



# 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

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

## September 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: Steve Wynn	VK2ZSW	6585 3327

### President's Report

September 2017

### President's Report

#### AGM



At the AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 all the positions were filled. No nominations were received for the position of Secretary but President elect Henry Lundell VK2ZHE agreed to take on the additional role of Secretary until a new Secretary could be found. After the meeting, Committee Member Steve Wynn VK2ZSW offered to become Secretary. This was formalized at the September Committee Meeting. Thank you, Steve for accepting the very important position of Secretary.

I am honoured to have been re-elected President and Public Officer for the 2017 – 2018 year. Congratulations to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ on being re-elected Vice President. Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for continuing as Treasurer and Education Officer. Committee members Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Arthur Monck VK2ATM were re-elected to

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### 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 2 September 2017 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 15 September 2017 7.00 pm

Manly Warringah Flag Pole Challenge  
Saturday 16 September 2017 10:00 am

Westlakes Field Day  
Sunday 17 September 2017 9.00 am

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 7 October 2017 2:00 pm

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic  
Sunday 15 October 2017

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 20 October 2017 7.00 pm

60th Jamboree On The Air  
Sat & Sun 21 and 22 October 2017  
Herons Creek, Kew & Johns River

AMSAG Car Rally  
Saturday 28 October 2017  
Port Macquarie and Wauchope

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 4 November 2017 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 17 November 2017 7.00 pm

White Ribbon Ride  
Saturday 25 November 2017  
Wauchope Show Ground 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

White Ribbon Walk  
Tacking Point to Town Green Port Macquarie  
Date to be Announced

Spring VHF UHF Contest  
Sat & Sun 25 & 26 November 2017

ORARC Christmas Party  
And Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 2 December 2017

## Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays**  
(0900 Local)

**Thursdays**  
(1930 Local)

### Sep 2017

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

### Oct 2017

VK2FMGM	Oct - 01	VK2ZHE	Oct - 05
VK2CHC	Oct - 08	VK2ICQ	Oct - 12
VK2FMGM	Oct - 15	VK2EM	Oct - 19
VK2CHC	Oct - 22	VK2ZHE	Oct - 26
VK2FMGM	Oct - 29		

### Nov 2017

VK2CHC	Nov - 05	VK2ICQ	Nov - 02
VK2FMGM	Nov - 12	VK2EM	Nov - 09
VK2CHC	Nov - 19	VK2ZHE	Nov - 16
VK2FMGM	Nov - 26	VK2ICQ	Nov - 23
		VK2EM	Nov - 30

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fill the three Committee positions. Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU also nominated for the Committee and with Steve Wynn VK2ZSW moving into the Secretary position, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU automatically filled the vacant Committee Member position. Congratulations, and thank you, Stuart.

Paul Colledge VK2ICQ was re-elected as Webmaster. Paul has built the ORARC website to an extremely high standard and continues to update it with both club news and breaking Amateur Radio news at least several times each week. The website is a great ambassador for the club, and for the Amateur Radio service as a whole. Thank you, Paul.

A full list of all the Office Bearers elected at the 2017 AGM is included in this issue of Oxtales.

At the AGM, John Bailey VK2KHB was recognized as Clubman of the Year for his dedicated valuable contribution to the club activities. As he has done for many years, John managed the kitchen and the provision of food and drink at the 2017 Field Day. One of his more visible ongoing roles is conducting the monthly meeting raffles. Unfortunately, John was unable to attend the AGM as he did not want to share his dose of the 'flu with the membership. Most considerate. The presentation of the award was made at the September monthly general meeting.



Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE has undertaken to obtain his WIA Assessor accreditation. Thank you, Bob. Having a second assessor in the club will greatly simplify running licence assessments. Larry Lindsay VK2CLL is a nominated assessor. Licence assessments require two assessors so in recent times it has been necessary to call on an out of area assessor to come to Port Macquarie when running assessments.

## **RD Contest and ILLW**

This year the Remembrance Day contest and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend took place over consecutive weekends in August 2017. This enabled the club to operate VK2BOR for 24 hours in the RD contest from the Camden Haven Airfield, and then during daylight hours on the following Saturday from the Tacking Point Lighthouse in the ILLW.

## **RD Contest 2017**

Thank you to Bob Small VK2BIG for negotiating the use of the Camden Haven Airfield camping area for this year's RD contest. This proved to be an excellent HF location in very pleasant surrounds on the southern bank of the Camden Haven River. The club's communications caravan was set up and VK2BOR operated for the full 24 hours of the Remembrance Day contest.



