



OXTALES

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

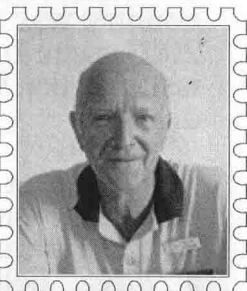
November 2003

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557
 VICE PRES: Bill Brooke VK2ZCW 6581.0547
 TREASURER: John Bailey VK2KHB 6582.2192
 SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.2242

President's Report

Since the last issue of "Oxtales", Ian Dalrymple has passed on, further depleting the ranks of our Club. Although failing health precluded his attendance at Club meetings for some time, he had been a staunch supporter of the Club's activities over many years. His sometimes gruff exterior belied a very generous spirit and many would testify to the encouragement he gave, particularly to younger "hams". He will be sadly missed.



Unfortunately, the intended visit to the ACA meeting in Sydney did not eventuate as the original date was put back a week and I had to return to Port before the event. Many of our members will have read the report of that meeting, as well as the submissions that have already been made by other clubs and individuals. Bill, 2ZCV, has kept us well posted via e-mail as this material has come to hand.

Our own submission is being drafted just in time to meet the October 31 dead-line and follows a similar approach to that adopted by the Westlakes club.

We participated in two community events during October, the somewhat maligned Billycart Classic at Beechwood, where, finally, our contribution was acknowledged, and JOTA, operating, as usual, from the Sea Scout hall in Buller Street. Many thanks to all who assisted and participated in these events which continue to give us a visible presence in the community.

All of the late "Snow" Hodder's equipment has now been removed from Wood Street, allowing the family to dispose of the property. A mighty effort on the part

of a faithful few saw the contents of his shack transferred for the time being to our Club room, from where it will be sold and otherwise disposed of over the next month or two. A list of the gear was distributed at last month's meeting and copies are still available on request from our Secretary and no reasonable offers will be refused. When "dividing up the spoils", members are encouraged to be considerate of each other (as well as Snow's estate!)

The next event on our social calendar is the 6th December meeting which will run concurrently with our annual Christmas "bash" to be held this year at the home of Keith and Gwen Lutton at Telegraph Point.

Since this is the last issue of "Oxtales" before the festive season is upon us, let me take the opportunity to wish all our members and readers a merry and most enjoyable Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Alan Nutt VK2GD
 El Presidente

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Down The Coax

**Observatory Visit
Wed 5th November
See details page 7**

**Friday Night Get-together
Nov 14th & 28th
7.00pm**

**December Meeting & Xmas
Barbecue at QTH of VK2KDL
Saturday 6th Dec.
From 11.00am
(See Rear Cover for details)**

**Friday Night Get-together
December 12th
7.00pm**

Net Controllers Roster

Sundays

Wednesdays

November

VK2TT	Nov-02	VK2AYD	Nov-05
VK2BZD	Nov-09	VK2DAL	Nov-12
VK2EJK	Nov-16	VK2EI	Nov-19
VK2OA	Nov-23	VK2ZCM	Nov-26
VK2FSH	Nov-30		

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	VK2ZCM	Dec-31

January 2004

VK2TT	Jan-04	VK2HOT	Jan-07
VK2BZD	Jan-11	VK2EI	Jan-14
VK2OA	Jan-18	VK2GD	Jan-21
VK2AIF	Jan-25	VK2FSH	Jan-28

February

VK2TT	Feb-01	VK2ATM	Feb-04
VK2DAL	Feb-08	VK2ZHE	Feb-11
VK2EJK	Feb-15	VK2AYD	Feb-18
VK2HOT	Feb-22	VK2EI	Feb-25
VK2OA	Feb-29		

March

		VK2GD	Mar-03
VK2FSH	Mar-07	VK2ZCM	Mar-10
VK2ZHE	Mar-14	VK2DAL	Mar-17
VK2AIF	Mar-21	VK2EJK	Mar-24
VK2OA	Mar-28	VK2ATM	Mar-31

April

VK2BZD	Apr-04	VK2ZHE	Apr-07
VK2ZHE	Apr-11	VK2AYD	Apr-14
VK2EJK	Apr-18	VK2DAL	Apr-21
VK2TT	Apr-25	VK2GD	Apr-28

VALE "Snow" VK2DV

The September issue of *OXTALES* carried a profile of "Snow's" life in communications and the amateur radio hobby. At the time "Snow" was interviewed to recount the interesting details of his lifetime in communications, he was recovering from some injuries sustained in a couple of recent accidental "falls". We were unaware at that time that, quite soon thereafter, we would lose our long-standing and respected member of the local and far reaching amateur fraternity. "Snow's" health went into a fairly rapid decline shortly after the interview, and sadly, he lost the battle, passing away on Saturday 30th August, 2003.

