



# OXTALES

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

**July 2003**

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

With another successful field day behind us, we can start planning for the next two events on our calendar – the Light-house “bash” on August 16 -17 and JOTA, October 18 -19. Both events will be on us before we realise it so make sure the dates are in your diary.



I have talked at some length with Radio Rhema management and ascertained that it is their intention to move their transmitter from Cairncross to Red Hill as soon as relocation approval is granted by the ABA. They do not plan to raise the existing mast any higher, hoping to use an antenna array that will give them the desired coverage at the present height. Their transmitter puts out 3kW so interference or de-sensing of our receiver could be a problem in which case more filters might be needed but we'll face that if and when it happens. Rhema will keep us advised of further developments and timing. Rhema have also asked me to join their technical staff as a consultant since they currently have no one with a BOCP. The dual hat job should result in a pretty good working relationship between Rhema and ORARC. At least we should know well in advance about any future changes which might affect our Club!

John, 2JJ has finally surfaced following his move to VK4 land and our thanks to Henry for circulating John's new email address. No doubt we'll get a mailing address in due course and catch up with him

on air as well.

We don't appear to have made much progress so far in promoting our Club to the younger generation. Most of the inputs from our discussions since the March meeting seem to have been pretty negative and, while no doubt realistic, have not given us any positive direction in which to move..

We are still wide open for suggestions even though, as I said in my address at the Field Day, we are in a discipline that is going through major technological and social changes. As a direct result of these changes, much of the interest of early years is just no longer there. If that be the case, let's exploit the new technology, generate some new interest in areas that may be foreign to us at the moment and prove in the process that you CAN teach an old dog new tricks.

Alan Nutt VK2GD  
El Presidente

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## **Down The Coax**

**Friday Night  
Get-together  
July 11th & 25th 2003  
7.00pm**

**2003 A. G. M.  
followed by  
August Monthly meeting  
Saturday 2nd August 2003  
2.00pm**

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

**September Meeting  
Saturday 6th Sep 2003  
2.00pm**

## **A Guide to IRLP from CHADARC**

*[The following information and instructions were kindly e-mailed from Peter McAdam (VK2EVB). ORARC Members interested in trying out IRLP should find this helpful]*

NOTE: Recent Technical problems at VK2RDO have been resolved and the IRLP Node 6625 has been restored to VK2RDO from the temporary facilities that had been carried by the VK2RCH 146.850 MHz repeater.

**A Guide To Using I.R.L.P. Node 6625  
Via VK2RDO 146.650 MHz**

**From the Coffs Harbour And District  
Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

This E-mail is meant as a simple guide for those wishing to use the C.H.A.D.A.R.C. Sponsored I.R.L.P. Node 6625 VK2EVB.

### **Background.**

The aim of the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) is to provide a simple and easy system to link radio systems together using the Internet as the communications backbone.

The IRLP uses Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) software coupled with the power of the Internet to link your local radio site to the world in a simple and cost effective manner. IRLP

operates a worldwide network of dedicated servers and nodes offering very stable worldwide voice communications between hundreds of towns and cities around the world with a full dynamic range of telephone quality audio. Similar linking options exist, but they use expensive leased telephone lines or satellite equipment. It is not the goal of this project to compete, but to work along with other networks to improve the technology and improve radio linking for all involved parties. The people who benefit most from the IRLP are its users. David Cameron VE7LTD  
IRLP Designer.

Normal operating procedure is as follows:-

1. Please check that the node or repeater is not in use.
2. Announce your Call sign prior to dialling. (eg "VK2???" on IRLP" to enable DTMF detection )
3. Dial the required node or reflector number. (Don't dial too fast. eg "6220" for Lismore, "9250" Las Vegas reflector etc.)
4. When the node dialled opens, listen for 5-10 seconds to ensure the repeater is not in use at the other end.
5. Call CQ or your preferred contact. (talk clearly in normal speaking manner, and remember the VK2RDO timeout, approx. 2.5 minutes).
6. Once you have finished please announce you are closing the link and dial "73", which will close the connection.

NOTE: Please leave 1-2 second delay after PTT activation before either talking or dialling so your audio isn't clipped.

And 2 seconds before replying for the computer linking. Announce your call sign before dialling to enable DTMF detection.

