



OXTALES

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

ABN 12 164 305 PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

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

Twenty-Fifth Birthday Edition !

On the 21st May 1980, the ORARC's newsletter appeared for the first time under the name OXTALES. See Birthday Item on page 7 for some history!

May 2005

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

With this issue of "Oxtales" our Club passes another milestone, being the 25th anniversary of our Club newsletter under the "Oxtales" banner. Our congratulations to our present ersivhile editor and to all who have contributed over the years to the success of our magazine. No mean feat for a relatively small Club like ours.



I commented last month on the difficulty which can be experienced when repairs are needed on equipment for which there is no service manual or even a circuit schematic. Most manufacturers of quality commercial equipment take pride in producing good, reliable documentation although, even in this field, there are some glaring exceptions. Who hasn't tried at some time to fathom the weird spelling and odd syntax of some Japanese/Chinese attempts at technical English.

With the huge proliferation of equipment designed for the computer and IT industries generally, we would have expected that somebody, somewhere, would have come up with reasonable service data for their computer product. I must confess that, apart from some very early schematics of Commodores and MicroBees, I have never even sighted the schematic of a PC or laptop. I doubt that even those organisations which specialise in computer repairs have access to detailed mother board circuitry, let alone power supplies, monitors, modems and all the other gizmos which attach themselves to our computer mainframe.

Has the electronics industry gone com-

pletely berserk and decided that computers, costing anything up to \$5K or more, can now be considered a throw-away item, like the DVD player or the washing machine? Or is the market so cut-throat that servicing is just no longer considered a viable option and defunct equipment should be immediately replaced (and upgraded, to boot)? If those are the only alternatives available, then the lack of service data is readily explainable since, if it can't be fixed because no service information is available, then, of necessity, it will have to be replaced. Seems a bit of a con job to me. (Continued on page 6)

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Down The Coax

Friday Night Get-together

May 13th & 27th

June Monthly Meeting

Sat. 4th June

2.00pm

Friday Night Get-together

June 10th & 24th

7.00pm

2005 Field Day W/E

Sat./Sun. June 11th & 12th

Buller St. Scout Hall

See Notice Page 6

July Monthly Meeting

Sat. 2nd July.

2.00pm

RD Contest

13th & 14th August 2005

(Watch for confirmation)

International Lighthouse and Lightship

Weekend

20th & 21st August 2005

Alex Oliver - SK

On Saturday 16th April 2005 Alex Oliver passed away at the age 88. He was born in Gunnedah in 1916 but lived in Port Macquarie most of his life. While he ran a well known radio repair business from the Hastings River end of Clarence Street, he was perhaps best known for his love of aviation. He owned several aircraft, the best known of which was the Klemm Swallow VH-UUR which he purchased in 1953 and flew in countless air shows for over 30 years. His trademark during exhibition flying was to fly backwards by taking advantage of the amazingly low stalling speed of the Swallow when heading into the stiff north east sea breeze which could always be counted on during summer afternoons on the coast.

Astute readers may have noticed that the road leading into the car park at the Port Macquarie Airport is called Oliver Drive. The Hastings District Flying Club history records that in 1953 Alex cleared a 500 yard landing strip on the present airport site using an Austin A40 and a log! He built the first hangar at the airport.

When television transmission began in Newcastle, it became feasible to

watch television in the Port Macquarie area if you had a big enough aerial on a high enough mast. Alex capitalized on this business opportunity and his radio business expanded to include television. While his Humber with the winch-up survey mast was well known in the district, Alex was far better known for his fearless "boom walking" when working on stacked yagi arrays on the tallest guyed masts in the business.

While Alex was highly proficient in the art of Morse Code, despite a latent interest and innumerable approaches from the local fraternity over five decades, he could not be convinced to take out an amateur radio licence. At a recent ORARC gathering Keith VK2KDL reminisced that while Alex had no difficulty in reading 40 words per minute computer generated CW which Keith transmitted on 80 metres, various local amateurs strained their skills to the limit to "read the mail" in an endeavour to see just what was being sent.

