

OXTALES NEWSLETTER, MARCH 1990.

PORT MACQUARIE
FIELD DAY WEEKEND
SATURDAY, 9TH - SUNDAY, 10TH JUNE, 1990

This newsletter comes to you, together with the Annual Field Day programme for June 9th and 10th 1990. It is also an invitation to come along and enjoy a wonderful week end at a big, bright rendezvous in the Surf Club Pavilion on lovely Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie.

We learned last year that such beautiful surroundings can engender big appetites, so there will be no shortages of fine food for all. Even on the Saturday, there will be plenty of fresh, and inexpensive, sandwiches on sale at the venue.

The programme cannot possibly tell you of all the good things to be had. Last year, as well as great deals in new and used equipment, the day finished up with boxes of giveaways, all useful in the shack.

NEWCOMERS JOIN THE LOCALS.

It is hard to keep track of all the new calls being heard in town but it is certain that the number is growing steadily. We hear such calls as VK2NJC (Neil), VK2MEV (John), VK2AG (Lewis), VK2MND (David), VK2KM (Jack), VK2KLL (Gary) & VK2XIA (Ian). Don (ex VK2FPP) has upgraded to VK2DHS. We are especially happy to have VK2TT (Trevor) with us now as our club Secretary. Some of the newcomers are well into computing, especially VK2DHU (Tony) who has joined in with the old established packet enthusiasts which comprises VK2ATM (Arthur), VK2ZCV (Bill), VK2BZC (Paul), VK2DHS (Don), VK2PA (Peter), VK2CJM (Jim), VK2ZIS (Graeham) & others, all ensuring that Packet Repeater VK2RPM earns its keep.

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CLUB LIBRARY.

The club library continues to grow with the addition of new handbooks. Loan time on books is restricted to one week, to assist in spreading the library benefits equally to all members.

THE CLUB STATION.

The club station, VK2BOR, located on the club premises, may be activated on HF and VHF and operated by members in accordance with regulatory procedures. With the New South Wales Amateur population alone, there are over 5000 operators out there with whom members may make contact and chat in a friendly atmosphere. Beyond the state boundaries are tens of thousands of other potential contacts, and regardless of the mother-tongue spoken, Amateur Radio enables enjoyable two-way exchange of information. We feel that our club has contributed significantly to spread of the Amateur Radio interest and activity.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.

During the year we have carried out field exercises such as providing monitor stations at checkpoints in the forest for motor cycle rallies and horse endurance trials. The organisers of such events have been high in their praise of the radio operators proficiency under sometimes difficult circumstances. Usually their words are similar to "We couldn't have done it without you." When a fall, or an accident occurs in the forest, the radio links play a major role in the rapid pin-pointing of where the victim is lying.

WIRELESS INSTITUTE CIVIL EMERGENCY NETWORK.

VK2VLK (Vern) is the club's WICEN officer and recent flooding in the Hastings River almost reached such levels as to bring about the need for Vern to implement emergency procedures. This incident, coupled with the recent earthquake in Newcastle, alerted us to the need for preparedness and highlighted the importance of avoiding apathy in our hobby's approach to such responsibilities. (West Lakes Radio Club gave us a wonderful example in their handling of emergency traffic in the aftermath of the Newcastle earthquake. Congratulations West Lakes !!)

SILENT KEY.

It is with regret that we announce the passing of one of Port Macquarie's first Amateurs. Dudley Gill died on 6th March from a severe heart attack. Dudley, or as he was better known, "Doug", served as a radio mechanic in the R.A.A.F. (1941-47).

Following WW2, Doug, together with Peter (VK2PA), one of his many wartime buddies, set up a radio business in Horton St., Port Macquarie. Doug acquired his AOC in 1947 and at that time, he and Peter were the only two stations to be heard in town.

Later, Doug moved his business to Tamworth, but subsequently returned to retire in Port.

Doug was a kind and gentle man and maintained his strong interest in the hobby throughout the remainder of his life. Farewell Doug. We will remember you.

RETIREMENT.

Congratulations to VK2XU (Ian), on his retirement from Supervising Engineer of ABTN1 and Ch.8 on Middle Brother Mountain. Ian was on the project from the initial building of the Station and the Tower. To sum up briefly, we must say that it is one of the show places of its kind in Australia and has performed as beautifully as it looks. Ian has been our mainstay in the maintenance of Repeater VK2RPM which is located on the same site. Happy retirement Ian!

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY.

March 17th dawned wet and showery looking as usual but by 0900 (local), the sun was shining, so it was off to North Brother Mountain overlooking Laurieton.

Those involved had been there before and knew all the vantage points for erecting antennae. The H.F. antenna was a 132 ft dipole, strung up at approximately 60 ft between trees. The 2MX antenna was an eleven element quad on a rotatable mast, mounted in a holed bored into a big flat stump.

Signal came through nicely and some good contacts were made on all bands used.

The ladies kept the food coming along very nicely and although our score was not a winner, it was a day we will not forget. We feel sorry for those who missed out on such a truly Memorial Day.

QRP ? : SHALL I DECREASE POWER ?.

Yes! By all means. Bring on the little 2-5 Watt rigs, such as now being used by VK2DLQ (Ron), VK2CVR (Vince), VK2PA (Peter), VK2GAE (Fred), VK2PKW (Ken), and others. Now fire up the little \$50 receiver and you are in business for less than \$100. Now instead of that QSK linear and 50-knob transceiver, you can be on air AND in a new motor car for the same price. Oh Boy! Why didn't I think of that before ? RST 5 9 9 . Thinking of portability ? Wouldn't one of these little QRP rigs be just the thing for VK2ELN, Laurie's new Ultra-lite aeroplane which he has just about finished building ?

TEST YOUR THEORY.

If you think examination questions are a bit tough these days, try this one from an I.E.E. examination of October, 1926:-

"The resonant curve of a spark transmitter is found to have two peaks, one at 590 meters and the other at 620 meters. Calculate the coefficient of coupling between the primary and secondary circuits."

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1990.

PRESIDENT

Allen Hartley (VK2ALI)

VICE PRESIDENT

Arthur Monck (VK2ATM)

TREASURER

Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

SECRETARY

Trevor Thatcher (VK2TT)

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Lewis Smith (VK2LS)

COMMITTEE : Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)
: Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)
: Jim McIntyre (VK2CJM)

DELEGATES : W.I.A. Henry Lundell (VK2ZHE)
: WICEN Vern Keena (VK2VLK)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Larry Lindsay (VK2CLL)

ASSISTANT TREASURER Kevin Koulter (VK2MAM)

REPEATER COMMITTEE : Arthur Monck (VK2ATM)
: Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)
: Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

Regular evenings out with the YL/XYL's are organised by Keith (VK2KDL), and these nosh-ups are enjoyed by all who attend. If you like Chinese cuisine, or plain old Aussie tucker, then these outings are for you and the XYL/family/friends.

On the first Sunday in each month, interested and hungry participants meet at "The Hot Wok", 39 Gordon Street, Port Macquarie at 6.00 PM. The format is Smorgasbord, but those who would prefer a la carte, may dine accordingly. The food is of high quality, and the prices are most reasonable. Dress is casual.

Interested members should let Keith know their intentions beforehand to ensure that seating accommodation can be arranged to suit the size of the group. But..... if you indicate your intention to join in, be sure you arrive there no later than 6.00 pm. because it can get somewhat busy after that time. It's a Popular Eatery !!