



OXTALES

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Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Websites: [<http://www.mypage.tsn.cc/orarc/page2.html>] and

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

May 2006

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583 8360
VICE PRES: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582 3557
TREASURER: John Bailey VK2KHB 6582 2192
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534

President's Report

Welcome to the colder months in the Hastings. Beautiful days and chilly nights. Put a heater in the shack or fire up the amplifier.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of John Baylis, VK2JB, and Keith Lutton, VK2KDL. Mine and the club member's thoughts go out to Mary & Gwen on this sad occasion.

On a brighter note, I hear that VK2RCN will be, or is now, back and operational at Telegraph Point. This will free up VK2RPM for those that use it for Echolink. To those members that went along to the working bees at the big shed of Henry (VK2ZHE), I and the members thank you for your time in getting things up and running. But it does not stop at that - we need to get complete spares (idents and crystals included) for both 2-metre systems on site and in racks so that if one breaks down it will only require a quick visit to switch over the coax and power cables to get it back on air.

Once again I must thank VK2FORE - Paul, for the great effort that he is putting into the club field day - more great prizes and donations - keep up the good work Paul - It's greatly appreciated by most of us.

The Field Day is getting closer and we need to sort out a few of the minor details such as the raffle prizes, lucky door prizes etc., and list them down. I hope all the letters have been answered from the various traders and that they are all coming.



After the Field Day event, we, as a club, have a commitment to assist with the Car Rally communications. VK2ZCV, VK2ATM and myself will be reminding those that pledged assistance to the event, with a call to attend a briefing prior to the day and be informed of what we are required to do by the race organisers.

We must have a Lighthouse and R. D. Contest as well coming up so listen out for details of these two great club activities at the Tacking Point Lighthouse.

Keep in mind that when I took on the position of President, I stated that it would be only till the next AGM and with no extensions after that. So you, the members of the club, need to find a president and possibly a Secretary and Treasurer by the time the AGM comes around.

Well, that is enough from me for this edition of OXTALES. Take care, and keep warm.

Cheers

VK2HOT - Bruce Walker,
O.R.A.R.C. Inc. President.

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Down The Coax

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

June 2006 Monthly Meeting
Saturday 3rd June
2.00pm

Friday Night Get-togethers
June 9th & 23rd
7.00pm

ORARC Field Days
Sat/Sun 10th & 11th
(A "must be there" event!)

July 2006 Monthly Meeting
Saturday 1st July
2.00pm

Hastings Valley Car Rally
Saturday 8th July
11.30a - 10.00pm

E-mail directory.

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to
1st May, 2006*

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au
VK2JB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felgflow.com.au
VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au
VK2BEL (Allan) belly@tsn.cc
VK2CJM (Chris) minahan@ozemail.com.au
VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au
VK2CLL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au
VK2DDL (Stan) svelis@tsn.cc
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@felgflow.com.au
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VK2IEV (Joe) bivona@aapt.net.au
VK2KCE (John) hrbe@bigpond.net.au
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2VIV (Jim) jim.neil@gmail.com
VK2YOR (Roy) rborges@intercoast.com.au
VK2ZCM (Craig) vk2zcm@dodo.com.au
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VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au
VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au
VK2FBRG (Barry) fgilson@bigpond.net.au
VK2FORE (Paul) paul@jimpearson.com.au
VK2FRSH (Steve) haddie_007@hotmail.com
Jim Daniel jaidanl@bigpond.com

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 Mhz

	Sundays (0830 Local)	Wednesdays (1900 Local)	
May 2006			
VK2BZD	May-07	VK2EI	May-03
VK2TT	May-14	VK2GD	May-10
VK2OA	May-21	VK2ZCM	May-17
VK2BZD	May-28	VK2ATM	May-24
		VK2ZHE	May-31
June 2006			
VK2TT	Jun-04	VK2AYD	Jun-07
VK2OA	Jun-11	VK2EI	Jun-14
VK2BZD	Jun-18	VK2GD	Jun-21
VK2TT	Jun-25	VK2ZCM	Jun-28
July 2006			
VK2OA	Jul-02	VK2ATM	Jul-05
VK2BZD	Jul-09	VK2ZHE	Jul-12
VK2TT	Jul-16	VK2AYD	Jul-19
VK2OA	Jul-23	VK2EI	Jul-26
VK2BZD	Jul-30		
August 2006			
VK2TT	Aug-06	VK2GD	Aug-02
VK2OA	Aug-13	VK2ZCM	Aug-09
VK2BZD	Aug-20	VK2ATM	Aug-16
VK2TT	Aug-27	VK2ZHE	Aug-23
		VK2AYD	Aug-30
September 2006			
VK2OA	Sep-03	VK2EI	Sep-06
VK2BZD	Sep-10	VK2GD	Sep-13
VK2TT	Sep-17	VK2ZCM	Sep-20
VK2OA	Sep-24	VK2ATM	Sep-27
October 2006			
VK2BZD	Oct-01	VK2ZHE	Oct-04
VK2TT	Oct-08	VK2AYD	Oct-11
VK2OA	Oct-15	VK2EI	Oct-18
VK2BZD	Oct-22	VK2GD	Oct-25
VK2TT	Oct-29		

2006 Annual Field Day Weekend

Yes! It's on again!
The ORARC's Event of the Year

Sat/Sun 10/11th June 2006

For full details,
see the enclosed programme
supplement.

