



# 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>]

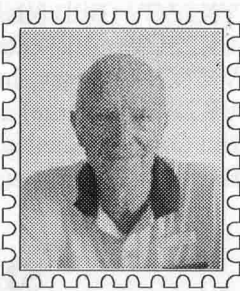
## July 2004

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

Sadly we have to report the passing of another of our long-time club members in the person of Dave Smith, who died in mid May after a long illness. Over recent months Dave was unable to attend Club meetings at the SES Centre but on several occasions we held our meetings at his home which allowed him to still be part of the "family". Our Club was well represented at his funeral and our thoughts go out to Roma and the family at this time of loss. Thanks to those who provided "Silent Key" tributes to "AR" and the WIA.



Another Field Day under our belt and, by all accounts, a very successful occasion. The attendance was up on last year and the weather was most kind to us. The logistics needed to ensure a smooth-running event are considerable and we demonstrated once again what can be done through an excellent team effort. My thanks to all who contributed time, effort and material to make the weekend so enjoyable.

A very worthwhile disposal spin-off from the Field Day has resulted in a big increase in space in the Club's store room which, no doubt, will please Wilbur immensely until we find suitable junk (?) to fill it again!

I have written to the headmasters at ten of our local high schools requesting permission to speak to the student body about careers in electronics and related industries. I have asked that we might also promote our Club and talk about electronics and amateur radio in particular as a hobby. Thus far I have had no replies but we are optimistic.

I have also written to Hastings Council, asking them to advise us of their intentions about the SES property if, as we believe, SES will eventually be relocated elsewhere in the town. We have also asked about the possibility of a land grant similar to that made to Endeavour Clubhouse recently. This would enable us to build suitable premises of our own if we agreed this was the way we should go. Obviously, with limited funds, we would have to look at ways to generate some community support.

I noted from previous correspondence that we made an almost identical request to Council back in 2000. Since there has been no apparent action in the intervening years, let's hope we get a more positive response to our request this time round.

Still no reply from Country Energy about PLC tests. We have written again, offering our help in monitoring for possible interference, just in case our original letter got filed in the wrong basket! What are they not telling us???

Alan VK2GD

*El presidenté*

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## Down The Coax

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

**AGM & Aug. Monthly Meeting**  
**Sat. August 7th**  
**2.00pm**  
**(See Page 7 for Notices)**  
**Please make every effort to attend**

**John Moyle Field Day**  
**Sunday 29th August**

**Friday Night Get-together**  
**August 13th & 27th**  
**7.00pm**

**September Monthly Meeting**  
**Sat. 4th Sep.**  
**2.00pm**

## Net Controllers Roster

(Includes MAJOR changes: Disregard earlier roster in May Issue of "OXTALES")

### Sundays

### Wednesdays

#### July

VK2BZD	Jul-04	VK2ZHE	Jul-07
VK2EJK	Jul-11	VK2ATM	Jul-14
VK2TT	Jul-18	VK2AYD	Jul-21
VK2FSH	Jul-25	VK2ZCM	Jul-28

#### August

VK2OA	Aug-01		
VK2AIF	Aug-08	VK2GD	Aug-04
VK2BZD	Aug-15	VK2EI	Aug-11
VK2EJK	Aug-22	VK2HOT	Aug-18
VK2TT	Aug-29	VK2ATM	Aug-25

#### September

VK2FSH	Sep-05	VK2GD	Sep-01
VK2OA	Sep-12	VK2AYD	Sep-08
VK2AIF	Sep-19	VK2EI	Sep-15
VK2BZD	Sep-26	VK2HOT	Sep-22
		VK2ZHE	Sep-29

#### October

VK2EJK	Oct-03		
VK2TT	Oct-10	VK2GD	Oct-06
VK2FSH	Oct-17	VK2ZCM	Oct-13
VK2OA	Oct-24	VK2HOT	Oct-20
VK2AIF	Oct-31	VK2ATM	Oct-27

#### November

VK2BZD	Nov-07	VK2ZHE	Nov-03
VK2EJK	Nov-14	VK2AYD	Nov-10
VK2TT	Nov-21	VK2EI	Nov-17
VK2FSH	Nov-28	VK2HOT	Nov-24

