



OXTALES

First published 1980

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

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club email address: vk2bor@orarc.org also on Facebook as Oxley

Region Amateur Radio Club

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



ORARC's Forty-eighth Anniversary Year

March 2019

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

President's Report

March 2019

President's Report



ORARC 2019 Field Day 8 & 9 June Queens Birthday Weekend.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June for the ORARC 44th Annual Field Day over the 2019 Queens Birthday Weekend.

The venue for the 2019 Field Day is the Wauchope Showground hall in High Street, Wauchope. This hall is an excellent venue and will support all the usual Field Day activities. It is a long time since a Field Day was held in the Wauchope Showground so both locals and visitors will be on an even footing in the fox hunts.

ORARC was unable to secure the usual Field Day venue, the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall this year but it is

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

VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)

Item	Page No
President's Monthly Report	Front Cover
Down the Coax	2
E-Mail Directory	2
Net Controllers' Roster	2
Antenna Shoot Out	4
Wyong Field Day	6
40 Metre Antenna Construction	9
Repeater Link Meeting Report	14
Calculating Aids	15
Google Maps Pacific	17
Antenna Shoot Out Results	18
Items for Sale	19
Blast From the Past	20
WIA Matters	21
Equipment from the Past	23
Silent Key Graeme Greenwood ex VK2ZIS	24
Silent Key Keith Hanlon	25
White Ribbon Walk Antenna	26
SES Open Day	26
Members Directory	28

Down The Coax

ORARC meetings held in the SES Building
Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 March 2019 2:00 pm

40 Metre Dipole Construction and Testing Day
Sunday 10 March 2019 SES Building 12 noon

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest
Sunday 10 March 2019 Sydney Harbour

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 March 2019 7.00 pm

John Moyle Memorial Field Day
Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March 2019
VK2BOR at Camden Haven Airfield

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 April 2019 2:00 pm

Urunga Convention
Saturday 20 April and Sunday 21 April 2019

Friday Night Get-Together 4th Friday due to Easter
Friday 26 April 2019 7.00 pm

ANZAC Day AX prefix permitted by ACMA
Thursday 25 April 2019

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 May 2019 2:00 pm

World Telecommunication Day
Friday 17 May 2019. AX prefix permitted

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 May 2019 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 June 2019 2:00 pm

ORARC Field Day Wauchope Showground Hall
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2019
Field Day Dinner Sat. Port Macquarie Golf Club

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

March 2019

VK2FMGM	Mar 3	VK2ZHE	Mar 7
VK2FMGM	Mar 10	VK2ICQ	Mar 14
VK2FMGM	Mar 17	VK2EM	Mar 21
VK2FMGM	Mar 24	VK2ZHE	Mar 28
VK2FMGM	Mar 31		

April 2019

VK2FMGM	Apr 7	VK2ICQ	Apr 4
VK2FMGM	Apr 14	VK2EM	Apr 11
VK2FMGM	Apr 21	VK2ZHE	Apr 18
VK2FMGM	Apr 28	VK2ICQ	Apr 25

May 2019

VK2FMGM	May 5	VK2EM	May 2
VK2FMGM	May 12	VK2ZHE	May 9
VK2FMGM	May 19	VK2ICQ	May 16
VK2FMGM	May 26	VK2EM	May 23
		VKZHE	May 30

Continued from page 1

hoped that the Field Day can return to this venue in 2020.

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for negotiating and booking the Wauchope Showground hall for the 2019 Field Day. Suitable halls are very hard to find due to the popularity of Sunday morning booking by other groups. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes on to make club activities run smoothly! Thank you Larry.

The Wauchope Showground permits camping and is pet friendly. For two people an RV or caravan is \$20 per night with power and a tent is \$10 per night with power. The use of toilets and hot showers is included. . You can even get a stable for your horse for \$10 per night! Contact the on-site caretaker 0475 111 074 for bookings. The web page is at <http://www.wauchopeshowociety.com.au/camping.html>

The Field Day dinner as usual will be at 6pm at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday the 8th of June. The dinner will be held in the recently renovated Aspire Restaurant which is now segregated from the main lounge area. The club offers an extensive dinner menu to cater for all tastes at club prices.

There will be all the usual displays and activities at the Field Day. Entry is still a very modest \$5 which covers admission on both days. The barbeque will work overtime with bacon and egg sandwiches for breakfast both days and sausages and steak for lunch both days. Tea and coffee and biscuits will be free all day for those who have registered. Soft drinks and bottled water will be available for purchase.

Radio Supply of Bellingen will have a large range of accessories and other items at their stand at the Field Day.



ALARA will be attending the Field Day again this year. Call in to the ALARA stand and meet Dot Bishop VK2DB.



Amateur Radio NSW will have a stand. ARNSW have been very active in promoting and supporting Amateur Radio. The recent 40 metre dipole antenna building and testing day at both Dural and Port Macquarie was an ARNSW initiative.

Fox hunting is always popular. New 80 metre foxes are being built for the 80 metre mobile hunts. There will be mobile and pedestrian fox hunts on both 2 metres and 80 metres. If you don't already have a sniffer, now would be a good time to build or buy one for each band.

There is no charge or commission for disposals. While Sunday is the main trading day there will always be some items on the tables on Saturday.

The programme for the Field Day will be included in the May issue of Oxtales.

The planning for the Field Day is already under way. We look forward to another very successful Field Day.

The successful running of Field Day weekend is dependent upon the efforts of many members to undertake the myriad of tasks that are required, both in preparation, and during the Field Day itself. Please help where you are able. This will spread the work load so that everyone has time to enjoy the weekend.

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Car Boot Sale 30 March 2019



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On Saturday the 30 March 2019 the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Inc. is holding a car boot sale in the club grounds in York St Teralba. As always, admittance is free and everyone is sure to find a bargain.

Urunga 70th Annual Convention April 20 and April 21 2019 Easter Weekend



The Urunga Convention runs over the Easter Weekend on Saturday the Saturday the 20th of April and Sunday 21st April 2019 at the Senior Citizens' Hall in Bowra Street.

The Convention has a long history. It been held annually each year since 1949. This year is the 70th annual convention. Come along and enjoy the special celebration that has been planned.

ORARC club members are always well represented at the Urunga Convention. If you are staying overnight don't forget the Field Day dinner at the Urunga Bowling Club on the Saturday evening. The fox hunting is always keenly contested but there is always plenty of opportunity for a quiet eyeball in the comfort of the hall and surrounds.

Regardless of whether you are in Urunga or not, please come on air between 9 am and 9:30 am on Sunday morning to participate in the famous Urunga Scramble – any power, any frequency, any location – highest number of contacts in the 30 minutes wins! Visit <http://users.tpg.com.au/>

goldy2/ for the field day program and information.

World Telecommunication Day

World Telecommunication Day is on Friday the 17 May 2019.

The day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.

In Australia the ACMA authorizes the use of the AX prefix for Amateur Radio Stations in lieu of the VK prefix on World Telecommunication Day.

