



# OXTALES

Newsletter of the Oxley Region A

## February 1995

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: David Smith VK2DAL 85.1004  
VICE PRES.: Arthur Monck VK2ATM 83.1311  
TREASURER: John McDonagh VK2VY 82.0020  
SECRETARY: David Pilley VK2AYD 85.2647

### *President's Report*

*"Well done is better than well said."  
(Benjamin Franklin)*

So, we have begun a new year. Let us all do our bit towards making our Club a pleasant way to spend some of our leisure time.

We now have a Committee in place for the ensuing months, albeit some of us are retreads. I would like to thank those who retired from the fray at the last A.G.M. and welcome those who have undertaken Committee duties for the first time.. I ask members to support those who have been charged with the Club's day to day running, because without your support I can guarantee that the coming year will be a failure. The best support which you can give is that of participating and contributing.

As discussed at the A.G.M., our Friday night meetings will be reduced to twice per month, commencing in March. As from March, the Friday meetings will be

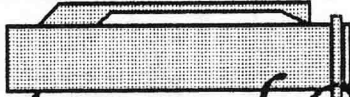
held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of any month at the usual place and time. Our March meetings will therefore be on Fridays the 3rd and 17th. The 1st Friday's meeting of any month will be the "monthly" meeting. It is hoped that by reducing the frequency of meetings we will get more than the usual five or six attending.

*73's to you all  
de David, VK2DAL*

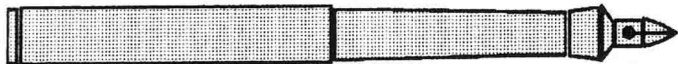
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# Letter to the



# Minister and Others



The following letter was directed to the Minister for Communications and Arts, with copies forwarded to:-

**Senator Richard Alston**  
**Shadow Minister for Communications and the Arts**

**Mark Vaile M.P.**  
**Federal Member for Lyne**

**Neil Penfold VK6NE**  
**President WIA**

*The Hon. Michael Lee M.P.*  
*Minister for Communications and Arts*  
*Parliament House*  
*Canberra ACT 2699*

*Dear Minister,*

*I have been directed by the 60 members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc., to write you in protest to the recent proposal by the Spectrum Management Agency to increase the cost of an Amateur Radio Transmitting Licence from \$36 to 69\$ per annum. (An increase of 92%).*

*The High Frequency spectrum used by Radio amateurs is world wide and controlled by the International Telecommunication Union and not governed by Australia, although we do have membership of this Union.*

*Radio Amateurs are the only users of the H. F. spectrum that are required to pass academic examinations before being granted a licence. Trucking companies, business, even Citizen Band operators are not required to have any qualifications, yet in Australia, as in many other countries CB operators are given freedom of the spectrum with no licence and no fee.*

*In many countries Amateur Transmitting Licences are free. For example in the USA it is issued by the Federal Communications Commission, free for a period of ten years (renewable) subject to proof of passing the academic examinations.*

*We ask, why we, as qualified radio operators in Australia, are subjected to this embarrassing charge per year. (It becomes embarrassing when discussed with overseas amateurs, such as the USA, that we are charged to research and develop radio systems for the future good of the country).*

*Must we construe that this is a deliberate Tax against the 18,000 Radio Amateurs in Australia? If it is not a tax then why can't a licence be issued free, subject to qualifications, (or for a small charge, bearing in mind it costs as much to issue a one year licence as it does for ten years).*

*It is imperative that Radio Amateurs know whether this is a deliberate federal tax as it will naturally have some mark of concern at the next general election.*

*We await with interest for your reply.*

*Yours faithfully,*  
*David A. Pilley, Hon Sec.*

# Secretarial/ Scrawl

A warm welcome to Karl, VK2DYX and Kathy, VK2CKB who joined us at the AGM.

You should see a marked improvement in Oxtales now that it is in the capable hands of Trevor, VK2TT. Don't forget to feed him lots of trivia. At the GM following the AGM, it was moved that we write a letter to the minister for Communications. This has been done and a copy is included. If I didn't express it the way you wanted, then please send your personal objection direct to the Minister at Canberra... smother them with paper.

I have available, free to members, 5 computer XT mother boards, five 360k drives, five keyboards, and 1 x 20 Megabyte Hard Drive c/w multi-driver card, together with a few odd interface boards. These would make excellent dedicated packet machines. Cases complete with power supplies can be purchased for around \$80. Call me if you are interested.

Don't forget we have FOR SALE and WANTED section to OXTALES. We need what you have for sale in writing with the price you want.

