



OXTALES

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

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

January 2004

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

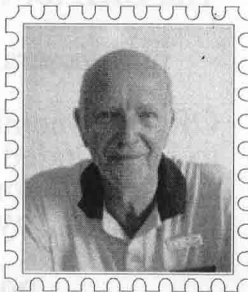
President's Report

Great to welcome new and would-be "hams" to the area in the persons of Noel, John, Chris and Karen. We trust the Club lives up to your expectations and that you find us a more than friendly mob.

I've decided that it's a very difficult exercise to write about an event before it actually happens. How can I write about Christmas when it's still ten days away as though it was already over, as it will be by the time this column is read? I trust everyone will have had an extremely happy time with friends and family and discovered that the true spirit of Christmas is alive and well, despite our gross commercialisation.

All who attended our pre-Christmas "bash" at Keith and Gwen's enjoyed themselves immensely, as Henry has ably reported elsewhere in this issue.

This week a number of us liased with our local area RI, Aaron Gosschalk, at the Middle Brother repeater site to try and determine the cause of the trucking interference which has plagued us spasmodically for more than twelve months. With the aid of spectrum analyser, tracking generator and communication test set, Aaron was able to key up the trucking company's transmitter next door on 160.1MHz and immediately up popped a spurious signal smack on 146.1MHz measuring 1.1mV at our receiver's aerial terminal! Because of the very large number of signals present on the site, it was not possible to pinpoint the offending "mixing" signal, which could be a local oscillator in one of several adjacent receivers, some of which run 'hot' to minimise frequency drift. This would account for the



lack of another modulation component when the truck signals are breaking through.

A bandpass cavity was then added into our existing chain and Aaron demonstrated conclusively that this would be sufficient to reduce the spurious signal to an insignificant level, less than 1uV. We now have the task of fitting an appropriate cavity of our own and hopefully the days of trucky interference will be over. While on the job, Aaron tweaked up our existing cavities, which were remarkably good, and gained us another 6dB of isolation and around 1dB extra gain in both the Rx and Tx units. He stored plots of our cavities' response curves and will mail a print-out down to us for future reference. All in all, a very successful exercise and our thanks to ACA for their co-operation.

A happy New Year to all our members, associates and families. Let's make it the best one yet for our Club.

Alan Nutt VK2GD
El Presidente

In This Issue :

Item.	Page No.
President's Report	1
Down the Coax	2
Net Controllers Roster	2
Observatory Visit	2
Friday Evening Talks	2
"Sheet of Stamps"	4
Thanks to Ernie VK2BUE	6
International Space Station	6
Local News	6
Xmas BBQ Report	6
Membership List	8



Down The Coax
Friday Night Get-together
Fri. Jan 9th & 23rd
7.00pm

February Monthly Meeting
Sat Feb 7th
2.00pm

Friday Night Get-together
Fri. Feb 13th & 27th
7.00pm

Net Controllers Roster

Sundays **Wednesdays**

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

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

April

VK2BZD	Apr-04	VK2ZHE	Apr-07
VK2HOT	Apr-11	VK2AYD	Apr-14
VK2EJK	Apr-18	VK2DAL	Apr-21
VK2TT	Apr-25	VK2GD	Apr-28

May

VK2AIF	May-01	VK2ZCM	May-05
VK2OA	May-08	VK2ATM	May-12
VK2BZD	May-15	VK2ZHE	May-19
VK2EJK	May-22	VK2AYD	May-26
VK2TT	May-29		

June

VK2HOT	Jun-05	VK2DAL	Jun-02
VK2OA	Jun-12	VK2EI	Jun-09
VK2FSH	Jun-19	VK2ZCM	Jun-16
VK2AIF	Jun 26	VK2GD	Jun-23
		VK2HOT	Jun-30

Observatory Visit

On the evening of Wednesday, 4th November, as planned, a group of ORARC members, with spouses, family and friends, visited the Port Macquarie Observatory in Rotary Park.

It was an informative evening consisting of video documentaries, a live lecture supported by an audio/visual presentation featuring the currently

topical Sunspot and Solar Flare phenomena.

The evening's informative session ended with an opportunity for all present to take a peep through the group's 14-inch telescope. The object of interest was Mars as it moves away from us following its recent "visit" to our neck of the woods in the celestial wilderness.