The story of "Snow's" interesting life of achievement and service to his country was featured in the September 2003 issue of *Oxtales* and the October issue of the WIA journal, *Amateur Radio*.

A service at the Port Macquarie Crematorium on 4th September was attended by many relatives, friends, and a large delegation of members of ORARC was present to share their loss and to pay their last respects to a popular and faithful member of our club.

Vale Ian (VK2XU)

Most club members will already be aware of the recent sad passing of Ian James David Dalrymple, VK2XU.

Ian had not enjoyed good health over the last 12 months and departed this life on 25 September 2003. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty in 1995 and is survived by children, Susan (Sue), Jane, Robert, brother Leonard, sister Marjorie and grandchildren Aron, Jessica, Libby, Lily and friend Miriam.

Ian was born on the 31 March 1926 in Castlemaine Victoria to parents Emily (nee Fenton) and Len. He lived a full life, devoted to his family, a man who was a great provider.

He had a love for life enjoying playing cricket in his younger days and in latter years watching rally cars, cricket and

golf. He has been a member of the Probus Club, Golf Club, Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and the Wireless Institute of Australia.

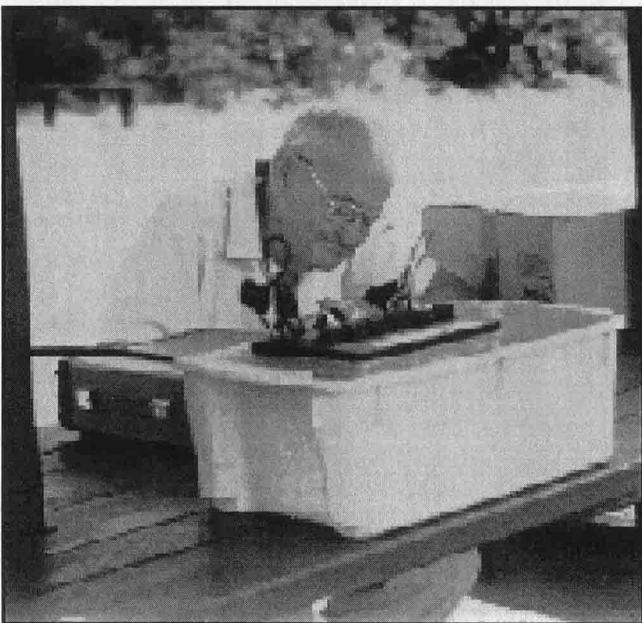
Most of his working life, Ian spent working for the PMG, which, in later life, took him to the top of Middle Brother Mountain as OIC of the Radio, Television Relay Station, a position he enjoyed until his retirement.

The family moved around having spent time in Melbourne, Orange, and Darwin, and, in 1964, to Port Macquarie, where they spent many happy years.

Ian, as a member of the ORARC, was a member of the Repeater group for many years and was a source of technical knowledge to be reckoned with.

He was in the forefront in assisting with the communications for the original Southern Cross Car Rally, which was run in the forests about Port Macquarie. He is known to have assisted many of our local Hams and Scouts with technical advice and as DX Engineering was the local Kenwood agent.

Although he enjoyed the local VHF activity, Ian's favourite band must have been 20-Metres, for this is where he kept in contact with his overseas friends. He was also a keen photographer and video enthusiast.



Immediately above, is a shot of Ian (VK2XU) working 6-Mx (or was it 10-Mx) Portable at Bellangary No.1 Fire Tower on the occasion of the John

Moyle Field Day, March 1999.

Digital Radio

Is it here on HF? Yes! Quite a few countries are now transmitting digital radio broadcasts on HF.

Three systems are currently being used, however the most popular is DRM, (Digital Radio Mondiale). You can hear it on your HF receiver, however you will need a special receiver to decode it or you will have to interface your current receiver with your computer.