#### December

VK2OA	Dec-05	VK2ZHE	Dec-01
VK2AIF	Dec-12	VK2GD	Dec-08
VK2BZD	Dec-19	VK2ZCM	Dec-15
VK2EJK	Dec-26	VK2EI	Dec-22
		VK2ATM	Dec-29

## E-mail directory.

*Reflects all changes notified up to 28th June 2004*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au  
 VK2GD (Alan) anut@midcoastl.com.au  
 VK2OA (Allan) possoa@tsn.cc  
 VK2PV (Neil) neilblake1@hotmail.com  
 VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felglow.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  
 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 (Wilbur) jamo@tsn.cc  
 VK2YOR (Roy) rburgess@intercoast.com.au  
 VK2ZCV (Bill) bilsinvk@ecopost.com.au  
 VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@bigpond.com  
 VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au  
 VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au  
 Jim Daniel jaidanl@bigpond.com  
 Barry Gilson gilson@austarnet.com.au

## SILENT KEYS

This issue of "OXTALES" brings the sad news of the passing of two of our respected members, both of whom passed away during the latter half of the month of May. They were David Smith (VK2DAL) of Wauchope, and Ernie Sloman (VK2BUE) of Tenterfield, a Distant Member.

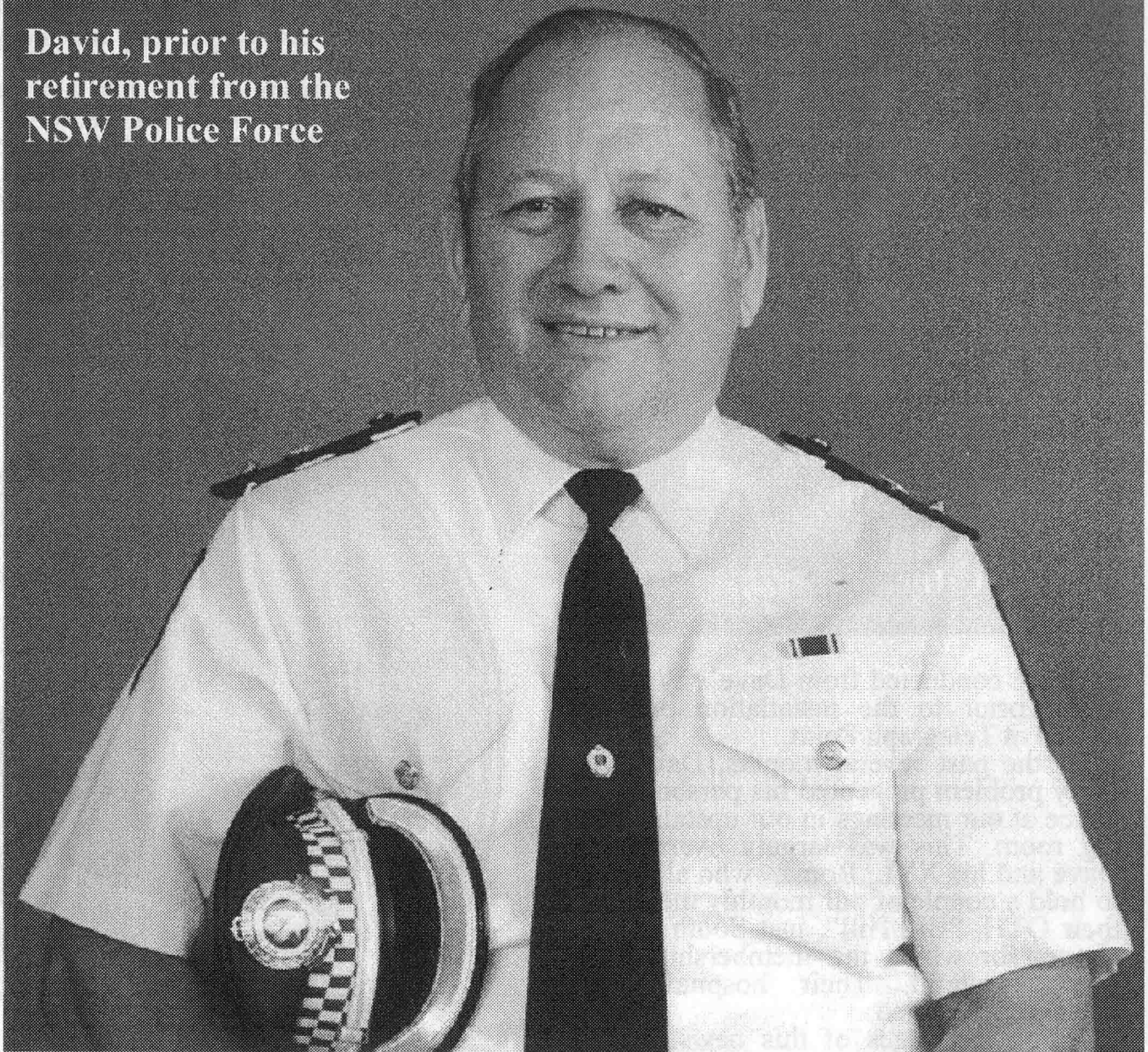
## WILFRED DAVID BUTLER SMITH VK2DAL

### (Better known as Dave)

We were saddened by the passing of David, VK2DAL on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the age of 73. Although David had been fighting Muscular Dystrophy over the past years he maintained his daily skeds with his friends locally and overseas.

