



OXTALES

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

April 1999

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583.8360
 VICE. PRES: David Tarrant VK2HBC 6585.6381
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 SECRETARY: David Pilley VK2AYD 6585.2647

President's Report

Hi all,

The Club's big event is getting closer. The Field Day that is. We had a meeting of Team Leaders on the 25th of last month to sort out the event so that it will run as smoothly as it did last year. As I said in the last Oxtales, it is a full club membership effort so come along and do your bit.

I was away at the last meeting so I must thank VK2FSH for supplying a venue for the meeting at very short notice.

Work on the systems at VK2RPM have now been completed thanks to VK2TT-Trevor and his merry band of helpers. We now only need to get VK2RCN up and operational and all will be complete. I must say a big thank you to all the members that have assisted in both these projects.

I still have not had anybody telephone me to offer their services as President, Secretary or Treasurer for the 1999/2000 club year. Most of you would realise that if these positions are not filled, then the club fails to continue. The same applies to the position of Field Day Co-ordinator as this event also keeps the clubs finances up so that the club can operate prop-

erly. This is my last year as President and also that of the Field Day co-ordinator so think about it and give me a call.

Cheers VK2HOT-Bruce President

Field Day Raffle Tickets.

Club members will receive with this (late!) issue of OXTALES, a booklet of 5 tickets for our Field Day Weekend Major Raffle. Each ticket is priced at \$2 and they are intended for members to either sell to interested parties, or self purchase. If you are not attending the Field Day event, please ensure that any sold ticket butts, and money, are returned by mail, or hand, to the Treasurer no later than Thursday 10th June. If you are attending, then the sold ticket butts and cash should be in the Treasurer's hands well prior to drawing time. (See also the enclosed programme.)

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DOWN THE COAX

6TH JUNE

**GENERAL MEETING 1.00PM SES BUILDING.
PLUS FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR
THE FIELD DAY.**

12TH-13TH JUNE

FIELD DAY AT THE SEA SCOUT HALL.

3RD JULY

GENERAL MEETING.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW PAYABLE.

7TH AUGUST

**ANNUAL GENERAL
AND GENERAL MEETING**

PLUS

A SAUSAGE SIZZLE.

MUST BE FINANCIAL TO VOTE.

Internet Trivia.

Kids in the 5th Grade at Millcove School, Canada decided, as a project, to see how far and where around planet earth, an e-mail message would travel. The object was to plot the locations on a map.

Shock! Horror!.... within a few days they received 7,000 messages which shut their system down. Pyramid letter writing can be dangerous to your IP!
- David (VK2AYD)

Restoration of VK2RPM ROSE Switch

On Monday, 26th April, the VK2RPM ROSE Packet Switch was restored, after a period of over 12 months in the process of "getting it all together" again. Packet users will recall that prior to its demise, over twelve months ago, the ROSE Switch on Middle Brother became quite unreliable, and eventually failed. It was deemed appropriate to rebuild the switch with updated TNC's and the latest ROSE operating system.

Valuable assistance was received from APPRA who provided us with the necessary two TINY-2 TNC's under their generous arrangements with clubs.

The installation is using the two transceivers from the previous system, but they have been re-aligned

by VK2ATM and are working satisfactorily. Unfortunately, the lengthy period during which VK2RPM ROSE Switch was not functioning, caused other groups at Taree, Coffs Harbour, and Lismore to make alternative arrangements to carry packet traffic. It is hoped that with the return of VK2RPM these groups will reconfigure to take advantage of our facility. The Great Lakes ARC has already set up a NODE to interwork with us, but some abnormality exists in the backbone link between Middle Brother and Cabbage Tree which is being investigated. The path on the backbone link northwards is working satisfactorily, but because of routing arrangements that were introduced at Coffs as a result of RPM's down period, there are currently some limitations on the destinations to which traffic can be switched.