What are we going to do this year? Our major events last year were the Field Day, the John Moyle contest from North

Brother mountain and the Scout/Guide Jamboree. What else would you like to do?

Last year, the John Moyle Field Day was held on March 19th and 20th. We had a great day out on the Saturday and some of us learnt a little about setting up a portable station. It was confirmed at our Feb 10th meeting that we will participate again this year, so make a firm note in your diary making March 18th our BBQ picnic/portable day. Last year we kicked off around 11.00am and thanks to Keith (VK2KDL) who got there early, we were able to get the picnic area secured as our own. Let's do the same again!

Have a great year, keep well and don't forget to come up on the 2 metre net on Sunday morning and the HF net (3597.5) at 8pm on Wednesday evenings. (80 m is alive - I've been working the east coast of the USA in the evenings).

73's

David.



## Education Officer's Report to A.G.M.

*A Novice Theory Course was conducted throughout 1994 at Wauchope High School on Thursday evenings. Four students started the course but only two completed it. owing to a lack of interest, no more classes were conducted last year.*

*This year we are starting out in Mid-February with a few sessions on regulations culminating in an exam in March or April. Following this, we will try*

to get a morse class running if enough candidates can be mustered.

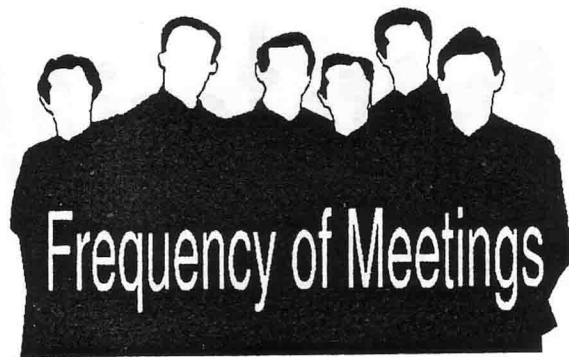
While we advertised our classes widely last year in the local press and on local radio stations, no students were attracted by these methods. It would seem that there is currently a dearth of potential amateurs, at least in the Hastings.

A further inhibiting factor is the WIA's pricing policy with respect to examinations. A candidate attempting one theory exam, regulations and morse sending and receiving is charged \$50 for examination material on top of which the Club has to make a charge for return postage. Moreover, given the extreme variability in difficulty among the examination papers seen recently, and the obscure nature of some of the questions asked, many well-prepared candidates fail on the first attempt. Consequently a total cost averaging \$100 is not uncommon for candidates attempting examinations.

Theory classes will only run this year if at least five starters can be found. The normal attrition rate of 50% or more makes it pointless to start with fewer. Candidates wishing to attempt full call theory can obtain course material including videos, through the club to study at home.

Examinations are usually conducted on demand and can be organised in about two weeks. In closing, I wish to thank Trevor VK2TT and Bill VK2WST for their assistance in running examinations during the past year.

Larry Lindsay VK2CLL  
(Education Officer)



Effective March 3rd, Club meetings will be held twice a month on the first and third Friday of each month. The first Friday will be the monthly business meeting and the third Friday will have a guest speaker if sufficient volunteers can be obtained to speak on any subject within the bounds of propriety. Subjects need not be confined to radio.

### Meetings

March 3rd, 17th

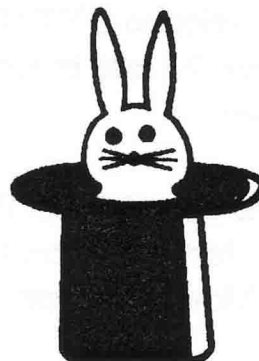
April 7th, 21st and so on throughout the year.

## Easter Examinations

Exams are planned for the week after Easter.

Candidates should complete an application form prior to the Easter Holidays.

Forms can be obtained from  
VK2CLL (Larry)  
87 1155 (after 7pm)



# OXTALES CONTENT

There were plenty of "formal" items for inclusion in this issue of our newsletter "OXTALES". It was relatively simple for your "new" editorial staff (a single, harmless drudge) to get it all together. Next issue might be more difficult. PLEASE, if you have any little items of gossip, hints, kinks, or items that you feel would be of interest to your fellow members, or if you would just simply like to show off your abilities at "homebrew journalism", shove it down on paper (or better still, a disc if it is lengthy) and direct it one way or another to me, (Trevor, VK2TT - QTHR!!). Even a telephone call, and dictate it to me.... bare bones stuff. I will adorn it with the lies.... See you in the Autumn Tim.

## Guest Speaker Nights

The full programme for the forthcoming Guest Speaker Nights has not been finalised, but the following subjects and activities have been set firmly for the beginning of the year. As others are arranged, due notice will be included in "OXTALES".