Recent Events

Antenna Shootout Sunday 10th February 2019



The ORARC annual Antenna Shootout took place at the Tuffins Lane sportsfields in Port Macquarie on Sunday the 10th of February 2019. In the past, informal foxhunts have been run during the Antenna Shootout day but at this time of the year the consensus is that it's too hot for foxhunting. It was not as hot as it was last year, but is was still a warm day. Plenty of chilled water

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and soft drinks were provided and adequate shade was available at both ends of the antenna range, and at the covered picnic tables used for the barbeque bacon and egg breakfast and sausage sizzle lunch.



Jovan, Ivan VK2IJS and Ian VK2IDL discuss set up.

Thank you to the members who arrived early to set up the caravan in the carpark. The interior of the caravan was kept quite comfortable with the aid of the electric fan. As in past years, Arthur Monck VK2ATM brought along his spectrum analyser to make the received signal strength measurements. The VHF and UHF receiving antennas made by John McLean VK2KC were set up and connected to the spectrum analyser. John VK2KC was unable to attend the shootout but last year he checked the antennas and ran through the setting up procedure with several members at a Wednesday working bee. The test set up went together smoothly.



Bob VK2ZRE and Arthur VK2ATM logging results,

Last year provision was made to test 6 metre antennas in addition to the usual 2 metre and 70 centimetre antennas but this year only 2 metre and 70 centimetre antennas were tested.

The club's Honda inverter generator ran faultlessly throughout the day. The generator operated in shade under the portable generator shelter.

The transmitting site was set up at the far end of the sportsfields. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his equipment and setting up in one of the very conveniently located open sided gazebos that had been set up in readiness for the up the football competition the following weekend.



Set up crew for transmitting site

Thank you to Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Ivan Southwell VK2IJS and Jovan for assisting Lyle in all these tasks.

The tabulated test results of the antenna measurements are included in this edition of Oxtales. There was intense interest in the results.

On 2 metres in the directional category Ivan Southwell VK2IJS was a clear victor with his 4 element yagi at 6 dBd. In the 2 metre omnidirectional category the Arrow style vertical antenna submitted by Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE was the winner with 2 dBd gain.

On 70 centimetres there were no entries in the directional category. In the 70 centimetre omnidirectional

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category the Arrow style vertical antenna submitted by Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE was the winner with 5 dBd gain.



Transmitting equipment available

It was very pleasing to see the great number of home-made antennas submitted this year.

Those participating in the shootout included VK2ZRE, VK2ATM, VK2SMI, VK2IDL, VK2DAM, VK2IJS, VK2ZHE, VK2CRF, VK2ICQ, and VK2UPR.



On a break, Ian VK2IDL, Rob VK2CRF, Arthur VK2ATM, Ivan VK2IJS, Lyle VK2SMI, Bob VK2ZRE with Jovan in the background.

Thank you to Ivan Southwell VK2IJS for running the barbeque. Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious bacon and egg breakfast and an excellent sausage sizzle lunch. No-one went hungry and the covered picnic tables meant that everyone could eat sitting down under very welcome shade

Central Coast Field Day at Wyong



This year was officially the 61st Central Coast Field Day held at Wyong Racecourse on Sunday the 24th of February 2019. The day dawned fine despite a forecast of rain. The weather at the racecourse remained fine all day for the Field Day. Light rain started falling at 2:30 pm after the majority of attendees had left and the last exhibitors were packing up. The rain set in about 3 pm.



Waiting at the gates

The rain wasn't such a concern this year as the entire Field Day was under cover. As was done last year, the Traders were accommodated in a new air-conditioned semi-permanent carpeted marquee. The flea market was under cover in the breezeway that had been occupied by the Traders in past years. This arrangement was a great improvement in amenity for the respective sellers and attendees. The Traders in particular enjoyed an excellent environment which hopefully will encourage more traders to attend in future years.

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Under cover and wheel chair friendly, Bob VK2CAN mobility scooter.

There were many bargains to be had from both the Traders and the Flea Market sellers. No-one went home empty handed unless they had exceptionally strong willpower.

As usual, a great number of ORARC members made the journey to the Field Day. Those members who wore their club Tee shirts and hats were very easy to spot in the crowd. I counted at least 12 members during the course of the day.

Instruments, TET-Emtron, Duro Services and Oatley Electronics did a brisk trade.



Above ORARC members and friends Peter VK2MPK, Grant VK2MAX and Barry VK2LBG.

Below Lyle VK2SMI, Barry VK2LBG and Henry VK2ZHE



A familiar face Paul VK2BZC seeks a bargain.



Long time participating Traders such as Radio Supply Pty Ltd, RF Solutions, Karera Communications, Cro-tek

Grahame VK2FA and Tim VK2ZTM.
Phaser Computers showcased a variety of products including a 3D printer. (See photo on the next page) *Continued on next page*

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3D Printer



Radio Supply Gary VK2ZKT and Carol VK2FCSR



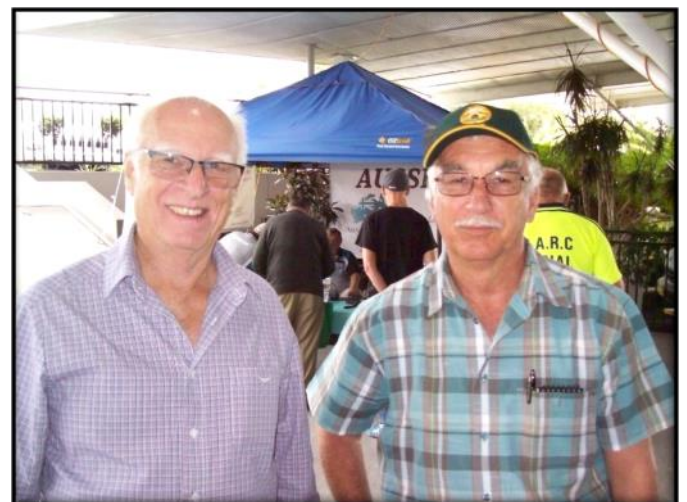
Tet-Emtron Jamie VK2YCJ

As well as the flea market and the commercial traders there were many interesting stands set up by groups such as WICEN, Central Coast VRA, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club, Tube Radio Australia, ARNSW Home Brew and Experimenters Group, Over 50s Radio,

Rotarians of Amateur Radio, AMSAT and ALARA.



Dot VK2DB from ALARA



Phil VK2ASD and Larry VK2LJT

The various very interesting lectures and seminars throughout the day were very well attended. There was something for everyone!

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The raffle had particularly desirable prizes this year and tickets sold briskly. Peter Spaleta VK2APS of Shellharbour south of Wollongong was the very happy recipient of the first prize, an Icom IC-7300 HF/6metre all mode transceiver. The second prize, an ICOM IC-2300H 2 metre transceiver, went to Richard Osborne VK2FRKO of Lemon Tree Passage. Don Hill VK2ICE of Tamworth won the third prize, a GME GX-400 UHF CB transceiver.

This year most Field Day announcements were made on 147.125 MHz which kept the wide area Public Address announcements to a minimum.

I wonder how many people can say that they visited all the flea market stands, all the traders and all the exhibitors during the course of the day after engaging in the countless eyeball QSOs that are a hallmark of Wyong Field Days. A thoroughly enjoyable day.



