



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

ORARC's Forty-seventh Anniversary Year

September 2018

Compiled by VK2AYQ and VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ 6580 9912
TREASURER: Dennis Meade VK2DAM 6582 2998
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534
(act)

President's Report

September 2018

President's Report

AGM



At the AGM on the 4th of August 2018 all but one of the positions were filled by nomination. 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.

I am honoured to have been re-elected President and Public Officer for the 2018 – 2019 year. Congratulations to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ on being re-elected Vice President. Thank you to new Treasurer elect Dennis Meade VK2DAM.

The elected Committee members are Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Rob Frost VK2CRF.

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 (6m Repeater)
O/P 53.800 MHz - I/P 52.800 MHz

VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

Item	Page No
President's Monthly Report	Front Cover
Down the Coax	2
E-Mail Directory	2
Net Controllers' Roster	2
The Remembrance Day Contest	4
International Lighthouse and Lightship	7
JOTA 1018	10
Beechwood Billy Cart Classic	11
WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast News	12
Member News	12
Subscription Fee Details	13
2018 Office Bearers	14
Wales to Wahooonga First Message	15
Centenary Celebrations	15
Equipment Sale VK2JC (SK)	18
WIA Matters	20
SES Matters	21
Blast From the Past	24
Equipment from the Past	27
Members Directory	28

Continued on Page 3

Down The Coax

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

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 September 2018 2:00 pm

Manly Warringah Flag Pole Challenge
Saturday 15 September 2018 10:00 am

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 September 2018 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 October 2018 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 October 2018 7.00 pm

61st Jamboree On The Air
Sat & Sun 20 and 21 October 2018
Port Macquarie

39th Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 21 October 2018

Westlakes Field Day
Sunday 28 October 2018 9.00 am

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 November 2018 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 16 November 2018 7.00 pm

Spring VHF UHF Contest
Sat & Sun 24 & 25 November 2018

White Ribbon Walk
Tacking Point to Town Green Port Macquarie
Sunday 25 November 2018

ORARC Christmas Party
Saturday 1 December 2018

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

September 2018

VK2FMGM	Sep - 02	VK2ZHE	Sep- 06
VK2FMGM	Sep- 09	VK2ICQ	Sep- 13
VK2FMGM	Sep- 16	VK2EM	Sep- 20
VK2FMGM	Sep- 23	VK2ZHE	Sep- 27
VK2FMGM	Sep- 30		

October 2018

VK2FMGM	Oct- 07	VK2ICQ	Oct - 04
VK2FMGM	Oct - 14	VK2EM	Oct - 11
VK2FMGM	Oct - 21	VK2ZHE	Oct -18
VK2FMGM	Oct -28	VK2ICQ	Oct-25

November 2018

VK2FMGM	Nov -04	VK2ZHE	Nov-01
VK2FMGM	Nov- 11	VK2ICQ	Nov-08
VK2FMGM	Nov-18	VK2EM	Nov-15
VK2FMGM	Nov-25	VK2ZHE	Nov-22
		VK2ICQ	Nov- 29

Continued from page 1

Special thanks go to long serving outgoing Treasurer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for his work in managing and accounting for the club's funds under his watch. He handed over the club's finances in a sound state to incoming Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM. Thank you, Larry. Larry continues to share his expertise in club affairs in his role as a member of the Committee. As well, Larry is continuing in his long serving role as Education Officer. Many members have obtained their licences and upgrades through Larry's classes over a great many years. Larry is about to start a new Advanced Licence upgrade class. Anyone thinking of upgrading should contact Larry now. In addition to Larry VK2CLL as a WIA Nominated Assessor, the club has two WIA Accredited Assessors in Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Steve Wynn VK2ZSW. Licence assessments require two assessors so the club is well placed to run assessments on demand.

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 2018 AGM is included in this issue of Oxtales.

A special Certificate of Appreciation was presented to outgoing Assistant Oxtales Editor Trevor Thatcher VK2TT at the AGM for his exemplary continuous service to the club over the last 28 years, firstly as editor, then as assistant editor of Oxtales. Trevor took on compiling Oxtales in February 1994 before officially becoming the editor a year later. Trevor had been the club Secretary for three years before

handing over to Will Jamieson VK2XXU (SK) in 1993.



Henry VKZHE presenting the Special Certificate of Appreciation to Trevor VK2TT

At the AGM, John Hansen VK2AYQ was recognized as Clubman of the Year for his dedicated valuable contribution to the club activities. John has edited Oxtales for many years. He took over as Editor some years ago from Trevor Thatcher VK2TT who continued as co-editor until this year. John was again elected Oxtales Editor at the AGM and is currently looking for a new co-editor to share the workload. No nominations for co-editor were received at the AGM. If you would like to assist, John will be very pleased to hear from you. John was unable attend the AGM so the presentation of Clubman of the Year to him was made at the September Monthly General Meeting. Congratulations, John.



John VK2AYQ receiving Clubman of the Year award from Henry VK2ZHE.

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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 on Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of August 2018.

RD Contest and ILLW

This year the Remembrance Day contest and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend took place over consecutive weekends in August 2018. 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 Sunday from the Tacking Point Lighthouse in the ILLW.

RD Contest 2018

Last year Bob Small VK2BIG negotiated the use of the Camden Haven Airfield camping area for the 2017 RD contest. After the success of the 2017 event, the Camden Haven Airfield camping area was booked again for the 2018 RD contest. The site is an excellent HF location in very pleasant



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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 Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Diana, Jim Neil VK2VIV, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Richard Court VK2CHC and Linda, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.

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 full size dipole on 160 metres was essential and performed extremely well on both transmit and receive with excellent reports from stations in both Australia and New Zealand during the hours of darkness.



Lyle VK2SMI's trailer mounted mast and HF antenna. This antenna can be raised to a considerable height and also can be used as an anchor point for the various HF dipole antennas.



