



# OXTALES

**First published 1980**

**Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,**

**PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444**

Club email address: [vk2bor@orarc.org](mailto:vk2bor@orarc.org)

Club Website: <http://www.orarc.org>

**Club Nets on VK2RPM**  
146.700MHz  
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)  
Sundays 0900  
Thursdays 1930

**ORARC's Forty-sixth Anniversary Year**

## July 2017

**Compiled by VK2AYQ & VK2TT**

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534  
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ 6580 9912  
TREASURER: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL 6587 1155  
SECRETARY: Jim Neil VK2VIV 6581 2481

### *President's Report*

#### President's Report



#### Membership Renewals

July marks the start of a new Financial Year for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Membership renewals became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Please renew promptly. The simplest way to pay is by direct deposit but Treasurer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL will always be pleased to receive payments in person at the club meetings. Cheques may be posted to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

The Committee is pleased to advise that there is no rise in the cost of Membership Subscriptions for the 2017-2018 Financial Year. The fees are the same as those of last year. Ordinary Membership remains at \$40 per annum. Associate Membership remains at \$20 per annum. Distant Membership remains at \$10 per annum. It is important that all members renew their memberships and also encourage those who are currently not members to join or rejoin ORARC. The

*Continued on page 3*

### ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

**MIDDLE BROTHER**  
VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)  
O/P 146.700MHz - I/P 146.100MHz  
  
VK2RPM 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123Hz)  
O/P 438.525MHz - I/P 433.525MHz  
C4FM digital mode capability  
  
VK2RPM-1 (APRS Digipeater)  
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

**TELEGRAPH POINT**  
VK2RCN 2 metre (Voice)  
O/P 147.000 MHz - I/P 146.400 MHz  
  
VK2RCN 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123 Hz)  
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz  
  
VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)  
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

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## **Down the Coax**

Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held in the  
S.E.S. Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

**Monthly General Meeting**  
**Saturday 1 July 2017 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together**  
**Friday 21 July 2017 7.00 pm**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday 5 August 2017 2:00 pm**

**Monthly General Meeting**  
**Saturday 5 August 2017 after AGM**

**Remembrance Day Contest**  
**0300 UTC Sat 12 August 2017 to 0300 UTC**  
**Sun 13 August 2017**  
**VK2BOR will operate from the club's caravan**  
**at Camden Haven Airfield**

**Friday Night Get-Together**  
**Friday 18 August 2017 7.00 pm**

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Week-**  
**end 19 & 20 August 2017**  
**VK2BOR will operate from the Club's Car-**  
**avan at Tacking Point Lighthouse**

**Monthly General Meeting**  
**Saturday 2 September 2017 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together**  
**Friday 15 September 2017 7.00 pm**

**The 60th Jamboree On The Air will take place**  
**on 21 and 22 October 2017.**

## **Net Controllers' Roster**

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays**  
(0900 Local)

**Thursdays**  
(1930 Local)

### **Jul 2017**

VK2TT	Jul - 02	VK2EM	Jul - 06
VK2FMGM	Jul - 09	VK2ZHE	Jul - 13
VK2CHC	Jul - 16	VK2ICQ	Jul - 20
VK2TT	Jul - 23	VK2EM	Jul - 27
VK2FMGM	Jul - 30		

### **Aug 2017**

VK2CHC	Aug - 06	VK2ZHE	Aug - 03
VK2TT	Aug - 13	VK2ICQ	Aug - 10
VK2FMGM	Aug - 20	VK2EM	Aug - 17
VK2CHC	Aug - 27	VK2ZHE	Aug - 24
		VK2ICQ	Aug - 31

### **Sep 2017**

VK2TT	Sep - 03	VK2EM	Sep - 07
VK2FMGM	Sep - 10	VK2ZHE	Sep - 14
VK2CHC	Sep - 17	VK2ICQ	Sep - 21
VK2TT	Sep - 24	VK2EM	Sep - 28

*(from the front cover)*

more members we have, the easier it is to keep our fees low. The club has a lot of fixed expenses and we rely on membership subscriptions to cover those expenses. Your membership subscription is greatly valued.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2017 Annual General Meeting takes place at 2 pm on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Now is the time to consider nominating for one of the club office bearer positions. They all become vacant at the AGM. The strength of the club lies in having an active Committee to inspire and lead the club to do the many worthwhile things that enable the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club live up to all of its objectives to serve its members and the community, and to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby. The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting and a nomination form accompany this issue of Oxtales.

The current Committee has worked very hard to make the club's 2016 – 2017 Financial Year a very successful one. The sound financial position has enabled the club to embark on a number of innovative projects to provide the infrastructure to support advances in radio communications. The club already has repeaters at Middle Brother Mountain and at Telegraph Point which support both analogue FM and C4FM System Fusion digital voice. EchoLink is available on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother repeater. Both Middle Brother and Telegraph Point have APRS digipeaters for real time GPS tracking. The VK2RCN 53.8 MHz 6 metre analogue FM repeater will soon be installed at Telegraph Point. Education has always been an important role of the club and it is significant that some members have already upgraded their licences to enable them to operate on 6 metres, and to use the digital modes.

### **Club Projects**

Many members have expressed a desire to use alternative popular digital voice modes to C4FM System Fusion. In response to this it is planned set up an additional UHF multi-mode digital voice repeater at both of the club's repeater sites. The new repeaters will be fitted with the MMDVM repeater controllers which support C4FM, Dstar, DMR and P25 digital voice modes.



*MMDVM repeater controller*

It is expected a firmware upgrade to the MMDVM controllers will add support for NXDN as well. Of course, the two new UHF digital voice repeaters will each only be able to operate in one digital voice mode at a time but the MMDVM detects which mode it is receiving and automatically switches to that mode. The new repeaters will have Internet connectivity via the recently purchased microwave radio links. Unfortunately, it is far beyond the club's resources to set up separate dedicated repeaters at each site for each digital voice mode. Note that the existing VK2RPM 438.525 MHz and VK2RCN 438.425 MHz analog FM/C4FM System Fusion repeaters will continue to operate.

