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

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July 2005

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: VICE PRES:			6582.3557 6581.0547
TREASURER: SECRETARY:	John Bailey	VK2KHB	6582.2192 6582.0534

President's Report

What goes around comes around, as the saying is- although I must confess I've never been too sure what it all meant. But, as this is my last column as *el presidenté*, it is quite likely that I am expected to review and com-

ment on the past three years and make some significant prognostication about the future.

Reading through some of my earlier comments, it was apparent that not all I had hoped for actually came to pass, although some changes have taken place, hopefully for the better. I have certainly enjoyed serving the Club in this capacity and

joyed serving the Club in this capacity and have appreciated the ongoing support and suggestions from our members.

No matter what organization one looks at, be it social or sports club, church, political party or whatever, there is one very significant factor common to all - every organization has its players and its spectators. The former are those who jump in, pick up the tab and get the job done. They are the ones with the viwhat sion οf can The latter group are the "posers", the ones who want to give the appearance of being involved but who, in reality, just want to sit on the sidelines and make negative comments about the former group. Likewise, they have no vision for the future which can only be gloom and doom.

Perhaps the best analogy is a comparison between a battleship and a cruise liner. A battleship can have a compliment of upwards of 5000 men and women, none of whom are unemployed, everyone has a specific task to do and who are battle-ready 24/7. A cruise ship, on the other hand, has a much smaller crew who spend their entire working day doing nothing more than keeping the passengers happy, content and comfortable. Very few organizations with which I am familiar have a battleship mentality, most slotting comfortably into the cruise ship mould. Ain't it the truth? I have doubts that it will ever be much different – there will always be the willing participators and those who watch from the sidelines but it is worth highlighting none-the-less.

I am also well aware that, by reason of age and infirmity, many can no longer function or participate as they would wish – and that's a fact of life which certainly applies in our Club. I was initially concerned at the small number (eight) of our Club members who turned out for the Field Day Dinner and address by Michael Owen but I realised that many of our members just can't go out at night, no matter what the occasion, and we

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Down The Coax

Friday Night Get-togethers July 8th & 22nd 7.00pm

Annual General Meeting 2005 Saturday 6th August 2.00pm Followed by August Monthly Meeting

Friday Night Get-togethers August 12th & 26th 7.00pm

RD Contest 13th & 14th August 2005

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 20th & 21st August 2005

> September Monthly Meeting Sat. 3rd September 2.00pm

Net Controllers' Roster
Sundays Wednesdays

VK2AIF VK

E-mail directory.

Reflects ALL changes notified up to 13th June, 2005

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anut@midcoast.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anut@midcoast.com.au
VK2DB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2DB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2OA (Allan) possoa@tsn.cc
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felglow.com.au
VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au
VK2ATM (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au
VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au
VK2CHL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au
VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc
VK2EIK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au
VK2EJK (Charles) cpedmond@felglow.com.au
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.com.au
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2YTV (Jim) jimneil@aspt.net.au
VK2YVV (Jim) jimneil@aspt.net.au
VK2YVOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au
VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au
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VK2ZCW (Bill) bilsinvk@ecopost.com.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) bilsinvk@ecopost.com.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) vabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2ZHB (Henry) lundell@tgg.com.au
VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au
Jim Daniel jaidani@bigpond.com
Barry Gilson @bigpond.net.au

30th Anniversary Field Day Report

The slightly less than perfect Port Macquarie weather did nothing to lessen the enthusiasm of all who attended our Field Days over the June 11/12th long weekend.

88 visitor and 22 local registrations gave a total attendance over the 2 days of 115 which, when added to the staff of the Radio/ Electronics Companies and WIA who attended, meant a crowd of around 125 thronging the Sea Scout hall during the two days; thankfully not all at the same time. Four new members signed up to the Club during the weekend.