Adjust your social calendar to fit
this in... Don't miss out.

Be There!

Silent Key, John Edward Baylis VK2JB

John's key fell silent on Tuesday morning 21st March 2006 at home in Lake Cathie. He was aged 86. John had a long and fruitful life. Born in the UK in 1919, he saw distinguished military service as a young adult in the 1st British Commando Unit both in Burma and India. John was awarded the Military Cross and was mentioned in dispatches, something he never spoke about. During the Second World War he met Joan his first wife and was married. They were together for 32 years until her tragic death. John later met Mary an Australian Nurse studying in the UK, and was again married for 32 years. John is survived by Mary and his 10 children from two marriages.



John's Army service gave him the confidence and the ability to succeed in business over many years both in the UK and Australia.

John had many interests in life and soccer and Amateur radio were just two, his favourite team was "South Hampton" and he was affectionately dubbed the original Soccer Hooligan by his friends. Amateur radio was also high on his list. John's UK call sign was G3UXX. He described his station to me in the New Forest and told me what he had achieved on VHF and UHF with many DX contacts. On one occasion John was able to talk to astronauts in space. John was also active on HF and boasted about his antennas and copper mine, as he called it. His station was the envy of his fellow amateurs.

When John came to Australia he stayed active on radio and physically, and ran the city to surf in Sydney with some of his children, even after heart bypass surgery. John spent many of his later years in Lake Cathie, south of Port Macquarie. John was a valued member of the Oxley Region Amateur Club. His last outing with the Club was with the John Moyle Field Day on North Brother Mountain just three days before his passing.

John was a valued friend and we met on air as most of us do. I actually met John when I told him that I was making apple pie, his favourite and he had to come and sample it. John became a frequent visitor to our home and always called in on Saturday mornings for coffee and a yarn. We talked about all sorts of things. I never tired of his morning call on 2 metres to tell me the weather, and where the sun was on the tree outside is window. John had a generous nature and he gave back to life and the hobby when he could in return for the pleasure it had given him. I felt privileged, and was one of the few to have seen this side of John.

John's health in later years declined but his zest for life continued and saw him take on some daunting challenges late in life when most would have given up.

John was very proud that his son Sam took up the Foundation Licence some weeks before he passed on as it was always his greatest wish that one of his children would be interested enough to take up the hobby. Sam's call sign is VK2FSLB.

John's funeral was at the Port Macquarie Crematorium and was well represented by family and friends as well as the representation from the Armed Services and Amateur Radio colleagues.

John will be sadly missed by his family and valued friends.

VALE John VK2JB.

by John Marriott VK2CIF

It Sure is a Small World!

(David—VK2AYD)

Dee and I were on a cruise in recent weeks that took us to New Caledonia and to an island called Mystery Island. It's a small uninhabited sandy islet surrounded by coral reefs and located at the south end of the Vanuatu chain of islands. (170E - 21S). It's real name is Inyeugand and is about 1 Km long by 150m wide. It was named Mystery Island after Queen Elizabeth II stopped off there for a picnic lunch back in 1975 and the press reported that she had stopped at a Mystery Island!

On our visit, the people living on Anaton Island came over and prepared a large market to tempt the tourist. (Yes, most things were made in India or China).

Who did we bump into? None other than Ted VK2EZQ, and Susan, who were endeavouring to raise funds to start a school for the native children.

They are desperate for such items as art and education materials, reading and reference books, etc..

Ted also mentioned he was looking for motors out of Fisher Paykel washing machines. It seems they can be used in wind generators to produce electricity.

Ted can be contacted on:

vhn3081@sailmail.com

or at

vk2ezq@winlink.org

Here's an opportunity to get rid of all those encyclopaedia's that you no longer need.

Below is a pic of Ted and Susan at the market place on Mystery Island.



