

OXTALES

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

September 2003

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557
 VICE PRES: Bill Brooke VK2ZCW 6581.0547
 TREASURER: John Bailey VK2KHB 6583.9349
 SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.2242

President's Report

Our Editor had chosen to feature "Snow" Hodder, VK2DV as our "Personality of the Month" in this issue and had taken the opportunity to interview "Snow" just after he had come out of hospital recently. Little did he know at that point it would prove so timely as "Snow" passed away on Saturday morning, 30th August, following a fairly rapid decline in health. Sadly, "Snow" won't get to see his profile in print but it gives us something special to remember him by.



As reported elsewhere in this issue, we were also able to present him with his life membership badge and certificate a couple of weeks ago, a visit I'm sure he appreciated. We will miss him.

Activities this month included the Lighthouse "do" at Tacking Point which proved to be a very enjoyable day for all concerned and another occasion to flex our muscles and see how fast we could get the tent up and the gear operational. We get better every time! Thank you to all who attended and contributed in so many ways.

Friday evening attendances have been up this month with some good discussion taking place on a wide range of topics. Surprising the activities our members have been involved in over the years - some perhaps best left unspoken! We have also taken the opportunity to check out some of the equipment the Club has recently acquired, including two UHF link transmitter/receivers previously owned by Country Energy. This gear is readily adaptable to 70cm and, apart from some minor repairs, only requires some new crystals on a frequency

of our choice. A suggested use is to provide a link between our two repeaters at Red Hill and Middle Brother once the former is back in service. We need to continue this equipment culling process as there is little sense in storing gear for which we have no use, either now or in the foreseeable future.

There is no further update on Rhema's intended move to Red Hill as they are still waiting ABA approval for the shift. Incidentally, their transmitter power is only 3kW ERP, not 10kW as previously reported. The transmitter runs 600W.

By now most members will have received the ACA letter regarding the proposed Review of Amateur Service Regulations, details of which are available on the ACA website. I suggest we check out the document then discuss the contents at a Friday Club meeting if it is felt necessary.

Alan Nutt VK2GD
 El Presidente

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Down The Coax

Friday Night Get-together

Sept. 12th & 27th

7.00pm

October Meeting

Saturday 4th Oct.

2.00pm

Friday Night Get-together

October 10th & 24th

7.00pm

Beechwood Billy Cart Classic

Sun October 12th

Early Start/Early finish

November Meeting

Saturday 1st November 2003

2.00pm

Net Controllers Roster

Sundays

Wednesdays

September

VK2TT	Sep-07	VK2ZHE	Sep-03
VK2OA	Sep-14	VK2AYD	Sep-10
VK2AIF	Sep-21	VK2HOT	Sep-17
VK2FSH	Sep-28	VK2GD	Sep-24

October

VK2DAL	Oct-05	VK2ZCM	Oct-01
VK2BZD	Oct-12	VK2EI	Oct-08
VK2HOT	Oct-19	VK2EJK	Oct-15
VK2AIF	Oct-26	VK2ATM	Oct-22
		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

2003 A.G.M.

The ORARC's 2003 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2nd August, was an orderly and snappy event. The right people were available for nomination, they all accepted, and no ballots were necessary.

The line-up of elected office bearers for the 2003-2004 year, are as follows:-

President: Alan Nutt VK2GD

Vice President: Bill, VK2ZCW

Secretary: Henry VK2ZHE

Treasurer: John VK2KHB

Congratulations and thanks to those officers who were elected for a further term, and welcome and congratulations/thanks to Henry for accepting the Secretaryship.

