



OXTALES

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

June 1998

Compiled by VK2TT

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President's Report

Well what a great Field Day. The sun was shining and the birds were chirping.

I did not detect any major problems but if you did, then let me know so I can pass them onto Jason (VK2FT) so that he can fix them up for 1999.

I was pleased to see the major raffle prizes go to locals this year as it saves on postage.

I think the system of section leaders worked well with the possible expansion of the kitchen section which will need to be addressed next year. One separate food getter could be the go to lessen the load on the leader.

We gained some new members and also some distant members on the day, which is pleasing. Arthur (VK2ATM), the MC on the day, announced it and there was a rush to see John (VK2VY) to pay up.

A de-briefing will be held at the July meeting so that you can air your thoughts on any problem areas or ideas on how the event can be improved.

On the money side of it, we did reasonably

well but we did tend to spend some club money on a new HF radio and power supply but we were given a brand new two meter hand-held, thanks to the Amateur Transceiver Radio Centre for both items, so we ended up not to bad.

I must inform you all that the financial year is almost upon us and that means that it is now time to renew your club membership for the 1998-1999 year. You can either post it or pay at the July meeting or before the A.G.M. You must be financial to vote at meetings.

I have enclosed two notices of motion which will be tabled at the A.G.M. Give them some thought and please vote accordingly.

At the A.G.M., I hope that you will all consider taking on a position, be it large or small and not just sit and leave it up to others to do it all. It's your club so support it and do something okay. 73 De Bruce (VK2HOT)

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DOWN THE COAX

SATURDAY 4TH JULY
GENERAL MEETING-SES BUILDING
GORDON ST PORT MACQUARIE
1 PM START

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST
A.G.M. FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL
MEETING AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE.
SAME LOCATION-SAME TIME.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You invest every year in equipment, antennas and other Amateur Radio accessories. You probably insure your gear because it's valuable and expensive to replace. But do you insure your Amateur frequencies? The only path and voice we have is the Wireless Institute of Australia. Do you support them and are you a member?

If you would like information on the WIA and would like to join, please contact David VK2AYD who would be delighted to provide you with a complete Members Kit of information. During the next few months the WIA is offering a chance for all new members to take part in a draw for a new Icom IC-706.

de VK2AYD

Shesezhesez!

She says	She means
Yes	No
No	Yes
I'm sorry	You'll be sorry
It's your decision	The correct decision should be obvious by now.
Do what you want	You'll pay for this later
We need to talk	I need to complain
Sure....go ahead	I don't want you to
I'm not upset	Of course I'm upset

This kitchen is so inconvenient
You have to learn to communicate
Are you listening to me?

I want a new home
Just agree with me
You'll pay for ignoring me.

He says
I'm hungry
I'm sleepy
What's wrong?

He means
I'm hungry
I'm sleepy
I don't see why you have to make such a big deal out of this. What meaningless self-inflicted psychological trauma are you going through now?

What's the matter?

What's the matter?

Look how concerned I'm acting. Now can I watch football while you whinge on?

Uh-huh, uh-huh

Will you please stop talking. I'm watching the telly.

Let's talk

I'm sorry to impress you with just how sensitive I am.

I like that one better

Pick any dress and let's go.

THE FUTURE

In the April edition of QST, two advertisements caught my eye that indicated things to come in Amateur Radio.

KENWOOD were showing their new VC-H1 hand-held Visual Communicator. Yes, portable SSTV is here! this hand-held unit combines an image-scan converter, CCD camera and LCD monitor. All you have to do is hook it into your hand-held Transceiver and you can take pictures, send them and receive them.

YAESU were showing their new VX-1R ultra-compact Dual Band Hand-Held that was not much bigger than a match box. The receiver

covers 76-999MHz and the transmitter 144-148/430-450MHz

ICOM had their competitor to the WIN-Radio on show. A WIN-radio is a board you plug into your computer and it turns into a full HF receiver. The ICOM IC-PCR1000 is an external unit that monitors 500kHz to 1300MHz in all modes AM/FM/SSB/CW.

de David (VK2AYD)

THAT CODE AGAIN

Back in 1997 the ARRL did a survey to find out just how many stations use CW. The results were FM 78%, SSB 74% and CW 46%.

(They should have done the survey in the Hastings district).

Bearing in mind that in the U.S. there are four classes of licence that were used for the survey, it was interesting to see that in the "Extra" class licence the response was 78%.

For those of you into VHF/UHF you may be interested to know that Meteor Scatter is becoming very popular in the U.S.. For this they use high-speed CW which is computer generated and with speeds up to 1600wpm - that's wpm not characters! SSB by the way, is rated at 200wpm.

Software for HSCW and Meteor communications is available from quite a few sites on the Internet. I have a list if anyone is interested.

de VK2AYD.

STS-95

This is planned to take-off in a few months time and hopefully it will carry the SAREX payload.