The Raffles were hugely supported and many Spot Prizes were awarded along with Registration and Lucky Door Prizes. A variety of Competitions and puzzles provided a test of everyone's knowledge and 8 very successful Fox Hunts kept the Fox Hunting enthusiasts very busy. The Trophy for Fox Hunt Champion went to VK2ZCM, Craig Martin who scored 118 points. Only one Log entry was received for the Foundation Members Mobile Contest giving VK2APP, Peter Page an easy win. Congratulations Peter and well done. The "Bob Todd Trophy" for Best Presented Amateur Radio Vehicle was awarded to VK2YMW, Chris Williams.

We wish to express our gratitude for the marvelous support from our sponsors who are too numerous to mention individually here but were named in the Programme. We also thank Dick Smith Electronics for their sponsorship, which was received too late to be included in the Programme but was most

helpful and much appreciated.

The attendance of the National WIA represented by local Dave Pilley VK2AYD and Michael Owen VK3KI, WIA President, resulted in 15 new members being signed up. The address by Michael Owen on Saturday evening was greatly appreciated by all who attended. The Amateur Radio NSW Technical Book Shop was also present, represented by Brian Kelly VK2WBK, Norm Partridge VK2TOP, and Tim Mills VK2ZTM.

The Radio Trade was represented by local company "Fettell Communications" and those who travelled here for the weekend were "Steve Johnson VK2WSJ" who, with his XYL Gayle, set up a table and provided our hall security, "VK Dis-count Cables" from Moss Vale, "Andrews Communications Systems" from Greystanes and Gary Ryan's "Radio Supply Pty Ltd" from Bellingen. Gary donated a pair of Binoculars and a Multimeter, which were added to the prizes for the Fox Hunt Champion and the Best Presented Amateur Radio Vehicle. Our thanks to all these companies and individuals for attending and helping to make the weekend a suc-

Lastly a big thank you to all the Club Members who helped with the various activities over the two days and to XYL's Ailsa Brooke, Fay Gilson and Verena Sandford who sold Raffle tickets in vast numbers. Lastly, but most specially, thanks to Wendy Monck, XYL of Arthur, VK2ATM who spent an incredible amount of time and effort organizing the Sponsorships, Raffles and Competitions. Wendy's work was outstanding and the Club owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Bill Brooke, VK2ZCW. Field Day Co-ordinator.

More on Silver Plating

Way back in the May 2003 issue of OXTALES (Page 2) there appeared an item by Bill (VK2ZCV) outlining a simple but effective method of silver-plating small objects, including the copper foil as used in printed circuit boards. Bill has followed that up with the following information on an improved recipe. Here it is:

The original formula was 1 part silver chloride, I part common salt and I

part cream of tartar.

Use I part silver nitrate 0.07%, 1 part common salt and 1 part cream of tartar.

The mixture makes a slurry that is rubbed onto the PCB surface. The mixture transfers the silver to the copper surface, which gives good protection to the copper surface as well as adding a highly conductive surface to the PCB.

Using silver nitrate instead of silver chloride does not seem to alter the result although some discolouration of the

silver surface can occur. Even if it does tarnish, silver oxide is a better conductor than copper oxide.

WIA News

The National WIA AGM held in Canberra on 7th May was perhaps the shortest AGM meeting I have ever attended. It lasted just 25 minutes and was followed by a couple of hours of discussions. All went smoothly. Compare that to the TWO days the AGM took last year when it was a Federal body.

Under the Federal body there were only 7 members that could vote and they were the delegates from each Division (State). They couldn't vote until their Divisions had voted. Under a National WIA all members have the right to vote directly and the elected 7 Directors can make decisions promptly and move forward.

At long last the government is recognising us as one body and we are now able to work closely with the ACA.

The other day I had a call from a non-member who wanted the WIA to take action on a person who was alleged to be causing interference to others. The WIA is not a police force, however it does have the ear of the ACA who is able to take action.

