



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>]

March 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 6582.0534

President's Report

The year has got off to a good start with a couple of auctions which have cleared much of the gear out of the store room as well as providing funds for Snow's estate and our Club coffers, thanks to equipment donated by Ernie Sloman.



A further equipment donation has been received from Peter Camraderie via our SES friends for which we extend our thanks.

Our thanks also goes to our very active repeater committee who, on a recent visit atop Middle Brother, located what appears to have been the cause of some of our interference problems. Tightening a loose battery terminal, and replacing a shorted charge limit transistor seems to have done the trick. No doubt, time will tell. A thorough test run over our main storage battery showed it was still in excellent condition after more than eight years of continuous service.

It has been agreed that we make the restoration of VK2RCN a matter of urgency as it has now been out of service for almost two years. The restoration of the antennas at the Red Hill site will require the presence of someone with more than the average agility of most of our club members. While some may believe they still have what it takes to shinny up a mast, their XYL's tend to think otherwise! We'll handle that one when the time comes.

Recently, the Club agreed that we should again circulate all "hams" in the area who are not currently members of our Club, inviting them to join or re-join. At our last Committee meeting, the Secretary presented

a draft invitation for approval and this letter has now been posted out to 35 "hams" in the area, together with a copy of the January issue of "Oxtales".

The Committee has considered the appointment of a Station Manager for VK2BOR and has drawn up an appropriate job description.

It has been decided to make use of the considerable amount of brain power within our Club, much of which, sadly, lies dormant for most of the time.

The suggestion is that each Club member who feels up to it, design and construct a prototype direct conversion receiver/transmitter for 80, 40 or 10 Metres which could form the basis for a future Club project. The project would be to construct a number of units, identical to the selected prototype, which would then be used to encourage young people into the ranks of amateur radio and Club membership through their participation in a fox hunt activity day to be held at a suitable venue. Details will be discussed at our next Club meeting.

Alan Nutt VK2GD
 El Presidenté

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Down The Coax

Friday Night Get-together
Fri. Mar. 12th & 26th
7.00pm

John Moyle Field Days
Sat/Sun 20th/21st Mar
ORARC Participation TBA

April Monthly Meeting
Sat Apr. 3rd
2.00pm

Friday Night Get-together
Fri. April 9th & 23rd
7.00pm

Net Controllers Roster

Be wary! This roster contains corrections & changes to the previously published roster. This roster includes new participants and the overall pattern has changed somewhat. Ignore earlier rosters

Sundays

VK2FSH Mar-07
VK2ZHE Mar-14
VK2AIF Mar-21
VK2OA Mar-28

VK2BZD Apr-04
VK2HOT Apr-11
VK2FSH Apr-18
VK2TT Apr-25

VK2UW May-02
VK2AIF May-09
VK2BZD May-16
VK2EJK May-23
VK2TT May-30

VK2FSH Jun-06
VK2OA Jun-13
VK2UW Jun-20
VK2AIF Jun 27

VK2BZD Jul-04
VK2EJK Jul-11
VK2HKW Jul-18
VK2TT Jul-25

VK2FSH Aug-01
VK2OA Aug-08
VK2AIF Aug-15
VK2HKW Aug-22
VK2BZD Aug-29

Wednesdays

March

VK2GD Mar-03
VK2ZCM Mar-10
VK2EI Mar-17
VK2EJK Mar-24
VK2ATM Mar-31

April

VK2ZHE Apr-07
VK2AYD Apr-14
VK2ZCM Apr-21
VK2GD Apr-28

May

VK2HKW May-05
VK2EI May-12
VK2ATM May-19
VK2ZHE May-26

June

VK2AYD Jun-02
VK2EI Jun-09
VK2ZCM Jun-16
VK2GD Jun-23
VK2HOT Jun-30

July

VK2ZHE Jul-07
VK2ATM Jul-14
VK2UW Jul-21
VK2AYD Jul-28

August

VK2EI Aug-04
VK2GD Aug-11
VK2ZCM Aug-18
VK2HOT Aug-25

E-mail directory.