Most of the shuttle's work is involved in construction of the international Space Station

(ISS).

Amongst the crew scheduled for this flight will be Senator John Glenn, (who is 77 years of age), Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY and Pedro Duque, KC5RGG from the European Space Agency. It was interesting to read that Parazynski who is a medical doctor was scheduled for MIR, but had to be reassigned after it was determined he was too tall to fit the Russian space suits worn aboard the SOYAZ. (per QST 4/98)

de VK2AYD

HORSE ENDURANCE RIDE

Richard Court has rejoined the club. He is looking for volunteers to take part in a Horse Endurance Ride on August 9. It will be at Taree. Fuel will be paid for and the club will get a donation - **if we can get volunteers.**

Call Richard VK2CHC on 6586.1007

CONFERENCE OF CLUBS

Delegates from 18 NSW WIA Affiliated Clubs attended the Conference of Clubs at the NSW headquarters at Parramatta on June 13. Our Representative was David, VK2AYD.

The following is a synopsis of some of the subjects discussed.

1. A proposal was put forward that the QSL Bureau bulk mail QSL cards to the Club for WIA members. This is at the discretion of the Club.
2. It was proposed the two metre repeater spacing be changed from 25KHz to 10KHz steps. This would triple the number of repeaters possible.

3. There were complaints that the NTAC were slow to respond to frequency commitments and that the WIA executive should investigate this immediately.

4. There was talk of possible loss of the 70cm band, especially during the Olympics when UHF frequencies were at a premium. The ACA Representative present said to his knowledge there was no truth in this. It is a case of USE IT OR LOSE IT.

5. The resale of AR equipment to non-RA's was discussed and concluded there was no law to prevent it until it was put into use by a non-licensed person.

6. A.T.R. Centre, in association with Icom, presented the WIA NSW Div with an IC-706 as a future gift to an new member.

7. The WIA discussed the various kits for new members, Novices and AR promotion, available on request.

8. Daryl Smith, VK2TDS gave an excellent talk and demonstration on APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) and how RA equipment was used in the 1996 Olympic Games for Outside Mobile Broadcasting. It is hoped to possibly offer a similar system to the Olympic Committee here.

9. The WIA is very keen to hear from RA's and Clubs that can offer any assistance for the Olympic Games in 2000.

10. A Representative of the ACA was present and was well badgered with many questions concerning reciprocal licences, special call signs, etc. He promised to persue these further.

The next meeting of the Conference of Clubs

will be on Nov 14 and it is recommended that the ORARC has a delegate present. de VK2AYD.

Answers for Last Month's Puzzle.

There was no great rash of feedback on last month's Word Puzzle. However, keen members may be still "puzzling" over it all! If such is the case, then here is some relief... below are the words so cleverly disguised (by our local Robin Hood) within the maze. How did YOU fare ?

AERIAL, AMATEUR, AUTOGRAPHER, CHEERS, CLERGYMAN, COIL, COPIES, DAILY, ENJOY, GALE, HEAT, LEEP, LICENCE, MILITARY, MODEM, MORSE, OPERATOR, ORIGINS, PATROL, SCORES, TARZAN, TELEGRAPHIST, TRIODES, TYPE, WYONG.

Field Day Report.

FOX HUNTS

Fox Hunt Champion: Jeff, VK2BYY.
The Runner Up: Tony VK2WY
Best Presented Vehicle: VK2WBK

MAJOR RAFFLE

First Prize \$100 Open Order:
John Mclean VK2KCE.
Second prize Silicon Chip 1 Year :
"Snow" Hodder VK2DV.
Third prize Cordless Drill: Jim Daniel.
(All club members, of Port Macquarie)

Men's Lucky Door Prize:

Tom VK2DE

Ladies' Lucky Door Prize:

XYL of VK2GJ

Ladies' Raffle:

Karin (XYL of VK2VY)

The Human Interest and eating side of things went off well.

Our President has already reported the music of the songs birds that filled the bright sunny day of Sunday 7th June, and it was indeed just that sort of a day. He did omit to say that there was a whistling accompaniment to the bird music in the form of wind that almost brought disaster to the efforts of the hardy members of the catering crew who were trying to "barbecue" the meat.

The wind, although not gale force, played havoc with ignition, flame continuity, and hotplate temperature on our trusty barbecue. Early in the cooking exercise, hot-plate temperature (very low on the celsius scale, though it was!) was largely due to the copious numbers of sheets of Port Macquarie News, Hastings Herald, and "Cleo" magazines that were necessarily lit to try and maintain gas combustion which was continually being extinguished by the stiff westerly.