With the passing of Alex Oliver, Port Macquarie lost a colourful pioneer of both aviation and the consumer radio and television industry. Alex is survived by his daughter Wendy.

Henry (VK2ZHE)

Net Controllers' Roster

Be Watchful! There are sudden changes!

Sundays	Wednesdays
May 2005	
VK2OA May-01	VK2ZHE May-04
VK2AIF May-08	VK2AYD May-11
VK2BZD May-15	VK2EI May-18
VK2TT May-22	VK2GD May-25
VK2OA May-29	
June 2005	
VK2AIF Jun-05	VK2ZCM Jun-01
VK2BZD Jun-12	VK2ATM Jun-08
VK2TT Jun-19	VK2ZHE Jun-15
VK2OA Jun-26	VK2AYD Jun-22
	VK2EI Jun-29
July 2005	
VK2AIF Jul-03	VK2GD Jul-06
VK2BZD Jul-10	VK2ZCM Jul-13
VK2TT Jul-17	VK2ATM Jul-20
VK2OA Jul-24	VK2ZHE Jul-27
VK2AIF Jul-31	
August 2005	
VK2BZD Aug-07	VK2AYD Aug-03
VK2TT Aug-14	VK2EI Aug-10
VK2OA Aug-21	VK2GD Aug-17
VK2AIF Aug-28	VK2ZCM Aug-24
	VK2ATM Aug-31
September 2005	
VK2OA Sep-04	VK2ZHE Sep-07
VK2AIF Sep-11	VK2AYD Sep-14
VK2BZD Sep-18	VK2EI Sep-21
VK2TT Sep-25	VK2GD Sep-28
October 2005	
VK2OA Oct-02	
VK2AIF Oct-09	VK2ZCM Oct-05
VK2BZD Oct-16	VK2ATM Oct-12
VK2TT Oct-23	VK2ZHE Oct-19
VK2OA Oct-30	VK2AYD Oct-26

E-mail directory.

Reflects ALL changes notified up to 30th Apr., 2005

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anur@midcoast.com.au
VK2JB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2OA (Allan) possoa@tsn.cc
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) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@felglow.com.au
VK2ZCM (Craig) vk2zcm@dodo.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc
VK2XXU (Will) jamo@tsn.cc
VK2YOR (Roy) rborges@interpost.com.au
VK2ZCV (Bill) bilsinvk@ecopost.com.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au
VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au
Jim Daniel jaidan@bigpond.com
Barry Gilson gilson@austarnet.com.au

50th Anniversary – Maitland Floods

During February of this year, there was quite some mention in the media of the 1955 Maitland floods, with reference to those who helped during the period. However, little or no mention was given to the members of The Defence Forces in that emergency.

It may be of interest that members of the CMF (Army Reserve) were called up on Full Time Duty. This action, I don't think, had ever happened in this country before in peace time.

I was a member of one of these units, 1st Air Support Signals, an ARA/CMF unit, which at the time, was on an annual camp at Gan-Gan, Nelson Bay.

We were tasked with operating communications in the emergency from the army DUKW's, and at various centres in the Hunter valley, for approximately 6 weeks.

Also of mention was the loss of life when an antenna on one of the army DUKW's touched overhead high voltage lines alongside the railway lines (it had been announced that all power had been switched off). Two 1st ASSU signallers and a policeman received electric shocks and were thrown out of the DUKW's and drowned.

Also during this period, a railway worker was unfortunately dropped as he was being rescued by one of the helicopters.

Just a few memories of the period.

Dave (VK2AIF)
(ex 1st ASSY, R.A. Sigs)

A New Cancer Cure!

From: Mark HARRISON [mailto: mharrison@bionicear.org]
Sent: Monday, 21 February 2005 14:41
To: vk-repeaters@yahooogroups.com
Cc: vk3byy@nerg.asn.au
Subject: RE: [vk-repeaters] Tracking interference in 433MHz in Collins street Melbourne

The source of interference to VK3RMH has been found!