The evening's session, a weekly feature at the Observatory was prepared and presented by the Port Macquarie Astronomical Association Inc.. It is well worth a periodical visit to this centre if one wishes to keep up to speed with the "goings-on" in the night sky.

The URL for this group's website is:

<http://users.bigpond.net.au/esther>

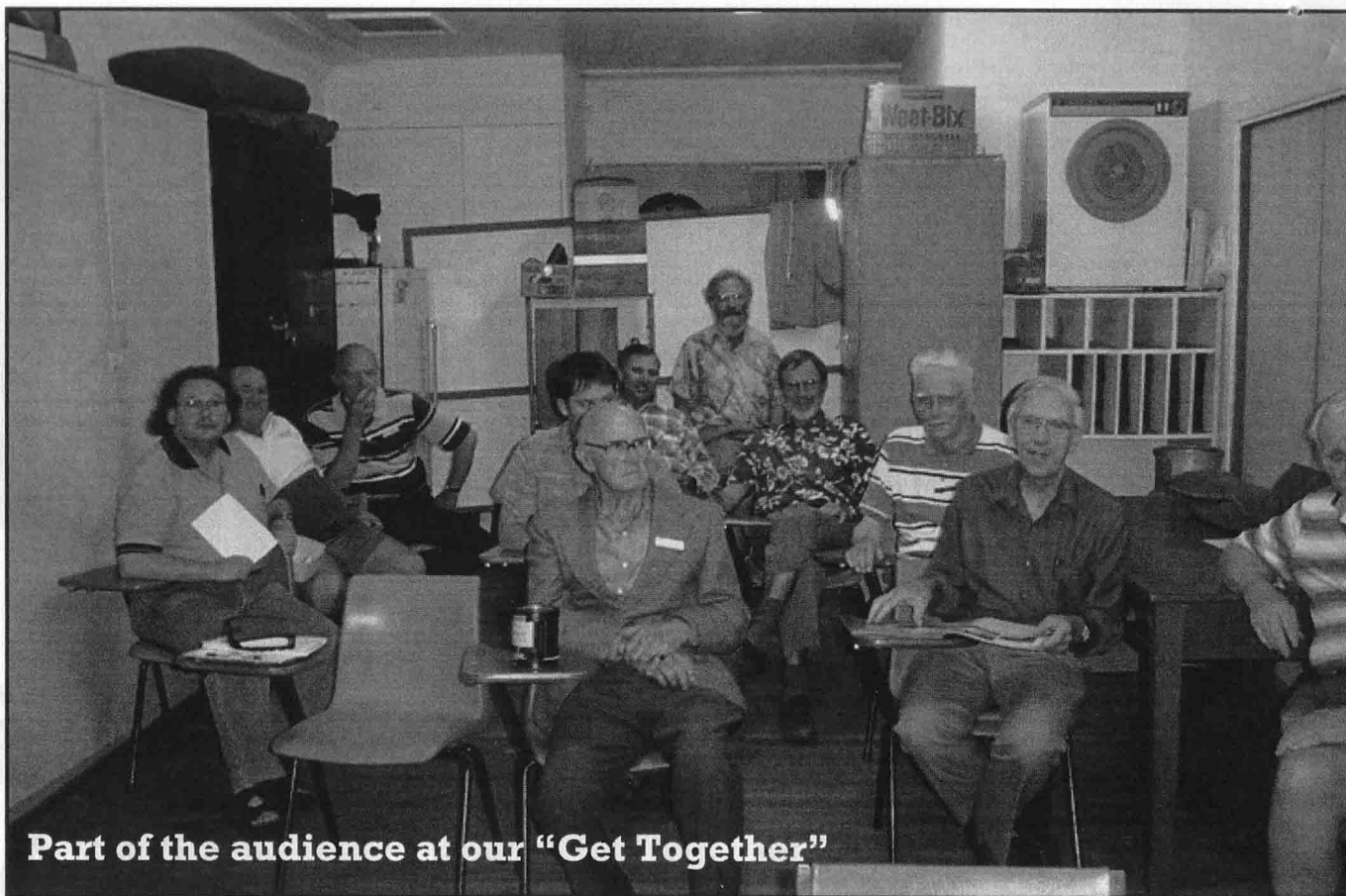
ORARC members may wish to register to be included on the group's distribution list for their periodical e-Newsletter, by simply contacting them by e-mail on:

portobs@tsn.cc

Friday Evening Talks

For quite some time now, our twice-monthly Friday evening "Get-togethers" (or are they Gets-together?) have featured a "Member speaker" session. These sessions, when we can get a willing "speaker", have been very popular, informative, and well received by those who have been able to attend.