For interested users, and potential users, particulars of the restored VK2RPM ROSE Switch are as follows:

VHF User Port Frequency : 144.875 MHz

UHF Backbone Port Frequency : 440.050 MHz.

Data rate : 1200 bps on both above Ports

ROSE Address for User Port : 658300

ROSE Address for Backbone Port : 658302

Digipeater Call Sign on 144.875 : VK2RPM-1

(This is a 1:1 only digipeater i.e. it will only function as digipeater between two stations and cannot be part of a chain of digipeaters)

The installation consists of two PacComm TINY-2 TNC's connected back-to-back with their radio ports working into Philips FM-828 transceivers.

Expressions of thanks and appreciation are due to those members who contributed, in a variety of ways, to the restoration of the system. They are, in no particular order of importance because they are all important, VK2ATM, VK2ZCV, VK2VY, VK2HBC, VK2DAL, VK2AYD, VK2XIQ, & VK2XXU.

Members who are interested in participating in the maintenance, loading, or any other aspect of the operation of the Switch, should contact Trevor (VK2TT) who will provide them with operational details and suggestions how they

can help or simply how to make use of this Club facility.

Trevor (VK2TT)

ROSE Switch Manager for ORARC.

Repeater Committee report for May, 1999.

Middle Brother. All voice repeaters appear to be working satisfactorily. I was a bit concerned about the receiver on the 2 metre voice repeater as I found recently that I could not activate the repeater with my 1 watt handheld from locations at my QTH where previously I could. I mentioned this to other members who said that it was Ok, so I presume that it is my handheld which is down on transmitting power and not the repeater receiver being deaf.

Recently, Trevor, VK2TT completed work on the UHF link equipment which accesses the Rose packet network. This equipment has since been put in place on the mountain and is working, which should give some joy to Packet users.

My thanks must go to Trevor for his efforts and to Will (VK2XXU) and John (VK2VY) who assisted during the installation and testing.

Telegraph Point. Pending some problems being ironed out regarding power at the site, this repeater will remain at my QTH for testing purposes. The building of my new workshop has just been completed and as soon as the reorganisation of the "mess" is completed, the antennas and coaxial cable will be erected and the unit put on the air for a few weeks to iron out any "bugs". It is planned to have this done next month.

- David (VK2DAL)

Important Dates.

August 22, 1999.

On this date the Global Satellite Positioning System date buffer overflows and turns back to zero. (zero was January 5, 1980). This change may affect older GPS receivers, especially those manufactured prior to 1994.

The GPS was created for military weapon targeting applications but quickly spread to commercial uses. Sure hope those military operations in Europe have up-dated their software!.

September 9, 1999.

Is also questionable. Back in the early days when most home computers used the "Basic" language, 9999 was used to close a file. Fancy type 9999 and losing your files - even more exciting - if some of those lost files re-appeared!!

David (VK2AYD)

John Moyle Field Day

A fairly substantial group congregated at the No.1 Fire Tower Site at Bellangry on Sunday, despite the somewhat threatening weather. The group comprised Keith (VK2KDL) and XYL Gwen, David (VK2HBC) and XYL Aileen, Will (VK2XXU) and XYL Carol, David (VK2AYD), Ian (VK2XU), John (VK2JJ), Roy (VK2YOR), Bruce (VK2HOT), Jason (VK2FT), and Trevor (VK2TT) & XYL Phyllis.

The excitement, from reptilian wild life, was missing this year, and our President seemed totally relaxed and at ease throughout the entire exercise, with no signs (visually, anyway) of apprehension.

Perhaps the most exciting event (outside of the contesting activities) was the somewhat cowardly and unprovoked attack on VK2AYD by several dozen members of the taxonomic phylum *Annelida*, class *Hirudinea*. (Leeches, to the uninformed!)