### Friday 3rd March, 1995:

The Principles of Foxhunting & Use of Sniffers.

Guest Speaker: Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)  
(Bring a 2-meter hand held if you have one.)

### Friday 17th March, 1995:

A Practical Pedestrian Foxhunt on 2 meters.

Guest Speaker: Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)

### Friday 21st April, 1995:

All About Internet.

Guest Speaker: Tony Lonsdale  
(VK2DHU)

It is felt that there are many members who would have a pet subject of general interest to the membership, and they are invited consider doing a "stint" as a guest speaker. If any member wishes to support the Club in such a way, please advise the committee accordingly for inclusion in our programme.

## SNIPPETS FROM 1995 AGM

Our Annual General Meeting, held at the club rooms on 28th January saw 24 of our 64 members present. Apologies were received from five members.

The club is in good financial standing, having a bank balance totaling \$7476.46, of which \$4605.52 is on a term deposit. This showed an increase of \$747.41 over the end of year balance for the 1994 A.G.M. balance sheet.

Two visitors/new members joined us at the meeting. They were Karl and Kathy Bilger (VK2DYX and VK2CKB respectively) from Taree. Packeteers will be familiar with the call sign VK2DYX. Karl runs a recently commissioned BBS at Taree.

The officer bearers, resulting from the annual elections, saw a few new faces, but with some old familiar stalwarts recycled into the positions where the work is done. Dave and Dave (VK2DAL and VK2AYD) were re-elected to the positions of President and Secretary. The remaining

positions are shown elsewhere in this issue in the list of office bearers.

We now have an internal auditor. Kevin (VK2MAM) was elected to undertake this important function.

The long awaited filling of the position of Publicity Officer was at last achieved on a split role basis. Peter (VK2IPC) has taken on the role for all publicity matters other than "OXTALES". The preparation, production and distribution of "OXTALES" has been taken on by VK2TT (already buttered-up in SECRETARIAL SCRAWL, elsewhere in this issue).

## **CLUB'S NEW PUBLIC OFFICER**

*The role of Public Officer of O.R.A.R.C. Inc., has been taken over by Ray Mullins (VK2WRM). This follows Tracy's (VK2GTM) relinquishment of the role due to business commitments requiring frequent, and lengthy, absences from the district. Thanks you Tracy for your work in the position during your period of tenure. Congratulations to Ray, who was formally voted into the position at the general meeting held on Saturday, January 28th.*



# **LIST OF ORARC Inc OFFICE BEARERS**

## **PRESIDENT**

David Smith (VK2DAL)

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Arthur Monck (VK2ATM)

## **SECRETARY**

David Pilley (VK2AYD)

## **TREASURER**

John McDonagh (VK2VY)

## **COMMITTEE:**

### **EDUCATION OFFICER:**

Larry Lindsay (VK2CLL)

### **REPEATER OFFICER:**

Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)

### **EQUIPMENT/LIBRARIAN:**

Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

### **FIELD DAY CO-ORDINATOR:**

Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

### **PUBLICITY OFFICER:**

Peter Cox (VK2IPC)

### **INTERNAL AUDITOR:**

Kevin Coulter (VK2MAM)

### **PUBLIC OFFICER:**

Ray Mullins (VK2WRM)

### **"OXTALES" Production:**

Trevor Thatcher (VK2TT)

# Club Historian

Interesting Fact No. 1347

Charles (VK2FSH) has agreed to continue in the important role of Club Historian. He made a special plea to the members for assistance in obtaining information, newspaper clippings, photographs, or other documents or memorabilia relating to the club for the period prior to 1988. Charles has explained that being a relative "newcomer" to the club in 1988, his collection efforts began around that time. The previous years were no doubt just as fruitful as the more recent, and facts, figures, and "things" from the bygone days would be most important, and valuable, to make the historical records and artefacts of the long standing club, more complete. So, any members with relevant items, or information, would help greatly by coming forward with any contributions.

There is so much sand in North Africa, that if it was all spread out, it would completely cover the Sahara Desert.



Recent sketch of VK2FSH

## FOR SALE & WANTED

### For Sale

Yaesu FT-7 H.F. Transceiver. 30 watt PEP.

