

OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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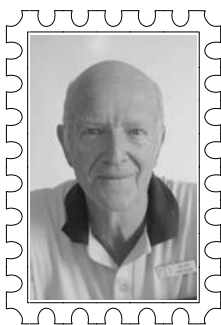
November 2007

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

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VICE PRES: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534
TREASURER: John McLean VK2KCE 6584.6220
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President's Report

I must confess a long interest in digital logic and logic in general. The chief tools of all true science, are logic and empirical data – that which can be demonstrated. It is unfortunate that many fields of science today rely heavily for justification of their particular hypothesis on such phrases as “by chance” or “chance event”. It is logically impossible to ascribe any power to “chance” since “chance”, as an entity, simply does not exist. We cannot therefore attribute any result to the causal action of a non-entity. We cannot say that such-and-such occurred “by chance” if “chance” does not exist – *nothing* cannot do *something*. Such a statement is what we term a logical absurdity.



Further, it is important to recognise that, logically, things cannot both exist and not exist at the same time and in the same relationship. You cannot have statement A being both true and false at the same time and in the same relationship. This is a logical law referred to as the *impossibility of the contrary*.

When we consider the beginning of our universe, many theories abound. One of the currently more popular explanations is often referred to as the “Big Bang” theory. At some distant point, far

back in time, matter exploded into existence and has continued to expand into what we observe as our galaxy. Asked how this “Big Bang” came about, science will resort to the absurdity mentioned above and say that it happened “by chance”. Suddenly, something that did not exist, now inexplicably exists. At some infinitesimal point in time, matter was both non-existent and existent at the same moment and we are faced with the absurdity of “self-creation” or “something from nothing”. This, again, is a transgression of the law on non-contradiction.

The classical scientific approach consists of a marriage of *induction* and *deduction*, of the empirical and the rational. Irrationality is the result of attributing instrumental causal power to “chance.” While self-creation is a logical absurdity, creation of something from nothing by an always-existent being transgresses no logical laws and provides the only logical explanation for what we observe.

—Alan Nutt VK2GD
El Presidente

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Down The Coax

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

Christmas BBQ
&
December Monthly Meeting
Sat. 1st December
9.00am

Settlement Point Reserve
See Notice this page

Friday Night Get-togethers
December 14th & 28th 7.00pm

January 2008 Monthly Meeting
Sat. 5th January 2.00pm

Mid North Coast Radio Expo
Coffs Harbour
Sunday 20th Jan. 2008

E-mail directory.

Reflects ALL changes notified up to
31st October, 2007

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
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VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvig.com.au
VK2ZYZ (Charley) rameses32@yahoo.com
VK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@westnet.com.au
VK2FBRG (Barry) fgilson@bigpond.net.au
VK2FJKD (Jim) jaidanl@bigpond.com
VK2FPRG (Paul) pauliejane@bigpond.com
VK9FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays

Wednesdays

November 2007

VK2VIV	Nov-04	VK2GD	Nov-07
VK2TT	Nov-11	VK2ZCM	Nov-14
VK2OA	Nov-18	VK2ATM	Nov-21
VK2VIV	Nov-25	VK2ZHE	Nov-28

December 2007

VK2TT	Dec-02	VK2EI	Dec-05
VK2OA	Dec-09	VK2AYD	Dec-12
VK2VIV	Dec-16	VK2GD	Dec-19
VK2TT	Dec-23	VK2ZCM	Dec-26
VK2OA	Dec-30		

January 2008

VK2VIV	Jan-06	VK2ATM	Jan-02
VK2TT	Jan-13	VK2ZHE	Jan-09
VK2OA	Jan-20	VK2EI	Jan-16
VK2VIV	Jan-27	VK2AYD	Jan-23
		VK2GD	Jan-30

February 2008

VK2TT	Feb-03	VK2ZCM	Feb-06
VK2OA	Feb-10	VK2ATM	Feb-13
VK2VIV	Feb-17	VK2ZHE	Feb-20
VK2TT	Feb-24	VK2ZEI	Feb-27

March 2008

VK2OA	Mar-02	VK2EI	Mar-05
VK2VIV	Mar-09	VK2AYD	Mar-12
VK2TT	Mar-16	VK2GD	Mar-19
VK2OA	Mar-23	VK2ZCM	Mar-26
VK2VIV	Mar-30		

April 2008

VK2TT	Apr-06	VK2ATM	Apr-02
VK2OA	Apr-13	VK2ZHE	Apr-09
VK2VIV	Apr-20	VK2EI	Apr-16
VK2TT	Apr-27	VK2AYD	Apr-23
		VK2GD	Apr-30

Xmas BBQ - Meeting

Date : Saturday 1st Dec. 2007

Time : 9.30am till ----

Venue : Settlement Point Reserve

Club will provide BBQ for lunch --
BYO cold or hot drinks - BYO morning and
afternoon snacks.