### **Club Activities**

Thank you to everyone for participating in club activities. ORARC runs a surprising number of activities and events each year. These range from the Monthly General Meetings, the Friday night get-togethers on the third Friday of each month, the weekly Sunday morning and Thursday evening

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club nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother Repeater, the Wednesday morning working bees, and of course special events such as the Christmas Party, the annual Field Day on the June long weekend, and the Antenna Shootout. The club station VK2BOR participates in the John Moyle Field Day, the Remembrance Day contest, the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, the Jamboree on the Air, and usually in the Spring, Summer and Winter VHF/UHF Field Days. In addition, club members provide the safety communications for events such as the Beechwood Billycart Classic, the annual White Ribbon Walk in Port Macquarie, and car rallies in the area.

### **ORARC 2017 Annual Field Day**



The ORARC 2017 Field Day was a great success over Saturday and Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of the June 2017 over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. The many visitors who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and many reported that they had already booked accommodation for next year. Rain was forecast for the weekend. The forecast was correct but the rain didn't detract from the attendance. There were 93 paid registrations. As well as the regular contingent from Sydney and environs, this year a large Newcastle group from the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list also includes home towns such as Umina Beach, Lemon Tree Passage, Wyoming, Forster, Tuncurry, Taree, Wingham, Harrington,

Coopernook, Moorland, Kempsey, Bellingen, Thora, Coffs Harbour, Toormina, Lismore, Kootingal, Brisbane and environs, plus Lord Howe Island and New Zealand. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular. Thank you to everyone who attended. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 43<sup>th</sup> annual Field Day.

The Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall in Matthew Flinders Drive again proved to be a great venue with plenty of room in the hall and no parking problems. The entrance lift was of great help to those who needed it. The forecast rain didn't cause any problems. The rain held off for most of the fox hunts much to the relief of the foxes and hounds.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with many complimentary comments regarding the venue and the excellent catering. No-one went hungry and lots of people found great bargains from the traders who had brought stock in especially for the Field Day.



*Paul VK2ICQ and Paul VK2BZC enjoy an exploratory stroll around the venue.*

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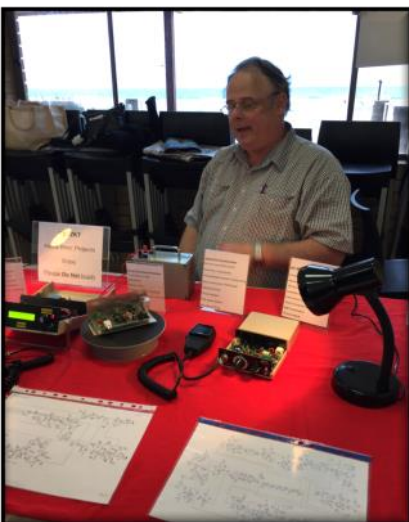
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*Arthur VK2ATM demonstrating digital modes.*

The technical demonstrations created a lot of interest. This year HF digital communications and VHF/UHF digital voice were showcased.

Radio Supply had a wide range of accessories and electronic items. Many people stocked up on the various hard to find connectors and adaptors that can't be bought over the counter locally. The 100 metre rolls of quality RG58 coaxial cable were very popular. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol Ryan VK2FCSR for their long-time support of the annual Field Day. Gary reported that sales were good. Gary displayed a range of his beautifully constructed home brew projects. His very professionally completed BITX40 QRP 40 Metre SSB transceiver attracted a lot of interest.



*Gary VK2ZKT from Radio Supply shows a variety of home brew projects.*

As well as the wide range of traditional electronic items many attendees went home with the latest “must have”, the Fidget Spinner. Until we saw the Fidget Spinners we did know that they were essential to modern life. They are the current ultimate in executive toys for everyone. As the name implies, they are held in the hand and spun to relieve tension while keeping idle fingers occupied. Much more satisfying than squeezing a Stress Ball. Still not sure about Fidget Spinners? Talk to the master of the spinners, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ. And you thought Paul was just a computer expert! He did have a wide range of computer related items available at very tempting prices.



The many diverse bargains from the disposals tables stocked by various vendors were keenly sought. There was everything from transceivers, test equipment and surplus commercial equipment to antennas, cables, connectors and hardware. There were some high quality items from Silent Key estates for discerning buyers. Everyone went home with at least something. Quite a few people went home with a great many bargains.



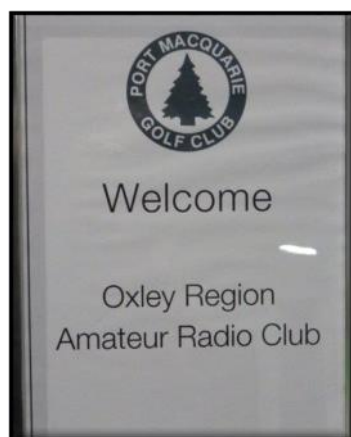
*Some items from Bill VK2ZCW (SK) estate*

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*(Cont'd from front cover)*

David Tavener VK4ICE kindly put out a table of his remnant stock items and donated the proceeds to ORARC. A very kind gesture. Thank you David. Amongst David's items was a box of very hard to find metal Slinkys. Perfect for Slinky antennas. Judging by the number sold we can expect to see a lot of Slinky antennas. Mind you, some people may just amuse themselves by watching the Slinkys "walk" down stairs.



The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular again this year with 63 people enjoying good food and a pleasant social evening. We were

fortunate to be given the use of the Function Room at no charge by the Golf Club. The sign welcoming the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club was a nice touch.