One thing that requires space is a full sized 160 metres antenna. Jim VK2VIV, Lyle VK2SMI and Bob VK2ZRE erect not only a full sized 160 metre antenna but also full sized 80, 40 and 20 metre dipoles

VK2BOR made a very respectable number of contacts for a total score of 334 points. This is the highest score that VK2BOR has achieved in this contest. The incentive multipliers for 160 metres, and for contacts in the small hours of the morning, made the 24 hour operation and the erection of the 160 metre dipole very worthwhile. The 160 metre contacts earned one third of the total score. The static crashes from the thunderstorms off the NSW South Coast made working the weaker stations a challenge but operators were patient and the perseverance paid off. Everyone wanted the extra points for the night time bonus contacts.



Rob VK2CRF and Bob VK2ZRE operating VK2BOR.

The club's Honda EU20i inverter generator ran very economically for some 29 hours on less than 14 litres of fuel. This included outdoor overnight floodlighting. *Continued on next page*

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The quality of the inverter AC power is 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.

Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing the WICEN 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.



Thank you To Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for providing some of the firewood that Rob brought. Larry was unable to attend due to family commitments but he very generously provided some of the firewood. The heat of the fire can be seen in the night time photo of the fire with an impressive heat haze above the flames



Lyle VK2SMI, Arthur VK2ATM, Dennis VK2DAM and John VK2AYQ enjoy the shade and a chat underneath the gazebo.



Sitting around a blazing fire listening to the night sounds and the HF static what a perfect way to spend an evening.

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 Rob Frost VK2CRF very kindly brought along.

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In addition to the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent riverside setting, no one went hungry. Thank you to everyone who took turns to run the barbeque to produce delicious sausage lunches on both days, a steak and sausage dinner on Saturday night and a bacon and egg breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday morning.



Richard VK2CHC and below XYLs Linda and Diana



Sorting out the worlds problems with sausage sangers.

Above Arthur VK2ATM, Jim VK2VIV, Dennis VK2DAM and Lyle VK2SMI



Left work detail briefing same crew as above with the addition of Rob VK2CRF and Bob VK2ZRE

The Airfield has two cabins. Arthur VK2ATM and Henry VK2ZHE stayed overnight in comfort.

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 Sunday the 19th of August so that VK2BOR could participate in the 2018 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Unfortunately, a wedding had been booked for the Saturday so it was decided to operate on just the daylight hours of the Sunday this year

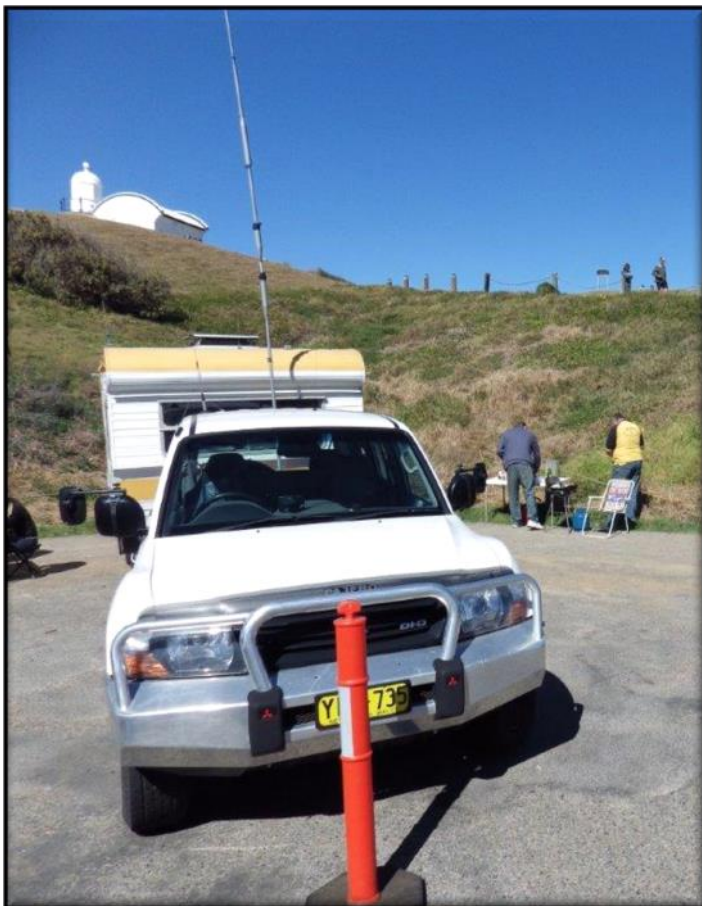
Thank you to Arthur Monck, John Bailey VK2KHB and Lyle Smith VK2SMI for claiming our usual spot for the caravan. As can be seen from the photographs, the site was a little crowded as the carpark is quite small. Henry Lundell VK2ZHE had to reverse the caravan into the carpark from the road as there was insufficient room to turn around in the carpark due to a couple of vehicles that had been parked there very early in the morning.

As it was to be a daylight hours only operation, only the HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan was used.

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Surprisingly, powerline noise was a problem on 80 and 40 metres. This was unexpected as the power to the lighthouse is underground and the nearest aerial power lines are several hundred metres away. Fortunately, 20 metres was a lot quieter. However, there were not many lighthouses amongst the stations on 20 metres. The number of lighthouse stations on 40 metres was smaller than the many stations that are normally heard on the Saturday of the ILLW. Also, many of the 40 metre stations that were heard were not very strong so the power line noise limited the number of stations that were worked. The contacts that were made were very enjoyable. Hopefully, we will have access to the Lighthouse on the Saturday of the ILLW next year as Saturday afternoon seems to be the peak for the number of lighthouse stations on 40 metres.



Note the bend in the trapped vertical from a huge gust of wind.

The day was fine but the wind was relentless and increased as the day went on as evidenced by the bend in the HF trap vertical antenna in the accompanying photos. Fortunately, at

ground level, the carpark was sheltered from the wind. It was very pleasant inside the caravan and several people took turns in operating VK2BOR. Note the photographic evidence of David Pilley VK2AYD with the VK2BOR microphone in hand.



Almost did not recognize Dave VK2AYD operating station VK2BOR without a morse key in his hand!



Arthur VKATM always operates with a cheerful smile

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The coffee was very popular and the 71st birthday cake that Dennis Meade VK2DAM brought along for morning tea was a special treat. Happy Birthday, Dennis. Thank you to Sue for making the cake. It was a delicious sponge filled with strawberries and cream. Arthur Monck VK2ATM brought along batch of a delicious biscuits that Nora had made especially for the event. Thank you, Nora. Between morning and afternoon tea the biscuit tin emptied rapidly!