Interfacing will require a 'down-converter' to convert the signals to 12 kHz for a computer sound card. The nominal digital signal is designed to fit within a bandwidth of 9-10 kHz, however there are broadcasts trying smaller bandwidths of 5 kHz and as big as 20 kHz.

The only two receivers known to offer direct DRM compatibility is the Ten-Tec 320D and WINRADIO G303i. It is forecast that by 2012, analog transmissions may be as obsolete as AM is to SSB.

I wonder if you are aware of any amateur stations using digital voice transmissions? (other than DSSTV). Details of a simple down-converter using a NE602AN was shown in October QST.

De VK2AYD

M&S Offset Billycart Classic At Beechwood

Well, despite O.R.A.R.C.'s glaring omission from the comprehensive list of credits recently published in the local press, we were again approached to provide the communications for the worthy annual charity event at Beechwood. We must have done it well in previous years!

Being the good natured bunch of chaps (for which we are widely known!) we provided a clutch of six volunteers to front up at the appointed time and set up shop, as we have done for the past several years, to assist the organisers make

a highly satisfactory and enjoyable event.

The volunteers were, in no particular order other than call sign, VK2AIF (David), VK2CHC (Richard - rejoining the club after some time wandering in the wilderness), VK2FSH (Charles), VK2TT (Trevor), VK2YOR (Roy) and VK2ZCW (Bill). They formed the crew that attended to the tasks required by the organisers.

These tasks involved the setting up of a 2-Metre Base station and a P.A. System to inform the gathered throng of proceedings, plus, equipping a "Commentary Vehicle" with radio communication (and riding in it during its exciting run down the mountain!) and, last but by no means least, providing hand-held communications between the starting grids and the base, during the running of the junior Billycart events.

The weather, although *just* meeting the category of fine, was not as balmy as previous years have been... a stiff breeze, and one or two sprinkles of rain did little more than cause some unfounded apprehension at times.

Technically, things took on a grim outlook at the beginning of the set-up session. When fired up, the hired P.A. system took an instant dislike to the presence of our 2-Metre emissions from the base station and hand-helds. It exhibited symptoms of serious RFI. This P.A. showed its dislike by producing quite rude noises whenever anyone touched their PTT's. (Reminiscent of the behaviour of a pampered, show-off, flighty, Brewery-horse).

Whilst these noises gave rise to occasional bursts of unbridled laughter from some vulgar elements within the crowd, they struck fear in the hearts of others... particularly those who were trying to find the cause and/or suppress these embarrassing effects that were threatening to mar the whole event, or worse still, ruin the reputation of the ORARC!

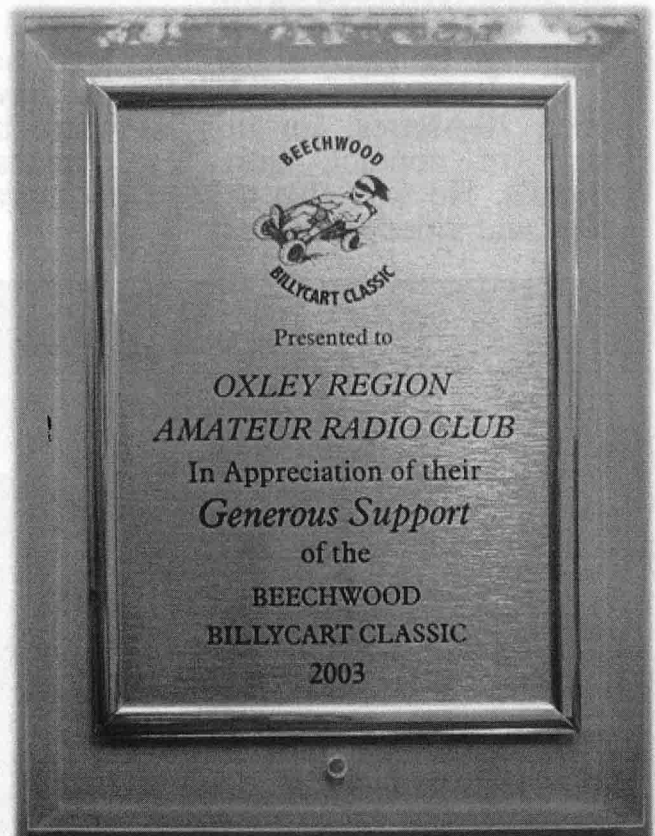
Richard produced some toroids to try and choke off the speaker leads, Charles stole some wire from somewhere to enhance the earthing, various

other usually effective suggestions from within the group were tried, but still the P.A. persisted with its ribald equine emulation.