A more detailed web site providing information on making a direct connection, joining a reflector, error messages, etc can be found at :

**<http://www.irlp.net/02-intro/frame.html>**

### **Gentlemen's Agreement.**

Remember, CHADARC IRLP Node 6625, is linked via the Dorrigo repeater VK2RDO and as such covers a large area. This being

the case, a large number of users have access to this facility. Therefore it would be unfair if any one individual was tie up both the repeater and the node for extended periods. This will ensure that everyone can make use of this facility and allows the repeater to be used normally if required. In other words, give everyone a go!

### **Node DTMF Option Codes**

- #0 Check Node status (e.g. "Connected to node xxxx....." or "Link off" disconnected.)
- #1 Local Temperature (e.g. "Temperature at 6 am was 9 degrees Celsius")
- #2 Local Time (e.g. "The time is 3:15 pm ")
- #3 UTC Time (e.g. "The time is 5:15 am UTC")
- #4 Club Information (e.g. Plays details of club contacts, nets and meetings)
- #5 Node Help (e.g. Play help file containing this information)
- #\*10# Last Node connected (e.g. "Last node connected was node 9250 western reflector in Las Vegas)
- ##???? Time at remote node (e.g. "Time at node 9250 is 2.30 am on Wednesday March 1st")

### **Some VK-ZL Node Numbers**

6000 Sydney	6700 Ulverstone
6220 Lismore	6100 Perth
6480 Cairns	6400 Gold Coast
6010 Wollongong	6720 Murdunna
6260 Wagga	6110 Canberra
6499 Melbourne	6410 Bundaberg
6040 Newcastle	6900 Christchurch
6300 Melbourne	6200 Fremantle
6500 Adelaide Hill	6430 Brisbane
6050 Sydney	6910 Wellington R
6370 Swan Hill	6214 Adelaide
6510 Port Lincoln	6450 Mackay
6060 Gosford	6950 Auckland
6380 Wodonga	

### **A Word about Sponsorship.**

While this is a free service provided by CHADARC for all amateur radio operators there is a financial side which affects the Club's income. Therefore any support by way of annual Club subscription or donation to the Club is appreciated and will ensure the future of this valuable service.

CHADARC annual subscription is \$25.00 and includes four newsletters per year. Membership application forms can be obtained from the:-

Secretary, Coffs Harbour And District Amateur Radio Club Inc.

P.O. Box 655 Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Or

## **2003 Field Day Report**

Glorious weather was the order of 1 day for the Field Day over 1 Queen's Birthday weekend. Registrations were up on last year at 93 - 179 and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves meeting and chatting and taking part in the various activities. Results were as follows:-

### **Fox Hunts, Competitions & Raffle Results**

- 2-M Talk-In** VK2BZC (Paul)  
Runner-Up VK2BYY (Jeff)
- 80-M One Tx** VK2ZCM (Craig)  
Runner-up VK2BI (Brian)
- 2-M Two Tx** VK2ZCM (Craig)  
Runner-up VK2BYY (Jeff)
- 10-M One Tx** VK2ZW (Kim)  
Runner-up VK2BI (Brian)
- 2-M Pedestrian** Sarah Piper (Boora)  
Runner-up VK2ZCM (Craig)

### **Fox Hunt Champion**

VK2ZCM (Craig) with 16 Points.  
Runner-up VK2BI (Brian) with 7 Points.

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

VK2DGT- (Ken)  
HOME BREW VK2GD (Alan)

### **Guessing Competitions:**

**No. of Jelly Babies** VK2XXU (Wil)  
**Weight of box screws** VK2URK  
(Rodney)

**What's inside bottle** VK2DGT (Ke)

**What's in kitchen box** VK2TT  
(Trevor)

### **X\_Words and Quizes:**

**Ladies X-Word** VK2HZV (Judy)

**Ladies Quiz** Alison (XYL of VK2GJ)

**Men's X-Word** VK2CLL (Larry)



**Men's Quiz VK2CLL (Larry)**

**Men's Lucky-Door \$50 DSE Voucher**  
VK2HOT (Bruce)

**Ladies Lucky Door Basket of Goodies**  
1st ROBYN (Xyl of VK2DGT)

2nd (Wardrobe Pack)  
Xyl of VK2FA

3rd (Manicure pack)  
Pam (Xyl of VK2PE)

**Major Raffle:**

1st \$100 Open Order on Big W  
VK2TSR (Garry—Sydney)

2nd \$25 Dinners (Westport B/C)  
VK2DV (Snow)

3rd \$25 Dinners (Westport B/C)  
VK2FSH (Charles)

4th Cassegrain Wine pack  
VK2CLL (Larry)

Our thanks to our sponsors, Bob Todd Motors, Dick Smith Electronics, Westport Bowling Club and Big-W, for their support. Thanks also to Icom Australia and Kenwood Australia for providing Brochures for display. Thanks to all the hard working helpers and to all who attended to make the weekend go so well. Thanks especially to Wendy Monk for her generous donation of prizes and for providing the Quizzes and Crosswords. We hope all returned safely home and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Bill (VKZCW)

Field Day Co-Ordinator.