While assisting in locating a lost arrow (the launch vehicle for halyards for the portable antennae) David was set upon by these voracious creatures that had no doubt been lurking, awaiting the arrival of a victim in their rain-forest domain. Clearly, the availability of a nice warm body, surging with pure British blood (a rare delight to the leeches of Bellan-

gy rain forests) attracted most, if not all, the leeches away from the other familiar tasteless local bodies. The leeches showed minimal respect for any area of David's anatomy. They were reported by Phyllis (who assisted in their removal) as being figuratively, and literally, "everywhere". The experience did not prevent David from clocking up a nice list of QSO's when he finally got at the controls of the HF gear after a thorough "de-leeching".

Ian, gave 6-metres a caning, with John, Roy, Bill, Jason and Bruce giving 2-metres a work-out, while the rest of the hangers-on provided moral support, feeble entertainment, and generally made nuisances of themselves, albeit in the nicest possible of ways.

The sun did not show its face very often throughout the morning, and it disappeared altogether after lunch. Around 1.30pm the mountain top became clouded-in, and rain put the damper on most activities. After about an hour's worth of perseverance with smudged ink-jet log-sheets, the gathering broke up, packed up, and headed for the low-lands. Half way down the mountain track there was a bright, sunny and balmy day awaiting the excursioners to accompany them on their various ways home.

Threatening weather, leech attacks, and finally the rain, did not ruin the day, really. A lot of fun came out of it, and next year will see it happen again, I am sure.

Bruce compiled the summary report for forwarding to the contest manager, and it is reproduced below for those members who have an interest in contesting activities. Notice there are no claims for additional points to compensate for Leech hazards.

73 de Trevor (VK2TT)

JOHN MOYLE CONTEST MANAGER
108 QUEENSPORT ROAD
MURARRIE QLD 4172.
esr@powerup.com.au

CALLSIGN:-VK2BOR/P

LOCATION:-NUMBER ONE FIRE TOWER RESERVE-
REF=QF68GR

SECTION:-6 HOUR 0100 TO 0700 UTC

OPERATORS:-HF-----VK2AYD-DAVID.
6M-----VK2XU--IAN.
2M-FM----VK2HOT-BRUCE,VK2FT-JASON.
2M-SSB---VK2JJ-JOHN,VK2ZCV-BILL.

EQUIPMENT:- HF = ICOM IC835 & G5RV
6M = KENWOOD TS 570S & 1/2W DIPOLE
2M FM = ALINCO DUEL BAND & VERTICAL
2M SSB = ICOM IC 275H & 3 ELEMENT YAGI

CONTACTS:-HF = 51 x 2 = 102 POINTS

6M = 3 x 2 = 6

1 x 10 = 10

--

16 = 16 POINTS

2M FM = 1 x 10 = 10

2M SSB = 2 x 10 = 20

1 x 2 = 2

--

32 = 32 POINTS

TOTAL 150 POINTS

ACTUAL LOG SHEETS CAN BE SUPPLIED IF REQUESTED.

I hereby certify that these stations were operated in accordance with the rules and spirit of the contest.

(Sgd) Bruce Walker

PRESIDENT O.R.A.R.C. Inc.

Better Than a Bird's Eye View

Here is an interesting one for those members who have access to the Internet.

It came from N5AF who lodged the item on the BBS, and it reads:

Title: Your QTH As Seen From Space

Hello & thanks for reading this.

I think you will find this interesting. On the internet, go to the web page for "TerraServer Advanced Find". It provides space photographs of most of the United States, Europe and many other parts of the world that you can bring up by typing in the city and state or country. The detail is great!

Once you find your QTH (or whatever you are looking for), you can enlarge the photograph twice

for more detail. The larger photos are approximately 10 KM by 10 KM and the enlarged ones are approximately 500 feet by 500 feet. The enlarged (close up) photographs lose a great deal of quality and tend to be very grainy.

The URL is:

<http://teraserver.microsoft.com/advfind.asp>

If your QTH isn't in the covered area, check out other areas of interest.

