



OXTALES

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

December 1998

Compiled by VK2TT

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President's Report

Ho! Ho! Ho! Jingle Bells

&

Associated verses.

Well 1998 is just about over and I hope everybody had a great year. From the Clubs point of view, it has had its ups and downs. We had a great Field Day, John Moyle Day and a few social outings. The downs were JOTA and a lack of assistance from members assisting with getting RPM back on line and the RCN system up and running. The systems on the mountains need to be maintained and improved and it should not be the same few who have to do all the work so fellas chip in if a working bee is planned and do your bit.

The Christmas BBQ went well with a good Club rollup. I must thank John and Thea Jones for opening up their home and grounds for us to use.

It was pay back time for one member but he took it in his stirring stride.

Lets hope that a local can win the plaque next year for the CW contest. Those Full Calls that can send and receive at more than 2 words per minute should have a go. Maybe XU could do it.

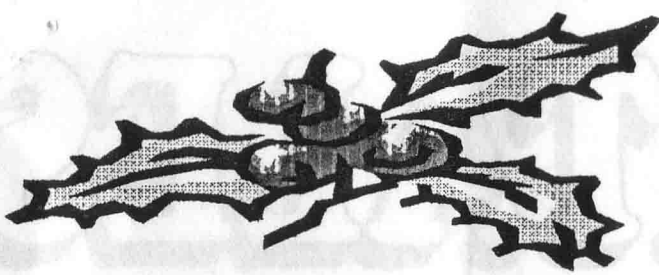
The Gosford Field Day will be on in February so we will look at a car pool system or would you like me to book the bus we used last year?

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and I hope 1999 works out to your liking.

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

In This Issue :

Item.	Page No.
President's Report	1
Down The Coax	2
12 Ways To Kill Your Club	2
Repeater Committee Report	2
Contests	3
Amateur Radio Licence Stats.	4
WIA Membership Falling	5
An Interesting Viewpoint?	5
ORARC's Xmas BBQ	6
CW is Alive & Well	6
Millennium Bugs in TNCS!!	7
UFO Interest Continues	7
Membership List	8



DOWN THE COAX

JANUARY
NO MEETING
(COMMITTEE MEETING ONLY)

FEBRUARY
SAT 6TH 1PM SES BUILDING
(followed by a snag sizzle)

GOSFORD FIELD DAY
Date still to be set

MARCH
SAT 6TH 1PM SES BUILDING.

12 WAYS TO KILL YOUR CLUB

- * Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
- * Be sure to leave early before the meeting is over.
- * Say nothing at meetings. Wait till you get outside.
- * Vote to do everything, then go and do nothing.
- * The next day find fault with your fellow members.
- * Take no part in the organisation's affairs.
- * Sit at the back and talk to others. Nobody will notice.
- * Take all the Club offers. Give nothing in return.
- * When you are asked to help, say you haven't the time.
- * If put on a committee, let the Chairman do it all.
- * Threaten to resign at every single opportunity.

Repeater Committee Report December, 1998

Middle Bro. 2 metre voice repeater.

Working satisfactorily

Middle Bro. VHF digipeater working OK
now after retuning of the receiver and trans-

mitter.

Middle Bro. Digital UHF link into backbone. Repairs have been effected on this equipment and it is almost ready for re installation at Middle Brother.

Middle Brother Equipment cabinet. Repairs have been carried out and cabinet should be OK for a period provided regular attention is given to rust and corrosion

My thanks go to VK's 2TT, 2ATM, 2VY, 2AYD & Will Jamieson. for their efforts at the middle Brother site.

Telegraph Point. More work has to be done on the cavity filters for the 2 m voice repeater before it can be put into service. Part of this work is to be carried out in the coming week. A lot of work has already been carried out on this project and I would like to express my thanks to VK's 2ATM, 2ZCV, 2TT, 2AYD, 2VY, 2HOT for their efforts. Special mention should be made of the work being put in on this project by BOB, VK2XIQ whose place is adorned with ORARC repeater parts, and without whose efforts the project would not be at the stage of readiness it is.

Depending on how the tuning of the cavities progresses, I would hope to have this repeater working within the next month or so.

Any one who considers that they have expertise in the area of remote site equipment, mainly repeaters, please let me know.

David Smith (VK2DAL)

Contests.

VK2AYD was once again polluting the bands during the CQ WW CW Contest last month. It was a 48 hour, All-band HF contest.