The emissions are coming from a Cancer treatment clinic in Collins Street.

Apparently this technique has been the subject of a recent TV program.

You can read their claims at their web site (www.smile.org.au).

Basically they place a folded dipole directly against the patients body and run about 40 Watts into it in the band 433-434MHz for several hours per day, for 3 weeks, on each patient.

Another 10 units will be starting up soon. Currently the clinic is set up in an above ground office space with absolutely no shielding.

This is not an ISM band, but it is claimed 434MHz is the only magic frequency that works, and so they have been allowed by the ACA to continue trials without shielding (!).

The clinic has ordered some shielded tents to reduce the emissions, which should improve the situation, though it's not clear what sort of attenuation they are expecting. Tents are normally used for EMI and EMC testing where a proper shielded room is not practical.

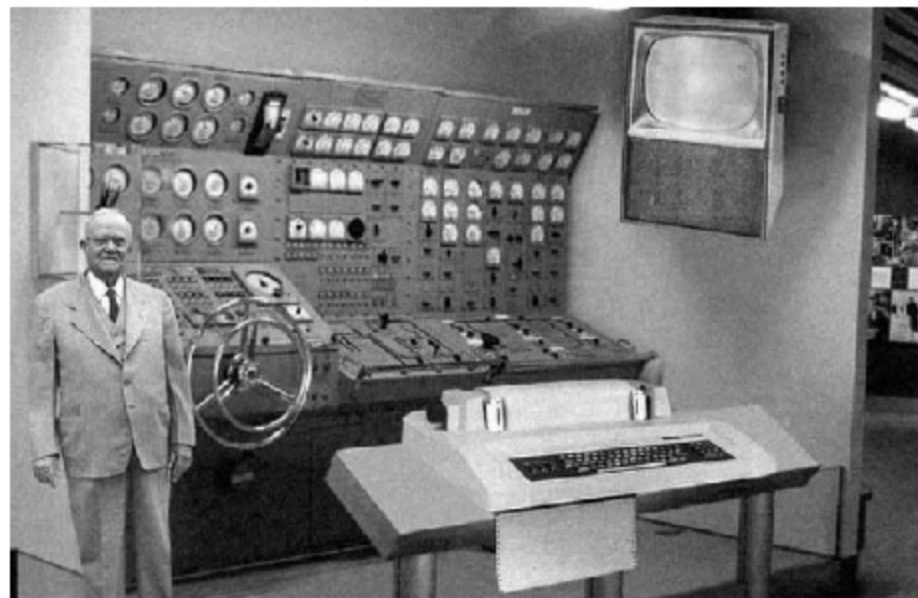
I spoke to the professor in charge and he is happy to avoid certain frequencies as necessary.

The emissions are quite stable in frequency and sound like they are narrow band FM modulated by constant audio tones.....

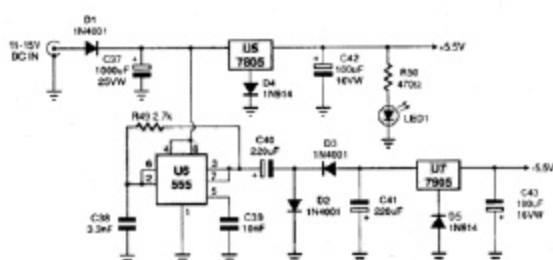
Mark Harrison,
VK3BYY / VK3RMH

PREDICTING THE FUTURE?

I thought the picture (below) may interest members. In a 1954 issue of "Popular Mechanics", they showed a photograph of the expected computer of the future. Read the caption beneath the photograph to note their prediction for the year 2005. When you allow yourself to have possibilities, the outcome could be amazing. They had no idea as to what the outcome could yield. Be sure to read the text under the photo.....Enjoy!
de David (VK2AYD)



Scientists from the RAND Corp have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve the problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.



From Bill's (VK2ZCV) collection. "It really works."