However let me use an analogy using the NRMA. Two cars are in quicksand. One is a member; one is not. The NRMA tow truck arrives. No prizes to know which car was pulled out first.

The same applies to the WIA.

There are 16,000 Amateurs in VK and only 4,000 support the WIA, yet many the remaining 16,000 expect similar privi-

Under the new National cap, each Director now has a portfolio and responsibilities such as the Intruder Watch,

NTAC, IARU, etc..

One major subject now is BPL (or PLC - Power Line Communications). The WIA has a liaison committee working closely with the ACA monitoring the various test being conducted by Electrical supply companies. Using power lines for broadband internet communications means using HF RF signals. Tests have shown that they produce over S-9 signals

on HF making it impossible to use Amateur HF frequencies if you are near a power line - and we all have these coming into the house! This is also under experiment in other countries around the world so you can imagine the feed back that occurs.

Another WIA group has been working on the new licencing syllabus with the ACA. The ACA had promised to have this out by early 05, but have recently said it

will be later in the year.

Since "Amateur Radio" was available on the News Stands we have been able to attract a few more advertisers which has helped revenue and has helped maintain the subscription rates for the ensuing year.

Yes, it is all happening and we thank the members for their support and hope that others will join us in maintaining our hobby

at the level we can all enjoy.

73 de David VK2AYD (WIA Treasurer).

THE CELLPHONE VS. THE MORSE KEY

From ARNewsline 24/5. Submitted by David (VK2AYD)

And finally this week, it seems that Morse code is still faster at sending text messages than using a computer and text messaging software. This, even when one of the Morse code sender is 93 years old and the text messaging challengers are teenagers or just out of their teens. And it happened twice in less than a month. Here's the story

First it was down-under where the Sidney Times says that an Australian museum recently staged a contest that pitted C-W against the latest generation of wireless

text messages with the newest.

Tapping out the winning Morse code message was 93-year-old telegraph operator Gordon Hill. He first became proficient in the use of CW in 1927 when he joined the Australian Post Office. He easily defeated his 13-year-old rival, Brittany Devlin, who was armed with a mobile phone and a rich vocabulary of text message shorthand. Hill, whose messages were transcribed by telegraph veteran, Jack Gibson, 82, then repeated the feat against three other children and teenagers with mobile phones.

While Hill tapped out the line in full, to be deciphered by Gibson, Devlin employed text slang to save time. She keyed in a shorthand version of the message that would make little sense if we tried to read it

here.

The text slang did not help. Just 90 seconds after Hill began transmitting, Gibson announced that he had the message received and written down correctly. It took another 18 seconds for Devlin's message to reach the mobile phone be-

longing to her friend.

But was that just a freak accident or are telegraphers really a lot better at transferring data. To find out, Tonight Show host Jay Leno decided to re-stage the same event in front of his audience at the NBC Network Center in beautiful downtown Burbank, California. It took place on Friday, May 13th and pitted United States text messaging champion Ben Cook who typed a 150 character message in 57 seconds. An associate identified as Jason would be on the other end of the hook-up receiving the message on a cellular phone.

Representing the Morse code camp were two world class DXers and contesters whose names you will all recognize. On the key was Vertex Standards own Chip Margelli, K7JA, while taking it all down longhand was Ken Miller, K6CTW.

Each team was given the same message which read: "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance." Both teams were instructed to begin when Leno said "go."

He did, and 20 seconds later it was all over with the team of K7JA and

K6CTW beating out the still typing Cook by a country mile.

And while we do not know what kind of device the text messaging champ was using to send text, Margelli and Miller were equipped with a pair of Yaesu FT 817's with Chip using a paddle type key and Miller copying with a pen and pad of

By the way, we understand that Miller and Margelli were recommended by Joe Drago, K-F-6-O-C-P, who happens to be the Prop Master for the show. And if we may borrow a line from Peter Allen tune, having Morse win out twice in this challenge in such a short period of time only proves that "everything old is new again."