He only took part for 26.5 hours (even had time for a night out with DAL and FSH - including XYL's.)

His total score was:

Band	QSO's	Zone	Country
80	53	14	21
40	162	18	28
20	277	25	52
15	506	26	57
10	686	22	44
	<u>1684</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>202</u>

(Giving a total score of 1,497,853 points)

Yes, 686 QSO's on 10 Metres - in 10 Hours. Overall average was 63.5 QSO's per hour. What could be done in 48 hours?? David would like a second Op. to try for No.1 place. Any takers? The Next big one is in February

Meanwhile others, in Poland, have had humble success, with modest equipment in the same contest as David. It is worth comparing the two different efforts (different reporting format, but the plot is the same). The following was reported on World Wide Packet via the BBS service:

CQ WORLD WIDE DX CONTEST – 1998

de Kuba SP3JUN @ SR3BGO.GO.POL.EU

Call: SP3JUN

Country: Poland

Mode: CW

Category: Single Operator LP

BAND	QSO	QSO PTS	PTS/QSO	ZONES	COUNTRIES
160	0	0	0.00	0	0
80	158	195	1.23	8	40
40	238	398	1.67	13	57
20	212	355	1.67	21	55
15	65	147	2.26	10	23
10	0	0	0.00	0	0
<hr/>					
Totals	673	1095	1.63	52	175

=> 248,565

All reports sent were 59(9), unless otherwise noted.

Equipment Description: Home-made trx 20 W PEP, ant inverted vee, delta loop

Club Affiliation: SPDX-CLUB- points are given to SPDX-CLUB and SPCW-CLUB

Comments: Thank you all for QSO with me. See you next time! 73.

Amateur Radio Statistics.

ZL2CA, Bob, has obviously been doing a little research on the growth/decay of Amateur Radio licence numbers within VK and ZL land. Bob has posted the following interesting statistics on the packet BBS.

VK AMATEUR LICENCE STATISTICS

(Statistics on VK amateur radio licences were supplied by the
ACA, Canberra.) Table 2 has been updated for October and November.

Table 1. Yearly statistics

Licence Type	June 1995	June 1996	June 1997	June 1998	June 97 to June 98 changes to totals
Unrestricted	10603	9678	9711	9481	-230 or -2.4%
Intermediate	1546	1402	1369	1345	-24 or -1.8%
Limited	3361	2943	2876	2776	-100 or -3.5%
Novice	2471	2128	2052	1931	-121 or -5.9%
Novice Limited	73	204	253	288	+35 or +13.8%
Total	18054	16355	16261	15821	-440 or -2.7%
Percent change		-9.4%	-0.6%	-2.7%	

Table 2. Statistics over the last 8 months

Lic. Type	Apr 1998	May 1998	Jun 1998	Jul 1998	Sep 1998	Oct 1998	Nov 1998
Unrestr'd	9533	9498	9481	9466	9432	9389	9355
Intermed.	1362	1296	1345	1346	1336	1326	1326
Limited	2802	2790	2776	2776	2757	2738	2725
Novice	1963	1945	1931	1937	1920	1903	1892
Nov. Ltd	281	290	288	285	283	281	279
Total	15941	15819	15821	15810	15628	15637	15577

ZL2CA Comments: The decline in total is -1.5% over the last 6 months. Last year the decline over 12 months was -2.7%. This hints at compounding rate of decline, consistent with attrition where the average age is high and increasing.

New Zealand Amateur Radio Licence Numbers (from Ministry of Commerce Records)

Lic. Cat.	Apr98	May98	Jun98	Jul98	Aug98	Sep98	Oct98	Nov98
General	3678	3671	3663	3660	3651	3647	3638	3633
Lim+Nov	68	68	69	68	67	67	65	64
Limited	2057	2040	2017	2000	1991	1990	1977	1957
Novice	29	29	29	30	29	29	30	30
Total	5832	5808	5778	5758	5738	5733	5710	5684

ZL2CA COMMENTS:

More of the slow but steady decline in licence numbers.

WIA MEMBERSHIP FALLING.

The Editor's Comment appearing in the November 1998 issue of the journal of the WIA, Amateur Radio, indicates a serious fall in membership of our national institution.

Further, the comment raised the question as to whether or not the institution can afford to continue to produce the monthly journal. Surely a great shame if it comes to pass that Amateur Radio magazine disappears, after over 60 years of being alive and well.