The barbeque produced a very welcome delicious bacon and egg breakfast in the hands of Lyle Smith VK2SMI plus a very enjoyable sausage sizzle lunch in the hands of Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE. This year the southerly wind wasn't a problem for the barbeque as the carpark is sheltered from winds from the south.



Bob VK2ZRE cooking up a storm of sausages for lunch.

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 weather held until about 4 pm when the forecast change with very strong winds arrived just as everything was packed up ready for departure.



At the end of every Club activity there is the most important job of cleaning and packing up. Lyle VK2SMI and Dennis VK2DAM cleaning the BBQ ready for use next time.



Paul VK2ICQ making sure that the paper work was all in hand.

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the weekend. Callsigns included John Bailey VK2KHB, David Pilley VK2AYD, Darren Froggatt VK2MIA, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Diana, John Hansen VK2AYQ, and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.



*Now you see the coins now you don't!
Club Treasurer Dennis VK2DAM counts the money
trying to concentrate despite the many helpful
comments being offered!*



*The magnificent Lighthouse Beach below Tacking
Point Lighthouse.*

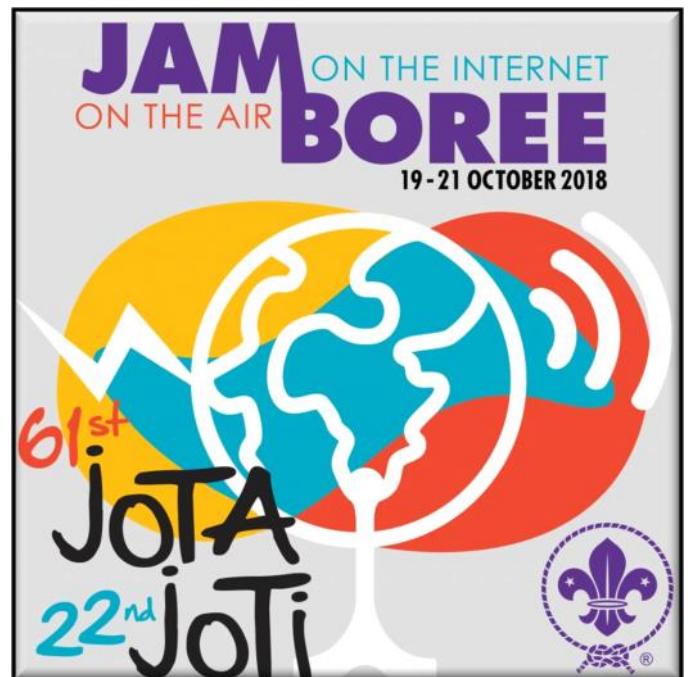
Westlakes Field Day

The Westlakes Field Day takes place on Sunday the 28th of October 2018. 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 and well worth the trip. There are always irresistible bargains to be had.

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 2018



The 61st annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of October 2018. It is also the 22nd annual Jamboree on the Internet.

This year the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts are hosting a District Camp at McInherney Park in Port Macquarie. It

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will be a Lower Orama District event which will encompass groups from Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, South West Rocks, Wauchope, Camden Haven (Laurieton) and of course, Port Macquarie. As a result, there will only be one JOTA station this year in the district with everyone coming to Port Macquarie.

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 station will be very busy indeed this year so we will need more than the usual number of operators. Fortunately, with only one station to run this year, it should be a little easier to find enough ORARC members.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE is co-ordinating the VK2BOR JOTA station operation. If you haven't already done so, please contact me to advise if you are able to assist on Saturday the 20th of October 2018. The station will only operate on the Saturday as Sunday the 21st of October is the Beechwood Billycart Classic and all available operators will be needed for this event on the Sunday.

It is a requirement of the Scouting Association that all volunteers must have a Working With Children (WWC) check number. Anyone who does not already have a WWC number can easily obtain one on line at <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check> For volunteers there is no cost. Simply complete the on line form and you will receive an email. Print out the email and take it the RMS NSW Government Service Centre (In Port Macquarie it is in the building in Central Road that was originally the Motor Registry) where you will have to show your Drivers Licence for identification. The counter staff will verify

the identification and you will receive the WWC number shortly afterwards by email.

It is now the responsibility of organisations to verify WWC numbers prior to events. ORARC has to provide 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts a list of names, date of birth and WWC Check numbers from each person who is attending JOTA/JOTI at McInherney Park. The Group Leader needs this list on Sunday 14th October so it can be sent to the State Office for the checks to be completed in the 5 working days leading up to JOTA/JOTI.

If you haven't already done so, please email your date of birth and WWC Check number to Henry Lundell VK2ZHE by Saturday the 13th of October at the latest so that I can forward it to the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts Group Leader in time to make the deadline.

Beechwood Billycart Classic



The 39th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic takes place on the morning of Sunday the 21st of October 2018.

Jim Neil VK2VIV is co-ordinating the club's involvement in the Beechwood Billycart Classic. If you haven't yet offered your services and are able to attend, please contact Jim 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

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children's race will start at 11:30 am. The racing concludes at 12:00 noon so it won't be a long day.

The Beechwood Billycart Classic is a great family day out with plenty of entertainment and food stalls in the finish area adjacent to the Beechwood Hotel.

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 Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU is now the co-ordinator.

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 Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU, or just come along to the meetings. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

There will be a strong WICEN presence at the annual VH-MDX multi service SAREX in in the Barrington Tops during the period the 14th to the 16th of September 2018. At least two Mid North Coast WICEN members intend participating again this

year. We look forward to a report in November Oxtales.

Christmas Party



Don't forget the club's Christmas party on the normal December monthly general meeting date of Saturday the 1st of December 2018. The venue this year will again be the very popular Long Point Art Gallery and Vineyard. More details in November Oxtales. Mark your calendar now.

2019 Field Day

The 2019 Field Day is only 9 months away. The dates are Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June during the 2019 Queens Birthday Holiday long weekend. Planning is already in progress. More details in the November 2018 issue of Oxtales.