Digital Communications

(David—VK2AYD)

Digital communications are not new, in fact the first ever wire-less communication was digital. They called it Telegraphy. Then came RTTY and now today there is a multitude of digital communication system in use. The computer has been the major contributor. Just listen on 20 metres between 14.070 and 14.120 and you'll hear the strangest of noises, most of which need a computer to decode them. Over the past 60 years of 'hamming' I've tried quite a few, especially CW! Sixty years ago that was manually created using a pump handle, which I still have.

To-day we have all got computers and most of us have at some time interfaced it with our transceivers. Some of us have dedicated computers attached to our rigs full time.

Digital communications can be broken into 3 major applications. 1. For transmitting digital pictures. 2. For keyboard-to-keyboard communications and 3. for audio transmissions.

Pictures transmitted in digital form are excellent, as the sender and receiver are able to hand-shake until a perfect picture is received. Voice, or audio, transmission is somewhat different. Superb if the receiver is receiving a S-9+ signal, which is common on VHF. However on HF it is a different matter as the slightest QRN/QRM/QSB will degrade the signal as there is no hand shaking - it's a one time signal. Last year I acquired a digital modem that just plugs into your TRX Audio-out and Mic-in. Works great on VHF with big signals, but on HF it was hopeless.

However there is one digital system in use today that is really great to use. It's called PSK and can be heard just about any time of day on 14,070 kHz.

You need the computer and a programme called DIGIPAN to receive and send it. If you have any love of the keyboard, you will love this. You don't need high power - 20 watts is sufficient to talk to the world. You will need a very simple interface to isolate the computer in/out from the transceiver. Cost just a few dollars. (2 isolating transformers and a couple of resistors).

DIGIPAN can be down-loaded from the internet or available on the CD that Arthur, VK2ATM, has produced. It is not a big programme, about 650 KB.

Using the 'waterfall' principle, it will show you a bandwidth of 4KHz and will receive and display 26 signals simultaneously. Fascinating. You really have to try it to appreciate its capability. Give up VHF, go digital on HF and find a new adventure in Amateur Radio.

You'll find local signals from VK2ATM and myself, VK2AYD, on most afternoons when the sun is too hot to work outside (or play golf!). Also lots of very interesting DX. You hear 'em, you can work 'em!

See you there.

View From Above

Ever wondered what your QTH looked like from outer space?

It's all possible. Just go to:

www.earth.google.com

and download the earth programme. Follow the installation instructions and then fire up the software. You will be presented with a 3D image of the earth. Fill in your location co-ordinates (e.g. 31.28S, 152.45E) and start zooming!

David—VK2AYD

VK2RCN Update

Minutes before the ribbons were tied on this issue of OXTALES, Bill, VK2ZCV was able to report that as a result of another "working bee", held on Wednesday 26th April, the refurbished VK2RCN voice repeater underwent a 2-hour, full-power operational test. Under the watchful eyes of Henry VK2ZHE, Bill VK2ZCV, and Jim VK2VIV, this pre-installation test involved monitoring the equipment's vital signs, including temperature. It came through with flying colours, showing only a temperature rise in one area, that was no greater than 20°C above ambient.

On Saturday 29th April, the repeater was reinstalled at Telegraph Point and restored to normal use by Bill, VK2ZCV, and Craig VK2ZCM. Well done gents! Thanks to all who contributed to the overall restoration exercise.

The packet digipeater, VK2RCN, at the same site, has suffered damage, presumably from a lightning strike, and is down for analysis and repair.

The Wednesday working bees are to continue, and volunteers to assist are most welcome.

John Moyle Field Day

Operations

Club station, VK2BOR, operated from the top of a misty and occasionally rainy top of North Brother Mountain near Laurieton, NSW from 0100 to 0700Z, Saturday 18th March 2006.

Principal operators were:-

HF, Bruce Walker VK2HOT, Arthur Monck VK2ATM.

6M, Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV.

2M/70cm, Neil Sandford VK2EI.

Relief Operators and Assistants:-

Barry Gilson VK2FBRG, Jim Neil

VK2VIV, Bill Brooke VK2ZCW,

John Bailey VK2KHB, Henry Lundell

VK2ZHE, John Marriott VK2CIF, John

Baylis VK2JB (now SK), Trevor

Thatcher VK2TT, Bob Brodie

VK2EJK, Alan Nutt VK2GD, Brenton

Paterson (studying for foundation licence).

Band (Metres)	Contacts made	Points scored
80	1	2
40	62	124
20	4	8
15	2	4
10	1	2
6	8	128
2	13	298
70cm	7	98
Totals	98	664

(See pictures on following page)

Hastings Valley Sports Car Rally

ORARC has agreed to a request to provide communications facilities for this event on Saturday 8th July, between 11.00am and 10.00pm. Volunteers are welcome, and they should contact Arthur, VK2ATM or Bruce, VK2HOT for precise details.