Complete, original & Manuals. \$250  
VK2ATM (065) 83.1311

### For Sale

Welded Tower section, 20 feet. \$20  
VK2ATM (065) 83.1311

### For Sale

Technics Four Channel AM-FM HiFi with 4 speaker boxes. \$150  
VK2ATM (065) 83.1311

### Wanted.

TWO 6ft x 10in mast sections.  
VK2AYD (065) 85.2647

### Wanted

Deaf, mute nymphomaniac who owns a pub (preferably on hill). Reply sending photo of pub to  
VK2CLL

# ORARC Inc. List of Members February 1995

1	PETER	ALEXANDER	VK2PA	ROLLANDS PLAINS	065 85 8254
2	KEN	BECK	VK4WKB	CALOUNDRA	074 91 5798
3	COLIN	BELLINGER	VK2GMD	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3803
4	KARL	BILGER	VK2DYX	TAREE	065 512024
5	KATHRYN	BILGER	VK2CKB	TAREE	065 512024
6	W.L. (Bob)	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	
7	PHILLIP	BOWMAN		VIA JOHNS RIVER	065 56 9664
8	MARK	BRENTON	VK2XFK	FREDRICKTON	065 63 1663
9	KEN	BROWN	VK2AJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1738
10	BILL	CAVANAGH	VK2WC	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2130
11	CLIFF	COOPER	VK2KVR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 4630
12	KEVIN	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 8325
13	RICHARD	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	065 86 1007
14	PETER	COX	VK2TCI	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 1236
15	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2UA	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 9922
16	JIM	DANIELS		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1933
17	MAX	DATSON	VK2GE	LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5732
18	TRACY	DIGNUM	VK2GTM	HERONS CREEK	065 85 7061
19	CHARLES	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 0495
20	BADEN	GLEESON		BANORA POINT	075 24 8577
21	LUKE	GOW	VK2EQ	CUNDLETOWN	065 53 9933
22	RODNEY	GOW	VK2NO	CUNDLETOWN	065 53 9933
23	LEWIS	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 9162
24	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 4684
25	SAM	GRIFFITHS		TAREE	065 52 3149
26	KEITH	HANLON		PORT MACQUARIE	
27	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5349
28	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 7095
29	WILL	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	065 59 8622
30	JOHN	JONES	VK2DX	JOHNS RIVER	065 56 5038
31	ANDY	KEIR	VK2AAK	BARRAGANYATTI	
32	HORST	KOPPEL		LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5992
33	PETER	KUCERA	VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	065 85 3406
34	GARY	LEEDS	VK2NOV	LITHGOW	
35	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 2496
36	ADRIAN	LEVI		WAUCHOPE	065 85 2040
37	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	BAGNOO	065 87 1155
38	TONY	LONSDALE	VK2DHU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 0345
39	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	
40	KEITH	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85 0321
41	ALLAN	MADIGAN		WAUCHOPE	065 85 2043
42	JOHN	McDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 0020
43	DOUG	McDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 6157
44	JIM	McINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5696
45	JOHN	McLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 1998
46	LEO	McPHERSON	VK2CLM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3183
47	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 2737
48	ARTHUR	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1311
49	RAY	MULLINS	VK2WRM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 0685
50	LAURIE	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUAIRE	065 83 3981
51	LESTER	O'CONNELL	VK2BFP	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 4274
52	ARTHUR	PERRY		PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3960
53	DAVID	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	065 85 2647
54	PAUL	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 1830
55	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 1776
56	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 0329
57	GERRY	SLADE		PORT MACQUARIE	
58	DAVID	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	065 85 1004
59	BILL	STOFMEEL	VK2WST	BONNY HILLS	065 84 8104
60	COL	TERRY	VK2VQT	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5268
61	TREVOR	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2278
62	NEIL	TROTTER	VK2NNT	LAKE CATHIE	065 85 4430
63	PAUL	WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3377
64	RONALD	WYLES		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5295



**OXLEY REGION**

**AMATEUR RADIO**

**CLUB Inc.**

**1995**

**ANNUAL GENERAL**

**MEETING**

**P.O. BOX 712, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW 2444**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.**

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the O.R.A.R.C. Inc. will be held at the S.E.S. Building, Gordon Street, Port Macquarie on SATURDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1995, commencing at 1 p.m.(13.00 hrs).