David, as a young school boy, found electronics interesting and built his first crystal set and after getting 'the bug' using his pocket money, built a battery powered one and two valve receiver. From there he moved on to building his first transmitter using a Gelo VFO and a 6146 valve. He was apprenticed as a Fitter & Turner. In 1958 he joined the NSW Police Force on general Police work, but with his love of radio was quickly transferred to the Communications Branch where he obtained his First Class Commercial Operator's Certificate of proficiency at the Marconi School of Wireless. His technical skills soon put him

David, prior to his retirement from the NSW Police Force



in charge of technical maintenance and in 1988 was promoted to the rank of Superintendent in charge of NSW Police Communications and Operations.

He took early retirement and ran a computer systems consultancy, managing the installation and commissioning a computer based Pathology System for all the hospitals in the central Sydney area Health Service. On completion of this project he retired and moved to Wauchope.

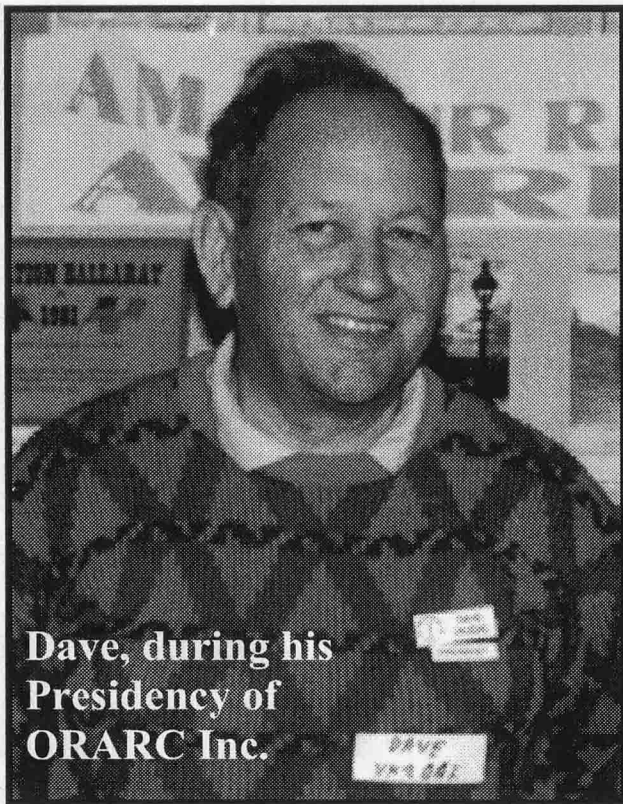
David was first licensed in the 50's as VK2IS, but never did like the call sign and eventually changed to VK2DAL. His station at Wauchope was one to be admired, especially his antenna system. (Which was written up in "Amateur Radio"). Through the local Electrical Supply Co he acquired a 18m pole, built rail tracks on it, and motorized it so that the antenna could be raised or lowered as required.

He was an active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and had served as their President in 1995.