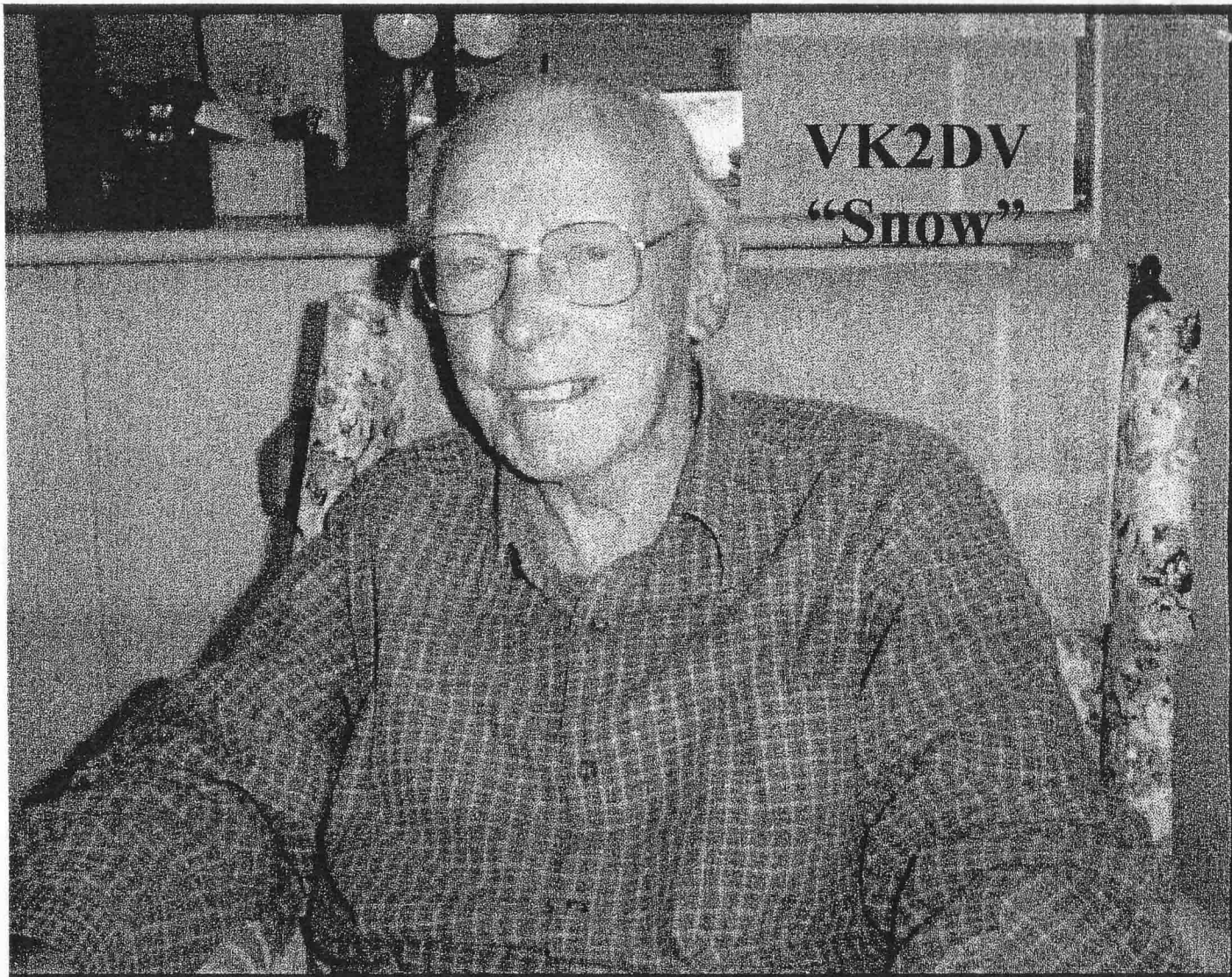
Also, thanks to Bill, VK2ZCW, for taking on the role of Chairperson of the Repeater Committee, following the stepping down of Trevor, VK2TT.

We can all look forward to another year of continued operation of the club with this experienced group at the helm.

"Snow" Hodder VK2DV

Frederick Alexander ("Snow") Hodder is the ORARC's most senior member, i.e. he has completed more orbits around Old Sol than any other current member of our club. What's more, "Snow" had Life Membership conferred upon him at our July 2003 meeting. ORARC's tradition has been to reward members who achieve 85 years of age, with the Life Membership status. Congratulations "Snow", and welcome to the ranks of those who hold that prestigious honour.

OXTALES persuaded "Snow" to undergo a session of interrogation in order to get down on the club records some hard copy on the background to a fellow who has devoted around seventy years of interest and activity in communications in general, and Ham radio in particular. "Snow" had only emerged from hospital a few days prior to his interrogation (he had done himself a mischief in a fall, resulting in a painful fracture) but he faced up to the "ordeal" of questions and answers in fine style.



“Snow’s” interest in communications technology has been with him from day one. He can’t recall when it actually started, because it was with him from the beginnings of his arrival on this planet. That was way back in May of 1917!