## **ECHOLINK**

Another milestone (or brick) in the evolution of Amateur Radio. For those of you who do not have HF capabilities or permission, here is an alternative - providing you have a computer with a sound card with microphone/speakers

and access to the internet. This is a voice to voice communication system used by Radio Amateurs via the internet. At any one time there is always in excess of 1,000 stations active, waiting for a QSO.

To get onto Echolink, go to the web site [www.echolink.com](http://www.echolink.com) and down load the programme, it's free. (It's about 1.9 megs and may take you 15 minutes to down load).

You can either open it 'on-line' or save it on your HD and open it later 'off-line'. When you open it, it will ask you for your call-sign, location, a password, and any other data you might like to write about yourself. If you opened this "off line", you will have to go back on to the internet to register. At this time you should have a new icon on your screen—a mast with the name "Echolink" underneath. This is a stand alone programme, so you do not need to go into Internet Explorer or Netscape.

When you register with echolink, sysop there will be a delay which can take a few minutes or quite a while. Once registered, the world is your oyster as far as QSO's are concerned.

When you enter the site (directly, not through Internet Explorer or Netscape) you receive a list of all stations currently logged on and their status ("On" or "Busy"). All 1,000 plus! Just click on the one you want to talk to and press the space bar to talk. Make sure your Mic. is plugged into your sound card, and in the sound card options it is TICKED "OFF".

I use it in the evenings around 9.30 to talk to my friends in the USA and we often have 3 or more of us on.

Yes it costs money - the cost of your local phone call and your ISP. So if you are with one of the less expensive ISP's at \$1 an hour, it's a pretty cheap way to have fun.

Try it, you'll like it! And you don't need a full call to use it!

de VK2AYD

## **Backing-Up Your PC Files**

The following item is an extract from a newsletter "Coffee Break" circulated by MacroMax Computers, Wyoming, NSW. Roy (VK2YOR) presented it for the information of members who are PC users:-

## **"Backup—Backup**

I am sure the above word means different things to different people. It is certainly hard to get through to some how important backup is. Some still think that if ignored long enough it will go away and when trouble strikes they expect miracles to be performed to recover lost information. If you adopt an "it will be alright" attitude then don't expect others to get you out of your problems.

Nearly every "Coffee Break" I have written, has mentioned backup and in this issue it is covered again.

It makes you wonder why we bother when people read our notice about backups in the shop and then ask what is a backup or how do you do that? A few weeks ago a business man using a computer for his business asked such a question. On the other hand another business person when he needed to use a backup could only produce one that was well and truly out of date. The backup was dated over one year before.

**Backup options:** When it comes to what to use for backing up there is a large number of options available. Also some options are much better than others. Mind you, they are all better than nothing.

The other important thing with backing up is that you must test your backup copies to make sure they are working. Don't wait until you need them and then find out they are no good.

When selecting your backup device you need something that can be used on systems other than your own. For example, if you use LS120MB floppy diskettes for backup and one day your drive fails or your system disappears, finding someone who can read LS120 disks could be a problem. This then makes your backup useless. A lot of old tape drives can also put you into this same situation.

### **Common types of backup devices:**

1. 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive.
2. CDR - write once CD's
3. CD/RW - write up to 1000 times
4. USB Flash Memory Drive
5. Tape Drives
6. DVD writers
7. Removable Hard Disk Drives
8. Another computer on a network.
9. Remote backup service.

### **Uses for each type:**

1. Floppy diskettes are nearly useless as backup devices. Size today is a problem and long term storage is three years or less.
2. The CDR is the best available today. For most people 700MB is a reasonable size. For long term storage of archives, photos and Tax returns they are currently the best option.
3. CD/RW are only good for daily backups where data changes on a daily basis, such as accounts or documents you add to each day, such as writing a book. Don't use them for long term storage. There are at least three different standards for CD/RW's and they are not compatible with each other. Also some drives are very media conscious. CD/RW's can be more trouble than they are worth.
4. USB flash memory drives available in 32MB, 64MB, 128MB, 256MB, 512MB and 1GB. These are great for daily backups and for transporting data from the office to home. Much more **reliable** than CD/RW's and well worth the extra cost.
5. Tape drives are not for home computers. They were designed for big business where large amount of data backup is required.
6. DVD writers are quickly coming down in price, as low as \$495.00. Backups up to 4.7GB are possible making them more flexible than CDR's.
7. Removable Hard disk drives are good for daily and short term backups. They are currently cheap for the amount of storage you get per dollar. Hard disk drives have to be handled with care, they are not as robust or compact as other means. Long term should still use CD or DVD.
8. Using two systems, one to backup the other is handy and easy. Notebook to desktop and reverse. On a network using another computer it also easy to backup to.
9. Remote backups are designed for business where data is needed to be stored off site at a secure location and is not used for small business and home users.