These space photographs were originally shot by satellites for The United States Geodetic Survey and also by Russian Spy satellites (SOVINFORMSPUTNIK). Each photograph indicates its source of origin.

The date of the photograph is indicated also.

Once you bring up a map of an area near you, you can crawl around or move North/South, East/West or diagonally by clicking on the green arrows until you get to where you want to look at. Then, put the cursor on the part of the map you are particularly interested in and click it to enlarge (up to two enlargements are possible) that part of the map.

Enjoy!

73 de Sam N5AF

Directory of Members on e-mail.

(This is an updated list of members who are known to be e-mail users, This list will appear in OXTALES each time there is a variation recorded. - Apologies to John (VK2KCE) whose name was incorrectly shown as "Ken" in the first issue of this directory)

VK2FT (Jason)
VK2GD (Allan)

jasonm@tsn.cc
anut@ozemail.com.au

VK2GJ (Graeme)
VK2JJ (John)
VK2TT (Trevor)
VK2VY (John)
VK2ATM (Arthur)
VK2AYD (David)
VK2CHC (Richard)
VK2DAL (David)
VK2DDL (Stan)
VK2HOT (Bruce)
VK2KCE (John)
VK2UPR (Paul)
VK2ZCV (Bill)

virtue@mullum.com.au
jjones@felglow.com.au
gramps@felglow.com.au
vk2vy@bigpond.com.au
afamo@midcoast.com.au
davpil@midcoast.com.au
farmsale@felglow.com.au
davsmith@felglow.com.au
svellis@midcoast.com.au
brucew@tsn.cc
hastbrak@nor.com.au
dapto@midcoast.com.au
lts1@nor.com.au

The Club's Financial Future

The Club's financial reserves, although quite sound, have seen some reduction with recent expenditure on equipment. This has prompted some discussion and thought that has been directed to our longer term financial future.

At the Club's May meeting, the subject of membership fees and fixed outgoings were discussed at some length. A superficial analysis of our annual expenditure revealed that our income from membership fees (based on current rates) is insufficient to cover our projected expenses.

Our income from other sources, primarily from our Field Day weekend, and to a lesser extent, occasional donations, has always supplemented our income to a level that has enabled us to avoid depleting our reserves to cover fixed operating costs. Operating costs include Insurance, Licences, Accommodation, and maintenance of repeater sites, and equipment, Affiliation fees, and in the future it is anticipated that we will be required to contribute to power consumption costs at one of our repeater sites.

The meeting considered that an increase in the level of membership fees would be necessary for the coming financial year, to ensure that our longer term financial stability remains firm against anticipated increased fixed costs. An increase of \$5.00 per annum to bring the annual membership fee to \$20 for Full Members was agreed as a basis for a recommendation to the AGM, of which due notice of motion will be forthcoming. It was recommended

that Distant Membership fees remain unchanged at \$10.00 p.a.

A motion to this effect will be placed before the AGM in August.

Membership Support for Our Club Needed

It is most unfortunate, perhaps lamentable, that the level of support for the club's activities, and the willingness of members to take a turn at holding office, is demonstrably quite low. Whilst this is a phenomenon all too common in just about every club or organisation in our communities, it is none-the-less disappointing to note that usually less than 20% of the membership undertake the roles, and tasks, that are mandatory to a club's existence.

Apart from the roles of the primary office bearers, significant support is also required to bolster the few who work in the teams that perform functions to ensure the success of field days, community support activities, repeater maintenance, and continuing development of club facilities.

A simple analysis will show that the "less than 20%" group encompass, most usually, the same individuals, who regularly front up, do the job, and carry the can for the rest.

We frequently attempt to promote ourselves as a community oriented club that "does useful things" within, and out of, our region. Whilst this can be claimed as perfectly true, such useful things are usually *only just* managed by the same old faces. These same old faces probably fill the breach because of their awareness that a failure to meet a particular commitment might detract from a somewhat fragile public image we have struggled to acquire.