Member News

Welcome to the new member Larry Thompson VK2LJT from Tuncurry who has recently joined the Oxley Region Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Larry is the Communications Manager for the SES Mid North Coast Region.

On a sad note, past Associate Member, Noel Symington passed away peacefully on Wednesday 25th July, 2018, aged 93 years.

Continued on next page

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He lived in the Le Hamel RSL Village, Port Macquarie. Many members will remember Noel. He was very keen to obtain his Amateur Radio licence but this ambition was overtaken by life's events, much to his disappointment. Vale Noel Symington.

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their memberships this year. Only a couple of membership subscriptions are still outstanding. Please see the article from club Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

From The Club's Treasurer

Dennis VK2DAM

Outstanding Subscriptions

There are still a few members who have not paid as yet here are the details of the recent e mail I sent out, not all members had email addresses or they only had old ones not being used

Dear fellow ORARC member,

This is a reminder that annual subscriptions are now overdue for renewal. The easiest way to pay subs, for members with computer access, is by direct deposit into the Club's account with the Holiday Coast Credit Union.

BSB: 721-000
Account Number: 100032744

Don't forget to reference your name or call sign to identify your payment.

Alternatively, you can pay by a cheque made out to Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and post it to PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444 . Finally, if

you attend the monthly meeting , you can pay then.

Fees remain the same as last year: \$40 for ordinary membership, \$10 for distant membership and the family membership concession still applies.

Donations

In a recent Club Bank Statement showed as an item of interest for the Club receiving donations there was a sum of money from Ritchies IGA for the sum of \$33.02 while not much every little helps.

Henry has confirmed that a form can be picked up from the Port Macquarie IGA Richies Store and you can allocate savings from purchases to the Club. The Hastings Co -op IGA doesn't provide the same option.

So those members who shop at Ritchies can also help the Club!

73
Dennis VK2DAM Treasurer.

From Jim VK2VIV 2018 Beechwood Billy Card Classic Co-Ordinator.

Would any member who would like to be involved in this years Billy Cart Classic which will be held on 21 October this year please contact Jim Neil VK2VIV.

There are no details at this stage as to the requirements however Jim will notify all members by email when the info comes to hand.

Jim may be contacted Those interested via email or SMS jimneil99@yahoo.com.au 0487812481



STOP PRESS LATE NEWS FOR INCLUSION IN THE
Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club News and Oxtales

At the Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club which was held yesterday, Saturday the 4th of August 2018, the following office bearers were elected:

President:	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Vice President:	Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Secretary:	Nil Nominations - Henry Lundell VK2ZHE acting Secretary
Treasurer:	Dennis Meade VK2DAM
Committee Member	1: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Committee Member	2: Arthur Monck VK2ATM
Committee Member	3: Rob Frost VK2CRF
Public Officer:	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Repeater Chairman:	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Oxtales Editor:	John Hansen VK2AYQ
Oxtales Co-Editor:	Nil nominations - Vacant
VK2BOR Station Mgr:	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
QSL Manager	Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Welfare Officer:	Dennis Meade VK2DAM
Publicity Officer:	Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Webmaster:	Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Education Officer:	Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Club Historian:	John Bailey VK2KHB
Social Director:	Jim Neil VK2VIV
WIA Liaison Delegate:	Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE
Member Liaison Officer:	Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Submitted by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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WALES TO WAHROONGA FIRST WIRELESS MESSAGE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 22nd September 2018

Reprinted from the Hornsby and Districts
Amateur Radio Club Inc. (HADARC)
<https://www.hadarc.org.au//w2w.html>

“ In the Northern Welsh town of Waunfawr on a cool and overcast night, the Australian Prime Minister William Morris Hughes outlined a message for Senatore Guglielmo Marconi to send to Australia by wireless. It was Sunday 22nd September 1918 and the Prime Minister had just returned from the battlefields in Europe.

This was to be the first direct wireless message sent from the United Kingdom to Australia and the recipient was Mr Ernest Thomas Fisk who had an experimental wireless station in the attic of “Lucania“; his residence at the corner of Stuart and Cleveland Streets in Wahroonga. Since that historic day, a monument has been erected at the corner of the two streets, unveiled in December 1935, when the former Prime Minister, Mr ‘Billy’ Hughes, addressed the assembly and Marchese Marconi also spoke by wireless from Paris in France.



Mr Ernest Thomas Fisk

On Saturday 22nd September 2018, there will be centenary celebrations at the monument. At 1pm ‘The Ku-ring-gai Male Choir’ will sing the Welsh and Australian anthems and at 1.15pm the original Morse code message will be heard by all present and a Radio Operator will decipher the message which will then be read to the gathering, including Fisk family members, Politicians, local Councillors, Ku-ring-gai residents, wireless enthusiasts and historians.

The assembly will then move to St Andrew’s church hall across Cleveland Street where further celebrations will take place. There will be many displays including old and new wireless equipment, radio stations operated by “Hornsby and District Amateur Radio Club” with a special callsign VK100MARCONI for the occasion and official stamps to commemorate the day as well as refreshments (at small charge). These displays will be open from 11am to 4pm in the church hall and everybody is welcome to attend.

To assist with the celebrations at the monument and the church hall there will be road closures in the area. Car parking will be available in nearby streets.

We hope to see you all there on Saturday 22nd September”.

The special event station VK100MARCONI will be activated during centenary day and for one month after.

Direct QSLs to HADARC, PO Box 362
Hornsby NSW 1630.

QSLs within Australia to include a SASE for return card.

Overseas QSL requests to include 3 green stamps (or equivalent).

Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE from Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club Inc. (HADARC)

Continued on next page

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society & Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

CENTENARY CELEBRATION: 1918 - 2018

**of the first direct wireless message from
United Kingdom to Australia - Wales to Wahroonga**

in Cleveland and Stuart Streets, Wahroonga

Saturday 22 September

11am - 4pm

Ernest Fisk received the first direct message at the experimental wireless station in his home *Lucania* in Wahroonga. Prime Minister 'Billy' Hughes sent the message from the Marconi installation in Wales towards the conclusion of World War I.