Official Field day photographer Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU took lots of photos. Well done Stuart. Thank you for a great record of the weekend. It's not possible to include them all in this issue of Oxtales but a selection of Stuart's photos together with some of the photos contributed by other photographers will be added to the

Field Day photo gallery on the ORARC website. We are indebted to David Tavener VK4ICE for his contribution of a series of magnificent aerial photos taken from his drone during the Field Day. The gallery is well worth a look.

*High quality food and good companionship abounded.*



*Location drone shot (continued on next page)*

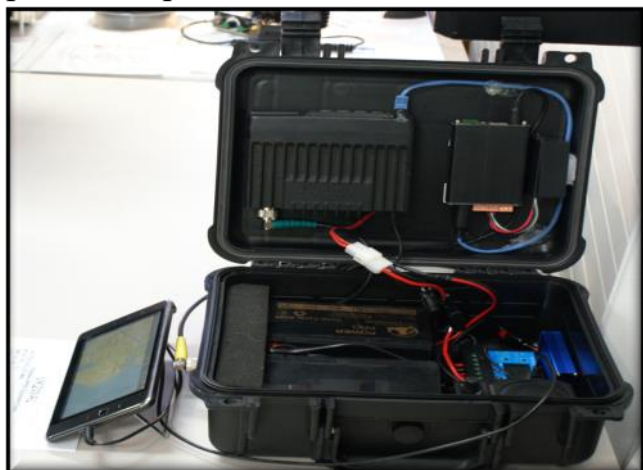
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*No place to hide*

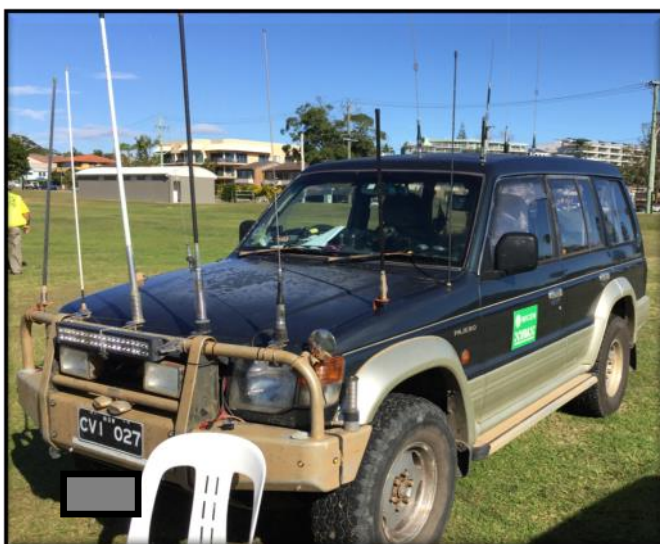
The quality of items entered in the Homebrew display was excellent. It had been hoped that more items would have been on display as quite a number of people had mentioned prior to the Field Day that they were working on projects to bring along. It seems that people assumed that there would be lots of items on display so they didn't bring theirs along so the extra table space we allocated this year looked a little bare. Hopefully we'll see lots of items on display next year!

Special mention must be made of the range of very professionally home built items displayed by Gary Ryan VK2ZKT. His BITX40 QRP 40 metre SSB transceiver stood out but the winner of the display was Lyle Smith VK2SMI with his self-contained portable APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) node. The complete node including a rechargeable battery was built into a waterproof safe case ready for deployment. The node was powered up with its antenna attached.



*Portable APRS node in waterproof safe.*

Lyle Smith VK2SMI also took out the prize for the best presented amateur vehicle. There were several worthy contenders but Lyle's vehicle stood out.



*Lyle VK2SMI's porcupine captured at Westport Park.*

We were fortunate to have a number of demonstrations of technology which created a lot of interest.

Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for running the weak signal HF digital modes demonstration on both days of the Field Day. His excellent demonstrations showed how simple it is to operate the various digital modes using the free software that is available today. He answered many questions during the weekend.

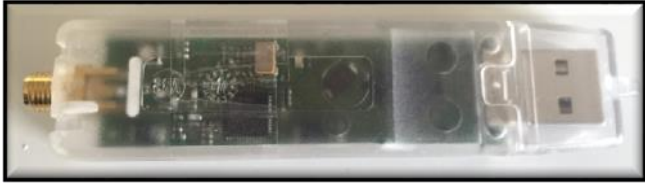
Thank you to Bruce Ekert VK2EM for running a demonstration of VHF/UHF digital voice. He answered many questions as there is a lot of interest in digital voice. There are several different protocols which are popular in the Amateur Service. The ORARC 2 metre and 70 centimetre repeaters support C4FM System Fusion. There is also DMR, Dstar and P25 digital voice but Bruce was able to explain how an internet connected multi-mode digital voice radio connected modem can be used to access the world wide users of all these modes. He had his Shark OpenSpot standalone digital radio IP gateway / hotspot <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/openspot/> set up. Many potential users

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were very impressed that the OpenSpot enables communications between different digital voice protocols. Bruce also had his Helitron DV4 mini USB digital voice RF modem which uses a computer to connect to the internet.



*A Helitron DV4 mini USB digital voice RF Modem stick.*

As well, Bruce demonstrated his stand alone battery powered portable JT65 HF digital equipment.

Thank you to Peter McAdam VK2EVB for also running a demonstration of VHF/UHF digital voice. It was Peter's demonstration of digital voice at the Urunga Convention that first stimulated interest in this part of the world. He had his Shark OpenSpot standalone digital radio IP gateway / hotspot set up together with some of his other equipment. He and his son Josh McAdam VK4JLM also answered many questions. They and Bruce Ekert VK2EM also provided some valuable help to a couple of people who had already purchased digital voice equipment and were in the process of setting up.