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*Camden Haven Airfield alongside the river bank.*



Thank you to all the members who participated in the weekend. It was a great success in all respects. The willing hands made setting up and packing up seem effortless. Those present included Richard Court VK2CHC, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Norah Wyles, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Diana, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Sue, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, Jacob Donre and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.



*Norah, Arthur VK2ATM and Sue share a story.*



*Arthur VK2ATM, Sue, Richard VK2CHC and Diana enjoy the fine day.*

Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his trailer mounted mast and HF antennas. The mast made it easy to erect the full size dipole antennas for 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres. The HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan gave a choice of antenna polarization on most bands. Signals on both transmit and receive were consistently significantly better on the horizontal dipoles.



*The impressive antenna set up.*

VK2BOR made a very respectable number of contacts for a total score of 412 points. The incentive multipliers for 160 metres, and for contacts in the small hours of the

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morning, made the 24 hour operation and the erection of the 160 metre dipole very worthwhile.



*Rob VK2CRF, Denis VK2DAM and Lyle VK2SMI preparing for work.*



*Lyle VK2SMI and Bob VK2ZRE prepare to make contacts.*

The club's new Honda EU20i inverter generator ran very economically for some 29 hours on less than 14 litres of fuel. This included outdoor overnight floodlighting and some electric heating in the small hours of the morning. Yes, the generator is able to run the vacuum cleaner in the caravan! The quality of the AC power was every bit as stable and reliable as grid mains power. The generator is very quiet and with it located a short distance away behind a large tree it could barely be heard outside the caravan, and practically not at all inside. Arthur Monck VK2ATM very

kindly donated this generator to the club last year.



*The generator ran quietly and flawlessly all weekend and just sipped fuel.*

Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his gazebo which was set up beside the club caravan to provide shade during the day and cover during the evening.



The gazebo and caravan were strategically located a short distance from the fireplace conveniently provided by the Airfield.

The weather during the weekend was perfect. Those members not operating the station enjoyed the Saturday evening warming themselves around the blazing fire that was fed by the trailer load of firewood that Richard Court VK2CHC very kindly brought along. It was a most pleasurable social evening. The photos hint at the



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enjoyment. Richard VK2CHC provided some music!



*Night falls and the generator comes into its own as operators come out to play*

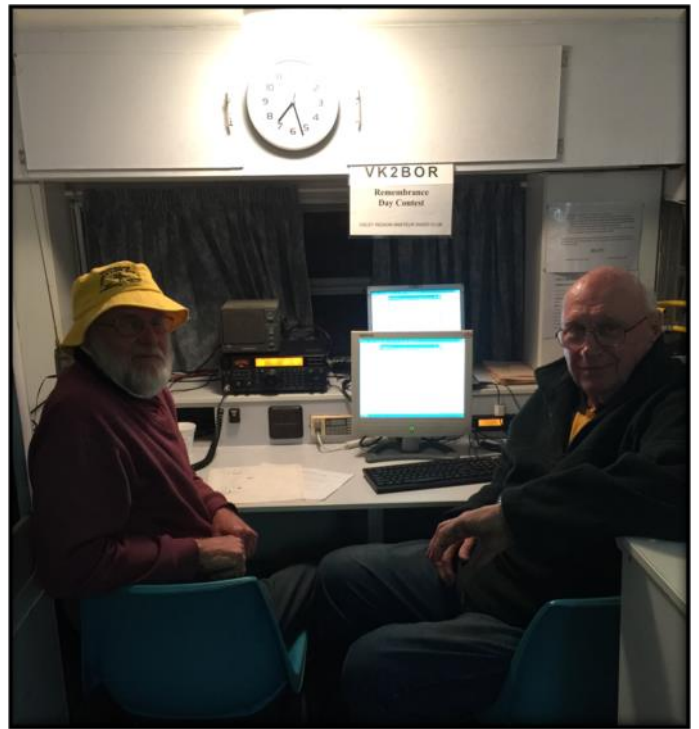


*Henry VK2ZHE keeps the fire stoked up as the cold increase and daylight fades.*



*Put another log on the fire.*

*Rob VK2CRF and Lyle VK2SMI warm up.*



*Rob VK2CRF and Richard VK2CHC start a night shift.*

*A wandering minstrel Richard VK2CHC entertaining with an eclectic selection of music and songs. Note Richard's trailer of wood which Henry VK2ZHE was determined should be emptied by morning*