Then, serendipitously, a set of conditions was achieved, quite accidentally, which related to the geographical placement of the equipment... the P.A. suddenly calmed down, and performed in a most exemplary manner. Fortunately, the event organisers were totally unaware of the threat that had been looming over their communications facilities, and the various events got underway, right on schedule, with efficient communications holding firmly throughout the 1 hour critical period. Phew!

All events were completed without serious incidents, and all competitors and visitors enjoyed this popular charity event that has managed, so far, to survive in spite of the "indemnity shemozzle."

The surprise of the day came at the end of the official trophy presentation for-



malities. The organisers called a representative of the ORARC to the podium and made a presentation of an attractive glass and brass plaque. It was suitably engraved with words of appre-

ciation of our club's support, expressed by the organisers. (See Picture)

Richard (VK2CHC), whose business is now conducted from Beechwood, (in fact, right at the finishing line of the Billy Cart classic!) was standing in for the ORARC to switch off the PA. He accepted the plaque on behalf of the club, and responded appropriately. Thank you, Richard!

So, clearly, our efforts in the past have *not* gone unnoticed, and this token of recognition must show that our recent omission from the "credits" was one of those unfortunate oversights that can happen in the best of regulated circles!

Well done ORARC. We are still visible!

The organisers of the event were later able to hand over the proceeds in the form of a cheque for \$2,342.40 to the SES.

Membership

Members who attend our monthly meetings will be aware that in recent General Business segments there has been considerable discussion and various suggestions on how we might increase our club membership.

One approach, which was not discussed, but tried anyway, shows some promise. David (VK2AYD) recently jumped out of the Amateur Bands on to local community radio station 2WAY-FM. Via this medium, David, delivered an informative talk about our ORARC, and its activities. (On this occasion he used a microphone instead of his beloved paddle).

There were receptive ears out there too! At our very next meeting, following David's erudite address to the multitudes, there appeared an enthusiastic applicant for membership. Noel Symington of Port Macquarie had heard the AYD broadcast, liked what he heard, and fronted up as a visitor/applicant. Before he could change his mind, he was nominated, seconded, and accepted as a member. Welcome aboard Noel.

Although not holding a call sign, Noel is interested in the mysteries of the science of Amateur Radio, and has expressed an interest in exploring its depths. He confessed that the jargon he overheard at our

meeting was just a little on the confusing side, particularly a reference made to "the forthcoming issue of OX-TALES"... he thought it meant that we were going to serve a delightful bowl of soup, and I think he was just a wee bit disappointed when he was offered, instead, tea or coffee. But he did not withdraw his application as a result.

A further boost to our somewhat shrunken membership list has been the return of Richard (VK2CHC). Richard has been absent from our ranks for some years, but as a result of our presence at Beechwood for the Billycart Classic, his interest was rekindled, and he made the decision to rejoin the ranks. Welcome home Richard !.

Anybody out there who knows any "lost" members who might be encouraged to return, or any new blood that might be enticed into being one (or some) of us ? It's been said before, "we are nice bunch of people"... well, we are, aren't we? ... it should be easy to attract members!

Did You Know This ?