*Reflects all changes notified up to 12th
February 2004*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anut@ozemail.com.au
VK2OA (Allan) possoa@tsn.cc
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felglow.com.au
VK2UW (Chris) vk2uw@iprimus.com.au
VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au
VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@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
VK2ZCM (Craig) vk2zcm@dodo.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) brucew@tsn.cc
VK2XXU (Will) carolj@fasternet.com.au
VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au
VK2ZCV (Bill) bilsinvk@fasternet.com.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@bigpond.com
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au

Record Speeds

In the November 2003 issue of OX-TALES, David (VK2AYD) presented an item from ARNewsLine via QNEWS, relating to the origins of recording speed standards. The item attracted the interest of quite a few members, including that of Gary (VK2UHF). Gary did some web browsing and came up with the following item which gives some further interesting facts, adding depth to the QNEWS item. It will be presented in three parts through OXTALES pages, as it is quite lengthy. Here is Part I, covering the 78 RPM development.

"The 78 rpm record speed was standardized by Victor for its spring motor phonograph in 1901. The 33-1/3 speed was created by J. P. Maxfield for the electrical recording system developed at Bell Labs in the early 1920s. The 45 rpm speed was created by RCA Victor for the 7-inch microgroove record in 1949.

The following selection is from 'Before the Fine Groove and Stereo Record and Other Innovations' by Warren Rex Isom, Journal of the Audio Engi-

neering Society, October/November 1977, Vol. 25, Number 10/11:

‘ . . . One of the most important innovations in the record industry was the change of record speeds, in spite of the fact that generally speaking it matters little what the speed is; it is only important that it be the same and constant.

Back in the hand-cranked phonograph days when the same instrument was used for both recording and reproduction, what was recorded had to be reproduced at close to the same speed, otherwise, the difference between recorded and reproduced material would have been too great. However, within broad limits, the exact speed was unimportant. Several factors determined what the broad limits were.

For better quality, the crank was turned at a comfortable speed, otherwise jerky motion resulted. This comfortable speed as found to be about heart-beat rate -- between 60 and 90 per minute. It is interesting to note that armies and bands march at this cadence, and speeds in this range are specified for hand-cranked farm equipment.

Those who used hand-cranked phonographs soon learned that if they turned at a lower speed more time could be recorded on the record, but lower speeds gave bad sound. At higher speeds, the sound was better but the recording shorter. They also knew that larger records played longer than smaller records. The original cylinder records were large in diameter and almost impractical in size.

Spring-wound motors were necessary before the cylinders could be reduced in size and operated at speeds first of 120 r/min and, later, at 160 r/min for good sound. These speeds were beyond the comfortable range for manual operation. It was soon found that speed is one of the variables of a record system specification. The other variables are the quality objectives, the quality of the recording materials, the size of the record, the length of play and the factor of cost or economics. Change one and all the others are affected.

With the wind-up phonographs that

were used for reproduction only, it was desirable that the speed be about the same for all records, but it was not really important since the speed of the player was adjustable. The same situation existed with the first motor driven units -- the speed was manually adjusted until the sound was right for the listener.

In 1925, when electrical recording came into existence, a decision had to be made as to what speed would be used for recording. At that time, Victor was operating at 78 r/min, Edison was using 80 r/min for his disc, while some others were using 82. If Maxfield and Harrison wanted their system adopted by Victor, then 78 r/min was the speed to use. An honest and compelling reason was that Victor's 78 r/min was the predominant speed and it was selected for maximum compatibility between the old and the new. In fact, 78 r/min was selected, but it turned out to be 78.2608 r/min because it was necessary to synchronize the recording turntable to the 60-hertz line and 78.2608 r/min was the only speed at which it could be done practically with a simple worm-gear drive. This, however, is not true for spur gears.

The 78.26086957 . . . speed is obtained with a gear ratio of 46 to 1 between the synchronous motor and the recording turntable. This can be achieved with a one-tooth worm gear mating with a 46-tooth driven gear. This is the most direct and simple system preferred for precision work. This speed can also be obtained by a spur-gear train of two 12-tooth pinions, one intermediate 46-tooth gear and 144-tooth turntable drive gear. For 78 r/min exactly, the gears are 13-tooth pinions, 39-tooth intermediate, and a 200-tooth final turntable drive gear.