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*Home for the night complete with hot showers and flushing toilets and proper beds. While Henry VK2ZHE, Arthur VK2ATM and Richard VK2CHC elected to “rough” it in the cabins, Lyle elected to stay in the Communications Caravan working the radio into the early hours of Sunday morning.*



*Lyle VK2SME the next morning after working all night. Warming up at the fire.*

*Denis VK2DAM arriving to help in the Sunday morning pack up. Note the brilliant sunshine and blue sky.*



In addition to the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent riverside setting, no one went hungry. Chef Richard Court VK2CHC ran the barbeque to produce delicious lunches on both days, dinner on Saturday night and a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning.

The Airfield has two cabins which enabled Richard VK2CHC, Arthur VK2ATM and

Henry VK2ZHE to stay overnight in comfort.



*Bob VK2BIG setting up the cabins and the Airfield facilities for the club.*

Those members who were unable to participate in this year's RD Contest missed out on arguably the most enjoyable club activity for many years.

## **International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend**

The club's communications caravan was set up at the Tacking Point Lighthouse on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August so that VK2BOR could participate in the 2017 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend during the Saturday daylight hours.

Thank you to John Winchester VK2NJJ for towing the caravan to the lighthouse early in the morning. Thank you to John Bailey VK2KHB for claiming our usual spot for the caravan. As can be seen from the photographs, the site was a little crowded as the carpark is quite small.



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Lyle Smith VK2SMI brought his trailer mounted mast which greatly simplified erecting the HF dipole antennas that he provided for 80, 40 and 20 metres. As it was to be a daylight hours only operation, the 160 metre dipole was not erected this year. The HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan gave a choice of antenna polarization on most bands. As was the case during the RD contest the previous weekend, signals on both transmit and receive were consistently much better on the horizontal dipoles. The exception was 20 metres during the afternoon where some signals such as those from VK4GHL at Grassy Hill Lighthouse at Cooktown in far North Queensland alternated between being several S points stronger on the vertical and then several S points stronger on the horizontal dipole every few minutes.



*Lyle's VK2SMI trailer mast being set up with Stuart VK2FSTU, Steve VK2ZSW and Bob VK2ZRE helping.*

The day was fine but the wind was relentless and increased as the day went on. It was very pleasant inside the caravan and several people took turns in operating VK2BOR. The coffee was very popular and the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday cake that Dennis Meade VK2DAM brought along for morning tea was a special treat. Happy Birthday, Dennis.

The weather held until about 3 pm when an ominous dark band of cloud was spotted heading northwards up the coast towards the

Lighthouse. That was the cue to pack up but fortunately it remained fine until everything was packed up and we departed after 4 pm.



*The strength of the wind can be gauged by looking at the club's vertical antenna which would bend and sway alarmingly in the wind gusts.*

The club's Honda EU20i inverter generator ran for the full day on a single tank of fuel and provided high quality AC power. The generator itself is very quiet, and with it placed under its cover between a couple of vehicles, it simply could not be heard over the wind.



*The generator with purpose made cover neatly tucked away behind 4WD.*

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*Henry VK2ZHE in a typical pose making contacts.*

VK2BOR made a total of 25 contacts with Lighthouse stations during the day. However, propagation was not as good as in previous years. Most contacts were made on 40 metres. This included two New Zealand lighthouse stations. Only two New Zealand lighthouse stations were worked on 20 metres. There were quite a few DX signals on 20 metres but propagation was very variable and most signals heard were not lighthouse stations.



*Chef, Richard VK2CHC prepares breakfast under the watchful gaze of quality control inspectors Bob VK2ZRE and Lyle VK2SMI.*

Chef Richard Court VK2CHC ran the barbeque to produce a very welcome

delicious bacon and egg breakfast plus a sausage sizzle lunch. The wind was measured at consistently over 22 knots at 12 noon and the barbeque struggled to maintain enough heat to fully cook the lunch time sausages so they were finished off under the griller in the caravan stove. The gas bottle on the barbeque finally ran out as the last of the sausages were being served.