Perhaps it is this perceived fragile image that deters many of us from throwing our hats (or club caps?) voluntarily into the ring to stand for office, or volunteer to perform some specific role(s) in which our individual expertise can assist the club. Are we afraid of this fragility and, as a consequence, avoid involvement to escape embarrassment should well-

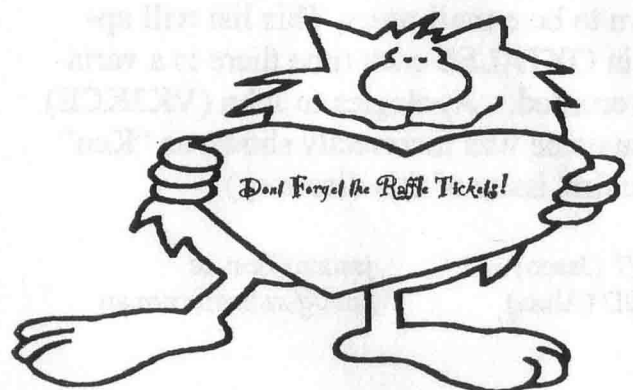
meaning plans go "pear-shaped" through lack of membership support? I suspect an element of such fear could exist, and it may influence our decisions whether or not to become involved.

My personal view is that we have, within our ranks, a very strong, but disappointingly small group comprising individuals who, over the years have carried the club, both in holding office and in filling the common-or-garden functional roles... and nothing has gone awry in their hands. But I sense that they could well be getting just a wee bit tired of being taken for granted, or just plain browned off. However, they could well be rejuvenated by a genuine, tangible infusion of enthusiastic effort from others who have the club's future in view. Just a small percentage increase in the size of this group should remove any false anxiety about things coming unstuck through lack of willing human resources. Perhaps we could individually consider a more active role in club affairs?

The AGM is only a few months distant, and to date, there is no significant sign of interest from potential "new blood" as office bearers, or group leaders. It would be grossly inconsiderate to expect all existing positions to be filled with the existing "multiple recycled" incumbents. It is hoped that the need to resort to last-minute "fingering" to gain sufficient officer bearers will not arise, and that some willing nominees can be signed up well before the AGM. It will be a most enjoyable and fruitful meeting if we need to have ballots for each office! There is really no valid reason as to why this should not be so.

Question: Did anybody really read this?

-Trevor (VK2TT)