There is not a practical simple worm gear drive to obtain 78 r/min exactly from a 60-hertz synchronous motor.’

(Continued in May OXTALES)

A Welcome to Some New Members.



Meet Karen (VK2HKW) and Chris (VK2UW)

ORARC has an XYL/OM team as the most recent addition to our membership register. Karen and Chris Wright initially attended our club as visitors following their move last year to Port Macquarie from the Banora Point area. Both Chris and Karen were active members of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society Inc., and the Summerland Amateur Radio Club. It seems as though they liked what they saw at the ORARC Inc., and they have now formally joined our ranks. Our club has not had very many XYL/OM teams in our membership over the years, and through the pages of OXTALES we extend a hearty welcome to both these experienced and fully active Amateurs. Our net controller's roster has benefited by their presence, as they have both agreed to our invitation to participate in this rotational task. Thanks for joining us, Karen and Chris.

Friday Night Talks

Following the success of the "Welcome to HF QSO Party" on the first of January this year, many of those amateurs with newly gained HF privileges have discovered the joys of working HF DX. Mindful of the many pitfalls and the importance of doing things the correct way, two of our keen HF DXers took the opportunity to share their hard won experience with our members at the two Friday night get-togethers in January 2004.

Bob VK2EJK took the floor on Friday 9 January and presented an excellent talk on "Working the HF DX". Bob started with the basics which are all too easy to over-

look in the enthusiasm of trying to make those first DX contacts. He explained the futility of simply calling a DX station without first listening to learn all the details which are necessary in order to make a valid QSO with that station.

Attentive listening will yield everything from the QSL details to the station operator's name, and most importantly the frequency on which the station is listening. We learned that most busy DX stations operate split frequency. Armed with this information the key to making a successful contact is to then call only when our station fits the criteria that the DX station is listening for. Bob then went

on to explain how to obtain the QSL card to verify the contact. It's obviously a very successful formula as demonstrated by the many exotic QSL cards which Bob showed the gathering.

On the following Friday get-together on 23rd January, Chris VK2UW presented an equally interesting and informative talk which built on the information which Bob had previously shared. It was significant that Chris reinforced the many points which Bob had made. Chris then went on to talk about the many resources that are now available to the active DXer. We learned about the intelligence that is available to alert us as to when and where to find the DX stations, and that it is often possible to check on the internet to see if our contact has in fact been correctly logged by the DX station. The merits of various computer logging programs were discussed. DX nets were covered as were the various contests and awards including DXCC and how to apply!

A number of members were observed taking notes while both Bob and Chris were talking. And the note takers weren't only those who had just gained access to the HF bands! A few anxious members will no doubt check very carefully as to where IRCs have been stamped!

The many tips which both Bob and Chris so kindly shared, represent years of knowledge gained through first hand experience in refining the art of successful DXing. Those members who were able to attend the two talks went away armed with a proven battle plan. Even those who may not be intending to work the DX just yet went away with a valuable insight into the protocol of successfully sharing the HF bands with the rest of the world.

— Henry (VK2ZHE)

Maintenance on

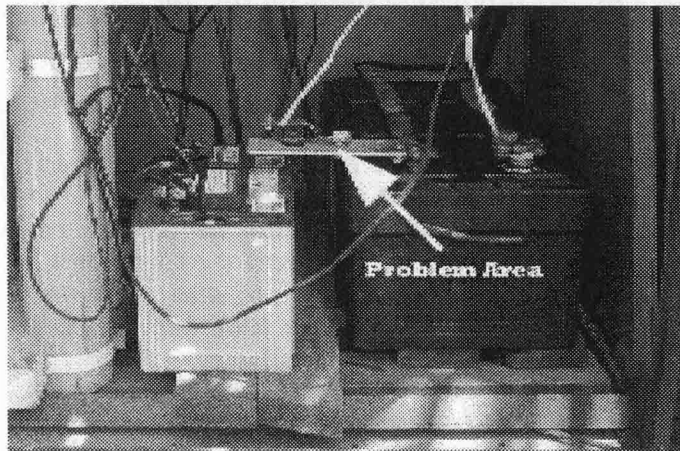
VK2RPM Voice Repeater

Further to El Presidenté's report regarding the work done on VK2RPM a week ago.