David is survived by his wife Roma. Now an "SK", his key is silent, but the memory of VK2DAL will linger on. He will be sadly missed

(Submitted by David A. Pilley VK2AYD )

In addition to serving as President of ORARC, David also served as Chairman of the club's Repeater Committee for a couple of years. During his stint in this position he was the driving force behind the establishment of the initial installation of the VK2RCN voice repeater at Telegraph Point. He worked tirelessly for many weeks kicking along a group of helpers to get the gear together, cavities adjusted, and antennae installed on the resurrected Rhema tower. Initial "on-air" tri-



**Dave, during his  
Presidency of  
ORARC Inc.**

als were conducted from Dave's Wauchope QTH, prior to the installation being installed at Telegraph Point.

Over the past several months, Dave's mobility problem prevented his personal attendance at our meetings in our upstairs meeting room. This was largely overcome by Dave and his XYL, Roma, who allowed us to hold a couple of our monthly meetings at their QTH, "Big Hill", just South of Wauchope, for which the membership is sincerely grateful. Their hospitality was greatly appreciated.

Through the pages of this newsletter, the entire membership expresses sincere condolences to Roma and the family, which surely includes "Sam", Dave's faithful canine companion of quite some years.

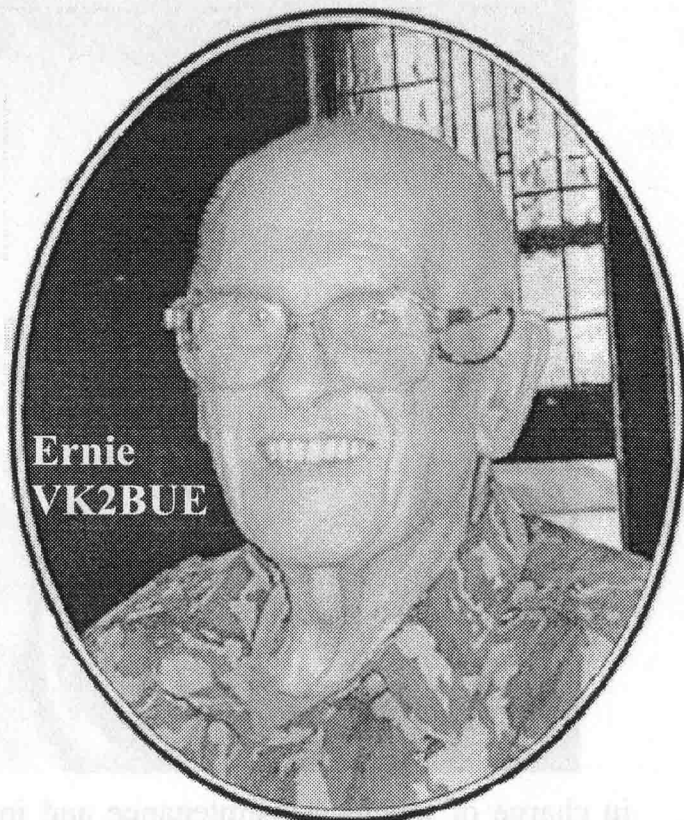
### **Ernest Henry Sloman (VK2BUE)**

Ernie, as he was affectionately known, passed away on Monday 31st May at the age of 91. Although having some age related mobility problems over the few weeks prior to his passing, Ernie was active on his rig, working regular CW daily skeds with Allan (VK2OA) up to around a week or so before he entered hospital. A few days after undergoing some major surgery, Ernie lost the battle.

Ernie, who lived at Tenterfield, became a Distant Member of ORARC several years ago as a result of his long term on-air association with Allan (VK2OA). Because of

the distance involved, Ernie was unable to attend our club meetings, but he was a regular contributor to OXTALES. Readers will surely recall his interesting articles that have appeared in these pages. His life story as a lad in UK, his Royal Navy Service in Malta prior to and during WWII, and his ultimate move to these fair shores of VK-land, made an interesting series that were carried in OXTALES back in 2002 and later. Anecdotes from his years of Royal Navy service in China, and his experiences in the world of amateur radio, all went towards giving a "lift" and a personal touch to this club's newsletter items.