The group is registered with the Coun-
cil but this does not give us sole occupancy.
The area is on a first come basis.

I need indications as to numbers for
catering so please over the next month or so
let me know.

A good chance to take the missus or
girl friend out for the day (PLEASE
DON'T BRING BOTH).

We will hold the December meeting
straight after lunch and it will be a super
quick meeting.

Jim Neil VK2VIV Hon Secretary

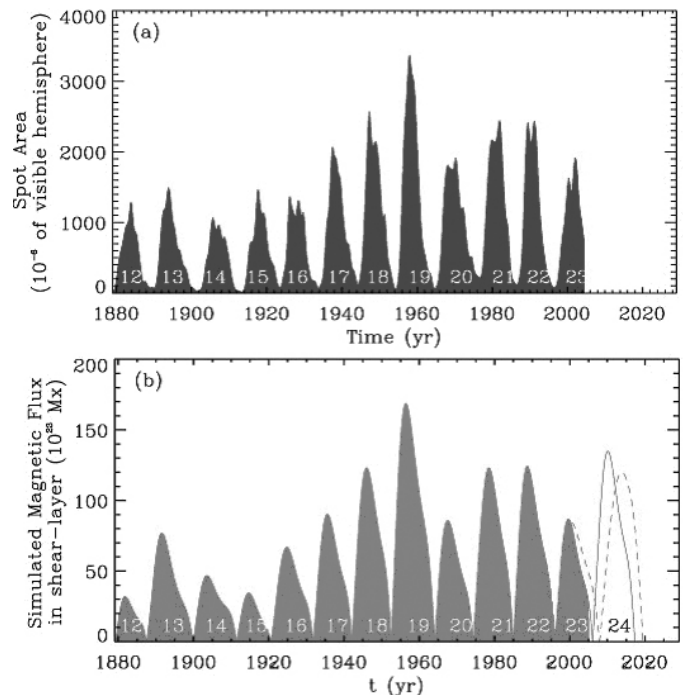
SUNSPOTS

Many of the newcomers to Amateur Radio are first drawn to VHF and then progress to HF. However right now HF above 10 MHz is not very exciting with few signals coming through. Why is this? It's a problem with the Ionosphere that is indirectly controlled by solar activity from the sun. Originally discovered by amateur German astronomer Samuel Heinrich Schwabe in 1843, the 'explosions' on the surface of the sun are called sunspots that produce an intensive radiation pattern in our solar system.

They appear in cycles. Right now solar cycle 23 is drawing to a close and cycle 24 is beginning.

The sunspot activity appears to go through approximately 11 years cycles, from peak storm activity to quiet and back again. Forecasting the cycle systems can help society anticipate solar storms which can disrupt communications and power systems and even affect the orbits of satellites.

The storms are linked to twisted magnetic fields in the sun that suddenly snap and release tremendous amounts of energy. The cause of these spots is a current of plasma, or electrified gas, that circulates between the sun's equator and its poles.



The NCAR team predicts the next cycle will be 30-50% more intense than the current cycle.

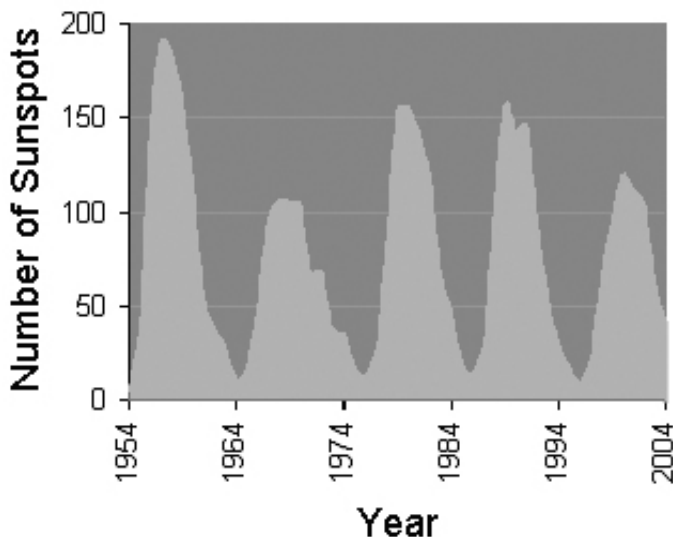
So what does this mean to us Radio Amateurs? Basically for the next couple of years HF communications above 10 MHz is going to be very sporadic and unreliable.