Born at Edgecliff NSW, “Snow” spent most of his growing-up years in that area of suburban Sydney. He did his schooling there, and joined a well established and well equipped amateur radio club, The Waverley Radio Club, that met in Bronte Road in the early 1930’s.

Supportive parents encouraged his interest in technology, providing him with accommodation for his first “ham shack” at the rear of the family home at Woollahrah, and at times some financial assistance in obtaining radio components.

“Snow” studied electrical and radio theory off his own bat. He relied on publications such as The ARRL Handbook, and other technological

books of the era, as the sources of information that he needed for passing the A.O.C.P.

Knowledge of Morse Telegraphy was first gained as a member of the Boy Scouts, and along with some tutorial help from fellow club members, he gained his AOCP in 1935. His first call sign was VK2DV ! He holds it to this day, maintaining its currency for 68 years. Six years ago, “Snow” received a “long service” award from the WIA, having clocked up 62 years continuous membership in the organization.

Like all amateurs who entered the hobby in those early years of radio communication, “Snow” built and refined his own transmitting and receiving equipment. Commercial gear was not really in general production in that era, and, as a consequence, was scarce and prohibitively expensive for a lad.

His first station comprised a "Home Brewed" T.R.F receiver, and a M.O.P. A. Transmitter. Of course, its capability was "CW only". It was a condition of one's licence in that period, that for the first year of operating, one was confined to "CW only" before being authorised to venture on to the other modes of operation. This gear was later "upgraded" to accommodate voice communication (AM of course... SSB was only being thought about, and superficially tinkered with on drawing boards and the like.)

The big depression was in full swing when "Snow" left school, and full time permanent jobs, in his particular field of interest, were not easy to come by. However, over the next few years, he managed to get casual positions as a "Wireless Mechanic" with some of the well known manufacturers of domestic radio sets, thus getting an income and valuable experience in the field.

He began this career wiring up radios, graduated through to testing, and eventually gained proficiency on maintenance and repair of the manufactured products. He worked in organizations such as Stromberg-Carlson, Tasma, Weldon, Philips, Kriesler, STC, and others of that era.

But, there was a degree of uncertainty on job tenure, due to the depression. In 1937, dissatisfaction with the uncertainty of permanent employment, led to "Snow's" decision to join the R.A.A.F. as a career. Because of his experience, and proficiency, in practical radio, and his Amateur Radio operating skills in telegraphy, he had no trouble in gaining selection for the Royal Australian Air Force, in the communications sphere.

In 1938, "Snow", now living in Double Bay, added an extension to his Amateur Licence, and gained approval to operate an experimental broadcast station. His station operated on a frequency of 1240KHz. His chosen experimental time slot was from Midnight on Fridays until dawn on Saturdays. During this period each week, he would broadcast music from his recording collection. "Snow" still has in his possession the actual crystal that he used in this station.

Amateur activity was curtailed during the war period. All amateur gear was sealed up in boxes by the authorities for the duration of the war, for reasons relating to National Security, but call signs

were retained over that period.

"Snow" served throughout WWII, in the RAAF, progressing through all ranks from Aircraftsman to Acting Squadron Leader.

Portion of his service was involved in training air-crew recruits for active service in wireless operating as part of the Empire Air-Training Scheme.

He then served in the Darwin area (Batchelor) and was later shipped (without pre-embarkation leave) to the New Guinea area, (Merauke) where he served as signals officer for over a year. In the later years of the war he was involved in dismantling Radar Installations as the Squadron Leader in charge.

He departed from the service at the end of the war and prepared himself for a career in civvy street, but still in the communications sphere.

Having a wish to embark on a sea-going career "Snow" undertook study at the Marconi School of Wireless to gain his First Class Commercial Operator's Certificate of proficiency, and his Broadcast Station Operator's Certificate of Proficiency.

These qualifications also equipped him for, and gained him a position with A.W. A. He became a Ground Engineer (Aviation) Radio, stationed mainly at Mascot over the next ten years, involved in installation and maintenance on air-borne equipment, from AWA and Bendix.

More promising opportunities then beckoned him into the Government sector, and he departed from AWA for a position with the Department of Supply (Department of Defence). This took him to interesting places and activities working on defence projects, notably the IKARA Anti-Submarine system and anti-tank devices that were developed in the Woomera area.

"Snow" retired in the late 70's, but retained his association with communications by continuing his activities in Amateur Radio, having now much more time to spend with it.