*Home brew
above left
Military radi-
os above
right.*

*Tube radio
display left.*



*A selec-
tion of
old and
new
hand
held mil-
itary ra-
dios.*

40 Metre Dipole Antenna Building and Testing Day 10 March 2019

The 40 metre dipole construction and testing day was held at the SES Building in Port Macquarie on Sunday the 10th of March 2019 to coincide with the 40 metre antenna Buildathon at ARNSW at Dural. The 40 metre dipole construction day was an ARNSW initiative by ARNSW to promote hands on construction by Amateurs.

Thank you to those who came in on the Sunday morning to assist with setting up for day. They included Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Barry Gilson VK2LBG, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Larry Lindsay VK2CLL I'm pleased that the day at Dural went well too.

We had 18 antenna kits sold with 17 constructed and tested on Sunday at Port Macquarie. The 18th one was built by Ray Mullins VK2JU at the following Wednesday working bee. Ray wasn't able to be present on the day as a family commitment called him to Melbourne.

The day certainly went well. The building commenced at 12:30 pm after a delicious pizza lunch at 12 noon.



Dennis VK2DAM, Barry VK2LBG, Paul VK2UPR, Ian VK2IDL, Henry VK2ZHE, Rob VK2CRF Arthur VK2ATM, Paul VK2DEL, Larry VK2CLL and Bob VK2ZRE.

The key was the preparation. All the kits were pre-paid before the day so we knew exactly who would

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attend. Each person's kit in a zip sealed bag with a list of contents on the label. That way we kept perfect inventory control and everyone had everything that they had paid for. Each person was provided a tray to hold all the component parts when the kits were opened. Ten of the trays were nice ex cafeteria trays which VK2ZHE bought at a Wyong Field Day about 10 years ago. The cafeteria trays had to be supplemented with another 8 plastic platters. The trays were important as they ensured that everyone kept all of their bits and pieces together. It worked well because nothing was lost.



Henry VK2ZHE put together a complete kit for each person on the course.

Each kit was served up on a tray.

The building went well with mentoring of less experienced builders by those with more experience. We had 100% success. The coaxial feed cables were a great success with everyone very impressed at how quick and easy it was to correctly fit those high quality PL259 connectors. The effort in correctly adjusting the strippers beforehand really paid

off. A few people were quite astounded to see how perfectly coax could be stripped in one simple operation so that the connector could be assembled without any additional stripping or trimming.



Labels and balun assembled

The first thing that everyone did was to fill out their labels and attach them to the baluns. That way no one misplaced or damaged their labels and that all important clear plastic to protect the hand written part of the label. It also ensured that everyone knew whose balun was whose!



Rob VK2CRF Paul Vk2UPR and Ivan VK2IJS assembling parts of the kit.

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Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for bringing his spectrum analyser with tracking generator and a return loss bridge to sweep each antenna to check the centre frequency and return loss. Mine was best with a 7100 kHz resonance and 50dB return loss. Most antennas had 30 to 40 dB return loss which is pretty good. The antennas were erected as inverted vees on a 7.5 metre flagpole hence the good 50 ohm match. The Tet-Emtron choke balun kits and Kevlar antenna wire made for a very professional looking finished product.



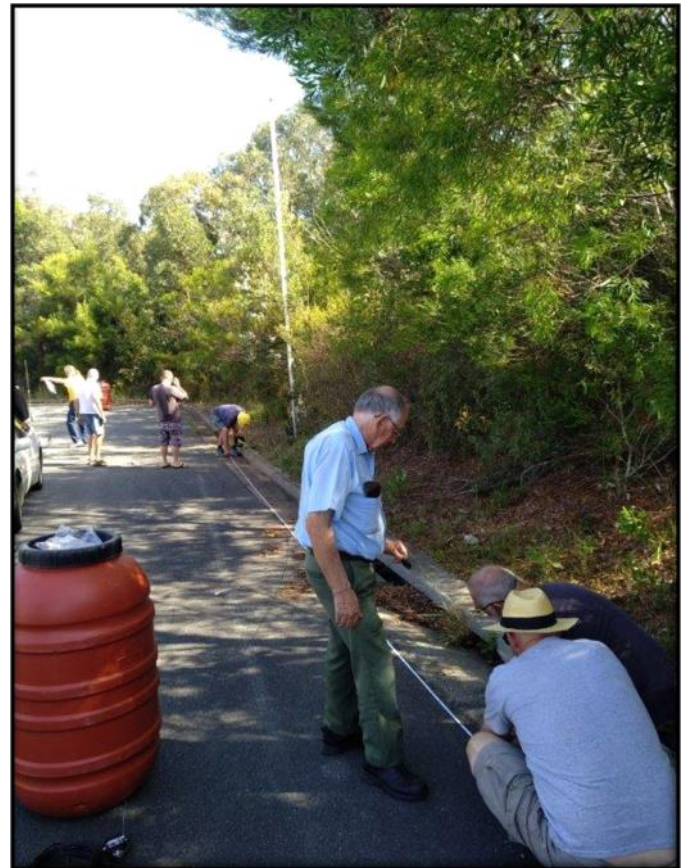
Arthur VK2ATM checking frequency responses.



The soldering and wire stripping station. Bob VK2ZRE, Arthur VK2ATM and Larry VK2CLL inspect.



Ivan VK2IJS hard at work



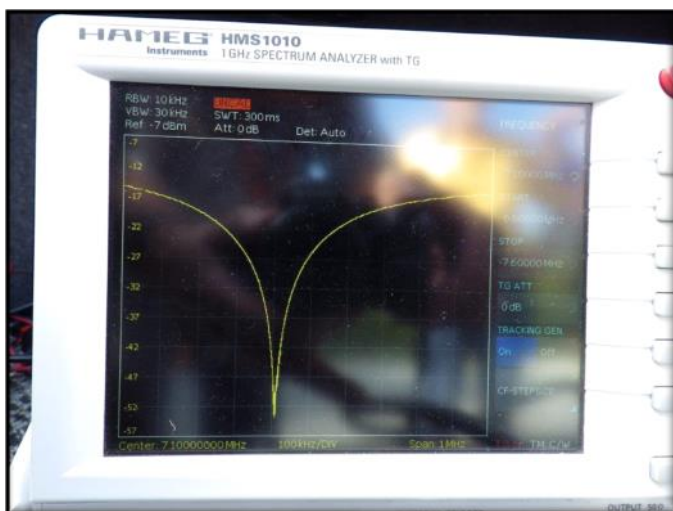
Laying out the antennas for testing

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Everyone went home very proud that they had built a useful high quality antenna which they knew functioned as it should. The testing was an important part of the day.

Everyone was very appreciative of the value they received for their payments, and even more impressed when they realised the real value of the antennas and feed cables that they had constructed. Special thanks to Al Hirschel from ARNSW for bringing everything to Wyong for the safe hand delivery to Henry VK2ZHE. Al pre cut and rolled up all those lengths of Kevlar wire and coax. He sourced all the high quality parts that went into the kits. Thank you to ARNSW for supplying the kits at a subsidized low price as a service to Amateur Radio.



An example of the resonance point of Henry VK2ZHE 's antenna.

A similar antenna exercise was also being conducted at Dural on the same day by Amateur Radio New South Wales.