However around 2012 the bands should be great – unless of course with global warming and “holes” in the sky, we, the inhabitants of Earth, have not destroyed the ionosphere. If there is no ionosphere I wonder how the past 100 years of HF communications will be explained to future generations?

In the meantime, bone up on your Morse code and listen to the various beacons, especially on 14.100 MHz as well as between 28.100 and 28.300 MHz.

If you are interested in more info on sunspots then go to the UCAR site at www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml

73 de David VK2AYD



The graphs that follow in the next column, prepared by NCAR scientists, compare observations of the past 12 cycles with model results that closely match the sunspot peak.

LABEL MAKING THE EASY WAY

(Part I appeared in July Oxtales)

(Part II — Alan - VK2GD)

When you are satisfied that all is in order, *save your file* then print the label(s) on a sheet of A4 adhesive backed paper, preferably with a laser printer which gives a denser black than some inkjet varieties. Of course, if you are making coloured labels, then it is most likely you will have to use an ink-jet or bubble-jet printer since few of us can afford laser colour printers just yet. The adhesive-backed paper can be obtained quite cheaply from local stationary suppliers. I paid \$3.50 for ten A4 sheets.

Cut the labels from the sheet using a sharp hobby knife or Gem type razor blade and a steel rule. Make sure the rule and blade are clean and, at this stage, keep your grotty fingers off the black areas of the label to prevent smudging. Make the cuts inside the box margin so that no white bits are visible and trim to size.

Using a black permanent marker pen, carefully go round the *edges* of the label so that, again, no white is visible. Place the labels face upon a flat surface and give a quick spray of clear acrylic sealer. Many so-called clear varnishes give a yellowish tint to the white areas so get a craft acrylic which is the right stuff for the job. Hit the coated label with a hot air gun on "medium" for 10 to 15 seconds, at which point the label can be handled without smudging.

You are now ready to attach the label to your project or panel. Using a razor blade, slip it between the backing sheet and the label at a corner and ease up the backing sheet until it can be peeled off with fingers or tweezers. Don't finger the adhesive side of the label.

Carefully lay the label in position and check for squareness. When you are happy with the position, press the label down evenly to remove any air bubbles and rub firmly with a soft cloth. The great thing about this method is that, if your initial effort is unsatisfactory, it is a simple matter to gently lift the corner of the label with a blade, peel it off and re-position it.

If a metal panel or surface on which the label is to be stuck has a commercial baked paint finish, peeling the label off to re-align it should present no problem. If, on the other hand, you have given a bare aluminium sheet a quick spray of lacquer, it is highly likely that peeling the label is going to lift the paint at the same time. This will not happen, however, if you have taken the trouble to use a preliminary coat of etch primer. This forms a very effective bond between the metal surface and the finish

paint coat.

In time, when the labels finally show signs of wear, simply print out a new set, peel off the old and on with the new.

Bago Rally Report

Saturday, 29th September, saw fifteen members of the ORARC fronting up again to assist in the Hastings Valley Car Club's Bago 150 Rally.

Members who participated in the comms support group for the event were:

VK2ZHE (Henry)
VK2KCE (John)
VK2ATM (Arthur)
VK2ZCW (Bill)
VK2TT (Trevor)
VK2AIF (Dave)
VK2AYQ (John)
VK2FBRG (Barry)
VK2FPRG (Paul)
VK2ZYZ (Charlie)
VK2GD (Alan)
VK2VIV (Jim)
VK2FSH (Charles)
VK2HOT (Bruce)
VK2KHB (John)

Good weather prevailed throughout the event, and there were no serious accidents or any injuries reported. Some contributions for inclusion in OXTALES were received from those who manned the various comms points along the route, and these items now follow.

From John VK2KCE: "Well, after 2 weeks of organization we finally got the headquarters set up at the Kendall Show-ground, and met at the Kendall School for our escort.

Bruce, VK2HOT, & I signed the insurance document and took off to find out our allocated positions.

Well Bruce found his and now to find mine, much to my horror I forgot the maps, as I was approaching from a different route made it very confusing.

