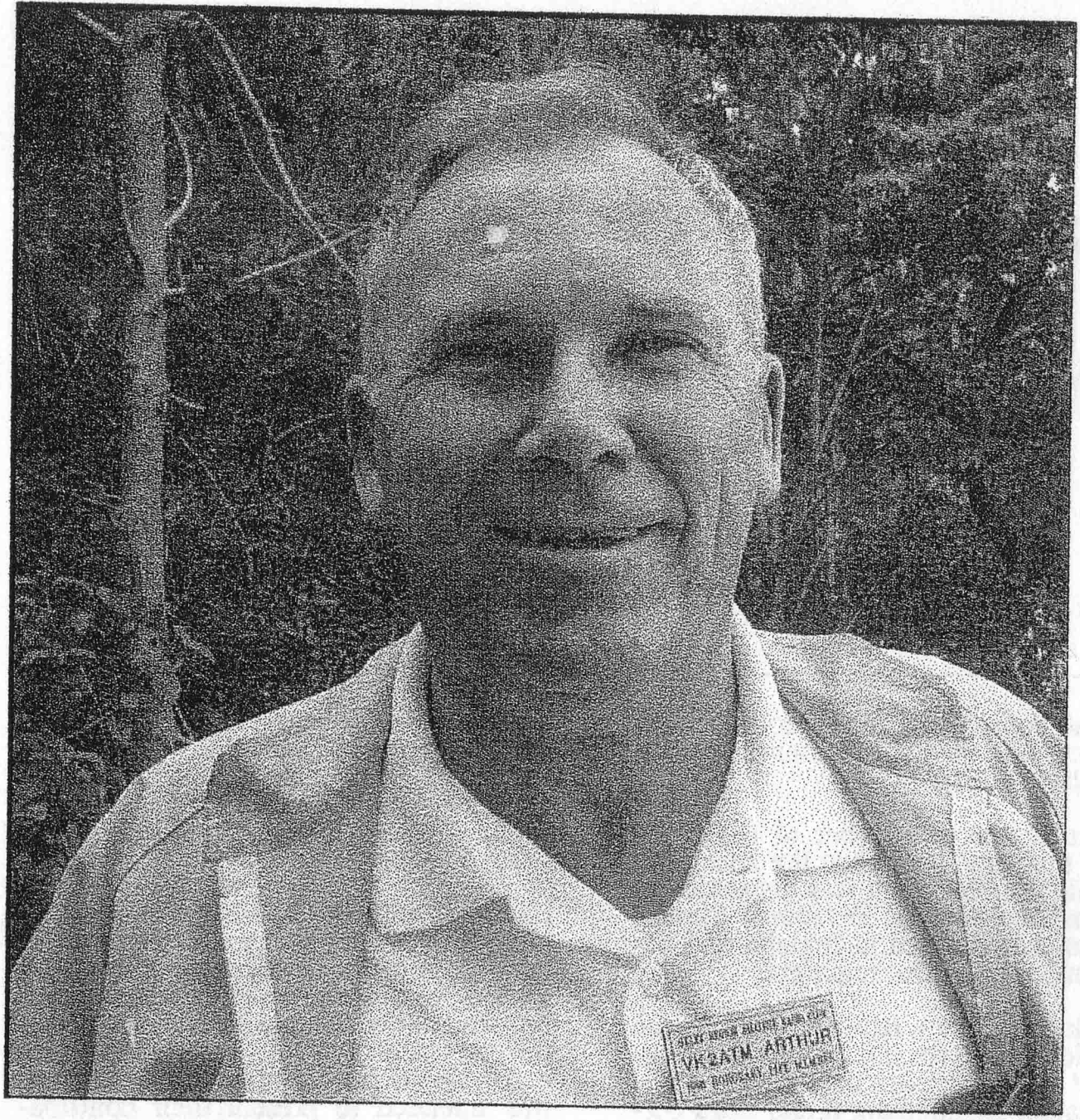
Some Club History.

A few weeks ago, during a period of lucid dreaming, your OXTALES Editor was somehow transported back to the early 1970's. Whilst there, he caught a glimpse of radio clubs of that era. This set him thinking (a rare process for your Editor, these days) and wondering about the origins of ***our*** club. The ORARC has been going strongly for around 30 years now. Over those years, its membership has fluctuated in terms of numbers. Sadly, many have become SK's, others have moved to other locations, some have totally lost the interest and disappeared while others, newcomers, move in to help keep ORARC functioning as a viable organization. However, within the ranks of ORARC there are two members who have been with the organization throughout its three decades of existence. They are both foundation members. Both are now Life Members, and are still up at the "sharp end" of the good ship "ORARC". They are, in alphabetical order of surname, Henry Lundell (VK2ZHE) & Arthur Monck, (VK2ATM).

Hacks from OXTALES' arranged "e-interviews" with Henry and Arthur, (e-mail prying, is more precise) and extracted from them some interesting stories and facts relating to their Amateur Interests in general and their participation in the club over its 30 functional years. It was intended to present their contributions in this issue of OXTALES, but space availability would have required some abridgement, and both stories do not deserve pruning in any way.

By way of partly meeting my own commitment to have this issue carry their stories, and to overcome the need to unnecessarily prune the stories, I have chosen to take two bites at the cherry. This issue will feature recent snapshots (see over page) of each of these two Life Members, along with a brief summary of their Club roles. There is also my promise to include, in next OXTALES, their unabridged recollections of the formation and early years of our club, and the interesting events that steered each of them down the path of Amateur Radio.