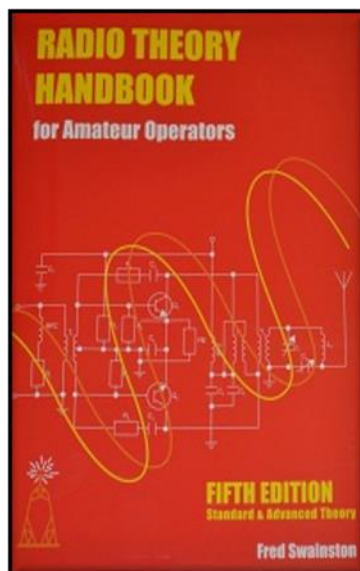


Thank you to Dot Bishop VK2DB for

running the Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) stand again this Year. Dot and OM John Bishop VK2ZOI are long time supporters of the Field Day. ALARA <http://www.alara.org.au/> is one of many international associations of ladies in Amateur Radio. In Australia there are some 200 members.

The 2017 ALARA meet will be held Cairns from Friday the 8th to Monday the 11th of September 2017. These meets are popular with Australian Radio Amateurs. As well there are always visiting International contingents who regularly attend each other's meets. Cairns is certain to be a very popular venue. ALARA also runs on air contests which are very popular. There are more details on the ALARA website. John Bishop VK2ZOI will be pleased to explain the role of the OM in supporting their YL and XYL operators. You can read the latest ALARA news in the ALARA column each month in Amateur Radio Magazine.

Amateur Radio NSW planned to run a stand this year as they have done for many years but Mark Blackmore VK2XOF couldn't attend as he was called to attend to a deceased estate during the Field Day weekend and Tim Mills VK2ZTM unexpectedly found himself in hospital with broken bones in his hand in Sydney following an altercation with a wheelie bin just before the weekend.



Despite not being able to be present Amateur Radio NSW still donated the Radio Theory Handbook by Fred Swainston that had been promised as a Field Day prize. The ARNSW stand will be back next year.

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*Preparing for take off watch those fingers!*

David Tavener VK4ICE created a great deal of interest when he flew his Phantom 4 quadcopter drone. The weather was marginal but David demonstrated how robust the quadcopter is with its intelligent control system. The camera is fully gimbaled and stabilized. The GPS enables the quadcopter to auto return in the event that control is lost. Many people looked very closely at the quadcopter and some admitted to being very tempted to buy one. David pointed out the application of the quadcopter to Amateur Radio. Thank you to David for kindly providing the aerial photos which are included in this issue of Oxtales and are also posted to the ORARC website photo gallery [http://www.orarc.org/?page\\_id=1176](http://www.orarc.org/?page_id=1176) Club members will be advised when the Youtube video of the Field Day flights is available.

Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was as intense usual. The transmitters hidden by stalwart fox Larry Lindsay VK2CLL assisted by Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Lyle Smith VK2SMI. A special thank you to Craig Martin VK2ZCM for building new fox timers and setting them up to run the transmitters. The sequenced and identified fox transmissions were greatly appreciated by the hounds.

Congratulations to 2017 Fox Hunt champion Gerard Hill VK2IO of Castle Hill, and to Runner-up champion Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby. The top hunters are always keen to see their names engraved on those little shields that added to the Perpetual Trophy each year. There is very little space left on the Perpetual Trophy to add new shields. In a few years the trophy will be full and we will then need a new Perpetual Trophy.



*Gerard VK2IO Fox hunt champion with Perpetual Trophy.*

Thanks to many generous donations the major raffle and lucky door prizes were of a very high standard. Raffle first prize winner John Bailey VK2KHB of Port Macquarie took home the much coveted Baofeng GT-3 VHF/UHF hand held transceiver and accessories donated by David Tavener VK4ICE. John is busy learning just what his new radio can do.



*John VK2KHB receiving his prize from Henry VK2ZHE.*

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The second prize in the raffle, the Prolink Infra Red Wireless Stereo Headphones donated by Radio Supply of Bellingen, was won by Stuart Walker VK2BMX of Beecroft.

Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU of Wauchope was the winner of third prize in the raffle, the Radio Theory Handbook by Fred Swainston donated by Amateur Radio NSW. Stuart was very pleased to win this book as it a highly sought after reference book which is both expensive and currently out of print.

Fourth prize in the raffle, the Maxitronix 30 in 1 Electro Kit K2204 donated by Radio Supply of Bellingen, was won by Lyle Smith VK2SMI of Wauchope. The very pleased winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> prize, the 1000 Volt Insulated Screwdriver Set donated by Radio Supply of Bellingen, was Dennis Meade VK2DAM of Port Macquarie. Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE of Kempsey took home 6<sup>th</sup> prize, the Opek SWR meter donated by Radio Supply of Bellingen.

In the major raffle there were many prizes of Jaycar HB6373 Leather Toolbelts. These were particularly well received. They are genuine leather and are both functional and durable. Jaycar Port Macquarie continued their support of the Field Day with the leather tool belt and Super Bright LED Magnetic Clip Pen Lights and bubble level key rings. They also provided complimentary recently released Jaycar 2017 catalogues which were very gratefully received by those did not already have one. Jaycar are a long time supporter of the Field Days.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of a pair of Prolink Infra Red Wireless Stereo Headphones donated by Radio Supply of Bellingen, was won by Kevin Dawson VK2KD of Oatley.

In the callsign lucky door draw there were many prizes of Jaycar HB6373 Leather

Toolbelts and Super Bright LED Magnetic Clip Pen Lights and bubble level key rings, all donated by Jaycar Port Macquarie.

In the non-callsign lucky door draw, first prize of a Gardening Basket with Apron and Kneeling Cushion and Trowel was won by Jenny Martin of Sancroix. Second prize of a Digitech USB Rechargeable Portable Mini FM Radio MP3 Player went to Jacob. Third prize of a tin of Danish Cookies was won by Betty Thompson of Lord Howe Island. There were subsequent prizes of Super Bright LED Magnetic Clip Pen Lights and bubble level key rings, all donated by Jaycar Port Macquarie.