Finally came to a Tee junction, and there, clearly marked, was a fluorescent SOS, but I knew that this wasn't the one that was marked on the map. Had to wait for the escort. He informed me that as the signs were placed in the night, it was indeed in the wrong place! A flurry of radio calls and mobile phone calls followed, and then it was decided that, as the road was closed, I could relocate to the original position as marked on our maps via a rather circuitous route. I declined and set up my vehicle.

Fortunately the Nor-easterly blew the dust away from us... that was until the second run past our SOS point, then it was almost like a brown fog. Managed to escape

it inside of the cabin of the vehicle, was just as well, the mosquitos were very friendly!

When it was all over, I went to see why VK2HOT's vehicle was losing water. We managed to get him back to the Kendall Showground and then back to Port... well it did take us a lot of stops topping up the water, including some engine problems, but at about 11.00 pm we arrived and parted company. Quite an eventful and a long day!"

From Jim VK2VIV: "After assisting in the set-up of the headquarters, I was taken to my location, the start of section 3/6, by the section coordinator, Les. Unfortunately, instead of the long way round via the highway and only having to endure a few kilometres of dirt road, we headed straight down the centre 15 kilometres of dusty dirt road in a convoy of six vehicles. Lots of dust on the brand new 4WD.

The company for the day was good Les his wife, son and son's girls friend. The men manned the start and the women did the paperwork. I sat like King Cocky in the back row till sun-set and moved closer to obtain the details to radio through.

With the women on the desk, all the drivers and navigators were quite friendly and polite, although some did try the odd trick or two to get an advantage.

Radio communications was easy from my location, I tried the handheld on 5 watts but could not always maintain a good signal so I set up a Jpole antenna but, unfortunately, forgot an in line connector, so had to resort to the mobile radio.

After the last car left his blast of dust behind and the recovery truck cleared our point, we packed up and I took advantage of the highway to return to the showground where things had been cleared away and it was time to head home. A most enjoyable day."

Alan, VK2GD, stationed on the SOS point at the junction of Milligans and Dividing Ridge roads, reported, "during SS4 that Car 9 was heard approaching at a great rate of knots when the engine noise suddenly died. Nothing further was heard or seen of Car 9 and some concern was felt for the crew's safety. It was not until the end of the day that it was reported that a mechanical failure had forced it out of the rally."

The comms control centre at Kendall Showground was manned by Arthur (VK2ATM), Charles (VK2FSH), John (VK2AYQ), David (VK2AIF) & Trevor (VK2TT). This location was handy to the food stall, generally comfortable and without the benefit of dust! Who could ask for more?

(See page 6 for photographs)

Beechwood Billy Cart Classic

This annual charity event was conducted at the usual venue in the main drag of downtown Beechwood, on Sunday 21st October.

In keeping with the previous arrangements over many past years, the O.R.A.R.C. Inc. membership provided the operators (and their equipment) to cover the various safety points along the route, the public address facilities, and a control station.

The O.R.A.R.C. members who took part were:

VK2ATM (Arthur)
VK2ZCW (Bill)
VK2AYQ (John)
VK2YOR (Roy)
VK2KCE (John)
VK2FSH (Charles)
VK2CHC (Richard)
VK2AIF (David)
VK2VIV (Jim)
VK2TT (Trevor)

It was pleasing to note that Roy, who was unable to participate in last year's event, due to a stint in hospital, was back in the "hot seat" as Commentary Vehicle operator.

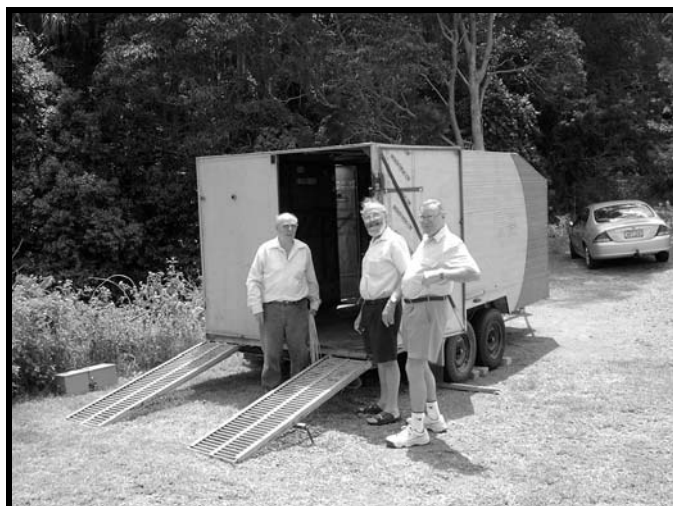
A refreshing aspect of this year's event was to note that our club did not miss out (as in a few previous years) in getting an honourable mention in the media list of supporting organisations that were involved on the day. Whilst our club name was incorrectly reported, it was probably "near enough" to indicate that somebody at least tried to give us some recognition.