Attendees at the Monument on this day will include Fisk descendants, Politicians, local Councillors, residents, the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir, wireless enthusiasts and historians.

Paul Fletcher, MP for Bradfield, will be the MC at the Monument where the Morse message will be heard. Later at the nearby St Andrew's Church Hall there will be an active radio station (using a special call sign for the day) wireless equipment, local history material, commemorative stamps and even bygone wireless memorabilia.

Radio 2HHH *FM* will broadcast.

There will be some road closures



For information: KHS Inc: Jo Harris OAM - 0408 439 343 / Geoff Little - 0411 885 870
HADARC Inc: John Bishop - 0427 949 976 / Bob Iles - 0409 983 473

Continued on next page



The Right Hon.
W.M. Hughes
P.C. & L.D.

The FIRST DIRECT WIRELESS MESSAGES from ENGLAND to AUSTRALIA.



The Right Hon.
Sir Joseph Cook
G.C.M.G., P.C.

AMALGAMATED WIRELESS (Australasia) LIMITED
WIRELESS HOUSE, 47 CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

1. *Wahroonga* OFFICE *Sept 22nd 1918*
London *Amount 1/15 per 1/2 hr.*

Marked in at _____
CASHED BY _____

AMALGAMATED WIRELESS (Australasia) LIMITED
WIRELESS HOUSE, 47 CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

2. *Wahroonga* OFFICE *Sept 22nd 1918*
London *Amount 1/15 per 1/2 hr.*

Marked in at _____
CASHED BY _____

Sydney for Publication

I have just returned from a visit to the battlefields where the glorious valour and dash of the Australian troops saved Amiens and forced back the legions of the enemy, filled with greater admiration than ever for these glorious men and more convinced than ever that it is the duty of their fellow-citizens to keep these magnificent battalions up to their full strength.

W.M. Hughes, Prime Minister

Sydney for Publication

Royal Australian Navy is magnificently bearing its part in the great struggle. Spirit of sailors and soldiers alike is beyond praise. Recent hard fighting brilliantly successful but makes reinforcements imperative. Australia badly realises the wonderful reputation which our men have won. Every effort being constantly made here to dispose of Australia's surplus products.

Joseph Cook, Minister for Navy.



Senator
G. Marconi
G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

These messages were transmitted by arrangement with Senator G. Marconi, G.C.V.O., D.S.O. & Godfrey C. Isaacs Esq. Managing Director, Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, from the Marconi Transatlantic Station, at Carnarvon, Wales, at 3.15 a.m. & 3.25 a.m. (Greenwich mean time) September 22nd, 1918.

Received instantaneously at 1.15 p.m. & 1.25 p.m. (Sydney time) by Mr. E.T. Fisk, Member Institute of Radio Engineers & Managing Director, Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, - at his Experimental Wireless Station, Wahroonga, New South Wales, with apparatus designed and manufactured in Sydney by Mr. Fisk and the Staff of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited.



E.T. Fisk Esq.
Receiving the
messages shown
above.

Items for Sale from the Estate of Colin Wall VK2JC (SK)

The following pages lists the items that are for sale from the estate with realistic prices suggested by Henry VK2ZHE. Photographs are included for some of the items where ever possible.

Stephen Wall, Colin Wall's son is handling the sales. Stephen requests that enquiries should be by phone to 0448 261 383 between the hours of 16:00 and 17:00 each day.



Item 13 Linear Amplifier Emtron DX-1 \$2,500

Item 10 Yaesu FT-990 HF Transceiver \$500.



Item 11 Yaesu FT-736R VHF/UHF allmode Transceiver \$500.



Item 14 Siglent Digital Storage Oscilloscope \$200



Item 16 MFJ 1.5 Kw Antenna Tuner \$200



The following photographs are referenced by their item number only and descriptions and prices may be found on the next page.

Item 1



Item 3



Item 5



Item 6



Item 7



Item 8



Item 9



Item 12



Item 15



Item 17



Item 18

Continued on next page

List of Items for Sale from the Estate of Colin Wall VK2JC (SK)
All enquiries to Steve Wall by mobile phone 0448 261 383 between 16:00 and 17:00 any day.

Item #	Type	Make	Model	Serial #	Description	Comments	Price
1	Instrument	Trio	CS-1351	455023	Oscilloscope. Single trace	Early model. With manual	\$25.00
2	Instrument	Leader	LSG-16	9102193	RF Signal Generator.	100kHz to 100MHz in six ranges. With manual	\$50.00
3	Instrument	AVO	AVOMETER 8	07769	8V/8/78 HV Multimeter.	Industry Standard - Collectors' item	\$100.00
4	Power Supply	Jaytech	MP-3080	6038233	DC Power Supply.	0-30 VDC/2.5A.	\$30.00
5	Power Supply	Avair	AV-815M		Switching Power Supply.	Variable DC Power Supply 4 - 16 Volts 10 amps	\$35.00
6	Data Controller	Pakratt	PIK-232	10208	Multimode Data Controller.	With manual	\$50.00
7	Instrument	Uni-T	UT803	1090332303	True RMS Multimeter.	Accessories compartment lid missing.	\$50.00
8	Power Supply	DSE	Q1770	350708095	DC Power Supply.	0 - 30 Volt 2.5 amp DC Bench Power Supply Digital Panel Meters	\$30.00
9	Radio	Swan	Swan-350	CS21243	55B Transceiver & Power Supply	With Swan-2300C Power Supply & Manual - No microphone	\$100.00
10	Radio	Yaesu	FT-990	2H160366	HF Transceiver.	With SP-6 External Speaker and MD-1 Desk Microphone	\$500.00
11	Radio	Yaesu	FT-736R	3H730236	VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver.	With Manual	\$500.00
12	Radio	ICOM	IC-R70	8209	Receiver.	with Manual	\$100.00
13	Linear Amplifier	Emtron	DX-1	10078	HF Linear Amplifier 1kW	High quality 1kW PEP 160 - 10 metre Linear. Built in Power Supply	\$2,500.00
14	Instrument	Siglent	SDS-1052 DL	SD500004120778	Digital Storage Oscilloscope.	Colour display, new in wrapping.	\$200.00
15	Instrument	Atten	F2700-C	Nil	2.7 GHz Frequency Counter.	Current model frequency counter to 2.7 GHz. 8 Digit LED display	\$100.00
16	Antenna Tuner	MFJ	MFJ-962C	32319	1.5 kW Antenna Tuner.	Popular high power HF antenna tuner	\$200.00
17	Instrument	Trio	PF-810	462202	Function RF Power Meter.	1.8 to 200 MHz RF Power meter	\$50.00
18	Receiver Accessory	MFJ	MFJ-784B	Nil	Tunable DSP Filter.	With Manual	\$100.00
19	Test Equipment Kit	DSE	K-7604	7604263	1 GHz Frequency Counter.	Kit, unopened.	\$25.00
20	Test Equipment Kit	DSE	K-7620	7620270	VHF/UHF Spectrum Analyzer.	Kit, unopened.	\$25.00
21	Microphone	Nakamichi	DM500	Nil	Microphone.	Incomplete, no stand. Termination and cabling incomplete.	\$10.00
22	Instrument	Kyoritsu	K-109	Nil	Standing Wave Ratio.	Collectors item - Original HF SWR meter sold to Amateurs	\$30.00
23	Instrument	Vectronics	DL-650M	Nil	1.5 kW HF-UHF Dry Dummy Load.		\$50.00
24	Workshop	DSE	N5984	Nil	UV Exposure Box.	UV Exposure box for exposing circuit board UV sensitive resist	\$10.00
25	Radio	Dzawa	LA-2060	F001420	144 mHz Linear Amp (12 vDC).	60 Watts out for 1 Watt in. FM/SSB switchable. With Manual	\$50.00
26	Workshop	Micron	T2442	Nil	Variable Temp Soldering Iron.	Quality variable temperature soldering iron.	\$25.00
27	Instrument	Lodestar	DM4061	8307143	Transmission Dip Meter.	1.5 - 250 MHz by 6 plug in coils. 2 coils missing. With Manual	\$25.00