*Chef Richard VK2CHC this time cooking lunch. Please take a number and be seated with Craig VK2ZCM, Arthur VK2ATM, Lyle VK2SMI and Steve VK2ZSW with Mark VK2FMGM standing.*

John McLean VK2KC donated the portable barbeque to the club some 7 years ago with a full bottle of gas. The barbeque has regularly been used several times each year so the original bottle of gas lasted a long time!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the weekend. Callsigns included John Bailey VK2KHB, John Winchester VK2NJJ, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Richard Court VK2CHC, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU, Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, Craig Martin VK2ZCM and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.

An interesting visitor was Thomas Freeman who is writing a history of the Tacking Point area. He was heard practicing his bagpipes earlier in the morning. When he called in to see the club station the bagpipes

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under his arm immediately identified him as the source of the piping that we had all heard earlier. He volunteered that he practiced the bagpipes on the beach as his neighbours complained if he played them at home!

### **Westlakes Field Day**

The Westlakes Field Day takes place on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. Doors open at 9 am. At least several ORARC members normally attend the Westlakes Field Day each year. It is always a great day out. There are always irresistible bargains to be had. This year there is an opportunity to win a Yaesu FT-817ND in the Field Day raffle. Tickets are a mere \$2.00 each.

The Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Inc. is located in York Street at Teralba which is at the north west side of Lake Macquarie. You can get there by taking the Toronto exit on the Newcastle to Sydney Expressway.

There is always a good attendance of Westlakes members at the ORARC Field Day so it is always nice to see a contingent of ORARC members at the Westlakes Field Day.

### **JOTA 2017**



The 60<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2017. It is also the 21<sup>st</sup>

annual Jamboree on the Internet. The club will run two JOTA stations.

VK2BOR will operate as usual on the Saturday from the club's Communications Caravan which will be set up at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie a short distance from Settlement City. Please come along and assist with the VK2BOR operation.

The second JOTA station will be at the Scout Hall in Wauchope. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for providing his communications caravan for the station and for co-ordinating the planning this station for the Wauchope and Camden Haven Scouts and Guides. It is intended to operate this station during both the afternoon and evening on the Saturday, and on Sunday as well. Please come along and help to make the Wauchope JOTA station a great success. Lyle asked for names at the October Monthly General meeting.

### **Beechwood Billycart Classic**



The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Beechwood Billycart Classic takes place on the morning of Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Richard Court VK2CHC is co-ordinating the club's involvement in this event. If you haven't yet offered your services and are able to attend, please contact Richard as soon as possible. The event is a very popular and our role of providing the safety communications is very important. The main race down the mountain starts at 11:00 am. This year the children's race will start at 11:30 am. The

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racing concludes at 12:00 noon so it won't be a long day.

### **AMSAG Car Rally**

The AMSAG car rally takes place on the afternoon of Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 in the Bull's Ground area near Herons Creek. Communications will be set up at Kew and Johns River and at various checkpoints along the course. Steve Wynn VK2ZSW is co-ordinating the communications. AMSAG requested ORARC to provide the communications for the event. The event is also being recognized by WICEN NSW so participation in communications will be counted as WICEN training. Several of the ORARC members participating in the event are also WICEN members. Steve VK2ZSW will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join WICEN as a few more members are needed in order to make the WICEN Mid North Coast Region a viable entity.

### **Christmas Party**

Don't forget the club's Christmas party on the normal December monthly general meeting date of Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2017. More details in November Oxtales.

### **2017 Field Day**

The 2018 Field Day is only 9 months away. It will be held at the same venue as this year's Field Day, the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall. The dates are Saturday and Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June during the 2018 Queens Birthday Holiday long weekend.

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their memberships this year. Only a couple of membership subscriptions are still outstanding. These have been denoted

with an asterisk in the Membership Register on the back page of this issue of Oxtales. Welcome to the new members who have recently joined.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President

### **2018 Club Calendar**

Preparations for the 2018 Club Calendar are underway. Secretary Steve VK2ZSW would like to remind members that this would be a good time for some members to update their current photograph on the calendar.

Some of the current members photograph's on the calendar may be 10 or more years old and the likeness in some cases could have changed!