He moved to Port Macquarie, taking up residence in Pacific Drive, where he set up his station complete with tower, 3-element beam, and long wire antennae. He became a member of ORARC in the late 1970's and has maintained continuity of membership throughout. Later "Snow"

moved to Treeview Way where he again set up a tower, 3-element beam, and long wire.

A year or so ago, he now moved to Woods Street in the Hibbard area of Port Macquarie. Still regularly active, "Snow" enjoys his favourite mode, CW, but claims that he needs to use a "bug" key to "beat the shakes" that have crept up on him in later years. Like many retired members of the amateur fraternity, "Snow" makes use of the airwaves to keep in touch with old friends and colleagues by maintaining regular schedules on both CW and SSB. "Snow" is a regular attendee on the ORARC's VHF net on Sundays at 0830 local time.

We all wish "Snow" a speedy recovery from his recent injuries.

Shack Clearance Sale

Ernie (VK2BUE) QTHR, is having a shack clearance. He is offering the following items, in two lots. Buyers will be required to collect at Ernie's Tenterfield shack. His contact telephone number is 02 6736.1388, at any time.

Lot No.1 (Will not be split)

FT101E Txcvr (YC601 Freq Readout)
FC700 ATU
FC707 ATU
Lab Oscilloscope Q1280 (DSE)
Two 30MHz RF Ant. Filters
Two Morse Keys
Two Coax Switches
Two Home Brew Transistor testers
Set of 50-ohm Co-ax. Links
VCR (Quality) little Used
1 Capacitor Tester
Spares for FT101E (Valves, modules and miscellaneous items)
1 B&W Television receiver
1 Ext. Spkr (with multifunctions)
\$1500 O.N.O. for the above Lot No.1

Lot No.2 (Will not be split)

Stripper/Crimper Tool Kit (DSE)
Audio Leads (2)
Auto Cigarette Lighter Plug/Lead
Battery Powered Lighting set
Drill-Bit set (32 Piece)
Multi-tap mains transformer (DSE)
Analogue Multimeter (DSE)
Set Diode/Transistor Data Books
IRLEC Plug-pack (Switched outputs)

5-way 10A Power distribution board
24-Hour battery powered wall clock
PSU (Unipower 5) Variable O/P
Microphones (2) for FT-101E
Alarm Clock (Battery Powered)
PSU 13.8v DC, 25AMP

\$500 O.N.O for the above lot No 2.

The Email Directory

*Reflects all changes notified up to
22/08/03*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anut@ozemail.com.au
VK2JB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2OA (Allan) possoa@tsn.cc
VK2TT (Trevor) thatcher@fasternet.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) vk2dal@tpg.com.au
VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc
VK2EJK (Bob) bobro24@optusnet.com.au
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@felglow.com.au
VK2HBM (Craig) martins@dodo.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) brucew@tsn.cc
VK2YOR (Roy) rburgess@intercoast.com.au
VK2ZCV (Bill) bilsinvk@fasternet.com.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@bigpond.com
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Yes, I know I fit the category and some of you may think me a silly OB when it comes to the AGM and the Financial Report. But to me it is a very important document.

From this you can analyse and measure the performance over the past year and make positive decisions on the future.

Our Treasurer's report showed:-
Opening Balance 1/7/02 \$2692.55
Closing Balance 30/6/03 \$2318.66

This shows a deficit of \$373.89 over the year.

We have 32 paying members which means we had a loss of \$11.68 ppm.
Not good is it?

If we remove the income and expense of the Field Day, this \$11.68 rockets to \$28.54. Now that would be the additional



(Photograph by Bill, VK2ZCV)

Life Membership for VK2DV

As reported elsewhere in this OXTALES, Life Membership of the ORARC was conferred upon "Snow" (VK2DV) at the club meeting in July. To complete the formality, our President, Alan (VK2GD), Vice President, Bill (VK2ZCW), Bill (VK2ZCV) and an OXTALES hack (VK2TT) called on "Snow" to present him with the club's Certificate and the Life Membership Badge.

On that day, 12/08/03, "Snow" was recuperating in "Bundaleer" at Wauchope, following an injury sustained in a recent fall. The presentation brought a smile to his face, but he suppressed a full laugh because it might have hurt a bit, due to his damaged clavicle. Congratulations on this award "Snow" and best wishes for a speedy recovery from the injury.

costs above our subs of \$25 to keep the club on a break-even course.