### **Storage of backups.**

Leaving your backups sitting on or near your computer is not a very good idea if you value them. If something happens to your computer, eg: it is stolen or burnt, do you think your backups are going to survive. Two copies of your backups is the safest



thing to do. Keep one at home in a different location to your computer and another offsite somewhere safe.

If you do the right thing by yourself and are responsible for keeping your backups up to date, you won't have to blame someone or something else when misfortune happens. So now, at the end of the day, backup, if not at least at the end of the week. Most can afford to lose a few hours work but not years of work.

**Question: What is an "Oh-no-second"?**

**Answer:** The time it takes to destroy weeks of work."

## Net Controllers Roster

Sundays		Wednesdays	
		July	
VK2TT	Jul-06	VK2GD	Jul-02
VK2BZD	Jul-13	VK2ATM	Jul-09
VK2ZHE	Jul-20	VK2DAL	Jul-16
VK2EJK	Jul-27	VK2EI	Jul-23
		VK2ZCM	Jul-30
		August	
VK2TT	Aug-03		
VK2OA	Aug-10	VK2FSH	Aug-06
VK2ZHE	Aug-17	VK2GD	Aug-13
VK2DAL	Aug-24	VK2EI	Aug-20
VK2BZD	Aug-31	VK2ATM	Aug-27
		September	
		VK2ZHE	Sep-03
VK2TT	Sep-07	VK2AYD	Sep-10
VK2OA	Sep-14	VK2HOT	Sep-17
VK2AIF	Sep-21	VK2GD	Sep-24
VK2FSH	Sep-28		
		October	
		VK2ZCM	Oct-01
VK2DAL	Oct-05	VK2EI	Oct-08
VK2BZD	Oct-12	VK2EJK	Oct-15
VK2HOT	Oct-19	VK2ATM	Oct-22
VK2AIF	Oct-26	VK2ZHE	Oct-29
		November	
VK2TT	Nov-02		
VK2BZD	Nov-09	VK2AYD	Nov-05
VK2EJK	Nov-16	VK2DAL	Nov-12
VK2OA	Nov-23	VK2EI	Nov-19
VK2FSH	Nov-30	VK2HBM	Nov-26
		December	
		VK2HOT	Dec-03
VK2AIF	Dec-07	VK2GD	Dec-10
VK2TT	Dec-14	VK2ATM	Dec-17
VK2ZHE	Dec-21	VK2AYD	Dec-24
VK2FSH	Dec-28	VK2HBM	Dec-31

## Found Him !

Well, almost! John (VK2JJ), one of our longstanding and tireless members who recently moved from the Oxley Region for the warmer part of VK'land, viz VK4 has

## Notice

### Annual General Meeting 2003

Members are advised that the 2003 AGM of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc., will be held on

Saturday August 2nd 2003 at 2.00pm.

The venue will be the club rooms in Gordon St., Port Macquarie. Full Members are reminded that to be eligible to vote, they must be financial the time of the meeting.

Subscriptions are due 1<sup>st</sup> Jul 2003.

been located.

It was most unfortunate that John, whose departure from the our region, although imminent for some time, happened rather suddenly when it did, and he slipped out, un-noticed, unsung, before anyone had taken down particulars of his new QTH, or formally shook hands with this great supporter of our club. For a while we thought that we had lost him in the rain forests north of the border.