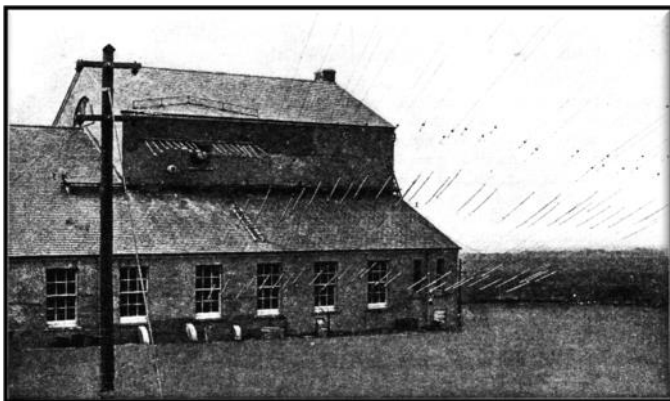
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The Marconi Centenary



Marconi 100 Year Commemoration of First Direct Wireless Message from UK to Australia. September this year marks the 100th anniversary of the first wireless transmission between Australia and the United Kingdom. Messages were transmitted from the Marconi station at Waunfawr in Wales on the 22nd September 1918, and were received at the Wahroonga home of Ernest Fisk, the Managing Director of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited (A.W.A.).



Transmitting Station note antenna feedlines from building.

Two communications were sent by Morse code back to Australia. The first message was from the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. W.M. "Billy" Hughes, who was in the UK at the time, and the second from the Minister for the Navy, Mr. Joseph Cook who accompanied Hughes.

Wireless was a very new phenomenon, and the experiment between Ernest Fisk and Guglielmo Marconi was a significant achievement in the early development of world-wide wireless communications. There was considerable public interest, and political controversy, as Hughes was using his wireless message to strengthen support for the war effort in Europe at a time when support in Australia was waning. The Marconi-Fisk achievement is commemorated by a plaque located outside the original receiving site in Wahroonga, which is still a private residence.



This event has very high significance for the descendants of the Cable and Wireless company, the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC), AWA, Siemens, and the entire radiocommunications community.

Winged Heel Mercury atop the Fisk Monument.

The WIA acknowledges the ongoing commitment of the Hornsby Amateur Radio Club to commemorating Marconi every 5th year.

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A QSL sample card



IARU Region 3 Conference Off and Running

Date : 10 / 09 / 2018

Author : WIA & IARU

There are 74 attendees at the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 Conference in Seoul, Korea.

All delegates and observers from the Region 3 member societies assembled for the opening full (plenary) session (see attached picture).

The group started to work through the extensive agenda. One area of the agenda that stands out are the many band planning items that include:

- Harmonize 2m APRS MARTS
- Interim IARU Region 3 Band Plan (IARU R3)

- Coordination between the IARU Regions on VHF, UHF and MW Bands (IARU R1)

- 15m Band Satellite Planning (IARU)
- Proposal Establishment The IARU Region 3 Bandplan Committee (ORARI)

Full details of the agenda over the next five days can be found on the IARU Region 3 website



The SES forward command vehicle. SES27

By Larry VK2LJT Communications Manager for the SES Mid North Coast Region.



The Mid North Coast Region of the NSW SES recently acquired its long awaited Forward Command Vehicle FCV. The vehicle was to replace a locally designed and fitted out Iveco van that had been in service in the mid north coast region for a number of years up until about 3 years ago.

The new vehicle designation SES27 was

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certainly worth the wait, it is much more capable than the previous vehicle. It is a Mercedes Sprinter all wheel drive. Henry Lundell and I took it to Grafton last Tuesday for a ministerial media event. It is great to drive cruising easily at highway speeds. Having some capability in light off road conditions, while not intended to go into rough terrain its concept is to provide an operational capability where none exists such as at a land search operation in support of the police, or for SES purposes at a weather related event such as storm, flood or even tsunami where it would provide a platform from which to undertake operations.

SES27 is equipped with three radios, 2 x Motorola APX8500 with both SES and RFS UHF channels for analogue, digital and digital P25, and an Icom air band radio.