- Trevor - (VK2TT)

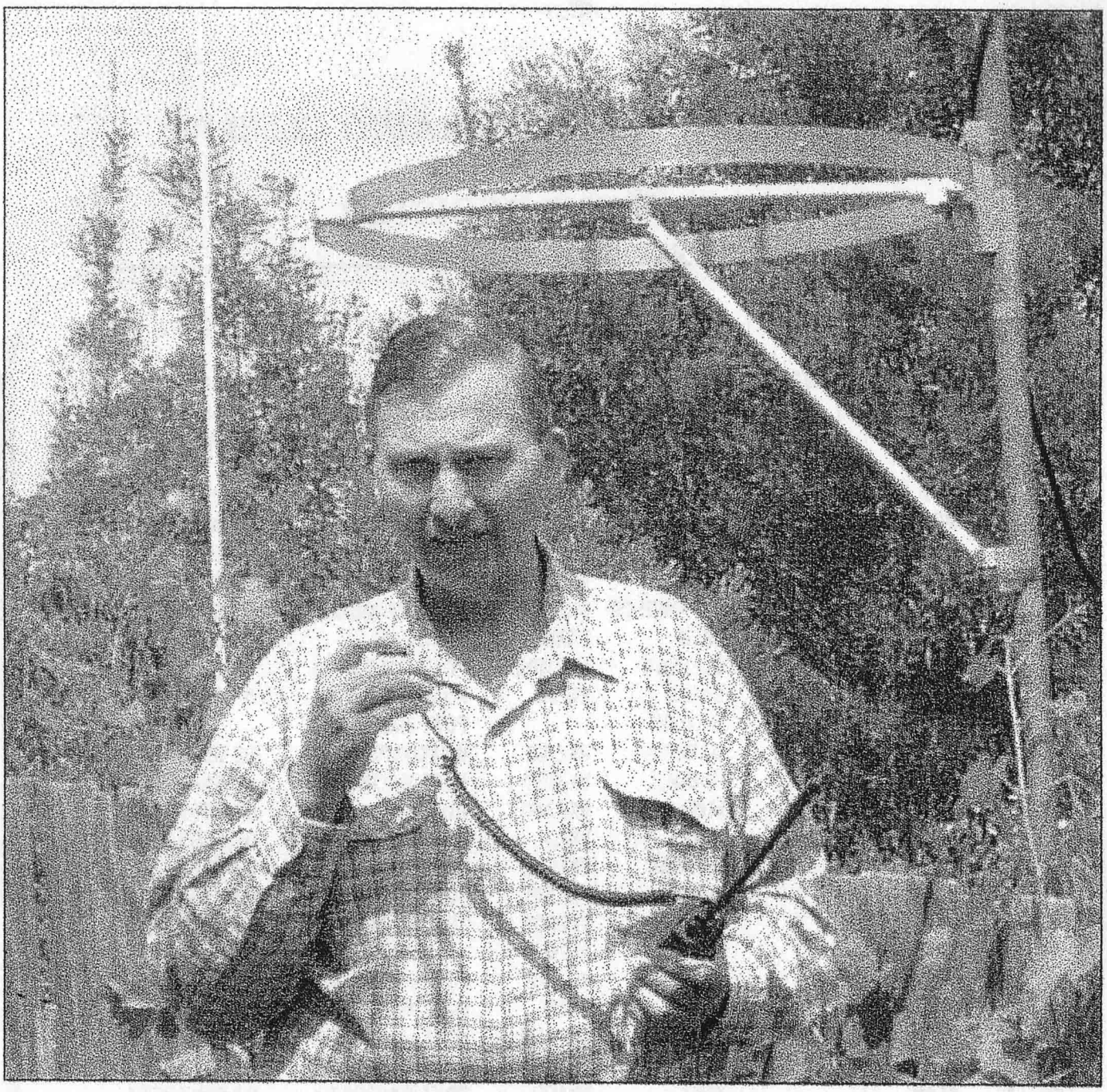


Arthur Monck—VK2ATM
Foundation Member of ORARC.
(Life Member)
Licensed June 6th 1969 (VK2BTM)
Later became VK2ATM, May 1970.

Arthur was an instigator, together with Peter Alexander (VK2PA), in the formation of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club in 1972.

He organised the very first Field Day of the club, together with XYL Wendy, who managed the eats. The event was held at Shelley Beach.

January's OXTALES will carry a more comprehensive coverage



Henry Lundell—VK2ZHE
(Foundation Member of ORARC.
(Life Member)
Licensed 1969 (VK2ZHE—first and only call)

Henry was one of the original proponents of establishing a radio club in the Hastings area.

He was instrumental in procuring the three AWA 500 Watt AM transmitters that still radiate the 160, 80 and 40 metre AM broadcasts from VK2WI at Dural.

of these two members role in ORARC and AR in general.

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at 26th October, 2002)

	Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.
1	F	JOHN (FLORENCE)	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	F	JOHN (MARY)	BAYLIS	VK2IB	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5703
3	D	ALAN	BELL	VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554.1689
4	L	BOB	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5	F	BOB (JOSIE)	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
6	F	BILL (AILSA)	BROOKE	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
7	F	ROY W (JUNE)	BURGES	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
8	F	KEVIN (JUNE)	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
9	F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
10	D	STAN (BETTY)	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
11	F	BADEN (VALERY)	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
12	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
13	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
14	F	DAVID (ISOBEL)	HARDING	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
15	F	"SNOW"	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7059
16	F	WILL	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
17	F	JOHN	JONES	VK2IJ	LAKET CATHIE	02 6585.4522
18	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
19	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2242
20	F	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
21	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
22	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
23	F	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
24	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
25	F	LAURIE (ROBIN)	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
26	F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
27	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
28	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
29	F	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
30	D	ERNIE	SLOMAN	VK2BUE	TENTERFIELD	02 6736.1388
31	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
32	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2HBC	SPRINGFIELD	02 4365.5046
33	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
34	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
35	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	-

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