Below is a snapshot of the floating battery and the "sus" connections that were given "therapeutic" treatment by the working party that attended the site

recently.

Users will be familiar with the spurious tone bursts that have appeared on the output of the repeater during recent months. The failed components, and the "sus" connections, located in the area indicated in the



snapshot, when considered with the symptoms observed, gave good logical evidence that the problem should, hopefully, be now cleared as a result of the treatment applied.

— Trevor (VK2TT)

Ian Dunlop

The following interesting snippet was contributed by Chris, (VK2UW). It is a reprint from Gold Coast "Bulletin".

Ian Dunlop has done and heard a lot during his 74 years in amateur radio, including having a conversation with Jesus.

The 84-year-old 'radio-junkie' is a member of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society.

The club offers young and old the chance to get on the airwaves to talk to people from around the world, and to complete accredited radio courses.

However, it's not your typical radio with music and DJ, but rather the old fashioned way of communication, where people use individual call signs to identify themselves.

Mr Dunlop is the oldest member of the Nerang-based radio club and says he has loved every minute of his radio days that started on horseback.

"I used to ride my horse every day fixing radios on my route," he said.

"I might have been the only horse-riding radio repairman in Australia"

The Murwillumbah retiree said he could remember many fond radio experi-

ences, particularly one which he described as rather scary.

"About 30-odd years ago I received a transmission from South America that was quite broken so I tried to gain contact and told the voice my name.

"After a lot more broken noise I heard this voice with an accent.

"It told me he was Jesus.

"I got such a scary shock that I was trembling and my hair stood one end.

"I didn't realise that Jesus was a common name in South America."

Mr. Dunlop said he could remember his very first radio experience.

"I was about 10 and a friend and I used to play around with an old radio after school.

"I was really interested in them and it kind of grew from there.

"Now I'm 84 and I'm still playing with radios."

The Gold Coast Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone who is interested and boasts 88 active members.

(Ed: The ORARC Inc., is also open to anyone who is interested, and we would like to boost our number, too!)

How Broad Can One Get?

The following item is from ARNewsline via Beyond Our Shores in Feb AR :-

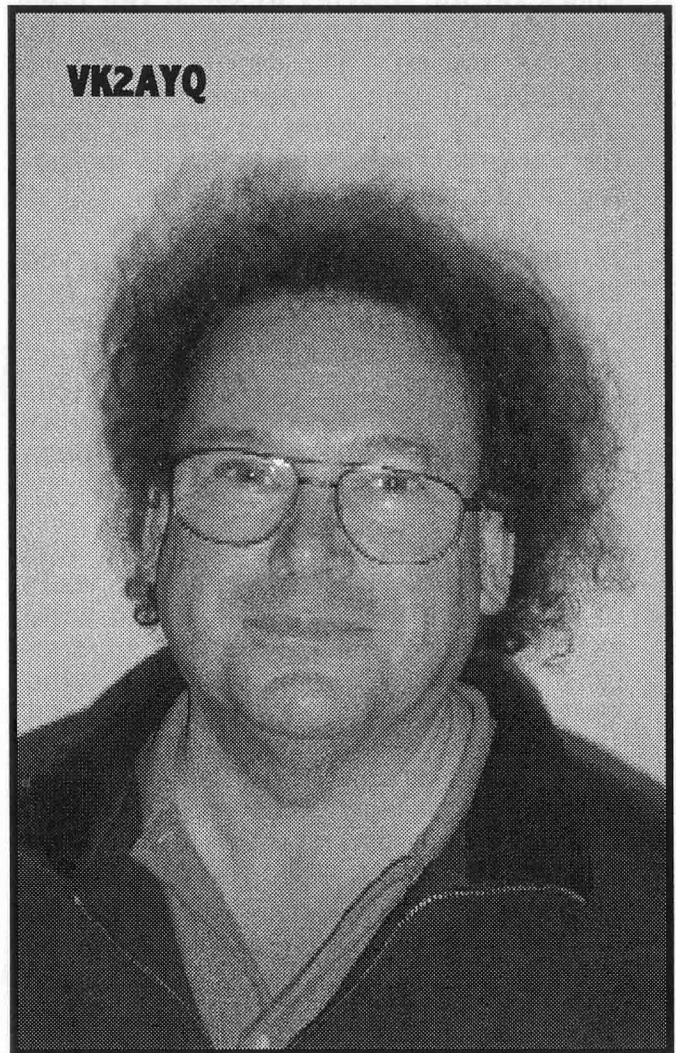
Real Broad Band Radio: The CGC Communicator are reporting police or fire engines may soon be able to override the radio in your car. Jacksonville Florida based Safety Cast announces that it will soon test a new mobile alert system. One that will allow a police officer or ambulance driver to take over a car radio within a distance of about 1000 feet and broadcast a brief alert tone and warning message. It doesn't say whether it's HF or VHF but the mind boggles at the type of transmitter that will be used!