A fall of 50% in membership, over a period of just 10 years, cannot go unnoticed, and certainly could be perceived as making a clear statement that there must be an underlying, and unidentified, problem within the culture of our hobby, and/or within the Institute itself.

It has already been expressed in published correspondence to the A.R. Editor by Max (VK3GGM), and it must be painfully obvious to most of us, that having only 25% of the total fraternity of approximately 16,000 doing the supporting, needs some serious thought. Serious thought that might, hopefully, bring about a review of attitudes amongst those of us who have "dropped out" (for whatever reason) should not be too much to anticipate.

Max included a suggestion in his letter to A.R., whereby our annual licence fee include automatic membership of the Institute. He has put substance behind his pen with the following:

"If the WIA could negotiate a deal with the ACA whereby WIA would be responsible for the collection of Licence Fees

and the issue of call signs, etc., the matter of membership would be resolved."

Whilst acknowledging that the above proposal may not appeal to ALL (and it certainly does NOT appeal to me), Max has at least given a pointer to a possible positive approach. There must surely be other approaches that may involve nothing more than an individual rethink about the desirability of collective support for a national body that represents our hobby, interests, and rights both nationally and internationally. Such a body, without sufficient financial resources to produce a regular journal to keep membership abreast of "the politics" at home and abroad, must surely be a body of questionable worth. If the magazine "gets dumped", how effective will WIA be without it, and what is the prognosis for WIA's survival thereafter?

How do members of the O.R.A.R.C. feel about the situation, and Max's suggestion? Or perhaps some other suggestions for action?

- Trevor (VK2TT)

An Interesting Viewpoint?

The following is a reprint of an item that appeared in the Monthly Magazine of the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club, December 1998. It is attributed to VK2XMS.

Morse, Latin and Hand Signals.

How much longer are we to endure the farce of having to learn Morse code to be able to operate on H.F.?

The main argument heard these days for keeping Morse as a requirement for H.F. is on the lines, "One day you may be

marooned on a desert island and you might only have a razor blade, a battery and two pieces of wire. If you can send CW you will be saved." Really!

Many years ago, we had to give hand signals when driving - those new-fangled blinkers might fail and then where would we be if we couldn't send hand signals?

Who can remember having to [learn] Latin at school, what on earth was that all about? Thankfully hand signals and Latin are gone - only the Morse remains.

What needs to be done now is a form of "Civil Disobedience". If all the non-full call amateurs said to hell with the rules and just fired up on 20 and 40 metres the Morse debate would finish overnight.

The funny thing is, the ACA wouldn't care - only a few old fuddy-duddy old timers in the WLA!

[Hmmm! Ed]

ORARC's Christmas BBQ

Sunday 13th December saw a fine gathering of members with their partners (37 in all) converge on the QTH of John (VK2JJ) at Lake Cathie.

In superb surroundings on the shady lawns of John and Thea's garden, the group settled to enjoy some chit-chat, a barbecue, and a modicum of Christmas cheer.

The weather was very kind, turning on a pleasant summer day (not too hot) tempered by a nice breeze. The barbecue operatives had varying views on the attempts by the breeze to extinguish the gas flames. At one stage it was seriously considered that David (VK2HBC), unfortunately absent, recuperating from a stint of hospitalisation, might have to be summoned to

erect his most effective wind-shields (beautifully demonstrated at the '98 Field Day barbecue). Fortunately, some judicious relocation of the barbie overcame the problem, and allowed Bill (VK2ZCV), to proceed with some expert "sizzling of the sausages" with which he fed and satisfied the multitudes.

Special thanks is due to John & Thea for making their QTH available. Big thanks also to Bill for his culinary efforts, and to Charles (VK2FSH) for his efforts in organising the event and the acquisition of the "consumables" (liquid & solid).

Gwen (XYL of Bruce - VK2HOT), although unable to attend, supplied and prepared the cole-slaw which complemented the fare. Thank you, Gwen!

In summary, it was a "terrific" day and the attendance was particularly pleasing, exceeding that of quite a few similar gatherings in past years.

CW is Alive & Well

The below is a copy of portion of a bulletin posted our local packet BBS. It is the English section of a multi-lingual notice sent world-wide from IISCL in Bordighera, Italy.

Some local aspirants to full-call Morse qualifications may find it of interest, and if they have a decent antenna for 80 MX (perhaps forget about the 2 Metre offering!) there is always the possibility of "enrolling" in this class. It would have the added advantage of allowing an opportunity to gain some DX operational expertise. Give it a go, you Novices and Limiteds.