Tim VK2ZTM sent the following action photographs of the 40 metre dipole antenna building at ARNSW at Dural on Sunday the 10th of March 2019.

Dot Bishop VK2DB of ALARA took the photographs.

It is interesting to see how different organisations tackled the antenna building project.



The assembly table



Karen, Erik and Peter from hard at work.



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John Moyle Memorial Field Day 16 & 17 March 2019

The major Amateur Radio event on the ORARC calendar in March was the John Moyle Memorial Field Day which commenced at noon on Saturday the 16th of March and finished at one minute to noon on Sunday the 17th of March 2019.

The ORARC club station VK2BOR had planned to participate in the Field Day from the club's communications caravan which was to be located in the camping area at the Camden Haven Airfield. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled at the last minute due to continuing significant rain on the Saturday morning. The caravan was packed with everything ready to depart for the field at 9 am but the rain was still continuous so after a discussion it was very reluctantly decided to cancel. There was an announcement on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater and much urgent direct phoning of expected attendees.

Commiserations to Rob Frost VK2CRF who drove to the field from Pappinbarra after picking up a trailer load of firewood from Larry Lindsay VK2CLL. Rob left home without remembering to put his 2 metre antenna on his car so was out of communications until he arrived at the field where he made contact via his mobile phone. Mobile phone coverage is very poor at the Camden Haven Airfield so it is fortunate that Rob was successful in getting through. When the phone call to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL was made it was found that Rob had departed Larry's place 5 minutes earlier so only just missed out on getting the cancellation news.

Commiserations too to Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Diana who had travelled from Kempsey to Port Macquarie when they received the cancellation news.

While the last minute cancellation of the Camden Haven Airfield operation was very

inconvenient and disappointing to all concerned the risks in setting up and operating in the rain were just too great to ignore. Also, the rain would have significantly reduced the enjoyment of the event. After all the effort in planning and packing for the event it was a big chore to unpack everything and put things away.

Hopefully we will have more luck with the weather for next year's John Moyle Memorial Field Day.

For more information on the John Moyle Memorial Field Day visit <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/>

Don't forget to submit a log if you made some contacts in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day.

Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM Repeater Site

The Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM repeaters are working well although the 146.700 MHz 2 metre repeater is still suffering some interference when the tower is dry. We are still waiting for TPG Telecommunications to do some more maintenance on the tower. A test will be conducted soon to see if the 147.000 MHz repeater channel will work better. Thank you to Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE for the intermodulation calculations that he done. When the test is conducted the 147.000 MHz repeater at Middle Bother Mountain will set up with a 91.5 MHz CTCSS tone and the VK2RCN 147.000 MHz repeater will be set up with a 123 Hz CTCSS tone so that only one repeater at a time will be keyed up. An announcement will be made prior to conducting this test.

Telegraph Point VK2RCN Repeater Site

The VK2RCN repeaters are all working well.

Planning has been in progress for some time to replace the mast at

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the VK2RCN repeater site. ORARC is now working towards building an entirely new repeater site in the Red Hill area. Negotiations are currently in progress.

Preparation for the new all mode UHF digital repeater and linking are under way.

Repeater Linking Meeting

Following on from the Western Repeater Linking meeting held in Tamworth on the 17th November 2018, a Coastal Repeater Linking meeting was held in the SES Building in Port Macquarie on Saturday the 9th of February 2019. At this meeting chaired by Brian Kelly VK2WBK many questions regarding repeater linking were answered.

James Goodwin VK2KHJ generously shared his expertise. Representatives from clubs between the Great Lakes and Coffs Harbour were in attendance. Summerland were unable to attend as their AGM was on the same weekend.



Brian VK2DK, Russell VK2VK, Frank VK2AF and Grant VK2MAX prepare for the meeting.



Brian VK2DK, Russell VK2VK and Frank VK2AF discussing the matters raised.



Arthur VK2ATM records the meeting with Frank VK2AF and Russell VK2VK in the background.

Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for videoing the meeting to provide a record.

Editor's note: Arthur VK2ATM has very kindly offered to make the video record of the meeting available to any member who wishes to follow what was discussed. Further photographs on page 27.

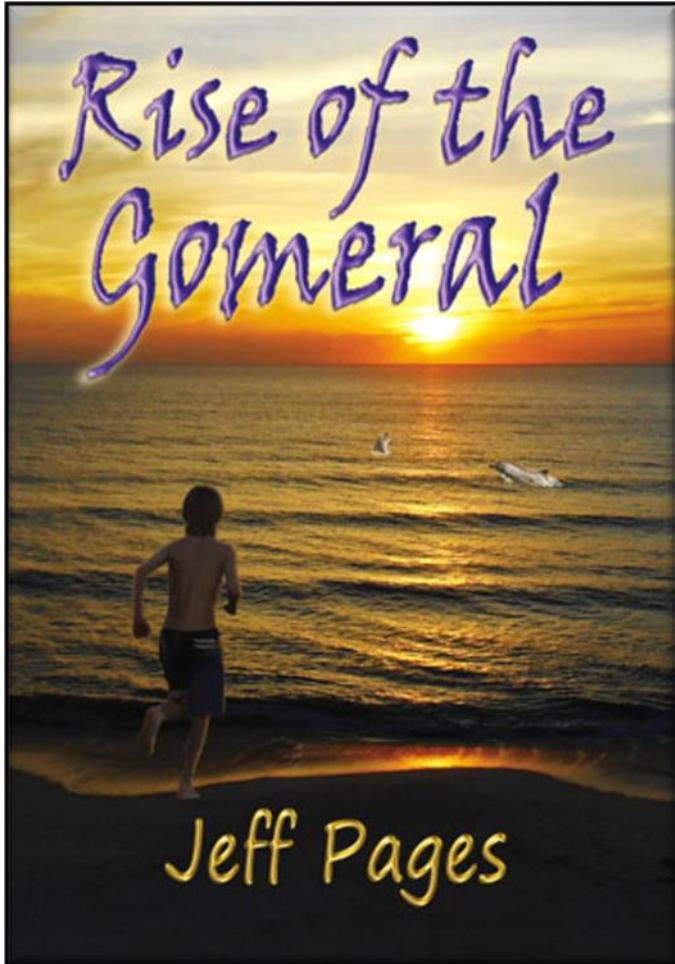
Education

The contract to run Amateur Radio assessments and administer licencing has been awarded to the Australian Maritime College which is part of the University of Tasmania. The three ORARC WIA accredited Assessors Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Steve Wynn VK2ZSW and Bob

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Ecclestone VK2ZRE will all be accredited by the AMC shortly. Once AMC set up the new assessment procedures, ORARC will be able recommence assessments.

Rise of the Gomerol



Jeff Pages VK2BYY is well known for his barefoot foxhunting but Dr Pages is also an author. His first novel, Barefoot Times, was published in 2004, followed by Call of the Delphinidae in 2006, The Mind of the Dolphins in 2008, Cry of the Bunyips in 2011 and Plight of the Tivinel in 2015. His newly published book, Rise of the Gomerol is the sixth and final book in the series.