Ernie had a long history of "home-brewing"



**Ernie  
VK2BUE**

equipment that he had personally designed. One of Ernie's creations that was featured in the WIA journal, Amateur Radio, was quite unique. It was described in detail in an article written by Ernie and involved "modifications" to a tree that enabled it to be energised as the active element of an HF antenna. This "antenna" was fed from Ernie's HF rig, and he very successfully worked regular DX using his favourite mode, CW. *(I have personally inspected this tree, which continues to flourish outside Ernie's shack window. It was in regular use right up until the time Ernie fell ill just a few weeks prior to his passing. Ed)*

Over the last 12 months, Ernie embarked on a scaling down of his station "inventory". He disposed of many quality items, some of them of quite modern vintage. Those lucky

enough to purchase any of his no longer required items, received great deals which always included "bonus" items that Ernie generously "threw in" voluntarily. He was generous to a fault. His last box of goodies was donated to the ORARC for sale to our members. The items were auctioned, and the proceeds resulted in a significant upward shift in our club's financial wellbeing.

Known throughout the amateur fraternity since he first became active in 1933. Ernie will be sadly missed by the CW community across the entire globe. Further items for "OXTALES" were in the process of being compiled, but sadly, they were not completed before Ernie left us.

Sincere condolences are extended to his XYL, Cathy, and their extended family.  
Trevor (VK2TT)

### COWARRA DAM VISIT

The conducted tour of the Cowarra Dam site (notified in the last issue of OXTALES) took place as scheduled on Tuesday 25th May. Although the weather, somewhat promising towards assisting the flagging flow of the mighty Hastings, possibly scared off a few of the intending members, didn't really do much to hasten the day when the dam will be finally pumped full.

Fourteen members and some of the XYL's turned up for the tour, and were rewarded with a particularly interesting slide presentation and informative address prior to departure.

On the journey to the site and during the tour of the complex, our guide delivered a running commentary that explained in some general detail the overall planning, construction, and outlined the future use of the dam and its engineering aspects.

The tour was appreciated by those who attended. Thanks go to Henry (VK2ZHE) who did the organising and booking of this interesting and educational excursion.

### 2004 FIELD DAY REPORT

Perfect Port Macquarie weather and a very good roll-up ensured a successful result to our field day. Registrations totalled 80 with a total attendance of 82.

Our thanks to John Fettell of John Fettell Communications, Gary Ryan of Mastercom Country Link and Steve Johnson of Beltingen for attending and setting up their trade tables and to Gary Ryan for providing the Major Raffle First Prize. We hope their attendance was enjoyable and of some profit

and that we see them again next year.

Thanks also to those who brought gear to sell, those who set up the "Home Brew" displays and to Arthur Monk, VK2ATM for setting up the displays of computer programs and digital modes. It sure made for a busy and interesting weekend.

Very special thanks to the members who did the cooking and serving, took the registrations and helped with the moving in and out of the hall. It was a very big job but carried out efficiently.

Also very many thanks to Henry, VK2ZHE and Chris, VK2UW and Karen, VK2HKW for their invaluable help with publicising the Field Day, Verena Sandford and Ailsa Brooke for making the Coleslaw and to Lewis Green and Wendy Monk for providing prizes and hand-out bags.

Congratulations to all our prize-winners and thanks to all for participating with a special mention to all the Fox Hunters, a great turn out!!!

Also, our thanks to our sponsors, "Bob Todd Motors", "West Port Bowling Club" and "Cassègrain Wines", for their invaluable and much appreciated support.

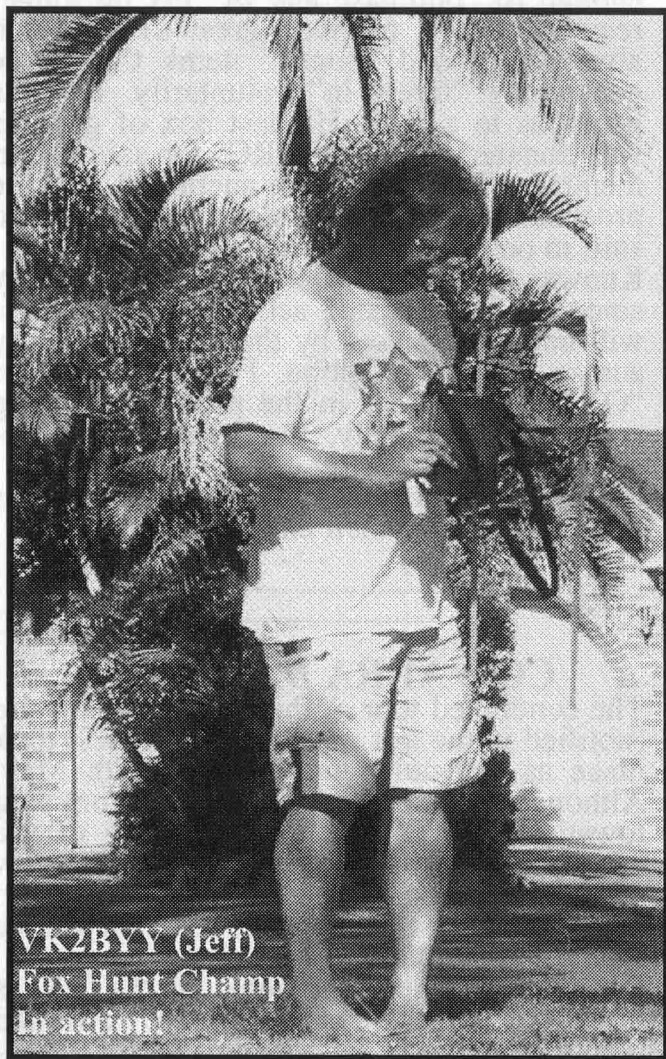
Bill (VK2ZCW)  
(Field Day Co-Ordinator)