Full lists of all the Major Raffle, Callsign Lucky Door Draw and Non-Callsign Lucky Door Draw prize winners and a full list of Trophy winners appear in this issue of Oxtales.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but as already mentioned, several of the volunteers put in extraordinary efforts in doubling up when the two regular barbeque master chefs Barry Gilson VK2LBG and Richard Court VK2CHC were both unable to attend due to illness and regular event recorder Peter Kucera VK2MPK wasn't available. The result was that the weekend events all ran smoothly and everyone was well fed.

John Bailey VK2KHB did a great job in obtaining all the provisions and running the very busy kitchen which provided delicious food and drink throughout the weekend. John very generously donated most of the food and all of the soft drinks. The club only paid for the steak and sausages which were supplied at a very generous discounted price by Colonial Quality Meats. The generosity of John and two other benefactors who donated all the bacon and the fruit salad and ice cream ensured that that sale of the very reasonably priced food was profitable. Thank you to all those who volunteered in

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the kitchen. There was always someone behind the counter to provide immediate service and the free tea, coffee and biscuits were continuously available.



*Above XYL Sue serves another happy customer.*



*Paula VK2FPDC making sure that the hordes were fed'*

Special thanks to Paula Keena VK2FPDC who tirelessly worked in the kitchen but also found time to also run the barbeque when stand in barbequer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL had to carry out his primary role of fox. Thank you to both Paul and Larry for taking on the extra tasks. As treasurer Larry also had to take care of the money collected during the weekend.



*The troops want more! Paula VK2FPDC and Larry VK2CLL kept the BBQ going over the 2 days.*

Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desks at the entrance to the hall and sold all the tickets for the food, drinks and the raffle. Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Saturday and then packed everything up on Sunday afternoon. The generosity of the benefactors who so kindly donated all the prizes is greatly appreciated. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Field Day.

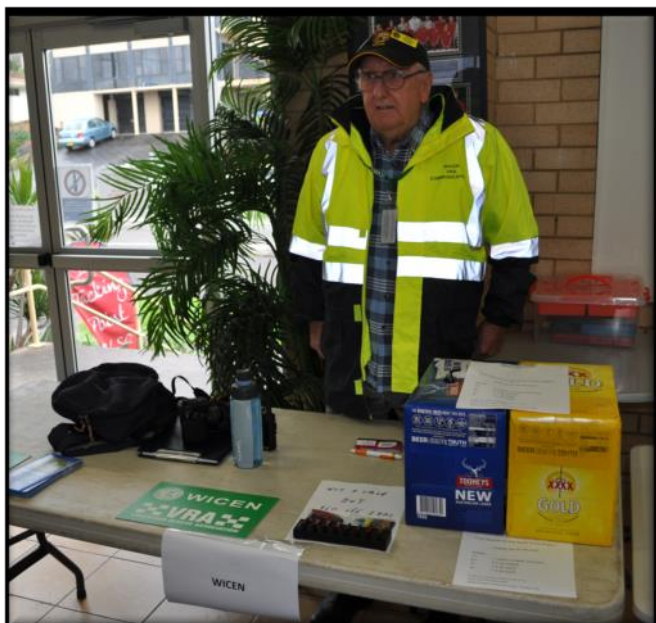


*The all important registration desk where all the money is collected. Stuart VK2FSTU and David VK2AIF on duty.*

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*Steve VK2ZSW staffing the WICEN information stall and raffle.*



*I know that there is bargain to be found here somewhere. Keith VK2FPTL, Larry VK2CLL, Lyle VK2SMI and John VK2NJJ search while David VK2AIF looks after the front desk.*

After all the expenses, the Field Day made a profit of \$978.30 which is a valuable contribution to the club's finances.

The 2018 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 43rd annual Field Day. The venue will again be the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall. The Golf Club has already been booked for the Saturday night Field Day dinner.



## Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM Repeater Site Works



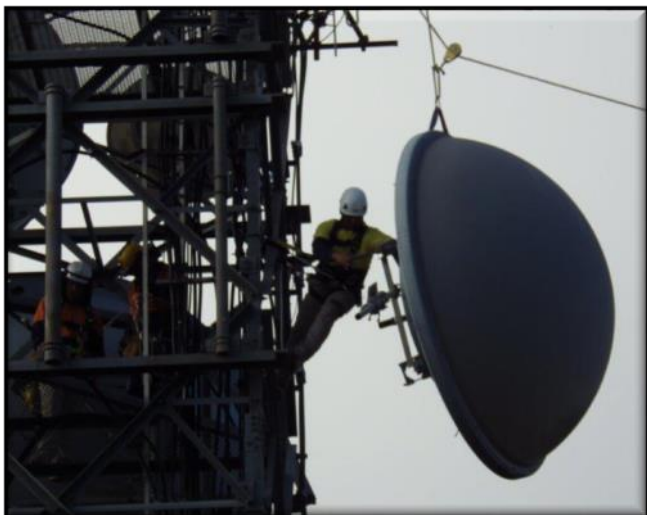
The site is now owned by TPG Telecommunications. The planned tower works to remove redundant hardware was carried out during the period the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. Henry Lundell VK2ZHE and Lyle Smith VK2SMI were on site for the commencement of the works on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. At the same repeater maintenance was carried out. As well as mundane tasks such as topping up the batteries an impressive snake skin (empty) was removed from amongst the equipment. It's owner thankfully wasn't present!