Jeff usually has copies of this books available at Field Days so keep an eye out at the Urunga Convention in April and at the ORARC Field Day in the Wauchope Showground Hall on the June long weekend if you wish to start or complete your library.

In 2013 he became a keen geocacher, combining his love of technology and bushwalking in the GPS-based hunt for caches hidden by fellow participants.

Jeff lives at Umina Beach. His retirement adventures include walking barefoot along the entire 250km Great North Walk from Sydney to Newcastle, as documented in his blog at barefootingthegnw.wordpress.com

For more details visit Jeff's Barefoot Times website at <https://www.barefoottimes.net/RiseOfTheGomerol/Author.htm>

Friday Night get together

On the February 15 club member David ZL3DS gave a very interesting lecture on the aids to calculation that he had used during his career in Electronics and Communications.



Friday 15 February get together. Clockwise from the front Rob VK2CRF, Arthur VK2ATM, David ZL3DS, Ivan VK2IJS, Dennis VK2DAM, Larry VK2CCL, Mark VK2FMGM, Paul VK2DEL, Barry VK2LBG and John VK2KHB.



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Mathematical Tables for logarithms (who can remember using those tables), Early basic electronic calculator, circular and linear slide room with a Hemmi instruction manual.



*A selection of calculating aids aobove
David ZL3DS The old and the new with Mark
VK2FMGM in the background.*

Below a sharp scientific calculator



*Solving the mathematical problem
Rob VK2CRF, Arthur VK2ATM, David ZL3DS,
Dennis VK2DAM and Paul VK2DEL*

Silent Keys

It is sad that we have two Silent Keys in this issue of Oxtales. Vale Life Member Keith Hanlon and Founding member Graeme Greenwood ex VK2ZIS.

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing on Lord Howe Island on the 6th of March 2019 of Barry Thompson, the elder brother of Des Thompson VK9FLHI. The members of ORARC extend their sincere condolences to all the Thompson family.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Google Maps Street View on Some Pacific Islands

Here is something for armchair travellers. It's the perfect tool to help you plan your next Pacific island DXpedition.

Did you know that Google Maps now offers Street View of various Pacific Islands? Just go to Satellite View and look at islands of interest. If you see roads and habitation click on the Pegman at the bottom right hand corner of the screen. If roads are highlighted simply drag Pegman to spots of interest on the highlighted roads to see a zoomable 360 degree view.

The view of the old radio station and meteorological station on Pitcairn Island shows a sight that many of us have not seen. Note the 3 element triband beam on a short pipe attached to a fence post. Google have conveniently marked Andy's Pizzeria and the Whales Tooth Tavern amongst other points of interest on the Island.

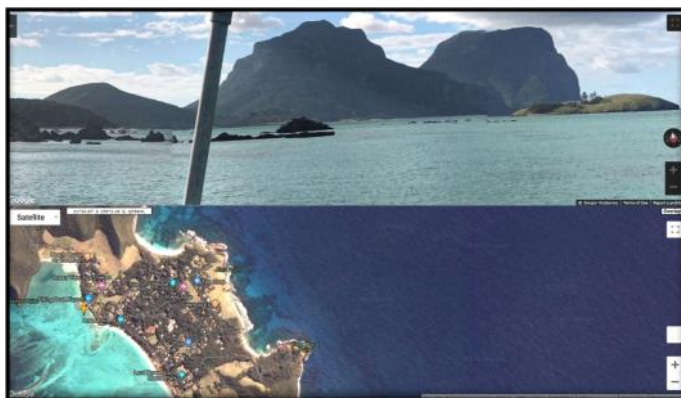


Closer to home, Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island only have street views from the locations where blue dots light up when you click on Pegman. On the Lord Howe Island screen capture the term "Street View" is inadequate to describe the view from the end of the jetty of Mt Gower and Mt Lidgbird across the Lagoon. The small island in the Lagoon is Rabbit Island as I know it, or Blackburn Island, as it is named on most maps You can always ask for a ruling from Lord Howe Island resident and ORARC member Des Thompson VK9FLHI next time you hear him on 80 or 40 metres.

The blue dot street views are also available on islands such as New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Niue, Nauru, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Surprisingly, New Guinea only has blue dot coverage in a limited number of locations such as Port Moresby.

As well as Pitcairn Island, there is excellent Street View coverage along the roads in French Polynesia on Tahiti and Moorea. Some of the smaller outlying islands only have the blue dot zoomable 360 degree views. American Samoa has full road Street View coverage but Samoa only has the blue dot views. The Cook Islands have full road coverage.

The 360 degree zoomable Street View coverage around the Pacific is surprisingly extensive. It's a great way of having a look at some of the places that many of us will not have the opportunity to visit. I could not resist the opportunity to have a look around the places that I have been fortunate to visit in the past. Once you start, there is no such thing as quick look! The quality of the images is excellent. You will be amazed at the detail. The diversity of the views that can be accessed is extraordinary. You really can armchair travel to some wonderful places and gain an appreciation of what it would be like to visit them.



Lord Howe Island Street View from end of jetty 4.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE



2019 ANTENNA SHOOTOUT RESULTS

2 Metre VHF Antennas		146.5 Mhz				
Name	Callsign	Antenna Type	H/V	Result dB	Net Gain dB	SWR
ORARC	VK2BOR	Reference Dipole	V	-30	0	1.1
Rob Frost	VK2CRF	Magbase - No	V	-36	-6	1.3
Dennis Meade	VK2DAM	Groundplane	V	-32	-2	3
Dennis Meade	VK2DAM	Dual Band	V	-32	-2	3
Arthur Monck	VK2ATM	Quad Band	V	-33	-3	1.33
		Dual Band	V	-33	-3	1.8
Ian Lindquist	VK2IDL	Diamond Dual Band -	V	-29	1	1.24
Bob Ecclestone	VK2ZRE	No GP	V	-29	1	1.24
Ivan Southwell	VK2IJS	Dual Band J-Pole	V	-28	2	1.41
Ivan Southwell	VK2IJS	Slim Jim	V	-28.5	1.5	1.28
Ivan Southwell	VK2IJS	J-Pole	V	-29	1	1.52
Ivan Southwell	VK2IJS	4 Element Yagi	V	-24	6	1.14

Inadvertant test with 2M Ref

70 cm UHF Antennas		435 Mhz				
Name	Callsign	Antenna Type	H/V	Result dB	Net Gain dB	SWR
ORARC	VK2BOR	Reference Dipole	V	-42	0	1.27
Dennis Meade	VK2DAM	Dual Band - No	V	-38	4	1.83
		Groundplane	V	-38	4	1.83
Ian Lindquist	VK2IDL	Diamond Dual Band -	V	-38	4	1.65
Dennis Meade	VK2DAM	No GP	V	-38	4	1.65
Arthur Monck	VK2ATM	Quad Band	V	-37	5	1.31
Bob Ecclestone	VK2ZRE	Nagoya Dual Band	V	-38	4	1.96
Ivan Southwell	VK2ZRE	Dual Band J-Pole	V	-37	5	1.1
Ivan Southwell	VK2IJS	2 Metre Slim Jim	V	-60	-18	1.52

Item for Sale

For Sale – Yaesu FT-736R All Mode VHF/UHF Transceiver \$750.00

For sale is a Yaesu FT-736 all mode VHF/UHF transceiver. The radio has been donated by Steve Wall from the estate of the late Colin Wall VK2JC (SK) with all the proceeds from the sale going to ORARC.