### COMPETITION AND RAFFLE RESULTS

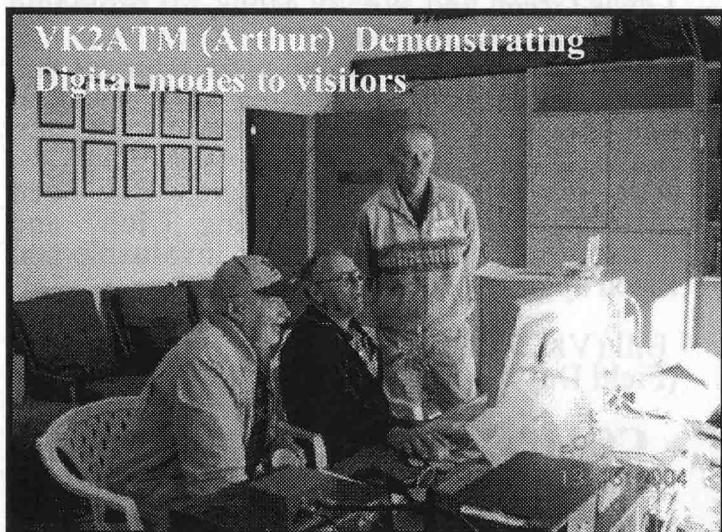
Ladies Luck Door Prize		Vicky Austin
Ladies Raffle		Kelly O'Brien
Men's Lucky Door Prize		Gary VK2UNI
Guess:- Jelly Beans		Cynthia Brice
Guess:- Smarties		Cynthia Brice
Guess:- Bananas		Sarah Piper
Crossword		Sarah Piper
Quiz	1st	Larry VK2CLL
	2nd	Helen Williams
Major Raffle	1st	Lewis VK2AG
	2nd	Keith VK2KDL
	3rd	Bill VK2ZCW
	4th	Trevor VK2TT
	5th	Brian VK2BI
Homebrew	1 <sup>st</sup>	Craig VK2ZCM
Special Mention		Neil VK2EI
Best Presented Fox Hunt Vehicle		Steve VK2UD
<b>Fox Hunts</b>		
2M Talk in	1st	Paul VK2BZC
	2nd	Larry VK2CLL
	3rd	Chris VK2YMW
80M 1Tx	1st	Jeff VK2BYY
	2nd	Brian VK2BI
	3rd	Graham VK2FA

(Continued over page)

2M 2Tx	1st	Jeff VK2BYY
	2nd	Craig VK2ZCM
	3rd	Kim VK2ZW
10M 1Tx	1st	Chris VK2YMW
	2nd	Ken VK2DGT
	3rd	Kim VK2ZW
2M Pedestrian	1st	Chris VK2YMW
	2nd	Brian VK2BI
	3rd	Arnold VK2ADA
Fox Hunt Champion	1st	Jeff VK2BYY
	2nd	Chris VK2YMW
	3rd	Brian VK2BI