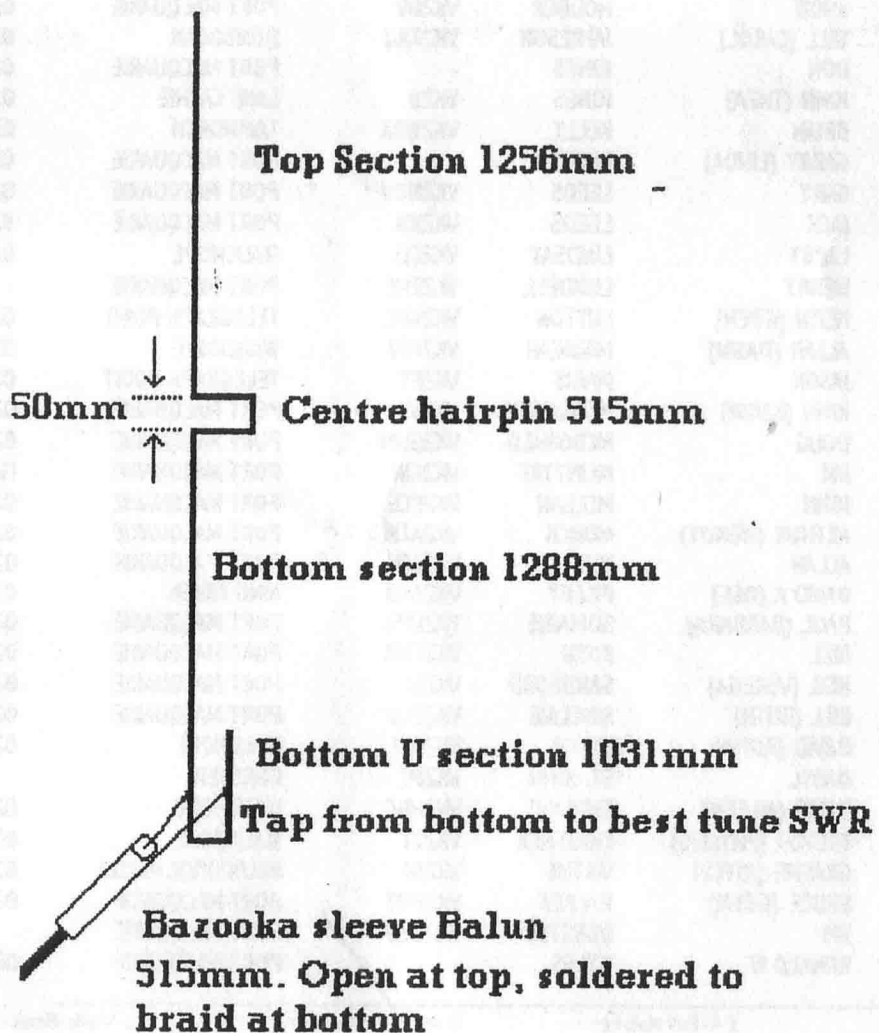


A helicopter was flying towards Seattle and required directions to the Airport. The pilot moved close to a tall building and held up a sign reading "Where am I?" The people in the building held up a sign reading "You are in a Helicopter". The Pilot smiled and within minutes he landed safely at the Airport. His Co-pilot asked how the sign had helped him. The Pilot replied "I knew it had to be the Microsoft Building, because, like any computer company's help staff, they gave me a technically correct but completely useless answer."

Another 2-metre Antenna

At the club's May meeting, Arthur (VK2ATM) gave a short talk on his recent approach to a cheap and effective 2-metre antenna. The antenna was constructed from aluminium tubing, salvaged from old TV antennae that had seen better days. It is effectively two 5/8-waves in phase. The configuration and dimensions are as follows:

Operating Centre Frequency 145.500MHz





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at 7th May, 1999)

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 (MARY)	BAYLIS	VK2JB	PORT MACQUARIE	
3	F	COLIN (JAN)	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3803
4	F	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
5	F	ROY W (JUNE)	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 (BETTY)	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
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 (JOAN)	HARWOOD	VK2BAZ	GUNNEDAH	
19	L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5349
20	F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
21	F	WILL (CAROL)	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
22	F	DON	JONES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5084
23	F	JOHN (THEA)	JONES	VK2IJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.4522
24	D	BRIAN	KELLY	VK2WBK	TAMWORTH	02 6776.2004
25	F	GARRY (LINDA)	LAWER	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0597
26	F	GARY	LEEDS	VK2NOV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.3978
27	F	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5991
28	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
29	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	-
30	F	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
31	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2MAJ	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
32	F	JASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0426
33	F	JOHN (KARIN)	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0020
34	F	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.6157
35	F	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CIM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5696
36	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
37	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
38	F	ALLAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
39	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
40	F	PAUL (BARBARA)	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1830
41	F	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
42	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
43	F	BILL (RUTH)	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
44	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
45	D	DARYL	ST. JOHN	VK2MZ	FORSTER	
46	F	DAVID (ALEEN)	TARRANT	VK2HBC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.6381
47	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
48	D	GRAEME (JOYCE)	VIRTUE	VK2GJ	BRUNSWICK HEADS	02 6685.1336
49	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
50	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	-
51	F	RONALD W	WYLES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9742

F = Full Member

D = Distant Member

L = Life Member