TELEGRAPHY COURSE BY RADIO
3.546 / 3.548 MHz. 145.575 MHz.

DEAR FRIENDS,
WE ARE GOING TO START OUR
TELEGRAPHY COURSE BY RADIO ON
SHORT WAVES THIS YEAR TOO.

THERE WILL BE LESSONS ON
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRI-
DAY, WHEREAS ON TUESDAY
THERE WILL BE A TEST FOR THE
PUPILS. LESSONS WILL BE PUB-
LISHED MONTHLY ON "RADIO RIV-
ISTA".

TRANSMISSION AND TUNING TESTS
AT LOW POWER WILL START ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, WHEREAS
THE COURSE WILL BEGIN ON TUES-
DAY NOVEMBER 3RD 1998 AND WILL
END ON TUESDAY JUNE 29TH 1999.

TIME:

21,30 TO 23,30

FREQUENCY:

SHORT WAVES 3.546 / 3548 MHz.

145.575 MHz.

THANKS FOR EXTENDING OUR INI-
TIATIVE.

WE'LL BE GLAD TO RETURN YOUR
QSL.

Millennium Bugs in TNC's!!!

Apparently a British Amateur, G4IJL, has "Bulletin boarded" some comments in relation to TNC's, specifically directed at Kantronics TNC's and their system clocks when the year 2000 arrives. I have seen only passing references to G4IJL's comments but with no specific details of the facts that prompted his comments. It is assumed that he could be referring to something akin to the well-publicised, well-exposed, well-beat-up, and often grossly exaggerated Millennium Bug and its possible implications.

Members of the ORARC's packet fraternity, will be pleased to know that the TINY-

2's we obtained from AAPRA handle the date change without showing any signs of distress. They have been given a practical test, (a dummy run so to speak) and they seem to have been elated by the opportunity to tick over from December 31st 1999 to January 1st 2000, without being nudged, cajoled, or pressured.

Are our Kantronics users aware of any incipient problem that may manifest itself on "M" day?

- Trevor (VK2TT)

UFO Interest Continues

N3ZWW summarises a poll taken recently in the USA relating to people's perceptions of UFO's and told the world via the packet network.

The poll results were:

- 87% of Americans have read or heard about UFOs
- 12% have seen something they thought was a UFO.
- 45% think UFOs have visited Earth in some form.
- 48% believe UFOs are 'something real'.
- 31% believe they are just people's imagination
- 72% believe there is life of some form on other planets in the universe.
- 38% think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe.
- 71% believe the US government knows more about UFOs that it is letting on.



OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

As at 12th December, 1998

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.	
1	F	JOHN (FLORENCE)	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	F	JOHN	BAYLIS	VK2JB	PORT MACQUARIE	
3	F	COLIN (JAN)	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3803
4	F	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0692
5	F	ROY W	BURGESS	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
6	F	PETER (COLLEEN)	BURLS		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5161
7	F	BRUCE	CLARK	VK2MAZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5245
8	F	KEVIN (JUNE)	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
9	F	RICHARD (LINDA)	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2379
10	F	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9922
11	F	JIM	DANIELS	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
12	F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
13	D	STAN	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	
14	F	BADEN (VALERY)	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
15	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
16	F	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.4684
17	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
18	D	BARRY	HARWOOD	VK2BAZ	GUNNEDAH	
19	L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5449
20	F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
21	F	WILL (CAROL)	JAMIESON	-	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
22	F	DON	JONES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5084
23	F	JOHN (THEA)	JONES	VK2JJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.4522
24	D	BRIAN	KELLY	VK2WBK	TAMWORTH	02 6776.2004
25	F	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	026582.5991
26	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
27	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	-
28	F	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
29	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2MAJ	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
30	F	JASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0426
31	F	JOHN (KARIN)	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0020
32	F	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.6157
33	F	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5696
34	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
35	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
36	F	ALLAN	MUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
37	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
38	F	PAUL (BARBARA)	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1830
39	F	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1778
40	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
41	F	BILL (RUTH)	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
42	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
43	D	DARYL	ST. JOHN	VK2MZ	FORSTER	
44	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2HBC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.6381
45	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
46	D	GRAEME	VIRTUE	VK2GJ	BRUNSWICK HEADS	
47	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
48	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	-
49	F	RONALD W	WYLES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9742

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