*Intrepid operators braving the afternoon bitter cold at Tacking Point Lighthouse at the International Light and Lighthouse weekend. Lyle VK2SMI, Steve VK2ZSW and Bob VK2ZRE.*

## 2017-2018 Cub Office Bearers



At the Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. held on Saturday the 5th of August 2017, the following office bearers were elected:

President: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Vice President: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Secretary: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Treasurer: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL

Committee Member 1:  
Steve Wynn VK2ZSW

Committee Member 2:  
Dennis Meade VK2DAM

Committee Member 3:  
Arthur Monck VK2ATM

Public Officer: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Repeater Chairman: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Oxtales Editor: John Hansen VK2AYQ

Oxtales Co-Editor: Trevor Thatcher VK2TT

VK2BOR Station Mgr:  
Henry Lundell

VK2ZHE

QSL Manager Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Welfare Officer: Henry Lundell  
VK2ZHE

Publicity Officer: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Webmaster: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Education Officer: Larry Lindsay  
VK2CLL

Club Historian: John Bailey  
VK2KHB

Social Director: Henry Lundell  
VK2ZHE

WIA Liaison Delegate: Bob Ecclestone  
VK2ZRE

Member Liaison Officer: Paul Colledge  
VK2ICQ

Subsequent to the AGM, Steve Wynn VK2ZSW agreed to accept the position of Secretary.

Stuart Walsh VK2FSU, who had nominated for a Committee Member position, was co-opted to fill the Committee Member position vacated by Steve Wynn. This was ratified at the September Committee Meeting.



# Moving Stuart's Mast or How to get a free feed with minimal output.

*By Steve VK2ZSW*



*The 3 element HF beam to be moved. The object of the exercise was to gain greater clearance between the mast and the house. Stuart VK2FSU very kindly is donating the VHF beam to the club.*

I left home in plenty of time to get to Stuart's house by the 10:30 start time but not knowing the way, around the corner, I took the scenic route. No I did not get lost, how was I to know the street swung around in a big loop and came back on itself near the beginning. I just decided to go the long way around and enjoy the view of rows of houses, and not arrive too early. Anyway I got there on time which is more than can be said for some others, who shall remain anonymous, until later.

After I woke Stuart (VK2FSTU) up we proceeded to the back yard where this mast was waiting. Then came Lyle VK2SMI and John VK2AYQ to help out for the day, and

for the free lunch and drinks. I still wonder the real reason for all the help, all three of us, probably the promise of lunch.

I don't count Stuart because he was always trying to find that elusive tool or ladder that just kept disappearing. At one stage he went AWOL to cook up the barbecue, I would have been happy to cop that bludge but the workers might not have been as appreciative after having eaten.

Back to the mast, Lyle had almost got the thing to the ground by himself, by the way don't give Lyle any cheek, the way he lifted that whole HF beam, over his head, and carried it down the yard by himself, then tossed it, or placed it down the yard was amazing, I was so awe struck I could not work for the rest of the day, that is my excuse anyway.



*Lyle demonstrates how easy it is to move a 4 element horizontal quad antenna!*



*The real mast being tilted safely by Lyle VK2SMI and Stuart VK2FSTU*

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*The mast tilted down ready for antennae removal.*

We proceeded to remove the 2m beam, 2m/70cm vertical and then the sections of mast. It was necessary to pull it all apart as the three of us could not carry the thing otherwise, Stuart, he was still looking for tools, probably in the kitchen under his bacon and eggs, he had to eat them first before looking underneath, hey doesn't everyone keep a spanner between the eggs and the plate?



*Antenna safely on the ground ready to be attached to the relocated mast. Fortunately Stuart VK2FSTU has a large back yard that enabled us to manoeuvre the 3 element beam which seemed considerably larger on the ground than in the air.*



*Steve VK2ZSW flexing his muscles in preparation of moving the mast to the new location. It was quite surprising how heavy these sections of the mast were to carry.*

*The cable lengths had been measured and they were of the right length, just, for the new location.*



Once the mast was down, all antennas removed and the mast pulled to pieces for relocating, it was lunchtime. Stuart had the barbecue ready along with a huge bag full of king prawns, 2 different cold meats, salad and battered onion rings, no not bashed up, cooked in batter. What else could we do but down tool, only one, couldn't find anymore!, and head up to the feast. Funny it was the quickest I saw anyone move all day.

We enjoyed our lunch and some conversation, OK a little more than some, maybe we chatted for half an hour, after eating, hey we had to let lunch 'go down' otherwise you get the bends.