Overhead in the Rose Garden Arthur: My Doctor has advised me to give up Golf

me to give up Golf Wendy: Why? Is there something wrong?

Arthur: No, he had a look at my score card Superb Home-Brewing at Field Day Weekend

There were many highlights featured at our 30th Anniversary Field Day Weekend, but one segment that stood out in the crowd this year, was the "Home-Brew" exhibit that was probably the largest and most spectacular that many of the field-day goers would have seen for many years. Whilst not a large number of participants submitted a contribution, the standard, and number of the items produced was quite spectacular.

The following pictures, will give some idea of the array of quality items that were on display. It was a display comprised of a comprehensive assortment of amateur and related communications equipment, ranging from useful items of test equipment, through complex transceivers with their operating accessories, to a spectacular HF crystal set that was truly a

classical example of the dedicated "home-brewers" expertise.

John Marriot (VK2CIS), Mark (VK2HMJ) and Neil Sandford (VK2EI) were the prominent contributors to the display. Their meticulous workmanship, and the superb documentation that accompanied their products, gave solid testimony to the hours of dedicated planning unique design, and the ultimate construction effort that created these products. John and Mark mentioned that they were inspired by the well known Drew Diamond (VK3XU) whose designs we see often in AR Magazine. It would be recognised by all who witnessed this "Home Brew" display, that John's and Mark's efforts were truly outstanding. Whilst constituting a "hard act to follow", aspiring home-brewers would have surely found



Don't forget the AGM in August. See notice overleaf for details. Be prepared to accept nomination for office. Your club Needs YOU!



The 30th Anniversary Cakes

Pictured above, is one of a pair of 30th Anniversary Cakes, both of which were designed and "Home-Brewed" by Ailsa Brooke, XYL of VK2ZCW. The icing and decoration was done by a Probus Club friend of Ailsa's. There was one cake for cutting and serving on each day of the Field Day Week-They were attractively presented and... scrumptious! Many thanks, Ailsa. Greatly appreciated!

President's Report (Cont'd from page 1)

must make allowances for that.

That having been said, I still believe there is considerable room for improved participation within our own ranks. This will be tested again in August at the AGM when we will be looking for members to fill all the vacancies that will occur in our executive. Each of us need to ask ourselves "What's my mindset? Is it the battleship or the cruise ship mentality?" Even in declining years, it is far better to burn out than rust out and I want to leave a mark when I'm gone!

Alan Nutt VK2GD

El Presidente

It Was Ever So?

An anonymous reader submitted the following little snippet, looking for a happy home in the pages of OXTALES. Titled "How do You Rate Yourself", it

originated in the Winnipeg Institute, Manitoba, Canada, but could well have emerged from anywhere, even in the picturesque Hastings Valley. It states:

Many Club Members are like wheel barrows—not good unless pushed. Some are like canoes—need to be paddled. Some are like kites—if a string

isn't kept on them, they fly away. Some are like kittens—they are contented when petted.

Some are like footballs—you can't tell which way they will bounce next.

Some are like balloons-full of wind and ready to blow up. Some are like trailers—they have

to be pulled. Some are like neon lights—they

keep going on and off. And many, thank God, are like the North Star—there when you need them, dependable, ever loyal and a guide to all people.

What about You?

Welcome to New Members Meet four new members. They are: Joe Bivona -VK2IEV of Port Macquarie Graham Palmer - VK2TRM of Kendall Jim Neil - VK2VIV of Port Macquarie Paul Graham, Associate Member of Wauchope. Welcome aboard, Gents. See you at

NOTICE of AGM

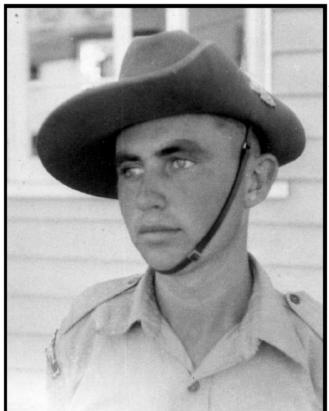
the meetings and on air.