U5-U7 produce regulated +/-5.5V supply rails from an unregulated 12V plug pack or battery supply.

Overheard in the Garden

Arthur: How did you get that horrible swelling on your nose?

Wendy: I bent over to smell a brose.

Arthur: There's no "b" in rose.

Wendy: There was in this one!



**MEMBERS' INCENTIVE PRIZE
TO BE DRAWN ON FRIDAY NIGHT, 17th JUNE, 2005
AT A DEBRIEFING & DISCUSSION MEETING**

**Ice Cream Vouchers for two
Cold Rock Ice Creamery, Ritz Building, Horton Street, PM
Movie Pass for 2
Ritz Theatre, Horton Street, PM
A snack for 2
Mother Mayo's Coffee Lounge, 46 Horton Street, PM
Valid until 31st August, 2005**

THE GUIDELINES

- 1. OPEN TO CLUB MEMBERS & WIVES ONLY**
- 2. ONE PURPLE TICKET FOR EVERY TIME YOU
HELP WITH THE FIELD DAY
THE MORE ASSISTANCE YOU GIVE
THE MORE TICKETS YOU RECEIVE
THE MORE CHANCES TO WIN THE PRIZE**

**HELP ON SATURDAY - 1 PURPLE TICKET
HELP ON SUNDAY - 1 PURPLE TICKET**

**HELP IN ANY WAY BEFORE THE EVENT WITH
PROGRAMME, PUBLICITY, PHOTOCOPYING,
OBTAIN TROPHY, DONATION ETC - 1 TICKET**

**ASK THE SECRETARY FOR YOUR *PURPLE* TICKET.
HELP AT THE FIELD DAY TICKETS - GIVEN OUT ON
FRI 17/06/05**

CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND EL NIÑO

The majority membership of Oxley Amateur Radio Club comprises "elderly gents". No doubt we learned as kids, at our different schools that Australia is a land of "droughts and flooding rains". It was a poet's phrase that we all remember. It's always been that way even in "the dream-time".

In the 60 to 70-year interim since those good old schooldays, we can say: "Well! What's new?" We still greet each other by describing the weather as, "Bloody hot mate!" or, "Gee! We need rain". Possi-

bly so. But we now have the El Niño... (Don't kid yourself that it is a new phenomenon - cos it's not.)

Those two words translate from Spanish as "the boy-child" or, if you prefer, "the little one".

Peruvian anchovy fishermen traditionally used the term - a reference to "the Christ child" to describe the appearance around Christmas of a warm ocean current off the South American continent, adjacent to Ecuador and extending to Peruvian waters. These warm ocean currents were "God's gift" to the poor fishermen looking for a "Good catch" in the South American waters.

When the opposite occurs and the ocean cools, it is called **La Niña**, which means "the girl". Originally it was called **Anti-El Niño**, until it was realised that this literally meant "ANTI-CHRIST".

The **El Niño** event can cause heavy rain in south America but severe droughts in Eastern Australia. And **La-Niña** can cause droughts in south America but heavy rain in eastern Australia. Enough said.

Phew! It's gettin' Hot! I wish it would bloody rain!

- Allan (VK2OA)

President's Report

(Continued from Page 1.)

How would we feel if our beautiful all-bells-and-whistles Icom transceiver, costing perhaps the same as a top range laptop, suddenly kicked it? On enquiring about service facilities, we are told by our supplier that they have no parts or schematics for that model but a more up-market unit will shortly be available and they are open for orders. I think we could be forgiven for kicking up one almighty stink and telling the supplier, in no uncertain terms, that we are straight off to the Dept. of Fair Trading!

Where is the difference? It seems when it comes to the same sort of treatment from our computer suppliers we just grin and bear it. Why not take a stand and demand satisfactory service for expensive equipment, regardless of type?

Alan Nutt VK2GD

El Presidente

Aerial Analyser Kit

Craig started it all! At least 7 of these useful devices have been ordered by our club members. Craig VK2ZCM is to be congratulated for inspiring us by bringing his built up analyser along to show-and-tell at the Friday night gathering on the 22nd of April. It's good to see so many members warming up their soldering irons!