On Friday, 14th November, our willing speaker was VK2YOR (Roy Burges). Roy gave us a particularly interesting talk about his lengthy experience during his days in the printing industry. Roy's experience was in the sphere of what has been dubbed "the ink media" in which he worked in a technical/engineering capacity on the equipment involved in producing prestigious tabloids in Australia and the UK. His service in this competitive area extended from Broadway, Sydney in the 50's to deep within the canyons of Fleet Street, London in later years, spanning 22 years in all. Names like Frank, Rupert, & Kerry were common by-words that arose in the every-day work-place



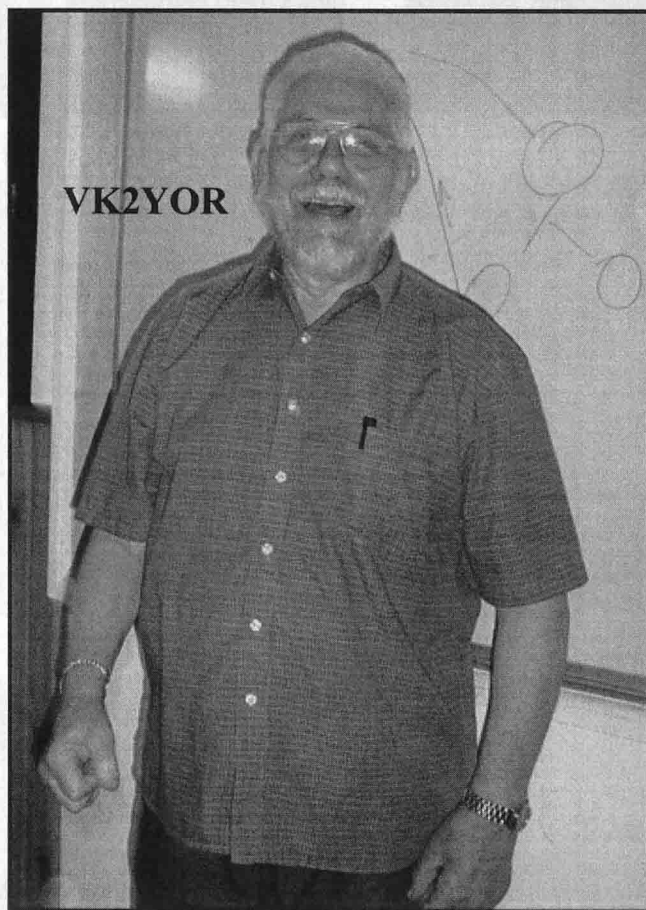
Part of the audience at our "Get Together"

situations through his interesting career.

Roy experienced the advance of technology in this industry which ranged from the very early post-WWII radio facsimile equipment, the Linotypes, and the increasing complexities that accommodated the demands for faster production and the improvements in colour printing that were met with the development of the computer.

He outlined technical descriptions of the equipment with which he was intimately involved, and related humorous anecdotes from the workplace of his era. It made an enjoyable evening for those who attended, particularly those who would have otherwise, perhaps, been exposed to the usual evening's onslaught from the "goggle-box" commercials, had they stayed at home. Thanks a heap, Roy!

In thanking Roy for his presentation, the President (VK2GD, Alan) included an invitation — read "plea"? — to any other ORARC members who have an informative story or two to relate, to volunteer to tell their story (subject matter not necessarily restricted to Amateur Radio, but of any general technical or human interest topic). This is just a reminder to all, and particularly to the more senior members, that if their story

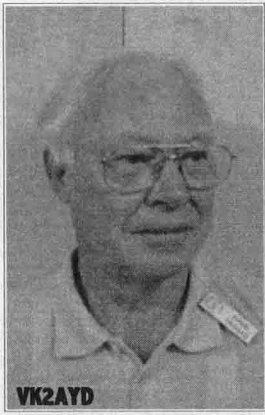


hasn't been told yet, then do so before it gets dimmed by the passage of time. Believe me, it happens!