Thanks to all members for their participation.

(See picture on page 7)

Our New Trailer!

Thanks to Henry (VK2ZHE) for forwarding in some images of our recently acquired trailer for the club. Below is a small picture of the vehicle in its current form. Watch this space for results as it changes shape in the hands of the hard workers.





Left: Bago 150 Rally contestant. Digitally captured by Alan (VK2GD) just a few seconds before he was engulfed in a cloud of pure, rich-smelling, unfiltered Bago dust, spiced with gravel!



Setting up the comms centre

Right: The comms crew at the Kendall control centre.
Left to Right :

David (VK2AIF)
Arthur (VK2ATM)
Charles (VK2FSH)
Alan (VK2GD)
Trevor (VK2TT)

Vacant chair would normally have held John, (VK2AYQ) but he took the picture!



JOTA 2007

The club participated in the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) again this year. Members set up the VK2BOR HF and VHF equipment at the Sea Scout hall in Buller Street, Port Macquarie, on Saturday the 20th of October.

While HF was a little better than it was last year, most stations heard were subject to very deep fades which would have made it very difficult for the scouts to communicate. The single dial up internet connection was needed for JOTI, Jamboree on the Internet. Unfortunately this connection barely handled the JOTI website so there was insufficient bandwidth to share for a PC based EchoLink connection. As with last year, two metres saved the day.

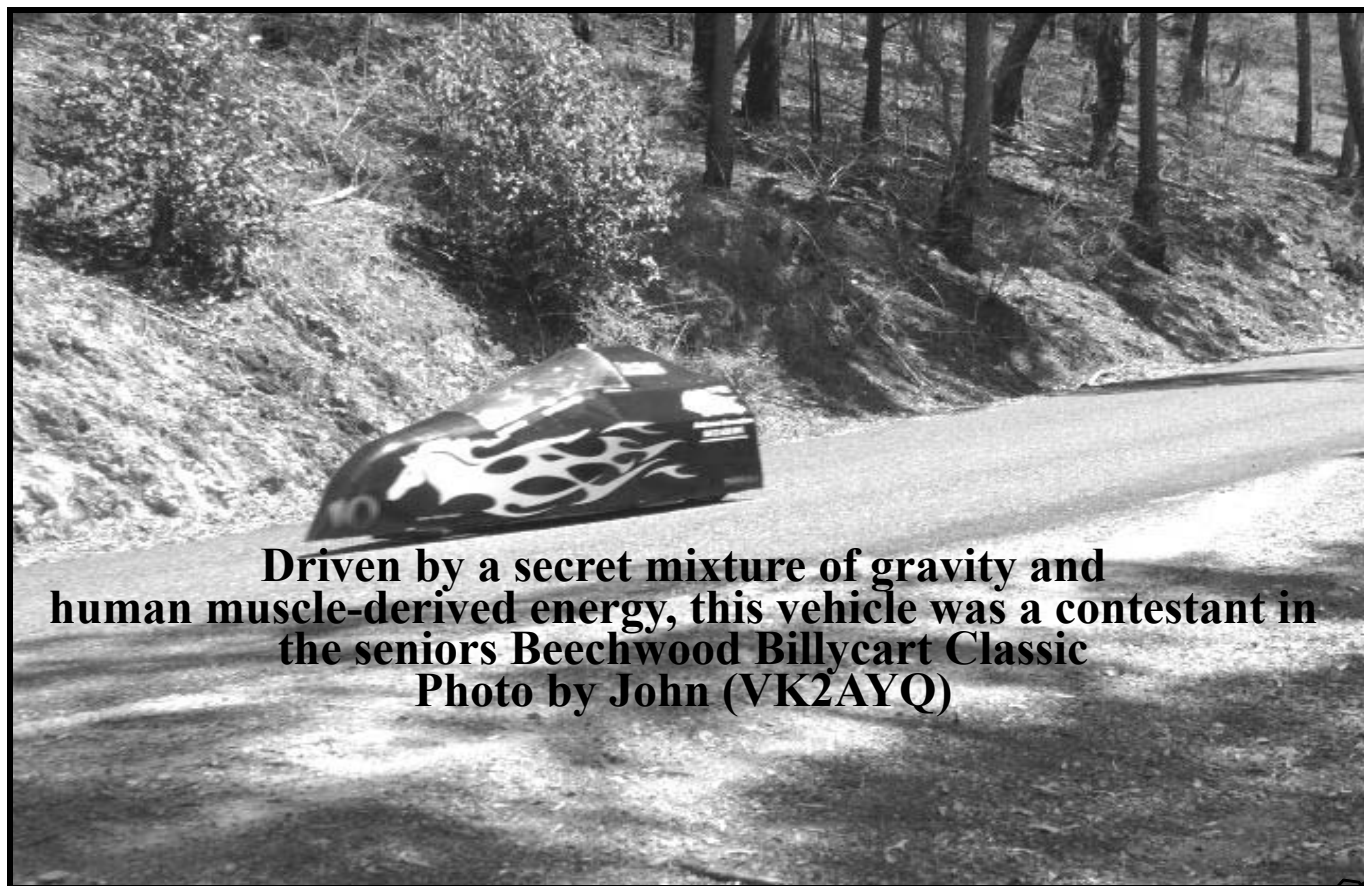
The scouts were well prepared for JOTA and the large contingent of boys and girls from several local groups all took their individual turns at the microphone. This year was the 50th JOTA. Perhaps the very attractive participation card provided a little extra incentive. The keenest group came from Camden Haven.