Additionally, there is the facility for other agencies to supply their hand held radio that can be connected to the system via the hand held radio's speaker / microphone connection and antenna socket.

Transmit and receive is via combiners that combine all transmit to a single antenna on the vehicle roof for transmit and receives signal from a separate antenna via the combiner. There is a separate system for both UHF and VHF.

The Omnitronics Consoles at the two operating positions allow monitoring of all radios, or selected radios at each of the two consoles which can be set to either monitor at half volume, or in the on position for transmit via either the foot switch or the PTT on the console. The headsets allow quiet operation with audio via the headsets only when the mute is activated on the console to quiet the console speaker.

There are three computers for email, skype, and data transfer to the SES beacon system, this is the SES job allocation and control system.

Number 3 computer is interfaced with the TV screen that is accessed via the hatch for external briefing of search teams or skype calls etc.

A Kyocera colour laser printer is available for printing maps and other information etc.

Telephones systems are 2 x TU550 mobile phones, and a Cisco IP phone as an extension of the State HQ phone system. The vehicle creates a Wi-Fi bubble within and around itself whereby all SES devices will automatically connect when they are within range. In this regard it mimics an SES unit headquarters. A 4GX modem is fitted to the top of the rack and is connected to external antennas.

Also the vehicle is fitted with a satellite phone with an Explorer antenna system on the vehicle's roof.

SES27 has an energy system consisting of four 6 volt batteries delivering a nominal 8Kw power budget. The battery levels are monitored by the Victron management system so that when the vehicle is in operational mode it will start and stop the engine autonomously to recharge the batteries. When running the air con with the side door open the engine idles up by an additional 200 rpm to take account of the extra energy required to power the system with the air con on. It is therefore possible to run the system indefinitely providing fuel is kept replenished. Experience thus far has shown that the system has not required the vehicle engine to cut in to recharge batteries even when the vehicle has been operational for the day. I expect that will change when use is made of the air con in summer.

When the vehicle is stood down it is connected to mains power so as to maintain operational readiness at all times. It also charges off the 220 amp alternator during vehicle running to and from tasks. Mains power is also used when available on site at an incident to avoid having to run the engine start / stop system.

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A blue sky 8 metre mast is available to erect beside the vehicle to increase height and therefore the coverage of the radios.

A portable repeater is stowed in the rear compartment. It can be set up at a suitable high point with the blue sky mast and operated either as a discrete stand alone repeater or together with the GRN link linked into the GRN for back haul to a region office or the State Operations Centre SOC.

A Solarpod portable battery system is on board to provide 1 Kw of electrical energy to power the portable repeater, we are to get another Solarpod so as to provide continuous power so as they can be swapped over for recharging.

SES27 is proving somewhat in demand and has currently deployed to Sydney Northern Region for a rescue competition on the weekend of the 15th September



Blue Sky Mast and two other SES vehicles.



Kate de Vries from the SES service attended the last Oxley Region Amateur Radio

Club's meeting to give a very interesting talk on flexible SES volunteering,

Flexible volunteering is a new initiative where members who may not be able to commit to a full time involvement with the SES can still become a valued volunteer on a flexible part time basis.

Kate outlined the joining process and offered to provide assistance for members to join on line after the meeting. Several members took advantage of this offer after the meeting. Henry VK2ZHE has also sent out an email to members outlining the online joining procedures.

Larry Thompson, VK2LJT.

Accuracy and attention to detail does matter.

Bob VK2ZRE thought that the following neatly illustrated the above point!



Blast from the Past

(By Jim, VK2VIV, Secretary)

Blast from the past is taken from back issues of Oxtales and it provides an opportunity to reflect on past club activities and also provides new members an insight to the club's history.

This month's Blast from the Past is taken from the September 2008 edition of Oxtales. It is especially pertinent as it contains an insight to the current close relationship to the SES. Up to 2008 ORARC used to have club meetings in the old SES building in Gordon street. The meeting rooms were in the second story of the building and members may remember the steep stairs to gain access to the room. Lugging equipment up and down these stairs involved considerable hard work; especially anything involving the large club's BBQ. An amusing comment at the time was to say if one wanted to see club members moving quickly; the call assistance is needed with the BBQ now, elicited a response of members scattering to the four points of the compass!!! In fact we all took our turn in moving equipment though it was quite onerous.

ORARC had to move out of the old SES building as SES was moving premises and the building was in need of major repair and the second floor was deemed to be unsuitable for use. As an interim measure the club secured a meeting room at the Port City Bowling Club. However this was always understood to be of a temporary nature.

Jim VK2VIV took a major part in securing alternative premises and after considerable debate a deal was negotiated with SES that the club would be given access to room in the new SES building that was being constructed in Central Road. Many members of the club joined the SES in the process so that there was a 'win win' situation all around. Jim's report on the matter was published in the September 2008 issue of Oxtales and is worth reading again today.

Well, after a lot of meetings and organizing, we are well on the way to having a secured building with all amenities to house the club.

As I report, we have had fifteen (15) ORARC members sign up with the local SES. This will give us the right to use the building and amenities to conduct our club meetings.

Our commitment to the SES will be as Radio Operators and Operation Centre personnel when needed. The SES Controller appreciates our expertise in this field and is as excited as we are in the joining of our organizations.

After the last few members to sign up have received their clearance, which should happen by the end of August, we will be attending our induction session. This is set down for Saturday 13th September at 1p-mat the SES building.

We can then proceed with the necessary training on the operations side of the organization. So, when our 3 months probation is up, we can be called upon, if needed, to assist.

It is anticipated that the new building will be completed and ready to move in by the New Year. As the building progresses we will join the SES for site inspections. This will give us the opportunity to discuss any antenna requirements.

A "spin-off" from our joining up with the SES is that any of our field exercises such as the RD contest, Lighthouse Weekend and Beechwood Billy Cart Derby, will be covered by the SES insurance, thus saving us having this overhead. We will need to discuss further the need to insure our assets, but even if they are not completely covered by the SES policy, ours should be at least be reduced as they

ORARC Joins SES

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will be covered whilst stored on the premises.

Club Annual Field Days may even be held on our joint site, thus saving us the cost of hiring a hall.