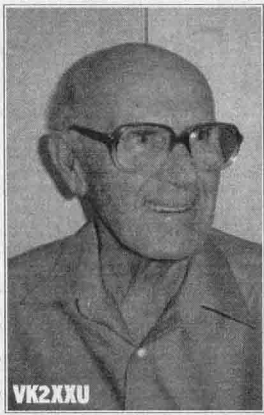
— Trevor (VK2TT)



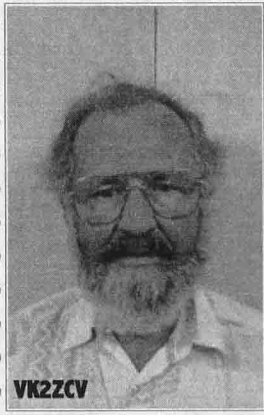
VK2EJK



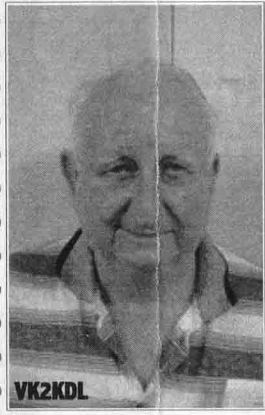
VK2AYD



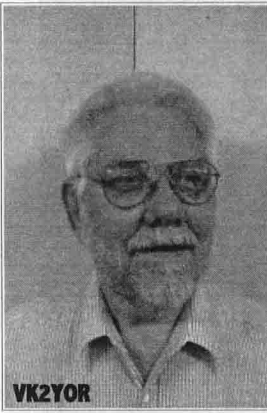
VK2XXU



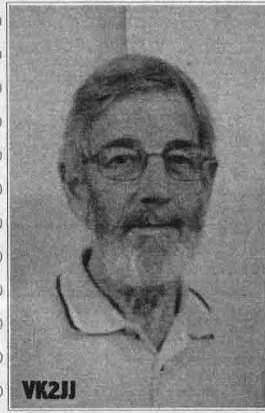
VK2ZCV



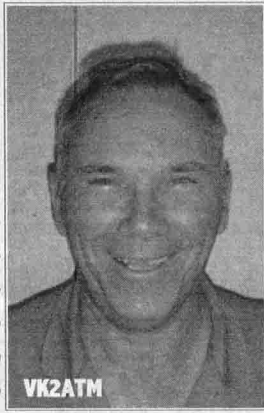
VK2KDL



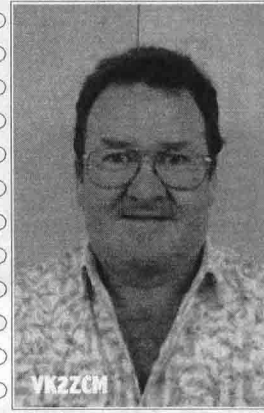
VK2YOR



VK2JJ

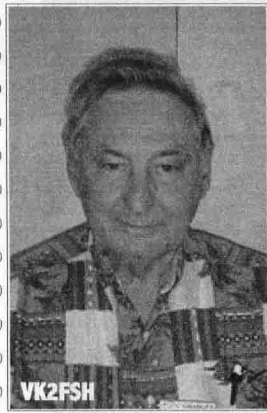


VK2ATM

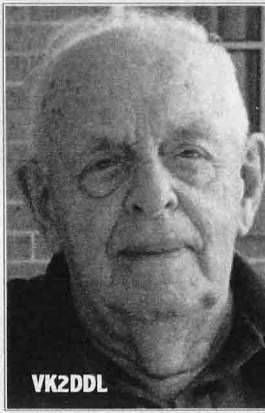


VK2ZCM

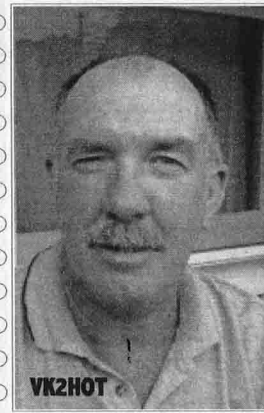
ORARC
DEC 03
MEMBERS



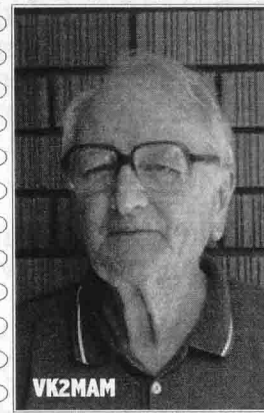
VK2FSH



VK2DDL