The stations worked on two metres on Echolink via the VK2RPM repeater included VK1BP Canberra. This flagship JOTA station was operating portable at Honeysuckle Creek for the weekend. Jim VK2VIV is to be commended for bringing a list of Echolink nodes. This was invaluable as we didn't have the benefit of an internet connection to Echolink. Significantly, most Echolink nodes were already busy when we attempted to connect. Echolink has become very popular for JOTA during the poor HF propagation associated with the sunspot minima.

Not all the two metre contacts were via Echolink. The battery of local scouts almost wore out the two scouts who participated in JOTA from VK2IF in Kempsey. This contact lasted for almost an hour via the VK2RMY Mount Yarrahapinni repeater. Thanks must also go to Bill VK2ZCV who came up via the VK2RPM two metre repeater and patiently spoke with a large number of scouts.

Thank you to those members who participated in the day: Jim VK2VIV, Bill VK2ZCV, Bill VK2ZCW, Charles VK2FSH, John VK2KCE, and Henry VK2ZHE.

— Henry (VK2ZHE)



Driven by a secret mixture of gravity and human muscle-derived energy, this vehicle was a contestant in the seniors Beechwood Billycart Classic
Photo by John (VK2AYQ)



OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 31st October 2007)

Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D BELL	ALAN		VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554.1689
3	O BIVONA	JOE	(ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	0405 040 953
4	L BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5	O BRODIE	BOB		VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
6	O BROOKE	AILSA	(BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
7	O BROOKE	BILL	(AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O BURGESS	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	O DANIEL	JIM		VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
12	D EKERT	BRUCE	(SUE)	VK2EM	EAST MAITLAND	02 4934 3025
13	D ELLIS	STAN	(BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
14	O EDMONDSON	CHARLES	(PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
15	O GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
16	O GLEESON	BADEN	(VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
17	O GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
18	A GRAHAM	PAUL	(JANE)	VK2FPRG	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
19	O GREENWOOD	GRAEME		VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
20	O HADFIELD	STEVE		VK2DMX	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
21	L HANLON	KEITH		-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
22	O HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
23	O HARDING	DAVID	(ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
24	O JANES	LES		VK2BAL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.3789
25	L LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	BAGNOO	02 6587.1155
26	O LOOMIS	CHARLEY		VK2ZYZ	PORT MACQUARIE	
27	L LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
28	O MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
29	O MARRIOTT	JOHN	(ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
30	O MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
31	O MCLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
32	O MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
33	D MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
34	H MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
35	L MONCK	ARTHUR	(WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
36	O NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
37	O NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
38	O NUTT	ALAN	(ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
39	O PILLEY	DAVID	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
40	O REES	BRETT	(YVETTE)	VK2TMG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5956
41	O RICHTER	ROY		VK2YB	VIA WAUCHOPE	02 6587.4232
42	O ROTH	BILL		VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
43	O SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
44	L SINCLAIR	BILL	(CORALIE)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
45	D TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
46	O THATCHER	TREVOR		VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
47	D THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
48	O WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360

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