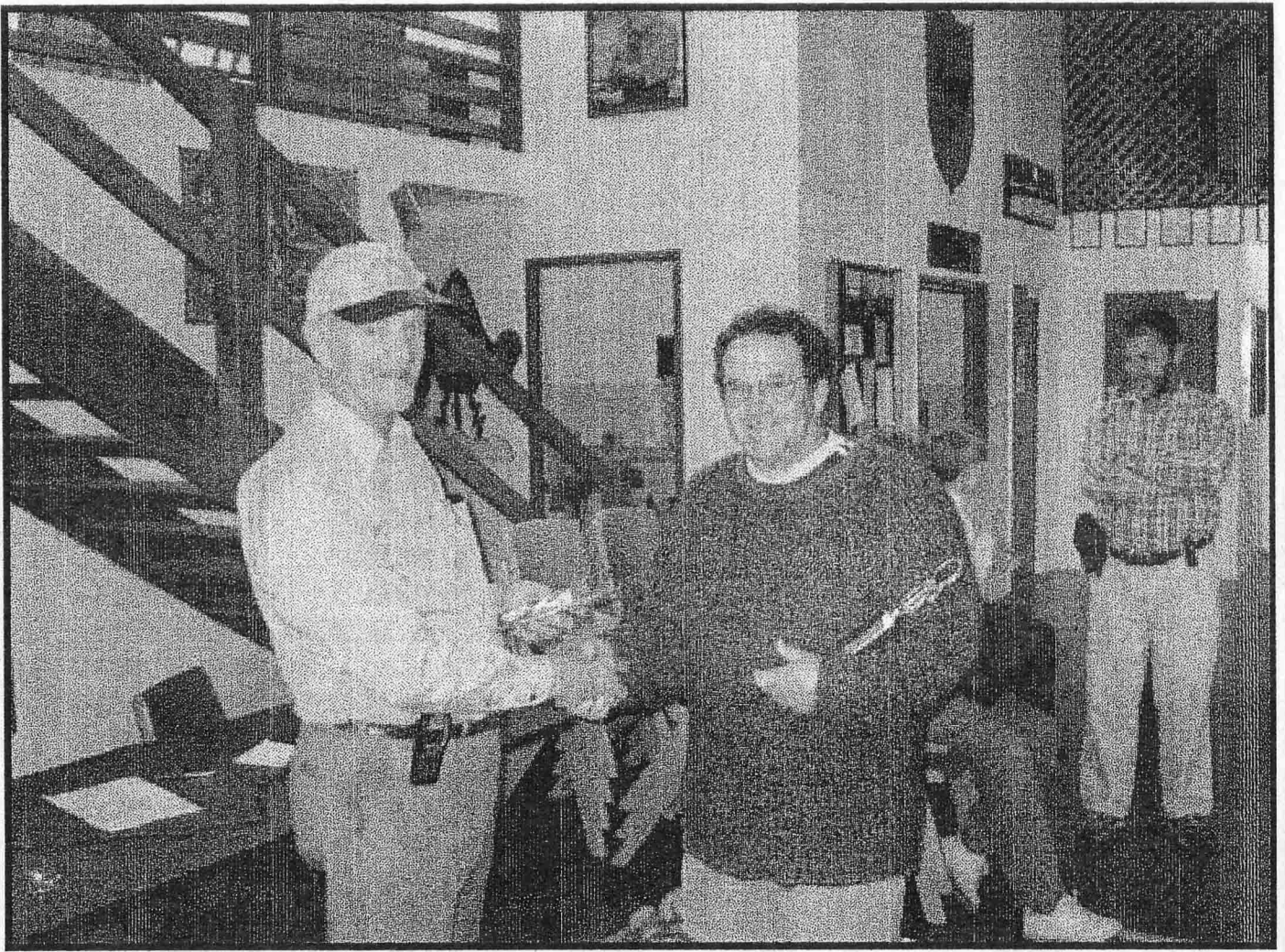
John, as we all know, devoted much time and effort to our club in many ways. He was a valuable worker at our field day weekends over past years, particularly in the area of the kitchen and barbecue chores, and several of our Christmas gatherings in recent years were held at the delightful Lake Cathie QTH of John and XYL, Thea.

Through our Newsletter we all wish John the very best in his new QTH, and it is hoped that we hear a signal from him in the very near future. All of the members on e-mail will have received his new e-mail address, and hopefully now we will soon learn his permanent address at the end of his coax lead-in.

To John, we must say, your years amongst us in the ORARC were years in which we achieved much in the way of extending our club facilities. Your participation in those projects, which included the Telegraph Point installation, the re-building of the Middle Brother antennae mounts after the tower extensions, and your regular and tireless efforts at our field days, were all greatly appreciated.

Once again, our best wishes for your continuing good health and more of that well earned and productive retirement.

Trevor—VK2TT (on behalf of the mob!)