There will be no charge for the use of the SES building as we will be members. We have been paying a yearly fee by way of a donation, so here is another saving for the club.

Finally some FAQ's:

Do we have to wear the orange overalls ? NO! We will be issued with tee-shirts, but overalls only if needed or we volunteer for a field exercise

How often are we expected to attend the SES. *Initially we will need to attend a couple of Wednesday nights a month for training, then maybe one or two Wednesday nights a month. Whilst not all of our members will actively participate on a regular basis, there will be some training exercises involving us throughout the year and other members can then assist.*

Until the new SES building is ready for occupation, we will still meet at the Port City Bowling Club.

One final note: The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc still remains a separate identity and will remain affiliated with the WIA.

Jim VK2VIV

Editors Note: It is interesting to look back at how events have unfolded and to see how each organization has benefitted from the close association.

The option of holding ORARC's field days at the SES was explored however it was decided that in practice it would not be feasible and the club needed the flexibility of holding such events at other premises.

Oxtales September 2008 also had a report on the International Lighthouse and Lightship contest that as held in the previous month. This contest was an extremely significant one for the club as it was the inaugural outing of the Club's Communication Caravan.



The caravan was perched on top of the lighthouse point on the side of the road. As can be seen from the photograph below.



The caravan was purchased from the Port Macquarie Sea Rescue organisation and was their mobile radio room. The original Sea Rescue signage can still be seen in the photographs.

The operating site previous to using the caravan was an ex-army tent erected on the foundations of the old lighthouse keepers cottage on the opposite side of the road.

The caravan provided a much better operating position and a degree of comfort and protection from the elements that was not possible with the old tent.

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Rigging the external antenna was a work of art as it was erected on the other side of the fence and was exposed to the full force of the considerable winds that sweep across the hill. The photograph below shows the expertise in erecting the antenna. Although it is hard to recognise members in the photographs Jim VK2VIV and Henry VK2ZHE can be recognised in the photograph below.



Bruce VK2HOT and Bill VK2ZCW (SK)

The Wednesday morning working bees at Henry VK2ZHE had worked tirelessly in preparing the caravan and fitting the necessary electrics and operating positions for the VKBOR station.

The radio sets operate on battery power and are charged up by club's generator with an automatic change over when the generator is off and on line.

For Sale

The following item from Dennis VK2DAM although not electronic in nature could be used as a adjunct to an amateurs operating shack. A comfortable sofa bed to relax upon whilst chasing that elusive DX!

Dennis VK2DAM has the following for sale.



Little used Sofa Bed \$50.

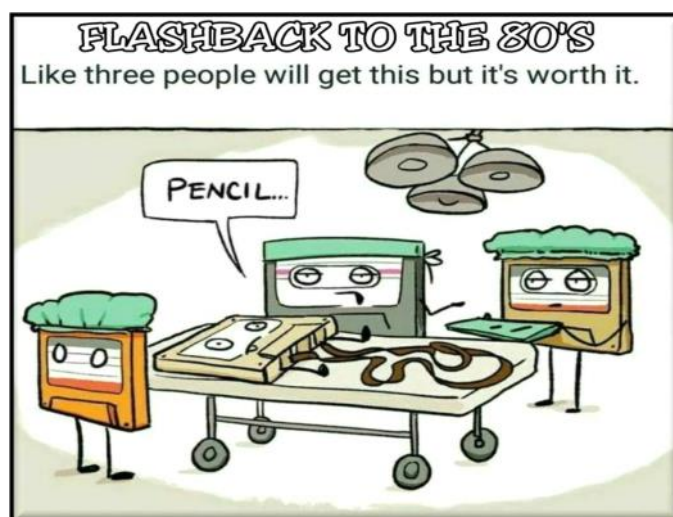
H- 770mm W-1800mm D-930mm

**Buyer
Collects**



Phone Dennis VK2DAM on 0408896246

An amusing cartoon submitted by Bob VK2ZRE.



Equipment from the Past

Swan 350 SSB Transceiver



The Swan 350 SSB Transceiver was first manufactured in 1964/1965 and continued to be produced until the early 1970's. These transceivers were popular with the Amateur fraternity in its day and form the basis of many a restoration project today.

The transceivers had a recommended retail value of around \$400US which was quite a considerable amount of money in the 1960's. The one pictured has the coveted original white faced dial and is being offered for sale from the estate of Colin Wall VK2JC (SK) for \$100 (see details on page 18 of this Oxtales edition).

The transceiver has a frequency operating range of 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. On SSB, CW and AM.

Power output was approximately:

SSB 400 watts PEP minimum on all bands.

CW 320 watts dc input on all bands

AM 125 watts dc input on all bands.

The set had 16 valves and used a 6GK6 driver and a pair of 6HF5 valves as the finals.

Audio output into a 3.2 ohm load 4 watts with a frequency response 300 to 3,000

Htz.

The power supply was external to the Transceiver and was usually sold as a combined speaker and power supply. The power requirements were 12.6 volts at 5.5 amps for the filaments, 12 volts DC at 100 ma for relays, -110 volts DC at 100 ma for bias, 275 volts DC at 150 ma and 800 volts DC at 500 ma at peak transmitting power.

Swan 350 SSB Weight 7.7 Kg

One of the distinguishing design features of that generation of Swan transceivers was their dual rate, gear-driven tuning dial. A front knob provided slow rate tuning while a metal, outer collar tuned much faster enabling rapid frequency changes across a band. Improved models of the two transceivers were periodically introduced well into the 1970s along with accessories, including a remote VFO (for separate control of receiver and transmitter frequency) and the Mark-I and Mark-II linear amplifiers.

The literature indicated that there was a careful procedure that needed to be followed to ensure proper tuning to a frequency however when that was followed the sets were relatively stable and easy to operate. All of the necessary controls were located on the front panel.

The restoration of old vintage equipment such as the Swan 350 is helped by the lack of any IC's or chip technology inside. The transceiver only uses 2 transistors and 5 diodes alongside the 16 valves. In addition the sets were well made with the mechanical elements being robust and durable.

Manuals and information about the Swan 350 may be found on the internet for any member whom may be interested in purchasing a piece of amateur history.