VK2HOT



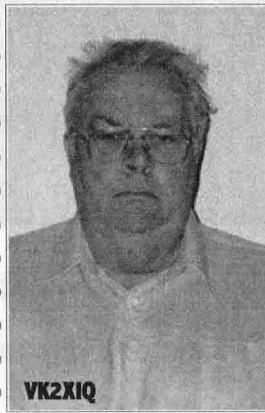
VK2MAM



VK2ELN



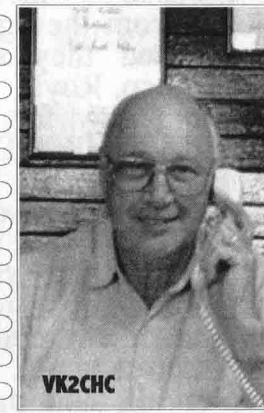
VK2BZD



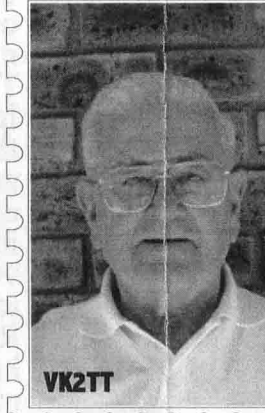
VK2XIQ



VK2BUE

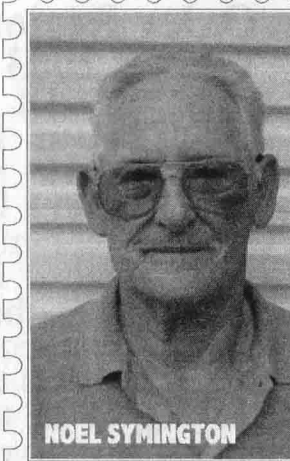
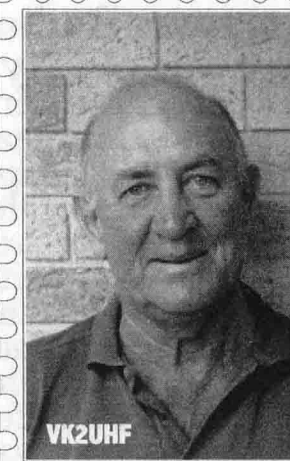
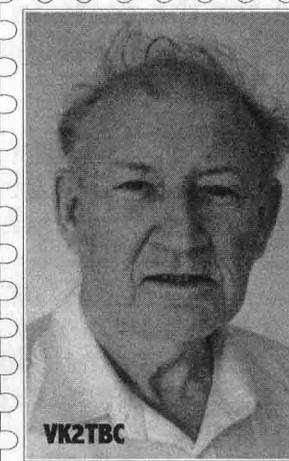
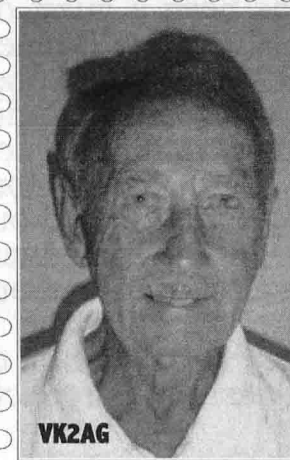
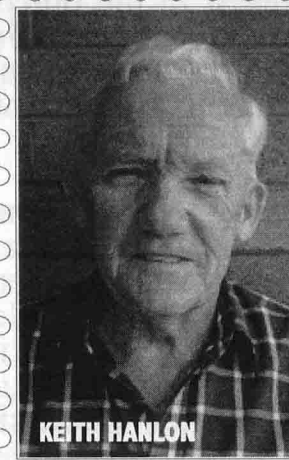
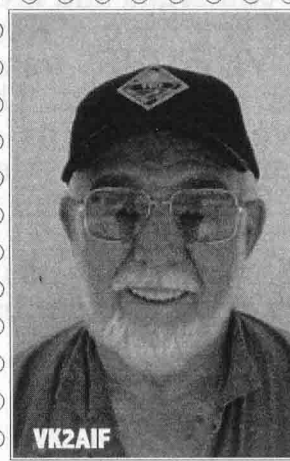
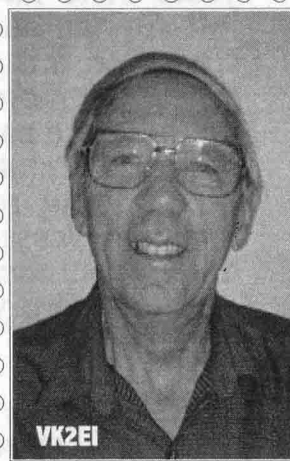
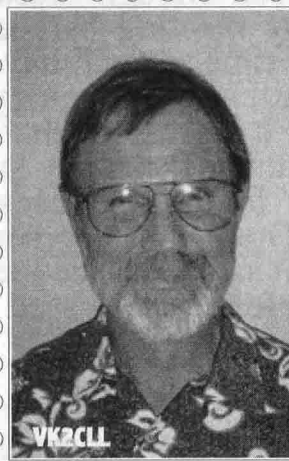
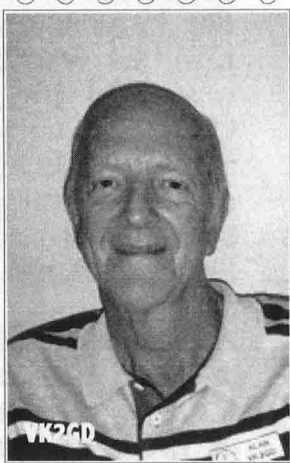
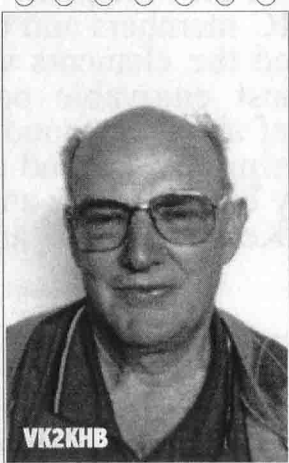