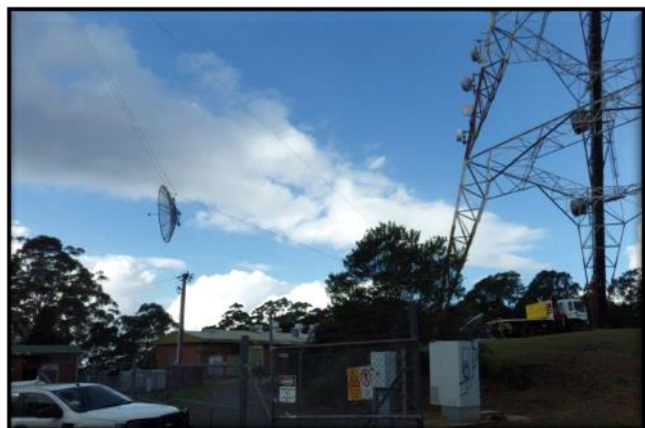
*Perhaps the snake was experimenting with high Q coils! (continued on next page)*



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*The luffing process is quite ingenious and involves attaching a series of pulleys to an anchor point on the tower and also on the item to be removed. Cable is then run from the winch truck to lower the item.*



*Removed items on the ground awaiting disposal. Editor's note: The damp patches on the ground are from Lyle's VK2SMI tears upon realising that he couldn't take them home!!*

No less than seven large redundant

microwave dishes were removed from the tower. As can be seen from the photographs, the removal was an impressive process using luffing with a winch truck rather than by crane as is often done these days. Lyle VK2SMI went back to the site on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May at the conclusion of the works.

The electrical noise level on the tower has been significantly reduced but there is still some rusty hardware remaining on the tower and is suspected as being the source of noise which is present when the tower is dry and there is strong wind. Hopefully the remaining hardware will be removed at a later date. There has been a marked improvement in the performance of the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz repeater since the May tower works.

## Coming Events

### RD Contest

The 2017 Remembrance Day contest runs for 24 hours and commences at 1pm local time on the afternoon of Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, and finishes at 1pm on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. Fortunately, the RD contest and International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are on consecutive weekends this year so VK2BOR will operate in the RD Contest for the full 24 hours from the club's communications caravan. The rules permit contacts with stations in the same call area and there is the incentive of double points for contacts on 160 metres so operating the full 24 hours is a worthwhile strategy. See the WIA web site <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/> for details.

The venue for this year's RD Contest will be the Camden Haven Airfield. The club's barbeque will provide a steak and sausage lunch and evening meal on the

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Saturday, and a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning. The barbeque and tea, coffee and soft drinks will be free to those who attend. Please come along and help run the club station VK2BOR and enjoy a great social occasion.

As well as helping to run the VK2BOR club station from the club's Communications Caravan, members are encouraged to participate from their home stations as well. Most importantly, please submit your logs as every log that is entered helps the VK2 score.

### ILLW



*Tacking point lighthouse*

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) <https://illw.net/> takes place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 19th and 20th of August 2017.

The club's station VK2BOR will operate from the club's communications caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse. Please come along and support this operation. Again, as usual there will be a free hot dog lunch with biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks provided in the caravan. It is planned to continue to operate through the night and a sausage sizzle barbeque evening meal and a bacon and egg breakfast will be provided.

### Flag Pole Contest

The Manly-Warringah Flagpole Contest

<http://www.mwrs.org.au/flagpole-contest/> is on the weekend of the 16th and 17th September 2017. This fun event is held each year on the weekend closest the International Talk Like a Pirate Day <http://talklikeapirate.com/wordpress/> which is on the 19th of September each year.

### JOTA

The 60th annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of October 2017. It is also the 21st annual Jamboree on the Internet. As in past years, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will set up stations at Port Macquarie and Wauchope.



### Beechwood Billycart Classic

Members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club provide the safety communications for this high profile event each year. The event is always held on a Sunday. The most likely date this year based on the last couple of years is Sunday the 22nd of October but this is subject to confirmation. Planning will commence as soon as the date is announced.

### Car Rally Herons Creek Saturday 28 October 2017

The Blacksmiths Inn Rally will be held in the Bulls Ground area behind Herons Creek on the afternoon of Saturday the 28th of October 2017. Steve Wynn VK2ZSW is  
*(continued on next page)*



*(from previous page)*

the co-ordinator for the safety communications and road closures being provided by members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. If you haven't yet contacted Steve to offer your services, please do so as soon as possible.

## WICEN



### WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group

The recently formed [WICEN \(NSW\) Mid North Coast Region](#) group has been formally recognized by NSW State WICEN and Steve Wynn VK2ZSW has been appointed as the coordinator.

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region holds its monthly meetings after the conclusion of the ORARC Monthly General Meetings in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. Current and prospective WICEN members are invited to attend the meetings. A few more members are still needed in order to make a viable Region. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should contact Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, or just come along to the meetings. Steve Wynn VK2ZSW and Lyle Smith VK2SMI recently went to Taree and gained one new member and one prospective member. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

WICEN provided the communications for the Alzheimer's Australia Memory Walk and Jog event in Port Macquarie on the morning of Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. Those participating were Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Lyle

Smith VK2SMI, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE and Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU.



*The team at Westport Park checking radio's in and out. Lyle VK2SMI, Steve VK2ZSW, Stuart VK2FSTU and Rob VK2CRF.*

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE set up the WICEN portable VHF commercial high band repeater on the headland overlooking Mrs York's Garden at the top of Clarence Street Port Macquarie.



*Henry VK2ZHE at the headland braving the chilly winds after setting up the WICEN repeater.*

The setting up was done in the pre-dawn darkness with a very early start. The walk started and finished at Westport Park and the route went to Windmill Hill and back via the Town Green and Town Beach. It finished by noon.