Back to work, I think we all lost some nuts and washers in the overgrown lawn which Stuart claimed to have cut yesterday, we probably spent at least half an hour trying to find the lost nuts in the long grass, in the end Stuart had to get the metal detector to find one crucial nut. Being a Sunday all the shops were shut so we had to locate all the missing hardware. It was rather an un-

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productive use of time as no gold or oil was found, only the missing nut. Lyle kept looking in his boots for the missing nuts, I mean fair dinkum, who was going to handle the nut after it had been in his boot?

*Note: the authoritarian finger pointing out the precise location for the mast to be reassembled. Lyle appears to be saying "really, I wondered what that structure was for!"*



Re-assembling things was a little more difficult, the mast base was now a meter higher so we had to find the lost step ladder to reach everything, somehow that ladder had really got lost so Lyle had to get his 8 foot step ladder, alright so I have not caught up with metric yet, it only came in 50 years ago, give me time, so that meant someone holding my legs (don't ask) so I did not fall backwards off the ladder due to the 65 degree slope of the yard, well maybe 15 degrees, it always looks worse from the top of a shaky ladder.



*The missing ladder is found and the antenna mounted on the mast.*

*This seemingly simple operation became very time consuming as it was awkward tightening up the bolts perched on the ladder. Steve VK2ZSW was elected for the job as he was the tallest.*

Where was I? The mast wasn't it, we relocated the base to its new mount, by the way Stuart I don't recall anyone bolting it down, then proceeded to assemble all the bits and pieces lying all over the yard. Frankly I am surprised it all went back together, and with no bits left over, well almost no bits. Lyle put his boots back on and stopped looking for nuts in them, phew, so after we had finished, well almost finished, the job we called it a day and left Stuart to it.

You won't hear Stuart on air for a while though, the winch barrel was badly rusted so after each one of us told Stuart, at least three times each, how to fix it we left it for him to fix and re-assemble, a five minute job, we all know about five minute jobs.

You can tell by the absence of anything bad said about John AYQ that he has something on me or he behaved himself for the day, more than can be said for the rest of us.



*Steve VK2ZSW showing how pleased he was to find out that he was the "best man" for the top of the ladder job!*

Editor's note: Thank you Steve, VK2ZSW for writing up the day's activity in such an entertaining fashion. It was certainly a productive day helping out a fellow club member; who did in fact supply an excellent lunch for the workers.

The editors also appeal to all club members to put pen to paper, so to speak, and contribute articles to Oxtales preferably with photographs.

## ORARC represented at Navshield 2017

By Lyle VK2SMI

On the 24th of June 2017 I went to Navshield which was held near Sydney in the Marramarra National Park. The event is short for Australian Emergency Services Wilderness Navigation Shield held by Bush Search and Rescue NSW, full details can be found at <http://www.bsar.org.au/navshield/>.

WICEN operates the communications for these events with teams located at each relay points throughout the course and at the base camp/staging area.

Communications is achieved by either cross band repeaters or manual relays in poor reception areas. This was my first year assisting at Navshield and I was placed with Kevin VK2KEV a seasoned Navshields and Paul. We arrived at the base camp and picked up our information and then traversed the "off road" trail down to the Marramarra Creek Campsite where we set up our gear for the weekend.



Kev had it all setup with his home made "go box" (sorry for the focus on the camera but it was cold there) something that was like a setup from out of a sci-fi movie, swing the doors open, plug in power and antenna and everything you need at your fingertips.

Due to our location on the ground level we suffered from the cold with sunrise at 10:34 and sunset at 12:30 giving us just 2 hours of filtered (lots of trees) direct sun each day with overnight temperatures in the low single digits and daytime highs of 11 to 12 degrees. We were permitted to have a camp fire and it was great, as so many of the navshields commented on the welcomed warmth as they navigated through our relay point.

Sunday came and we packed away our gear checked over the site and returned back to the base camp to assist them with their gear and left to go home. It was a good weekend away and a learning experience for operating in the bush with limited resources. I am looking forward to the next event but hoping for a bit more sun.



*Home for the weekend*

Lyle  
VK2SMI

**Jaycar**  
Electronics  
Better. More Technical  
7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie  
Ph. (02) 6581 4476



## Blast From the Past

The Blast From the Past this month is taken from the September 2012 of Oxtales.



The above photograph was taken for a Club man of the Year award in September 2012 by Henry VK2ZHE who was also president at the time. It should be easy to guess the recipient as he was awarded Clubman of the Year this year and his photograph appears in this issue of Oxtales!