Had it not been for the ingenuity of David (VK2HBC), and his subsequent stroke of luck in finding enough scrap timber panelling and an odd door or two, with which he fashioned an effective wind-break, we would have been serving a rather poorly cooked, luke-warm, braised-steak-snorkers and flacid onions luncheon. Our committee should consider a special distinction for David, conferring upon him some accolade that gives clear and lasting recognition of his superb efforts in Wind-breaking, above and beyond the call of duty.

Allan (VK2MAI), John (VK2JJ), David (VK2HBC), Charles (VK2FSH), and Neil (VK2EI) labouring under the most hazardous barbecuing conditions conceivable, did a supreme job in bringing the steaks, sausages, and onions through (on time too!) to a highly satisfactory standard for the hard working Kitchen Crew to serve to the salivating masses.

Only one complaint was registered, regarding tough steak, while many unsolicited comments were received regarding the excel-

lence of the steak. Maybe the one complainant was really unlucky and got a "crookie", or perhaps was accustomed to steaks of a superior quality than is obtainable in the Hastings Valley, or.... maybe, just lodged a "token whinge"? We shall never know.

The ladies who made up the Kitchen Crew comprised (in no special order, because they were all special!) Aileen (XYL of VK2HBC), Verena (XYL of VK2EI), Dawn (XYL of VK2MAI), Phyllis (XYL of VK2TT), and Ruth (XYL of VK2ZCV). Valuable assistance was received from Gwen (XYL of VK2HOT) in the preparation and provision of the Coleslaw to compliment the luncheon. The kitchen crew, working to a roster, looked after food preparation and serving throughout the Saturday Sausage Sizzle and the Sunday luncheon, and (assisted by their OM's) ensured the progressive and final cleaning-up in the catering area. The success of the catering effort was due primarily to the assistance that the club received from these ladies, and sincere thanks and appreciation go to each of them from the President, Office Bearers, and the membership at large.

Special thanks go to Wendy (XYL of VK2ATM) for her continuing behind-the-scenes efforts in prize acquisition and preparation.

Then there were the heros, some seen and others behind the scenes, who participated in the overall organisation of the event and the execution of the Fox Hunts, which were carried out in somewhat blustery conditions. This group comprised:-

Co-Ordinator: Bruce (VK2HOT)

Assistant co-ordinator: Jason (VK2FT) who was involved in most areas. **M.C.:** Arthur (VK2ATM). **Radio Room:** Paul (VK2UPR) & Colin (VK2AF). **Hall Team:** John (VK2VY) & Jason (VK2FT) plus all the members and non-members who assisted. **Fox Hunts:** Bill (VK2ZCV), Henry (VK2ZHE), &

Larry (VK2CLL). **Registrations:** David (VK2DAL), David (VK2AYD), Keith (VK2KDL), "Snow" (VK2DV), & John (VK2KHB). **Raffle Sales:** John (VK2VY), and **Money Collectors :** Kevin (VK2MAM) & Roy (VK2YOR).

There were many who helped in various ways, and it is hoped we have not omitted to mention any deserving person who helped to make the event the success that it was.

It was pleasing to see everyone chip in at the end with the clean-up. Many hand made light work and we were out of the hall well ahead of the deadline.

TEA

(John [VK2JJ] has recently returned from a visit to India. He has contributed the following interesting item about the source material of the ubiquitous "cuppa")

Most keen gardeners who struggle from one cup of tea to the next, know that this popular drink is made from the leaves of a *Camellia*.

Camellia sinensis: Native of China, and cultivated there for centuries. Possibly also native in the East Himalaya; extensively cultivated in Assam and Darjeeling since the nineteenth century.

When plucked in tea gardens, a low bush to 1.5m or less. If allowed to grow, an erect shrub to 5m or more, with solitary white flowers 25mm to 40mm across. I noticed in March (Spring) that some areas in Darjeeling had been drastically cut back to less than a foot high. While in other areas the tea was being picked (ops! plucked).

Tea gardens are grown on slopes up to an altitude of 2300m (6900 ft.). Tea is, of course, Darjeeling's most famous export. From its 78 gardens, employing over 40,000 people, it produces the bulk of West Bengal's crop, which is

almost a quarter of India's total. Tea pickers are paid about Rs.25 per day (\$ 1 Aust).

The tea from some of these estates is of very high quality. The world record for the highest price paid for tea is held by some fine leaves from Darjeeling, for which a Japanese bidder paid US\$220 per kg!

Although the area has the right climatic conditions for producing fine tea bushes, the final result is dependent on a complex drying process. After picking, the fresh green leaves are placed about 150mm (6in.) deep in a withering trough where the moisture content is reduced from 70% down to about 30% using high velocity fans. Then the withered leaves are rolled and pressed to break the cell walls and express their juices onto the surface of the leaves. The leaves, coated with their juices, are then allowed to ferment on racks in a high humidity room, a process which develops their aroma and flavour. This fermentation is critical as over or under-fermentation will ruin the tea. During this process the colour changes from green to brown.