The O.R.A.R.C. Inc., will hold its 2005 AGM on Saturday 6th August 2005 at the SES HQ Building at 1.00pm

Nominations for Office bearers for the year 2005-2006 may be lodged with the Secretary, now.

Support your club and stand for election as an office bearer.

Poignant Pix From the Past



Study this one (Left)! Another current member of ORARC, pictured wayback down the corridors of time. He will be identified in September **OXTALES.**

The ORARC Personality in May **OXTALES** was none other than David Harding (VK2AIF). The picture was taken circa 1949, when David was serving in the CMF. How many members got it right without cheating?





A reader, (not a club member) took your editor to task on the use of the word "poignant" as the header for these pictures from the past. The reader believed it to be somewhat insulting to the person portraved!

A quick dash to the pages of the editor's "Boy's Book of Knowledge" cleared the air, somewhat. The word is being used here as in sense 3, and certainly not in sense 1, or 4 as per the clip from the dictionary, below!

poign-ant ('poinjent, -nent) adj. 1. sharply distressing or painful to the feelings. 2. to the point; cutting or piercing: poignant wit. 3. keen or pertinent in mental appeal: a poignant subject. 4. pungent in smell. [C14: from Old French, from Latin pungens pricking, from pungere to sting, pierce, grieve] —'poign-an-cy or'poign-ance n. —'poign-ant-ly adv.



There is no prize for guessing what function this device performs, because curious observers at the Field Days should have asked the "innovator" what it really was! It's clever!





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 27th June 2005)

	Cat.	Surname	Given	XYL Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	0	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	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554.1689
4	0	BIVONA	JOE	(ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0405040953
5	0	BLAKE	NEIL		VK2PV	COMBOYNE	-
6	L	BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
7	0	BRODIE	BOB	(10)	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
8	0	BROOKE	BILL	(AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
9	0	BURGES	ROY W	(JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
10	0	COULTER	KEVIN	(JUNE)	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
11	0	COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
12	A	DANIEL	JIM		-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
13	0	EDMONDSON	CHARLES	(PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
14	D	ELLIS	STAN	(BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
15	A	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
16	0	GLEESON	BADEN	(VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2018
17	A	GRAHAM	PAUL	(JANE)		WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
18	0	GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
19	0	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	, , , , ,	VK2ZIS	MCMAHONS POINT	02 6559.4836
20	Ĺ	HANLON	KEITH		-	PORT MACQUARIE	
21	ō	HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
22	0	HARDING	DAVID	(ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
23	ō	JAMIESON	WILL	(CAROL)	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
24	Ľ	LINDSAY	LARRY	(011102)	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
25	ī	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0534
26	ō	LUTTON	KEITH	(GWEN)	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
27	Ö	MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK20A	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
28	ō	MARRIOT	JOHN	(ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
29	Ö	MARTIN	CRAIG	(11032)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
30	ō	MCLEAN	JOHN		VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
31	0	MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
32	Н	MONCK	WENDY	(ARTHUR)	- VALUE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
33	Ľ	MONCK	ARTHUR	(WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
34	ō	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
35	0	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
36	0	NUTT	ALLAN	(ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
37	0	PALMER	GRAHAM	(LINDA)	VK2TRM	KENDALL	02 6586.4720
38	0	PILLEY	DAVID A	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
39	0	ROTH	BILL	(DEE)	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
40	0	SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 5830
				(VENERA)			
41	0	SINCLAIR	BILL	(All EEN)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
42	0	TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	03 0505 3370
43 44	0	THATCHER	TREVOR	(PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
	0	WALKE	GARY		VK2UHF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.4714
45	0	WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
46	0	WEBSTER	JIM		VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037