The transceiver is in good condition and has been tested for functionality on all four bands, 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23 centimetres that are fitted. ORARC is unable to offer a warranty. The radio is offered as is. The FT-736R has an internal mains power supply but it may be run from an external 12 volt DC supply by using a standard 6 pin Yeasu/Icom/Alinco DC power cable.

The FT-736R is a purpose designed high performance VHF/UHF all mode base station transceiver for weak signal USB/LSB/CW and FM terrestrial and satellite communications. In the satellite mode the transceiver has the facility to automatically adjust the uplink frequency when the downlink frequency is varied to follow doppler shift as satellites traverse the sky. The FT-736R uses a temperature compensated crystal oscillator for its frequency synthesiser reference to ensure frequency accuracy and low drift. There are 100 general purpose memory channels available plus additional special purpose memory channels. The radio has the Yaesu CAT interface for com-

puter control. Despite the large number of features available the operation of the transceiver is intuitive and the well written manual is easy to follow.

The radio that is for sale is fitted with the optional CTCSS module so is able to access the FM satellites that require CTCSS on their uplink frequencies. This option is highly sought after since it also enables the radio to access terrestrial repeaters that require CTCSS. The repeater offsets are fully programmable and the FT-736R is able to operate full duplex cross band on two bands simultaneously.

Note that the fitted 6 metre and 23 centimetre band modules were also options. The 23 centimetre module in particular makes this radio highly desirable as there are very few 1200 MHz all mode transceivers available on the market today. The transceiver has a separate antenna connector for each band.

Power output on 2 metres and 70 cm is 25 Watts and 10 watts on 6 metres and 23 cm. The power output figures are carrier power in FM or CW and PEP in the USB or LSB modes.

The accompanying photographs are of the actual radio offered for sale. The radio comes with the desk microphone shown in the photographs, mains power lead and the original printed operating manual plus the original colour brochure. There is no box for the radio so safe hand delivery is preferred. If you would like to purchase the Yaesu FT-736R, please contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE mobile phone 0427 947 921



Blast from the Past

In Blast From the Past we look at what was happening in club in the past. This month's Blast is taken from the March 2009 issue of Oxtales, ten years ago. The president was Allan VK2GD now sadly an SK, Vice President Henry VK2ZHE, Treasurer John VK2KC and Secretary Jim VK2VIV. The club had 45 members.

The month marked the grand opening of the Hastings SES HQ which has been our club's home base now for 10 years. Here is an edited report of the event.

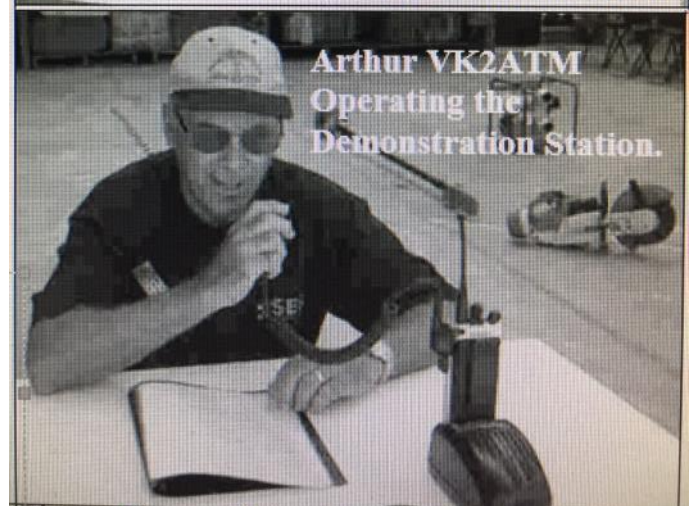
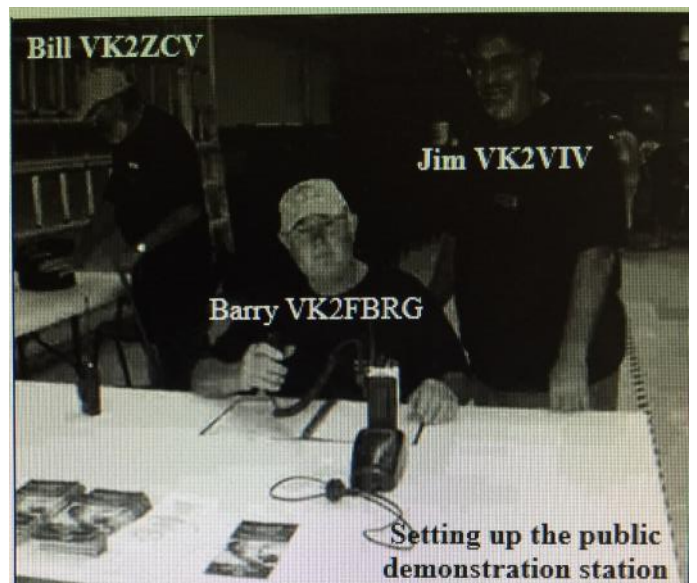
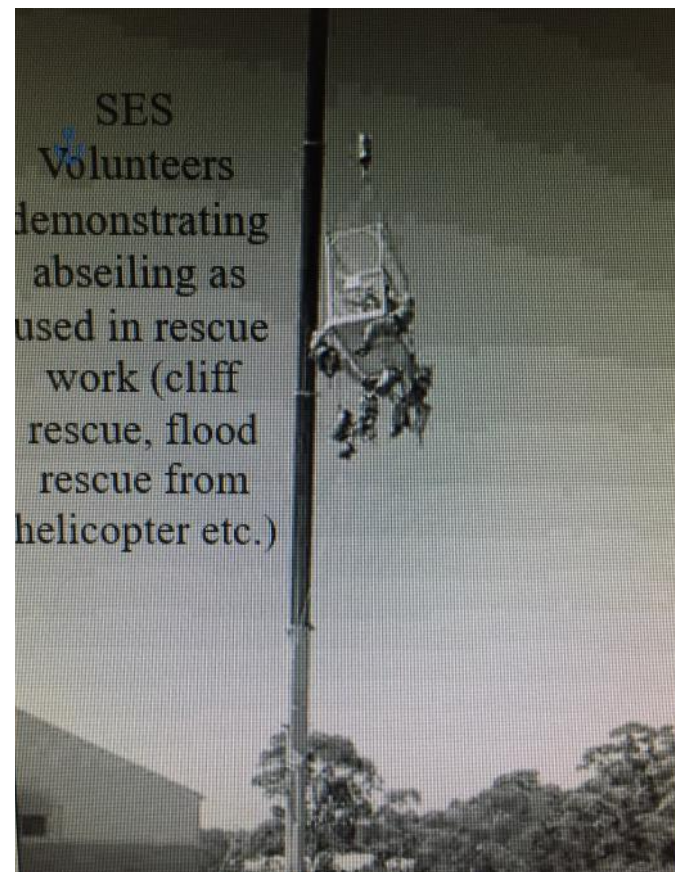
Hastings SES HQ Grand Opening

On Saturday 7th March 2009, the new Hastings SES Headquarters in Central Road, Port Macquarie was formally opened by State Government MP Mr Phil KOPERBERG, Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Emergency Services, officiated at the function.