*(continued on next page)*

*(from previous page)*



*Antenna for WICEN repeater*



*Lyle VK2SMI gets the finger!*



*Alzheimer's Australia Memory Walk and Jog volunteer and elephant mascot. Note radio equipment carried by volunteer.*

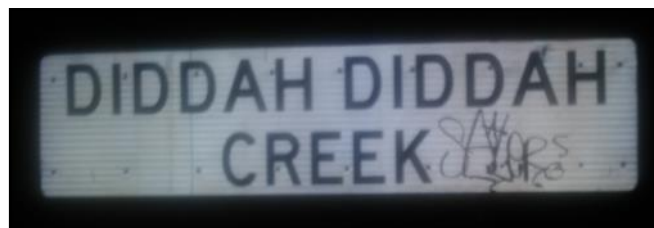


*Finishing line and well known volunteer Marge Page showing walkers and joggers the way.*

## Milestones

Congratulations to John Bailey VK2KHB on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and to Larry Lindsay on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Hearty congratulations to David Pilley VK2AYD on his 70 years of membership of the RSGB.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President



## Morse Lives on

Lyle VK2SMI in his travels came across this sign on one of his creek crossings and wondered if it were named by a radio operator.

**Jaycar**  
Electronics

Better. More Technical

7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie  
Ph. (02) 6581 4476



(Cont'd from front cover)

## ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2017

### Non-Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Gardening Basket with Apron and Kneeling Cushion and Trowel	ORARC	Jenny Martin	Sancrox
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Digitech Portable Mini FM Radio MP3 Player - USB Rechargeable	VK2ZHE	Jacob	
<b>3rd Prize</b>	Danish Butter Cookies	VK2ZHE	Betty Thompson	Lord Howe Island
<b>4th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	Joshua	
<b>5th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	Tracie Cederblad	Singleton
<b>6th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	Helen Williams	Hornsby Heights



*Non-Callsign Lucky Door  
prize winners being pre-  
sented with their prizes. In  
clockwise order*

*Jenny, Gardening Basket  
Betty, Danish Butter  
Cookies,*

*Joshua, Penlight LED*





ORARC Field Day 2017 - Trophy Winners			
	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2ZCM	Craig Martin	Sancrox
Saturday 2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt	VK2ZCM	Craig Martin	Sancrox
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2SMI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
Best Home Brew Display	VK2SMI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope



*Fox Hunt Trophy Winners clockwise from above. Receiving Trophies from Henry VK2ZHE*

*Craig VK2ZCM 80 metre and 2 Meter Fox Hunt, Chris VK2YMW Fox Hunt Runner up Champion, Gerard VK2IO Champion Perpetual Trophy, Lyle VK2SMI Best Presented Amateur Vehicle, Jeff Pages VK2BYY 80 metre mobile and 2 metre pedestrian Fox Hunt and Gerard VK2IO 80 metre pedestrian and 2 metre mobile Fox Hunts.*



(Cont'd from front cover)

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2017					
<b>Major Raffle</b>					
	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Baofeng GT-3 VHF/UHF hand held transceiver & Accessories	VK4ICE	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Prolink Infra Red Wireless Stereo Headphones	Radio Supply	VK2BMX	Stuart Walker	Beecroft
<b>3rd Prize</b>	Radio Theory Handbook by Fred Swainston	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2FSTU	Stuart Walsh	Wauchope
<b>4th Prize</b>	Maxitronix 30 in 1 Electro Kit K2204	Radio Supply	VK2SMI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
<b>5th Prize</b>	1000 Volt Insulated Screwdriver Set	Radio Supply	VK2DAM	Dennis Meade	Port Macquarie
<b>6th Prize</b>	Opek SWR-2 SWR Meter	Radio Supply	VK2ZRE	Bob Ecclestone	Kempsey
<b>7th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2HOT	Bruce Walker	Port Macquarie
<b>8th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2HZV	Judy O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>9th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CLH	Charlie Hunt	Warners Bay
<b>10th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
<b>11th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2ZOI	John Bishop	Hornsby Heights
<b>12th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2ZHE	Henry Lundell	Port Macquarie
<b>13th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie		Priscilla Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
<b>14th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FGBR	Phillip Collins	Adamstown
<b>15th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2IL	Mark Cederblad	Singleton
<b>16th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>17th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie		Priscilla Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
<b>18th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>19th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2VK	Russell Ashhdown	Boambee
<b>20th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CPC	Les Sidebottom	Bonville



## ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2017

### Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Prolink Infra Red Wireless Stereo Headphones	Radio Supply	VK2KD	Kevin Dawson	Oatley
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FPDC	Paula Keena	Port Macquarie
<b>3rd Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6374	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2DFN	David Newey	Port Macquarie
<b>4th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6375	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2ABM	Tony Dodds	Tighes Hill
<b>5th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6376	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CE	K Mulcahy	Merimbula
<b>6th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6377	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2GTS	Gary Thompson	West Kempsey
<b>7th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>8th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FSTU	Stuart Walsh	Wauchope
<b>9th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2XSO	Ashley Anderson	Kootingal
<b>10th Prize</b>	Super Bright LED Pen Light with Magnetic Pocket Clip - 3 AAA Cells	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>11th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2NJJ	John Winchester	Port Macquarie
<b>12th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2MAX	Grant Snowden	Euroka
<b>13th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2ATM	Arthur Monck	Port Macquarie
<b>14th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2IJS	Ivan Southwell	Port Macquarie
<b>15th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CLL	Larry Lindsay	Huntingdon
<b>16th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CLH	Charlie Hunt	Warners Bay
<b>17th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2GFC	Gordon Cooper	Lakewood
<b>18th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2ICQ	Paul Colledge	Port Macquarie
<b>19th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2AYQ	John Hansen	Port Macquarie
<b>20th Prize</b>	Keyring Level	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2QG	Barrie Downward	Rutherford



*(Cont'd from front cover)*



## **WIA Board of Director**

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Phillip Wait VK2ASD

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**Treasurer** Vacant



Deadline extended on  
Radiocommunications Bill consultation

Date : 25 / 06 / 2017

Author : Roger Harrison - VK2ZRH

An extension of the deadline for submissions on the Radiocommunications Bill 2017 has been announced by the

Department of Communications and the Arts.