Yes - \$53.54 per person a year - wow!!

So what are we going to do this year to ensure we run smoothly and keep on the right side of the ledger?

- 1. The Field Day is essential to our survival.
- 2. More members
- 3. Each month the club have a raffle. Many of us have "things" we no longer need and could offer them as prizes.

- 4. Now let's have your idea

73 de Grumblebum AYD

Lighthouse Day Report

Saturday 16th August was Lighthouse Day and 8.30am saw a group of vehicles being loaded with equipment at our club room. The convoy proceeded to Tacking Point Lighthouse where it was greeted by a group of willing workers who were ready to put the gear into position.

The set-up of the tent, antenna and generator were completed and the transmitter was on air at 10.00am. Setting up of a portable emergency communication unit without any hitches is certainly a credit to those regular hands. We have learnt from previous experiences such as empty gas bottles, lack of generator tools and antenna tuners, etc..

Radio operator skills were on the ball but the catering corps have raised the standard of the project to first class. Bill, VK2ZCV, and Elfie's rissoles, complete with microwave oven, (that fixed the gas problem hi) has lifted the event's rating considerably as stated by our food connoisseurs, Keith, VK2KDL and Gwen.

At the completion of the day 33 contacts, consisting of 15 CW and 18 SSB were made and included the countries of New Zealand, Yugoslavia, Russia, Spain, Finland, Canada, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic and Australia. This was a good result since propagation was not the best during the time of operation. The equipment used in this event was an Icom transceiver, a Hi Gain antenna and the power was supplied by a 2.4 KVA alternator.

Packing up was without problems, leaving the area ready for a wedding party who had another application for Tacking Point Lighthouse. The convoy had the equipment back to the storeroom all in one piece and stacked away to the equipment officer's satisfaction.

Thanks to the 14 members who participated, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club was presented to the public and members have also gained further experience in emergency operation.

Bob (VK2EJK)

Remembrance Day Contest

The Sunday morning net, following the Lighthouse event, did not draw too many starters. After some general chat, the topic of the Remembrance Day contest was brought up and it was agreed that we should support our VK2 Division and collect a few points. On the VHF section it was possible to have duplicate contacts every two hours

within your own division so this was an easy opportunity to earn points. Simplex 146.500 MHz was decided upon for the contact frequency and away we went. The results for the group were:-

Bill VK2ZCV	32 Pts
Bob VK2EJK	30 "
Craig VK2ZCM	28 "
Henry VK2ZHE	19 "
Jim VK2BZD	12 "

This may not be a large score but we all received a lot of satisfaction from the exercise. Craig's comment was that he enjoyed the opportunity and rated contesting a close second to fox hunting. Personally, I gained excellent experience in operating my computer logging program and I am rating contesting second to DX-ing.

Looking forward to the next local contest with a few more to join us. David VK2AYD's score of 289 is quite a challenge.
de Bob VK2EJK



The crew, setting up shop at Tacking Point Lighthouse on Saturday 16th August. Picture by Henry (VK2ZHE)




OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at 30th August, 2003)

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.	
1	F	JOHN (FLORENCE)	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D	ALAN	BELL	VK2BEL	COOLONGLOOK NSW	02 6554.1689
3	L	BOB	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
4	F	BOB (JOSIE)	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
5	F	BILL (AILSA)	BROOKE	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
6	F	ROY W (JUNE)	BURGES	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
7	F	KEVIN (JUNE)	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
8	F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
9	D	STAN (BETTY)	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
10	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
11	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
12	F	DAVID (ISABELLA)	HARDING	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
13	L	"SNOW"	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
14	F	WILL (CAROL)	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
15	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
16	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2242
17	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
18	F	CRAIG	MARTIN	VK2ZCM	SAN CROX	02 6585.3452
19	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
20	F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
21	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
22	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
23	F	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
24	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
25	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
26	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
27	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
28	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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


IMPORTANT - Please read !

If your name does not appear on the above list, it means that we had not received your renewal of subscriptions at the time of distribution of OXTALES.

Membership subscriptions became due on 1st July, 2003. Our club needs the support of all amateurs in the region, so please ensure that if you have overlooked your renewal, it should be forwarded promptly to the Secretary to ensure continuity of membership and receipt of future Newsletters.