The fermentation is stopped by passing the leaves through a drying chamber at 115deg C to 120deg C reducing the moisture content to about 2% - 3%. The tea is then graded, the best being: Golden Flowery Orange Pekoe, Golden Broken Orange Pekoe, Orange Fannings and Dust. The operator told me the lowest grade "is used for tea-bags."

The tea plantations were one of the first agricultural enterprises to use clonal plants in their replanting schemes, though

most of the tea plants are over 100 years old and nearing the end of their productive life. I have noticed over the last six years the number of contour banks on the steep slopes with new plantings.

Cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*): Is another interesting cash crop grown on steep rain-forest slopes between Darjeeling and Sikkim - but more later -

John (VK2JJ).

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS.

On behalf of the office bearers and members of the ORARC, The President extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Full Member Jim (VK2BZD), **Distant Members:** Stan Ellis (VK2DDL), Graeme (VK2GJ), Darryl (VK2MZ), Barry (VK2BAZ), Brian (VK2WBK).

A similar warm welcome is extended to the following previous members who have returned to the ORARC membership:

Full Members: Bruce (VK2MAZ), Jim (VK2CJM), and Richard (VK2CHC).

STOP PRESS

Interim figures provided by our Treasurer indicate that our Field Day Weekend will nett close to \$900 for the club funds.

MEMBER RESIGNATION.

It is with regret that we learned of the resignation of Bill (VK2WST) from the membership of the ORARC. Bill has been a supportive, active, member of the club over the years, participating in community events on behalf of the ORARC, and providing field-day demonstrations of digital modes and Amateur TV. It is hoped that

Bill will one day soon see his way clear to rejoin our ranks. In the meantime, Thank you Bill for your past participation.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

With this issue of "OXTALES" comes the Hon. Secretary's notification of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, set for **Saturday August 1st, 1998 at 1.00pm.**

The notification also carries, on its reverse side, the the agenda for that meeting, together with two Notices of Motion upon we will be required to vote.

Please make sure that you are entitled to vote at the AGM by ensuring that

you

are financial on the day. Our new financial year begins on 1st July 1998 and annual membership subscriptions are due on that day.

Our Treasurer is only too happy to receive subscriptions for the coming year prior to the current year's closure.

Support you local club, and please get the subs in

early.

WANTED: Tilt over Tower. 40 Ft Approx. Contact JASON (VK2FT) Telephone: 02 6585.0426



OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

22nd June, 1998

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.	
1	F	PETER	ALLAN	VK2GLJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9150
2	F	JOHN (FLORENCE)	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
3	F	COLIN (JAN)	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3803
4	F	BOB	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5	F	MARK	BRENTON	VK2XFK	COLLOMBATTI	015 401508
6	F	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EIK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
7	F	ROY W	BURGESS	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
8	F	DEANNA	CAMERON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
9	F	BRUCE	CLARK	VK2MAZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5245
10	F	KEVIN (JUNE)	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
11	F	RICHARD (LINDA)	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2379
12	F	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9922
13	F	JIM	DANIELS	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
14	F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
15	D	STAN	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	-
16	F	PETER (CAROLINE [VK2CFJ])	FLETCHER	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02
17	F	BADEN (VALERY)	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
18	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
19	F	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.4684
20	F	SAM	GRIFFITHS	VK2LSG	TAREE	02 6552.3149
21	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
22	D	BARRY	HARWOOD	VK2BAZ	GUNNEDAH	-
23	L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5449
24	F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
25	F	DON	JONES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5084
26	F	JOHN (THEA)	JONES	VK2IJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.4522
27	D	BRIAN	KELLY	VK2WBK	TAMWORTH	02 6776.2004
28	F	GARY	LEEDS	VK2NOV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.3978
29	F	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1206
30	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLI	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
31	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 65 -
32	F	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
33	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2MAI	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
34	F	JASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0426
35	F	JOHN (KARIN)	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0020
36	F	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.6157
37	F	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CIM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5696
38	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
39	F	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
40	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
41	F	LAURIE (ROBIN)	NEWHAM	VK2ELH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.3981
42	F	ALLAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
43	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
44	F	PAUL (BARBARA)	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1830
45	F	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
46	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
47	F	BILL (RUTH)	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
48	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
49	D	DARYL	ST. JOHN	VK2MZ	FORSTER	-
50	F	BILL (TONI)	STOFMEEL	VK2WST	BONNY HILLS	02 6584.8104
51	F	DAVID (ALEEN)	TARRANT	VK2HBC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.6381
52	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
53	D	GRAEME	VIRTUE	VK2GJ	BRUNSWICK HEADS	-
54	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
55	F	PAUL (CAROL)	WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3377
56	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZI	PORT MACQUARIE	-
57	F	RONALD W	WYLES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1085

F = Full Member D = Distant Member L = Life Member