The Aerial Analyser, designed by Jim Tregellas, VK5JST, is a most useful addition to any HF enthusiast's shack. It comes in complete kit form and construction appears to be quite straightforward for any enthusiast with home brew experience.

Kits are available from the Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 8, Elizabeth SA 5112, but ordering and payment can be handled on the internet (visit site address below for full particulars)

Price for the kit of components, including the optional engraved panel and postage within Australia, is \$117 in Australian currency. The alternative to the engraved panel is a silk-screened label on the lid of the box. Price for this version is \$103.

For comprehensive information including pictures and how to order, go to the website at:

<http://users.senet.com.au/~kjce/AA.html>

OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY FIELD DAYS WILL BE HELD ON 11TH & 12TH JUNE, 2005



Members! Bring along your XYL to the upcoming Field Days.

Let them join in our 30th Anniversary Celebrations

- the ladies are very well catered for this year.

They can participate in eleven Competitions. There are two Ladies Raffles with three prizes in each, Lucky Door Prizes specially for Club Members' XYL's, and hourly Lucky Spot giveaways.

A Memorabilia Photo Board & an E-mail Board to read.

Give them a break from the kitchen, they will enjoy Birthday cake, lunch on both days & a Bistro Dinner on Saturday night at the Westport Bowling Club to hear the Guest Speaker.



Fox Hunters are in for some good times this year at our 30th Anniversary Field Days.

There will be eight Transmitter Hunts over the two days.

New high tech Foxes will be used for the first time.

Three Prizes and Participation Prizes in each event, and all will be presented immediately after each event is finalised.

The Fox Hunt Highest Point Score Trophy, the Oxtales Cup will be presented at 1500 hrs Sunday.

Poignant Pix From the Past



If you can figuratively "Turn back the clock" over half a century and ponder over this picture, you may be able to recognise the operator, a current member of the ORARC. Who is he? (Answer will be in July **OXTALES**)

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of **OXTALES**' Birthday.

Yes, **OXTALES** is 25 years old! Back in November of last year, Wendy and Arthur (VK2ATM) acquired some historic video tape footage that had been put together by our late member, Lester O'Connell (VK2BFP). Lester was the first editor of the club's newsletter and the tape disclosed the information below, submitted by Wendy:

*".... information I picked up from the Video Tape which Lester recorded
The first Newsletter he printed was dated 24th February, 1980.*

*The first Newsletter using the name **Oxtales** was printed on 21st May, 1980.*

Apparently he and his sons came up with this name after due consideration".

During the mid-1990's, Larry (VK2CLL) gave **OXTALES** a new look using the techniques that came with the age of the PC. Apart from 6 issues in the late 1990's when Larry (VK2IPO) - yes ! another Larry - gave it an html suit of clothes, **OXTALES** still retains the VK2CLL look. Happy Birthday to **OXTALES** !





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 2nd May 2005)

Cat.	Surname	Given	XYL Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	L	BAYLIS	JOHN (MARY)	VK2JB	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5703
3	D	BELL	ALAN	VK2BEL	COOLONGLOOK	02 6554.1689
4	O	BLAKE	NEIL	VK2PV	COMBOYNE	-
5	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
6	O	BRODIE	BOB (JO)	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
7	O	BROOKE	BILL (AILSA)	VK2ZCV	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 (FAY)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
15	O	GLEESON	BADEN (VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
16	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
17	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	VK2ZIS	MCMAHONS POINT	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	MARRIOT	JOHN (ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
27	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
28	O	MCLEAN	JOHN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
29	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
30	H	MONCK	WENDY (ARTHUR)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
31	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
32	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
33	O	NUTT	ALLAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
34	O	PILLEY	DAVID A (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
35	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
36	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
37	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
38	O	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
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

Category Key: O = ORDINARY A = ASSOCIATE D = DISTANT H = HONORARY L = LIFE