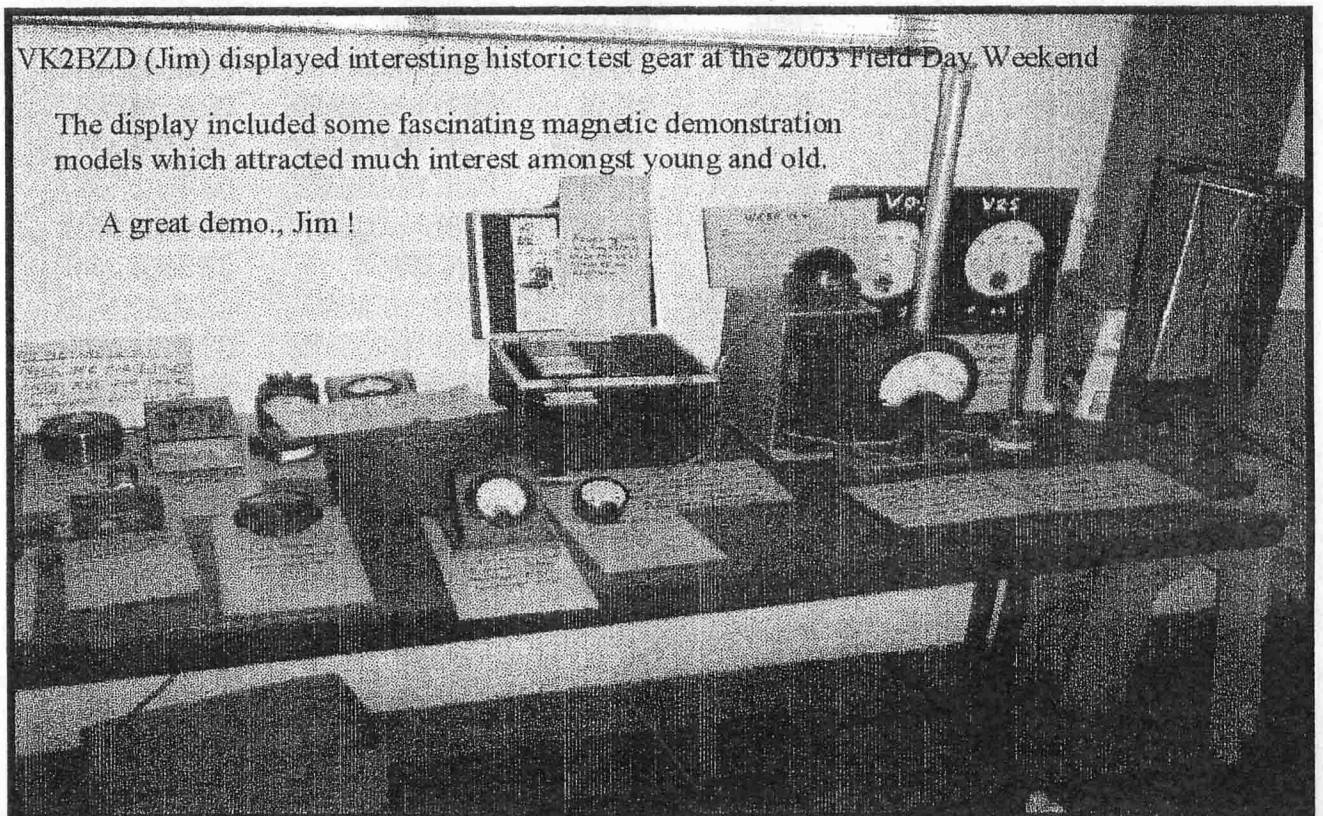


Presentation to "The Champ". President, Alan (VK2GD), awards the Fox Hunt Championship trophy to Craig (VK2ZCM)

VK2BZD (Jim) displayed interesting historic test gear at the 2003 Field Day Weekend

The display included some fascinating magnetic demonstration models which attracted much interest amongst young and old.

A great demo., Jim !





# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at 30th June, 2003)

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	VK2JB	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	VK2EIK	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 (ISABELLA)	HARDING	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
15	F	"SNOW"	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
16	F	WILL	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
17	F	JOHN	JONES	VK2JJ	BRISBANE	-
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	MARTIN	CRAIG	VK2ZCM	SAN CROX	02 6585.3452
23	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
24	F	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
25	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
26	F	LAURIE (ROBIN)	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
27	F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
28	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
29	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
30	F	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
31	D	ERNIE	SLOMAN	VK2BUE	TENTERFIELD	02 6736.1388
32	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
33	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
34	F	COL	TERRY	VK2VQT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2864
35	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
36	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
37	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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