**AGENDA**

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1. To receive apologies.
2. To confirm the minutes of the previous AGM.
3. To receive and confirm the Financial Report for 1994.
4. To receive the reports of the:
  - President
  - Secretary
  - Education Officer
  - Repeater Committee
- 5.\*To appoint officers for the year 1995.
  - Executive - President
  - Executive - Vice-President
  - Executive - Secretary
  - Executive - Treasurer
  - Committee Members (minium 3)  
comprising
    - Education Officer
    - Repeater sub-committee Officer
    - Equipment & Librarian Custodian
    - Publicity Officer
6. To appoint an Auditor
7. To confirm the subscription rate for 1995/96. (due 1/7/95).
8. To consider and record any other business that has been tabled in writing prior to the meeting.
9. Discussion period (motions may not be moved)
10. Close meeting

**\* ALL POSITIONS WILL BE VACATED. YOU SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER TAKING A POSITION SO THAT WE CAN KEEP THE CLUB ALIVE. SHOULD AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOT BE FORMED, THE 1994 EXECUTIVE HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE ON AS A CARETAKER EXECUTIVE TO CLOSE THE CLUB ON JUNE 30th 1995.**

Just out of interest - under the Model Rules of Incorporation that were adopted when the Club was incorporated, Clause 45 (1) states that in the event the club is wound up, all proceeds go to a recognised charity - which is still to be appointed!..(Hon Sec).

**ALL "OTHER BUSINESS" subjects to be submitted to the Hon. Sec. by 25th January. NO OTHER BUSINESS matters will be considered from the floor unless pre-registered, or at the discretion of the President..**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

---

"You never know a man's character until you have shared a plate of peeled prawns with him. (Personal experience).

Do you remember the eight questions which appeared in the January 94 edition of "Oxtales" ? We did not get too many answers to them, if you look at them again now, I am sure that the answers will be self evident.

In January 1994 we had a membership listed in Oxtales of 46. Currently we we have a membership of 60+ which represents a growth of 30.4% over the 12 months to date.

During the past year your Committee has, with the assistance of Club members, introduced a series of talks at some of the Friday night meetings which have proved to be very successful as was evidenced by the jump in attendance at those meetings. The subjects covered included:

- |                        |                      |                     |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| * Wicen                | * Packet Radio       | * Radio propagation |
| * Aerials/Trans. lines | * A.T.U's            | * Power supplies    |
| * Flying               | * Awards/Contests    | * The PAKET program |
| * Police comms.        | * Weather satellites | * Observatory visit |
| * S S T V              | * Building beams     | * Fibre optics      |

There has been a lot of work put into these presentations and my thanks go to those club members who made it all possible.

Also during the year there has been a considerable amount of work carried out by the Repeater committee. The report of that committee's Chairman will cover aspects of this work.

During the year Club members have participated in the following activities:

- |                           |                           |              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| * Bushfire communications | * Koala rescue activities | * Scout JOTA |
| * Visit to Fighterworld   | * O.R.A.R.C. Field Day    | * J Moyle FD |
| * A Barbecue/Picnic       | * Billycart Derby/Fun run | * Triathlon  |

We have been without a Publicity Officer for the last 12 months and this gap has been filled by our hard working Secretary who has also compiled, contributed to and published Oxtales on a regular basis. This job has been made less onerous since the purchase by the Club of a photocopier. The "For Sale" column in Oxtales has been quite successful and provided a service both to vendors and purchasers.

Our Education Officer has been running courses during the year, however there has been a drop off in the number of persons under-taking training.

The Club 2 metre network on Sunday mornings is usually reasonably well patronised, however the Wednesday night H.F. network is not really successful.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of all Committees and Club members for their support, without which we would not have had what has turned out to be a fairly good year. Let's try to make it a better one next year.

"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do"

My regards and a happy and prosperous new year to you all.  
de David VK2DAL

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

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It is great to see we have 60+ members. I know most of you are not able to contribute directly to the club, but with the help of the tenacious ten we made another year. It was fun producing "Oxtales" for you and I hope I didn't bore you too much with some of my personal interests. I've now run out of stories, so its over to you in 1995!

I am disappointed that at the time of writing this I have not received one nomination for the executive positions for 1995. Please, give it your strong consideration. They are not difficult or demanding positions and without an Executive Committee we have no club. Please, don't put me to the unpleasant task of having to close the club. The nomination forms were on the back of the November "Oxtales".

I wish you and your family good health and a peaceful 1995.  
de David, VK2AYD

## **REPEATER COMMITTEE**

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During 1994 we completely changed the transmitter and receiver at VK2RPM on Middle Brother mountain and, thanks to Col VK2VQT we now have heavy duty batteries installed. A survey of members showed the majority were happy with the existing set-up.

We took a look at Cairncross mountain and currently are working on a diplexer for the equipment planned for VK2RCN. Thanks go to Bob VK2XIQ for his time and effort put into the new TX/RX and developments for Cairncross, to Peter VK2TPC and to Bill VK2WST for their help with the installation and adjustment of the equipment.

On behalf of the Repeater Committee, I wish you all a very happy 1995.  
de Bill, VK2ZCV.

**ALL OTHER REPORTS WILL BE TABLED AT THE A.G.M.**