At North Brother Summit

Arthur VK2ATM, scanning the HF bands for elusive contacts, with Bruce VK2HOT, on the log while the murky mists swirl in the background, giving "atmosphere" to the important task at hand.



A "Cuppa Break" on 2-Mx

L to R : Bill VK2ZCV
Jim VK2VIV
Henry VK2ZHE
John VK2JB (now SK)
Neil VK2EI



The 6-Mx Station

Shows Bill VK2ZCV (left) with Jim VK2VIV gathering in some of those vital higher scoring contacts.



The View!

As inferred in the report on the day's operations, the weather was not its usual pleasant self. The view to seaward, over the Camdenhaven groin, can be better than this... on a nice day!

VALE Keith Lutton - VK2KDL

It is with sadness that we have to report the sudden passing of yet another member of our local Amateur Fraternity, and the ORARC. Keith Lutton, VK2KDL, of Telegraph Point, passed away on 13th April at the Port Macquarie Base Hospital. Although Keith had not been enjoying good health over the previous few weeks, his death was unexpected.

Keith was laid to rest on Monday, 24th April, 2006. The celebration of Keith's life took place at the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Crematorium, Port Macquarie. The service was attended by a large gathering of friends and relatives which included a large representation of ORARC members, and members of the vintage car club.



For the past 20-odd years, Keith was a member of the ORARC, serving a couple of stints as President of this organisation in the mid-1980's.

During the service at the crematorium, Grant Osfield delivered a eulogy that gave many of us a previously unknown view into the many activities that Keith pursued throughout his interesting life.

He was born in 1931 in Haberfield, NSW, and was educated at Sydney Grammar School. By the age of 10 he had developed a strong interest in radio, and at that tender age he was dismantling and reassembling radio receivers.

He met Gwen at dancing classes after completing school, and they were married in 1953. They spent their honeymoon at a place called Port Macquarie!

In his working life, Keith first worked in Kodak's laboratories, later working at Kent Industries in instrumentation and electronics, and progressively moved into television servicing in the Sutherland Shire.

In the 1970's he moved to Lake Cathie, where he established a successful TV repair business. He later moved to Telegraph point and continued to operate this business from his new home.

Keith had many hobbies, most of which embraced the field of electronics. Dubbed by some as being a "Mad Professor", he was extremely interested in all electro-mechanical, or electronic devices. Very few devices came into Keith's hands without undergoing an in-depth (sometimes invasive) analysis of "what made them tick". Many underwent some form of intricate modification to either enhance their performance, or expand their usefulness to perform functions that had not been envisaged by their original creator.

Grant's summation of "Keith - The Person" truly reflects the qualities we recognised in our highly respected and popular member of ORARC. "He was kind hearted and considerate; a very bright, intelligent and inventive man; always searching for a new or easier way to do something; always had the time to help his friends out, to fix something, especially when in need."

The members of ORARC extend their deepest sympathy to Keith's XYL, Gwen, and to other family members. We, of the ORARC, share your sad loss.
Vale VK2KDL, Keith.

Trevor, VK2TT (With valuable assistance from Grant Osfield, who filled in the gaps in our knowledge.)





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.
 (As at 1st May, 2006)

Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	F	BAYLIS	SAM	VK2F5LB	LAKE CATHIE	-
3	D	BELL	ALAN	VK2BEL	COOLONGLOOK	02 6554.1689
4	O	BIVONA	JOE (ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0405040953
5	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
6	O	BRODIE	BOB (JO)	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
7	O	BROOKE	BILL (AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O	BURGES	ROY (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)	VK2F5H	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
13	D	ELLIS	STAN (BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
14	F	GILSON	BARRY (FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
15	O	GLEESON	BADEN (VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
16	A	GRAHAM	PAUL (JANE)	-	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
17	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
18	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
19	F	HADFIELD	STEVE	VK2F5TH	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
20	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
21	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
22	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
23	F	JONES	PAUL (SANDRA)	VK2FORE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.3772
24	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
25	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
26	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
27	O	MARRIOTT	JOHN (ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
28	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
29	O	MCLEAN	JOHN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
30	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
31	H	MINAHAN	CHRIS	VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
32	H	MONCK	WENDY (ARTHUR)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
33	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
34	O	NEIL	JIM (CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6588.0016
35	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
36	O	NUTT	ALLAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
37	O	PALMER	GRAHAM (LINDA)	VK2TRM	KENDALL	02 6559.4554
38	A	PATERSON	BRENTON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0155
39	O	PILLEY	DAVID (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
40	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
41	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
42	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
43	D	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
44	O	THATCHER	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
45	D	WALKE	GARY	VK2UHF	ROCKDALE	-
46	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
47	O	WEBSTER	JIM (MARY)	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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