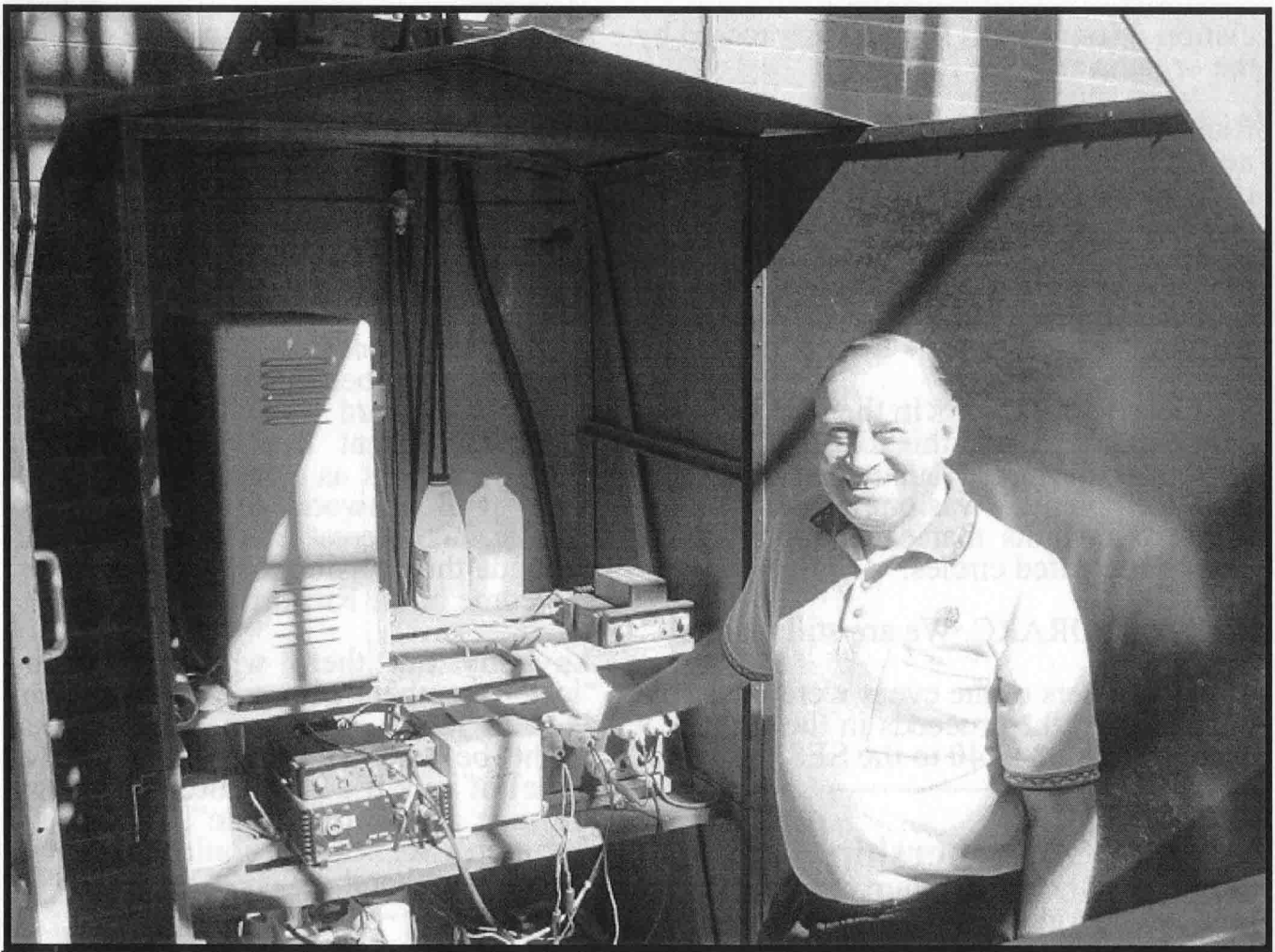
I thought this one may be of interest...

78 RPM

You may wonder why the phonograph (or was it called a gramophone) records run at 78 revolutions per minute.

Well a posting to one of the audiophile remailers explains it this way. Up until the 1920's recordings were made at a variety of speeds from 75 rpm to 84 rpm, and sometimes outside this range. The minimum acceptable speed was governed by the quality of the sound from the innermost grooves of the record. By trial and error this speed was found to be around 78 to 80 rpm.

The speed of records is based on the American electricity AC standard of 60 hertz. When engineers wanted to standardise the speed of recording equipment in the studios they started using synchronous electric motors. These are motors that are locked on to the 60 hertz power and run at precisely 3600 rpm. If you use simple gear ratios then 3600 divided by 46 is 78.26 rpm. All



Bill Brooke, (VK2ZCW) new Chairperson of the Repeater Committee, making friends with the "inhabitants of the Cabinet" at the VK2RPM Middle Brother site, during his recent introductory tour.

other phonograph record speeds came from the same source as well. 3600 divided by 80 gave us the popular 45 rpm record that helped to make the rock and roll revolution. 3600 divided by 108 is responsible for the L-P 33 1/3 rpm record and divided by 216 made the somewhat rare 16 2/3 rpm disks. Of course most 'black flat' albums have been replaced by digital compact disks, but the history of grooved disks is an interesting one and now you know how it all came about.