VK2CHC



VK2TT

Members of the ORARC Inc., as at mid-December 2003, appearing roug



hly in order of their availability in front of the camera.

Thanks to Ernie (VK2BUE)

Through the pages of *Oxtales*, a special "thank you" is extended to Ernie for his recent donation of some "shack clearance" items. These donated items are for sale to members, with the proceeds thereof being directed to bolster the club's meagre coffers. See the Equipment Officer, or members of the committee, for a list of items that are still available.

International Space Station

You probably all know the Astronauts have Amateur Radio call signs and are active on 2 metres. They have a Kenwood TM-D700E VHF/UHF transceiver for both phone and Packet. The current crew have Mike Foale, KB5UAC in Command with Alex "Sasha" Kaleri, U8MIR. The ISS call is NA1SS. Where will you find them? Down freq from ISS is 145.8 MHz. The up freq is 145.99 MHz. Take a listen some time.
— de VK2AYD

Local News

David, VK2AYD, has been a guest on Radio 2-Way FM on the Brian Bennett show at 9 am on a Friday. In October he spoke for an hour on Amateur Radio and our local club involvement. It led to a new member, Noel Symington, who heard the broadcast and joined our club. On November 28 David had another one hour slot and talked about our new licensing structure, our Club and weather satellites. They've asked him to talk on electronic Consumer products next....stayed tuned!

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's 2003 Christmas Party

Keith VK2KDL and XYL Gwen very kindly hosted this year's Christmas Party at their property at Telegraph Point. Due to a lapse on the part of the ORARC committee, insufficient research resulted in the Christmas party being held on the same weekend as the touch football competition in Port Macquarie. It seems that it has rained on the weekend of the touch football event for the last seven years, and this year was no exception! Fortunately, the weather

in Telegraph Point was significantly better than it was in Port Macquarie and the 35 or so ORARC members and their families who braved the elements were rewarded by a most enjoyable party. Only two very brief showers found the VK2KDL QTH during the day and everyone remained dry thanks to the ample cover afforded by Keith's carport and a large tarpaulin.