[The Sydney Harbour Tunnel boasts a similar facility: I have personally experienced it during delays. It's powerful and is of superb audio quality... and loud! Takes the mind off the discomfort of breathing in sulphur and carbon monoxide! Ed.]

Meet VK2AYQ (John Hansen)

John is another recent addition to our membership ranks. Being a regular visitor to our club meetings over recent months, John apparently liked what he saw and signed up January.

"Oxtales" hasn't yet caught up with John's previous and current activities in the hobby, but that will no doubt be addressed in the near future. However, we do know that John moved to the Hastings district following his retirement from the NSW Dept. of Education where he was a specialist in Information Technology. John should therefore be a valuable source of information and advice for those of our members who chose to squander their valuable time in the never ending confrontation with the whims of personal computers. Be kind to, and patient with us John! Welcome aboard !



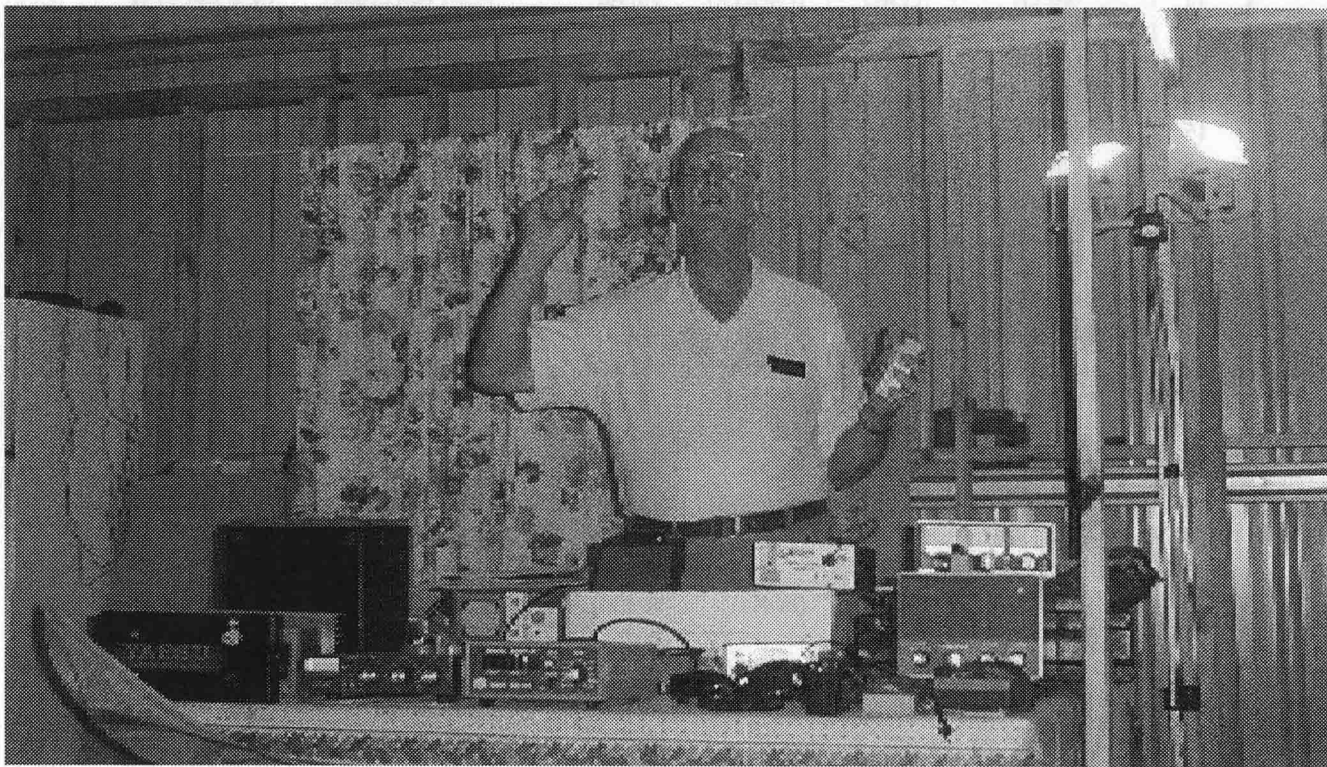
Club Auctions

At our Friday night gathering on Friday 13th February, (Yes, Friday 13th!) a very successful auction sale was held. As a result of SES training schedules, we were unable to hold the event at our normal meeting venue. Henry (VK2ZHE) very kindly made his home QTH available, and all members who turned up for the event sped off in convoy from Gordon Street to Henry's Hangar.

The President, Alan (VK2GD) was unanimously elected as Auctioneer for the night, and over a period of an hour or so, the entire collection of "Lots" went under the hammer. The Lots were those items recently donated to the ORARC by Ernie (VK2BUE), of Tenterfield, one of our Distant Members.

The proceeds of the sale represented a significant injection to the club's meagre coffers. Our thanks go to Ernie for this thoughtful donation that arose from his shack clearance. Ernie can be assured that the "pre-loved" items are now in caring homes once more. The snapshot immediately below shows Alan in full swing in his Auctioneer's role.

A further auction was conducted at the SES Club rooms on Friday 27th Feb. This time, the lots were made up of the last major items of the Late "Snow" Hodder's estate. Alan again was the Auctioneer, and cleared the table of useful items that are now safely in new homes.



John Moyle Field Day

The John Moyle Field Day Weekend is scheduled for March 20th & 21st, 2004. The Club needs to be represented in this popular annual event. See if YOU can make it this year.

The aim is to encourage and provide familiarisation with portable operation, and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are therefore designed to encourage field operation. It runs from 0100 UTC on the Saturday, until 0059 UTC on the Sunday. The contest is open to all VK, ZL and P2 stations. Other stations are welcome to participate, but can only claim points for contacts with VK, ZL and P2 stations.



OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at 28th February)

Cat.	Surname	Given name	(Spouse)	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D	BELL	ALAN	VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554.1689
3	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
4	O	BRODIE	BOB	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
5	O	BROOKE	BILL (AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
6	O	BURGES	ROY W (JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
7	O	COULTER	KEVIN (JUNE)	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
8	O	COURT	RICHARD LINDA	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
9	O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES (PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
10	D	ELLIS	STAN (BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
11	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
12	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
13	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
14	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
15	O	JAMIESON	WILL (CAROL)	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
16	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
17	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
18	O	LUTTON	KEITH (GWEN)	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
19	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
20	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
21	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
22	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
23	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
24	O	NUTT	ALLAN	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
25	O	PILLEY	DAVID A (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
26	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
27	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
28	D	SLOMAN	ERNEST	VK2BUE	TENTERFIELD	02 6736.1388
29	O	SMITH	DAVID (ROMA)	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
30	A	SYMINGTON	NOEL	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9811
31	O	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
32	O	THATCHER	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
33	O	WALKE	GARY	VK2UHF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.4714
34	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
35	O	WEBSTER	JIM	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037
36	O	WRIGHT	CHRIS (KAREN)	VK2UW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 6757
37	O	WRIGHT	KAREN (CHRIS)	VK2HKW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 65826757

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