Following the official programme for the function, the HQ building was opened to the public for inspection and conducted tours.

Members of the ORARC who recently became members of the SES, manned the communications centre and interworked, on a public demonstration basis, with a specially set-up portable station located within the grounds of the HQ complex.

The pictures on the following page show some of the activities that took place on the day. Visiting members of the public were able to witness typical SES activities and inspect the comprehensive array of specialised hardware with which the SES volunteers are equipped for employment in emergency and disaster situations.



Continued on page 26



WIA News

Date : 04 / 03 / 2019

Author : WIA Board

WIA Position on outcomes of the Approach to Market for Examination Services.

Dear Member,

As you are no doubt aware the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) have recently announced the signing of the Deed of arrangement between the Australian Maritime College (AMC) for the provision of examination and other services.

The AMC have subsequently released their pricing and preliminary information on other processes.

The result of the negotiations between the AMC bid team and ACMA procurement has resulted in the “headline” entry price to the hobby of Amateur Radio rising:

- \$75 to \$115 (Foundation Assessment, Practical Assessment & Callsign Recommendation) for adults - an increase of over 140%, (WIA’s proposal was \$49)
- \$40 to \$115 (Foundation Assessment, Practical Assessment & Callsign Recommendation) for youth - an astonishing 285% increase. (WIA’s proposal was \$27)

The WIA board and the Education Group is

horrified by the existential risk that this creates for the hobby of Amateur Radio, especially given the widespread community support (at both a local and international level) for attracting younger participants to the hobby.

Not only has the process increased costs and failed to provide continuity (despite solutions to this being offered by the WIA), the processes described by the AMC in their recent release paint a picture of an exam service that, in the opinion of the Education Group, is of a significantly lower standard than that which was previously offered by the WIA and vastly inferior to that which the WIA proposed.

A succession of royal commissions have demonstrated the consequences of decision making that fails to consider the customer.

The only rational conclusion the WIA can draw is that the AMC, parties to the AMC bid and those involved in the ACMA procurement process have weighted political, commercial and personal factors ahead of their customers’, the community and the hobby of Amateur Radio.

The WIA, as the only Amateur Radio organisation that is demonstrably committed to furthering the hobby, remains committed to resolving this situation for the benefit of our members and the community we represent.

On behalf of the WIA Board.

Justin Giles-Clark
President & Director

Welcome to new WIA Director

Date : 03 / 03 / 2019

Author : WIA

The Board extends a welcome to Dr Harry Edgar VK6YBZ to the board of the WIA.

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The last Board meeting of the WIA accepted the nomination of Dr Harry Edgar to fill a casual vacancy on the Board.

Dr Harry Edgar has a Bachelor degree in electronics and a PhD in Telecommunications from what is now Northumbria University UK. He spent four years as Senior Lecturer, then Head of Department and Acting Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Communications at what is now Leeds Beckett University UK teaching to final year degree telecommunications students, research and PhD student supervision.

He then spent eleven years at Curtin University Perth teaching to final year telecommunications students and PhD student supervision. Harry has spent many years in engineering, technical development, management and troubleshooting in power control and process control systems.

He has a post grad Certificate in Law specialising in Contract Law from Notre Dame University and has spent 13 years in state government Main Roads in Contract Management, Contract Superintendent and Contract Development and Writing. He has experience in business management, organisation and operational troubleshooting, investment and start up development experience as well.



Dr Harry Edgar

Celebrating Women in Amateur Radio Date : 08 / 03 / 2019

Author : WIA/ALARA

March 8th 2019 is International Women's Day and the theme is "balance is better".

A balanced world is a better world. How can you help forge a more gender-balanced world? Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness against bias. Take action for equality.

The Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association is a very public face of women in amateur radio and is celebrating woman's achievements in this great hobby of amateur radio for over 40 years.

ALARA was formed in 1975 and has over 200 members, with many Australian members sponsoring overseas YLs into ALARA.

The term "YL" stands for "young lady" – regardless of age.

The Associations mission is to encourage women's interest and active participation in amateur radio.

If interested in what ALARA get up to then take a look at their webpages and make contact with your local ALARA representative.



Continued from previous page

Equipment from the Past

Shimizu Denshi SS-105S



The Shimizu Denshi SS-105S was sold as a 'semi kit' transceiver. Parts of it were assembled however the purchaser needed to finish off the project themselves. The basic kit model had a 10 watt output.

The kit was sold in Australia by Dick Smith as can be seen from the following advertisement below.

The transceivers were manufactured from the early 1980 and production was discontinued in the middle 1980's.

WHY TAKE THE RISK?

IDEAL NOVICE SET FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GROW UP!

Economy All mode SS105 TRANSCEIVER

Here's the transceiver that's not only terrific value for the novice, but it grows with you!

With everything the novice needs - including a low price tag - the superb SS105 Transceiver gives you something plenty new these days - a chance to get on the air without breaking the bank!

And you can even add FM for transferring later on - just by adding the low cost FM board! Just imagine - FM in a transceiver so low in price!

Here's what it's got:

- 0.5 to 30MHz band coverage
- LSB, USB & CW emission FM optional
- 13.5V DC operation - take it anywhere (great mobile emergency gear)
- Plug in PCB construction for easy servicing if required
- Complete with manual with full circuit diagram & alignment data, parts lists, etc.

GREAT VALUE \$549

of buying without the DICK SMITH BENEFITS

- We are Australia's largest supplier and factory approved distributor and service centre
- Dick Smith Electronics has more amateur radio licence holders to advise you of your requirements than any other company selling amateur radio
- We are proud of our Amateur Radio Department and back every piece of equipment we sell with our Australia

the performance, especially the audio. The set was fully solid state analogue rig. There was a range of options available that included a 500 Hz CW filter, FM receiver and transmit, 100 watt output module, noise blanker, marker unit with the addition of appropriate crystals and also VHF and UHF transverters.

The analogue dial was calibrated in 1kHz increments and was quite accurate once the transceiver warmed up. The transceiver was quite small in comparison with others of the era.

SPECIFICATIONS

10 to 80 m in the following 10 bands.

3.5 to 4 Mhz

7.0 to 7.5 Mhz

14.0 to 14.5 Mhz

14.5 to 15.0 Mhz

21.0 to 21.5 Mhz

28.0 to 28.5 Mhz

28,5 to 29.0 Mhz

29,0 to 29.5 Mhz

29.5 to 30.0 Mhz

Plus one additional band could be fitted.

Mode: SSB/CW and FM as an option.

Power supply 13.8 Volts 20 amps maximum

Dimensions 178 by 124 by 359 mm

Weight 6.2 kg.

Occasionally these sets appear for sale at prices similar to when new. For those interested in restoring these transceivers one should be aware that some are approaching 40 years old and components may need to be replaced to bring the sets up to an acceptable operating standard. However as most of the sets sold were used for QRP and the radio was analogue in operation without specialised electronics it should be quite possible to be a realistic restoration project.