As always, Charles VK2FSH excelled as chief caterer. Alan VK2GD and Bill VK2ZCW demonstrated their expertise at the barbeque, cooking the delicious long sausages to perfection. In past years there have been enough sausages left for the January meeting barbeque. However, this year time we will have to buy some more sausages for January as the lot were eaten! It was noted that the major dilemma that most people faced was finding room for the potatoes or forgoing dessert. There must be something about the fruit salad and ice cream as there were very few who missed out on this dish.

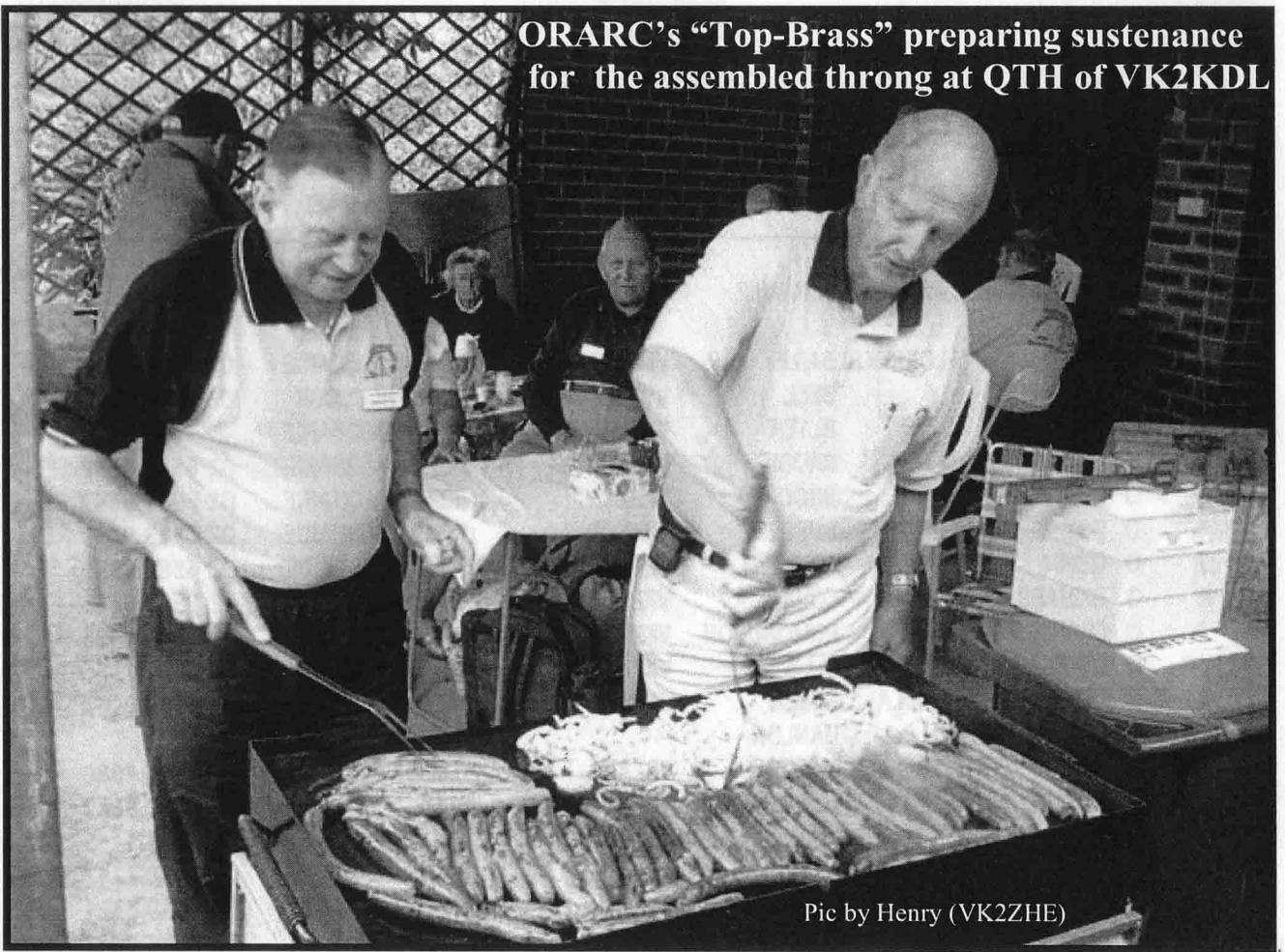
Special thanks must go to "salesman of the year" David VK2AYD who ensured that the entire assembled multitude had a keen personal interest in the outcome of the raffle draws. Treasurer, John VK2KHB looked particularly pleased as he counted the contents of the money jar.