The new deadline is now 28 July 2017 at 5:00pm AEST.

In an email to stakeholders, the Department said that the extension came as a result of requests for an extended consultation period. "We acknowledge we provided a substantive consultation package and an extended period is appropriate to ensure you are able to fully consider the package and respond accordingly", the Department said.

In line with this extension, the WIA has extended the deadline for comment on its Radiocommunications Bill Consultation page to 14 July, seeking input from the Amateur radio community. Apart from making your own submission to the government, should you wish to, you can share your views with the WIA on the Radiocommunications Bill 2017 Consultation page via [this Link](#)

The Spectrum Strategy Committee will review and consider all input through this consultation when developing the WIA's submission to the Department of Communications on behalf of the Amateur radio community.

## **ACMA re-sets US General Licence equivalency**

Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

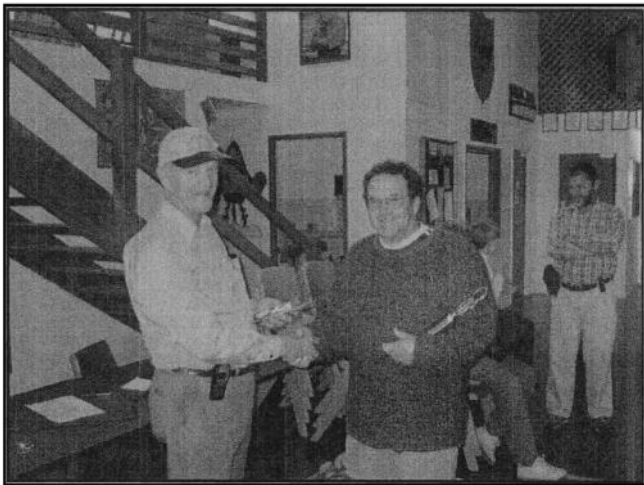
Following a public review the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has re-set the US General Class Licence as equivalent to Australia's middle grade Standard Licence. This change has been made to the ACMA 'Tables of Equivalent Qualifications and Licences' which lists Australian equivalents to overseas amateur qualifications.

## Blast from the past

This months blast from the past features a slightly younger intrepid fox hunter who is still receiving awards today.

The mission if you care to undertake is to identify the club member receiving the award; the past President (now an SK), and the year and venue.

Editors note: The photograph was taken in the days that Oxtales was only distributed as a printed copy. The cost of printing in colour and even printing photographs in high quality black and white on a regular basis was beyond the club's resources.



## Equipment from the Past

### Yaesu FT102



The Yaesu FT-102 is an HF transceiver covering 160 to 10 meters in SSB, CW, AM and FSK modes. Has WWV reception at 10 MHz. Power input is 240 watts on SSB/CW and 80 watts on AM/FSK.

The FT102 digital display and analogue subdial with a built in power supply and can operate from 100/117/200/234 VAC. The hybrid circuit utilizes three 6146B final tubes for pure emissions. This radio does not have general coverage receive.

Introduced in 1982, the FT-102 was in production until 1984 at an original cost of \$1,150 US. The transceiver had three 6146 in the final amplifier stage with negative feedback. This configuration a consistent power output and improved reliability over tube transceivers produced in the past such as the FT-101 with its sweep tube finals.

The FT-102 claimed 10db of negative feedback with third order distortion of 40db down giving the transceiver one of the best sounding audio of any transceiver ever produced without the use of studio equalizers in use by the (ESSB) enhanced SSB audio crowd found on the amateur bands of today.

Each button or switch on the front panel activated a specific function which made the transceiver relatively easy to operate without the need for multiple menus of the advanced equipment of today.

The FT102 has achieved a cult status amongst some radio amateurs for ease and simplicity of operation.



Matching accessories external VFO unit and below antenna tuning unit.

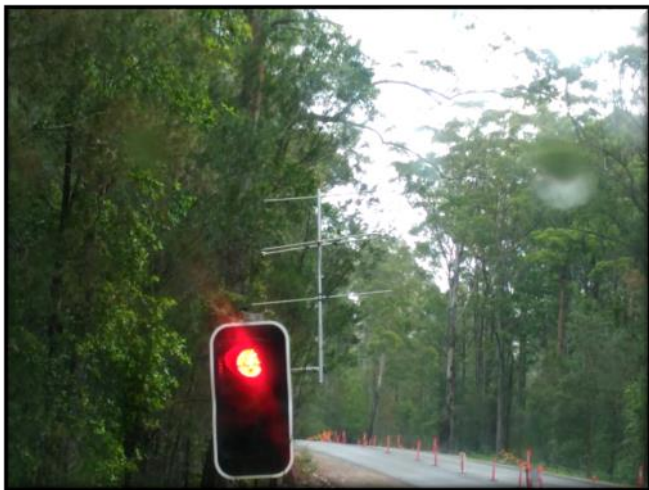


Reference: Fox Tango International and CL Maher W4CLM



## Spotted Locally By Bob VK2BIG

Bob VK2BIG took the photograph below as he travelled the “Ghost Road” recently.



Note that the antenna is pointing vertically presumably going for a “moon bounce” for transmission. All of the traffic controls along this section of road have the same antenna orientation. As the control points are quite close to each other Bob surmises that they are receiving the control signals actually on the nodes of the antenna for communications. All of the traffic controls along this section of road have the same antenna orientation.

## Additional Photographs of the Field Day



*Goodies on display above Left:*

*Lyle VK2SMI and Henry VK2ZHE grapple with a portable antenna.*



*There must be a bargain in here somewhere.*



Above John VKNJJ has a moment of contemplation.

Right everyone likes a prize:  
Henry VK2ZHE giving the prizes out:

Above left Dennis VK2DAM

Left Bob VK2ZRE

Left below Priscilla