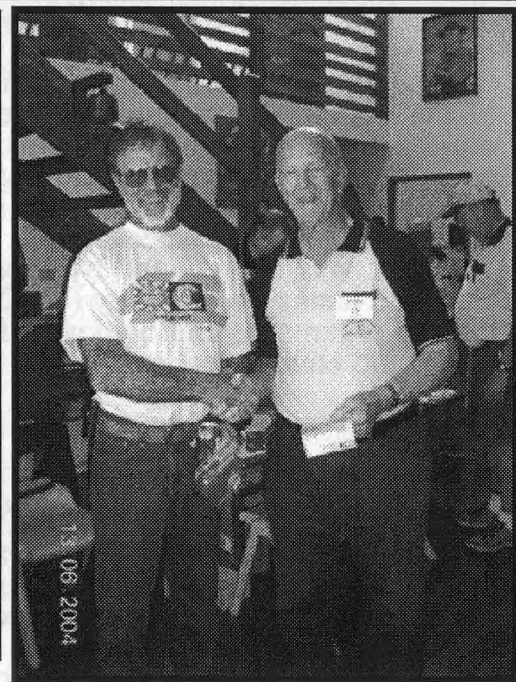
VK2BYY (Jeff)  
Fox Hunt Champ  
In action!



VK2ATM (Arthur) Demonstrating  
Digital modes to visitors



Bird's Eye View of the "trading area" at the  
Buller St., Sea Scout Hall



VK2CLL (Larry) receiving  
his 2-Metre talk-in prize from  
President Alan (VK2GD)

(Photographs by VK2AYQ)

## Notice of AGM

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will be held in the SES Building, Gordon Street, Port Macquarie on the 7th August, 2004 at 1400 hours.

It is normally the responsibility of the Executive Committee to appoint the various sub-committee chairs or co-ordinators and have these positions ratified at a subsequent General meeting. However, these positions can be determined during the course of the AGM if desired, as has been done on several occasions in the past.

### Notice of Motion

The following Motion will be moved at the AGM:

Moved by Alan Nutt (VK2GD, seconded by Henry Lundell (VK2ZHE) that

- (i) the committee's decision to create a position of Welfare Officer be ratified.*
- (ii) the committee's decision to create a position of Station Manager VK2BOR be ratified.*
- (iii) a new membership category of "Family Membership" be added to the constitution's category list.*
- (iv) the committee arrange for the drafting and processing of all formal documentation and procedures to bring about the constitutional change embodied in item (iii) above.*

### Agenda:

Confirmation of Minutes of previous AGM held on 2nd August, 2003

President's Report

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

Sub-Committee Reports

Appointment of Club Auditor

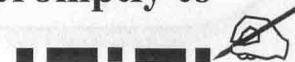
Election of Office Bearers and Committee members

Process Notice of Motion

Other business

### **Important Notice**

**Membership subscriptions became due on June 30th. Please ensure that your membership subscriptions are paid promptly to maintain your voting rights for the AGM.**



# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(as at close of Financial Year 2003-2004)

Cat.	Surname	Given name	(Spouse)	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	O	BAYLIS	JOHN	VK2JB	LAKE CATHIE	
3	D	BELL	ALAN	VK2BEL	COOLONGLOOK	02 6554.1689
4	O	BLAKE	NEIL	VK2PV	COMBOYNE	02 6550.4239
5	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
6	O	BRODIE	BOB	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
7	O	BROOKE	BILL (AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O	BURGES	ROY W (JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
9	O	COULTER	KEVIN (JUNE)	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
10	O	COURT	RICHARD LINDA	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
11	A	DANIEL	JIM	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
12	O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES (PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
13	D	ELLIS	STAN (BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
14	A	GILSON	BARRY	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
15	O	GLEESON	BADEN	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	
16	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
17	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6559.4836
18	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
19	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
20	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
21	O	JAMIESON	WILL (CAROL)	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
22	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
23	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
24	O	LUTTON	KEITH (GWEN)	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
25	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
26	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
27	O	MCLEAN	JOHN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	
28	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
29	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
30	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
31	O	NUTT	ALLAN	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
32	O	PILLEY	DAVID A (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
33	O	ROMAINE	PAUL (BARBARA)	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	
34	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	
35	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
36	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
37	A	SYMINGTON	NOEL	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9811
38	O	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
39	O	THATCHER	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
40	O	WALKE	GARY	VK2UHF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.4714
41	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
42	O	WEBSTER	JIM	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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

Remember, if you have not paid your subscriptions for  
2004-2005, you are NOW Unfinancial!