It was most pleasing to see David VK2DAL and XYL Roma at the party. David was noted in animated conversation with many members. He and John VK2JB must have had some particularly interesting ground to cover judging by the intensity of their discussion. The committee was very appreciative of David's kind offer to provide an alternative indoor venue for the party in the event that the weather had precluded holding the event outdoors.

As the holder of the stirrer's helmet for the last 12 months, Charles VK2FSH added his modification of a flashing LED and presented the helmet to the holder for the next 12 months. Henry VK2ZHE is still at a loss to put his finger on the event or events which have qualified him to wear the helmet. It just proves that no one is safe!

Commiserations to those who were un-

ORARC's "Top-Brass" preparing sustenance for the assembled throng at QTH of VK2KDL



Pic by Henry (VK2ZHE)

able to attend the party due to other commitments on the day. Apologies were received from such notable stalwarts as VK2TT, VK2HOT, VK2ZCV, VK2EJK, VK2ZCM, VK2XXU and VK2AIF, amongst others. Had those tendering apologies been able to attend, it would have resulted in a record turn-out for this popular event.
— Henry (VK2ZHE)

Welcome to New Member

A warm welcome is extended to Gary Walke (VK2UHF) of Port Macquarie, who joined our ranks at our last meeting.

WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party

On New Year's Day 2004 Australian radio amateurs will gain access to the High Frequency (HF) bands using licences that do not require the passing of Morse code telegraphy tests. To celebrate the occasion, there will be a "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party". It is going to last 35 hours - starting with the early arrival of New Year's Day down-under at 1300 hours UTC on December the 31st, and concluding at 2400 hours UTC on the 1st of January. The QSO Party is an all mode activity - on all HF bands, with most of the activity expected on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. The event aims to welcome VK radio amateurs appearing on HF bands for the first time.

(Continued on bottom of P8)



Well ... he SAID— "Send with the other foot"

From VK2AIF's "Thrunka" Collec-





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at 15th Dec, 2003)

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.
1	O JOHN	(FLORENCE) BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D ALAN	BELL	VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 4998.7291
3	L BOB	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
4	O BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
5	O BILL	(AILSAS) BROOKE	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
6	O ROY W	(JUNE) BURGESS	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
7	O KEVIN	(JUNE) COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
8	O RICHARD	(LINDA) COURT	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
9	O CHARLES	(PAT) EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
10	D STAN	(BETTY) ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
11	O LEWIS	(PAMELA) GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
12	L KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
13	O DAVID	(ISABELLA) HARDING	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
14	O 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	O KEITH	(GWEN) LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
18	O ALLAN	(DAWN) MADIGAN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
19	O CRAIG	MARTIN	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
20	O TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
21	L ARTHUR	(WENDY) MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
22	O LAURIE	(ROBIN) NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
23	O ALLAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
24	O DAVID A	(DEE) PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
25	O NEIL	(VERENA) SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
26	O BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
27	D ERNEST	(CATHY) SLOMAN	VK2BUE	TENTERFIELD	02 6736.1388
28	O DAVID	(ROMA) SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
29	A NOEL	SYMINGTON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9811
30	O DAVID	(AILEEN) TARRANT	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
31	O TREVOR	(PHYLLIS) THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
32	O GARY	WALKE	VK2UHF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.4714
33	O BRUCE	(GWEN) WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
34	O JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

A = Associate Member O = Ordinary Member D = Distant Member L = Life Member

(Continued from P7)

These can be identified by three-letter VK call sign suffixes that begin with the letters H, T, U, X, Y and Z.

Listen for the call "CQ WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party".

(Extract from contribution by Jim Linton VK3PC, WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party Organiser

hfqsoparty@wiavic.org.au)