(ARNewsLine via QNEWS)

De VK2AYD (David)

JOTA 2003

The ORARC Inc. again supported the running of JOTA in conjunction with the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts at their hall in Buller Street on Saturday 18-10-2003.

Several of our members assembled at our club rooms at 9am to collect the gear and transport it to the Scouts hall where it was installed by 10-30am. The gear was dismantled and back in the club rooms by 7-30pm.

Operations commenced at the above time and continued until 6-30pm on both HF and VHF. Several overseas contacts were made and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Several Scout troupes took advantage of the day and were represented by all sections.

Special thanks must go to Neil VK2EI and VK4UPR for their help in the actual operation of the station.

Bill VK2ZCV

Visit to

Port Macquarie Observatory

Members are alerted to the forthcoming opportunity to participate in a visit to the Port Macquarie Observatory. Henry (VK2ZHE) has arranged a visit with the Astronomy group, for members, friends and families of the ORARC. The date is Wednesday 5th November. Be there at 7.45pm to ensure a good seat. Entrance fee is \$5 per adult, \$4 per child, or \$15 per family of 2 adults & 2 children. The Observatory is situated in Rotary Park, overlooking Town Beach.

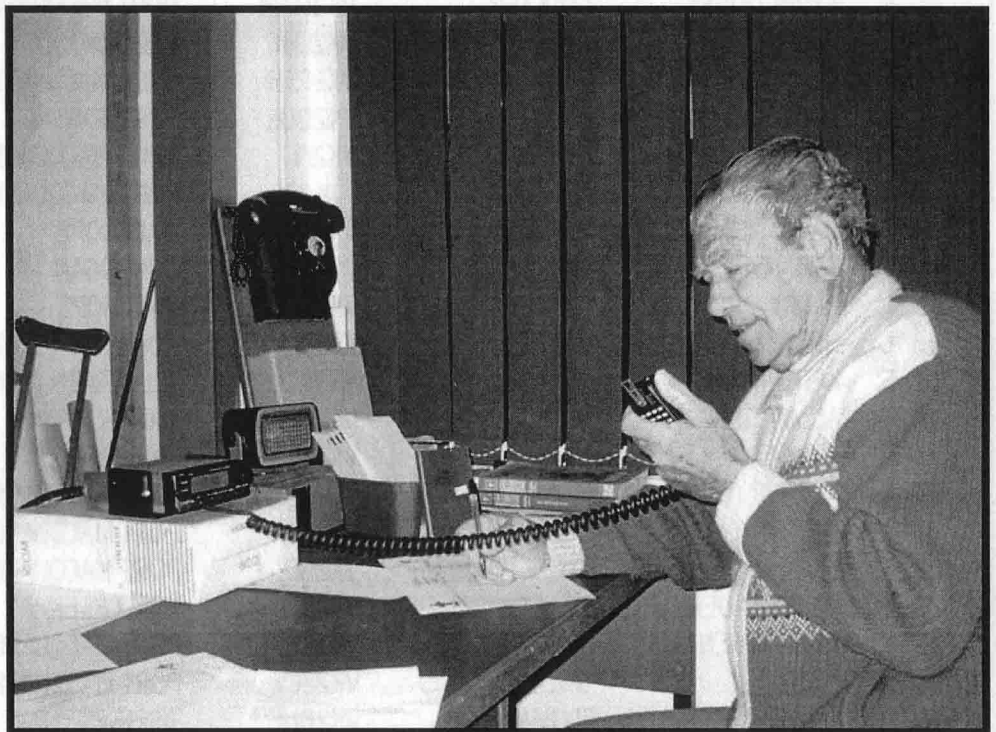
Oxtales Printing

Astute members will surely notice that we have "tarted up" *Oxtales* more than somewhat by taking advantage of the state of the art printing technology offered by M&S Print at Wauchope. The content and layout has not changed but the quality of the printing has. Your editorial staff is very pleased with the quality of the graphics, which all would agree is a far cry from your editor's old bubble-jet printer and common-or-garden photocopying. Makes our members, shown below, look half-way to handsome! (the way they really are!)