The above steps and handrail were built by the 2012 Clubman of the year and are still in use in the Club's Communications Caravan. I wonder how many of us remember that each time we enter or leave the caravan today!

The photograph below was taken during the 2012 Remembrance Day Contest. The operator is a current club member who also operated during this year's contest. Who is the operator and where was the Club's Communication Caravan stationed for the

event.



Part of the crew below for the 2012 Remembrance Day contest. Can you name the members?

And finally the photographs below are of the 2012 International Lightship and Lighthouse event. Can you name the members. Hint enlarge the pdf file.





## AROUND VK

Australian senate rejects bill to restore ABC shortwave

Australia's senate has rejected proposed legislation to restore the international radio service of the country's public broadcaster.

Many remote communities in Pacific island countries rely on shortwave radio.

The bill would have required the ABC to restore its shortwave transmission services which the broadcaster ended in January this year.

This move was described in the bill as having deprived communities in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and other parts of the Pacific of access to reliable emergency broadcasting.

Submitters of the bill questioned the ABC's assertions that very few listeners accessed Radio Australia's shortwave service.

Concerns of the submitters included perceived neglect of remote communities in the Pacific, and the loss of capacity for emergency warning broadcasts.

**New WIA National & Inwards QSL  
Manager**

**Date : 01 / 09 / 2017**

**Author : WIA Board**

John is a retired Electronics Engineer, who has spent his working career within the telecommunications industry in various senior management positions within both Telstra and Alcatel Australia.

As a keen DXer and an avid QSL collector and has been a frequent user of the QSL service over the years. John understands the IARU, regional and local QSL policies that are in place and is keen to ensure that the QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO.

His other passion is golf and as a past Vice President of his golf club, was very involved in the management and governance of that club. This same passion, skills and knowledge will be brought to managing the National Inwards QSL Bureau role for the WIA. He is very keen to work with all the state QSL managers to develop a good working relationship so the group can develop and put in place a National QSL Policy, and then standardise processing to ensure cost effective and efficient processing and delivery of QSL cards to WIA Members.

John will be working with the WIA QSL Operations Manager and staff and the QSL Managers around VK to ensure smooth and seamless operations. In his working life he was used to all-states meetings with colleagues and vendors via both face-to-face meetings and teleconferencing. John also brings administrative, educative and communications skills that will be put to good use in rolling out a new National QSL Policy and Process to QSL managers and WIA Members.

We wish John every success in his new role of WIA National & Inwards QSL Manager. If you would like to contact John his email is: [vk3jls@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3jls@wia.org.au)



## Equipment from the Past

### Kenwood TS-930



The Kenwood TS-930 was first manufactured in the 1982 and initially had a recommended retail price of around \$1,500 USD depending upon the options offered including a factory installed automatic antenna tuner.

The **Kenwood TS-930S** was a high performance, all solid-state, HF transceiver capable of operation in SSB, CW, FSK and AM modes. Coverage included the WARC bands. The all solid-state 28 volt final amplifier runs 250 watts PEP input on USB, LSB, CW and FSK and 80 watts on AM mode. Despite a multitude of features, the controls were considered to be very ergonomic and easy to use. As would be expected in Transceivers of this vintage part of the ease of operation was due to a large number of control knobs and pushbuttons to control many of the radio's functions.

The main features of the TS-930 were

160-10 meters

IF Notch

CW Reverse

RIT

Automatic Tuner (in TS-930SAT version)  
CW VBT

SSB Slope Tuning

Dual Noise Blankers

Variable AGC

8 Memory Channels

#### Transmitter

Bands, 160,80,40,30,20,17,15,20.

Mode A3J, USB, LSB

A1 CW

F1 FSK

A3 AM

125 Watts plus for SSB/CW/FSK

25 Watts AM

#### Receiver

150 KHz - 30 MHz

Quadruple conversion

#### General Dimensions

W 374 mm x H 141 mm x D350 mm

Weight 18.5 kg with antenna tuner.

Back panel of the TS-930 with the automatic antenna tuning unit fitted.



Although the design of the TSD-930 is almost 30 years old many Amateur operators have refurbished old sets and many are still in use today. The TS-930 has achieved a cult like status in the U.S.A as a second base station due to the ease of operation and quality of signals both on receive and transmit on air.

A quick search on the internet reveals that parts are still available and complete sets are available relatively cheaply. However buyers should be prepared to undertake component replacements whenever purchasing electronic equipment of this vintage.