(Right)

**VK2EJK (Bob),
hard at work call-
ing "CQ JOTA" at
the JOTA 2003
Venue, Buller
Street Sea Scouts
Hall.**

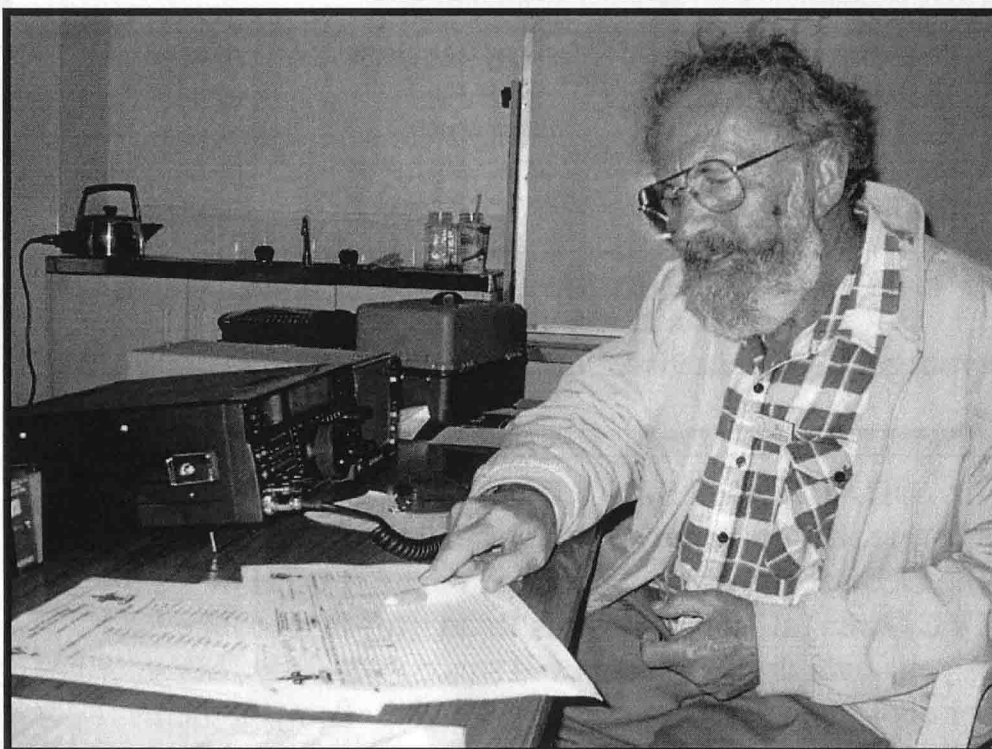
(Picture by Henry—VK2ZHE)



(Left)

**Bill (VK2CZV)
checking the pro-
gress of the log at
the JOTA 2003
event at the Buller
Street Sea Scouts
Hall.**

(Picture by Henry—VK2ZHE)





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at 26th October, 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	RICHARD	COURT	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
9	F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
10	D	STAN (BETTY)	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
11	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
12	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
13	F	DAVID (ISABELLA)	HARDING	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
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	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
18	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
19	F	CRAIG	MARTIN	VK2ZCM	SAN CROX	02 6585.3452
20	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
21	F	LAURIE	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
22	F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
23	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
24	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
25	F	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
26	D	ERNIE	SLOMAN	VK2BUE	TENTERFIELD	02 6736.1388
27	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
28	A	NOEL	SYMINGTON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9811
29	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
30	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
31	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
32	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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

Visit our Website. URL is

<http://portmacquarie.yourguide.com.au/viewclub.asp?clubid=1044&pageid=2012>

ORARC XMAS BARBECUE

Don't forget the club's barbie. It's on Saturday 6th December. Starts at 11.00 AM & will incorporate the December monthly meeting. Venue is QTH of Keith (VK2KDL) and XYL Gwen, at 104 Farrawells Road, (off Pembroke Rd,) Telegraph Point. Bring your own drinks, salads and steaks, whatever, but sausages and the means for cooking will be supplied by the club. See you there!