Operator reports were quite enthusiastic on

Silent Key - Graeme John Greenwood ex VK2ZIS



It is with deep regret that we advise of the sad passing of esteemed ORARC Founding Member Graeme Greenwood ex VK2ZIS in Sydney on Monday the 4th of March 2019 at the age of 74 years after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Graeme was born on the 12th of September 1944 in Melbourne, Victoria. He spent most of his working life in the broadcasting industry.

Graeme will be remembered by many in the broadcasting industry as a pioneer of commercial FM broadcasting. After his success with 2DAY FM in Sydney, Graham became a co-owner of AM Radio 2MC in Kempsey and expanded it to include FM broadcasting in Port Macquarie when he obtained a licence for ROXFM which was recognised as a big achievement for a regional broadcaster in the early days of FM.

Graeme was a founding member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. He was present at the meeting held at the home of Owen Bested VK2AEB at 5 Condon Avenue, Port Macquarie on the 2nd of October in 1971 at which the club was formed. Graeme was still a member when he passed away 48 years later. With Graeme's passing the only two surviving founding members from that meeting are Arthur Monck

VK2ATM and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. Both Arthur and Henry have continuous membership for the 48 years since the 2nd of October 1971.

In Port Macquarie Graeme lived in a home unit in Burrawan Street high on the hill above the High School near the ocean. He was very active on the air in the digital modes and satellites. After Graeme retired from his business interests he moved to his property on the shores of Watson Taylor's Lake under the shadow of Middle Brother Mountain where he enjoyed the digital modes and had room for HF antennas.

Graeme enjoyed sailing and keenly participated in races at Port Macquarie in his yacht the Jolly Green Giant He was known as "Admiral". His email address was "Admiral". Graeme had sailed around the world in his earlier days and had lived on his yacht in Sydney for a time before coming to Port Macquarie.



Graeme Greenwood at the helm sailing on Sydney Harbour

In later years Graeme was afflicted with Parkinson's Disease and moved to his Home Unit in McMahons Point in Sydney to be closer to medical attention. He reluctantly relinquished his long held callsign VK2ZIS a few years ago when the progression of the disease robbed Graeme of the many things that he had enjoyed all his life.

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The funeral for Graeme was held in Sydney on Monday the 11th of March 2019 at 12:00 noon in the Magnolia Chapel at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium on the corner Delhi and Plassey Roads at North Ryde. The 60 people at the service included family and a wide cross section of Graeme's friends including those from the broadcasting industry, sailing and Amateur Radio. Long-time friend of Graeme and ORARC member, Grahame O'Brien VK2FA from Cardiff in Newcastle kindly represented the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club at the funeral.

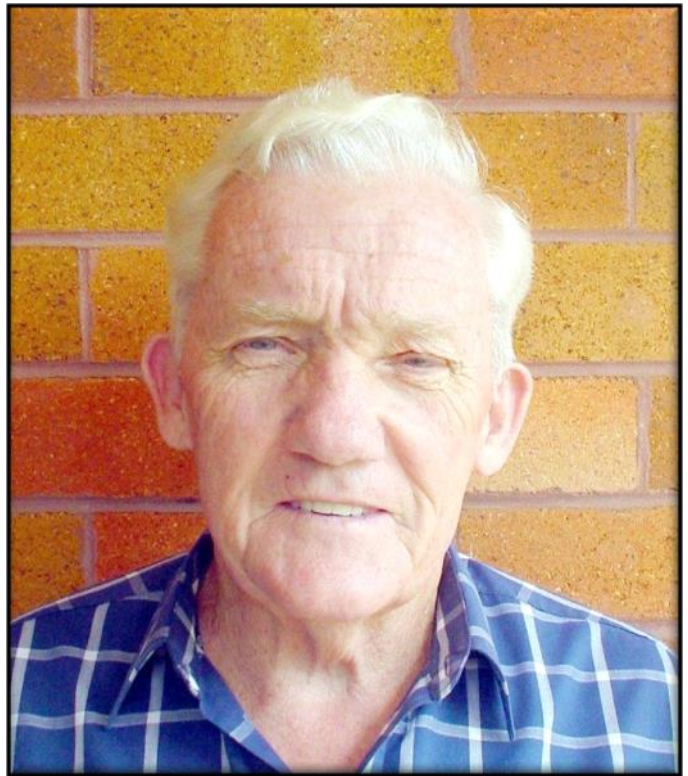
Vale Graeme Greenwood ex VK2ZIS



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

Silent Key

Keith Hanlon



It was only on the 24th January, we heard of the passing of an old friend and Honorary Life Member of ORARC on 2nd September 2018 after a long illness.

Keith Hanlon had been the Post Master at the old Post Office when it was on the corner of Horton and Clarence Sts. He had tutored and tested some of our older members in Morse Code. He was the last telegraph officer to receive a telegram for a customer at the Post Office. Very proficient at taking down Morse Code from the Sounder clacking away even while serving a customer at the counter, he would sit down, insert a buff form in the old typewriter, tapping away at the keys, then sending the delivery boy off on his bicycle to deliver the telegram. This to the younger members of our club was the earliest form of e-mail for urgent messages.

Keith freely gave of his time to anyone who wished to learn morse code, but never obtained an amateur callsign.

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Published in Port Macquarie News on Sept. 5, 2018 was the following funeral notice.

HANLON Keith Wesley September 2nd 2018 Peacefully at Gardens Lodge Nursing Home Port Macquarie. Late of Florida Street Port Macquarie. Dearly Beloved Husband of Eileen (Deceased) and loving Father & Father in law of Michael & Monika, Suzanne, Beth & Tony and Very Much Loved Pop Of Daniel & Susan, Keith & Renee, Adam and Brett and Great Grand Pop of Thomas, Lucy, Rose Hilda & Charlie. Aged 88 years The Rite of A Christian Burial for the Repose of the Soul of Keith will be celebrated in St Agnes Catholic Church, Hay Street, Port Macquarie on Thursday September 6th 2018 commencing at 2.00pm. At the conclusion of the prayers The Cortege will Proceed to The Innes Gardens Memorial Park Lawn Cemetery, Philip Charley Drive, Port Macquarie. By Special request No Floral Tributes In Lieu of Donation to the Stroke Foundation would be appreciated in Keith's Memory and a Donation Plate will be Available at the Church.

Keith's wife, Eileen Frances Hanlon 14.4.1927 ~ 25.4.2011 passed away on the 25th of April 2011, aged 84 years.

Submitted by VK2ZHE & VK2ATM

SES Port Macquarie Open Day to Celebrate 10 Years in the in the Central Road building.

- SES will hold an open morning on
- Saturday 30 March 2019.
- Visitors welcome
- Demonstrations and tours of the SES building will be held.

Continued from Page 20

From the previous Blast from the Past March 2009 edition of Oxtales.

Inaugural SES Open Day 7 March 2009



Editors note: Alan VK2GD now (SK) was our club's President for many years.

Follow up from Oxtales January 2019 story on the White Ribbon walk the following photographs were submitted by Bob VK2ZRE who was on the Shelly Beach Check Point.

The photographs show Bob's VHF and UHF antenna that was constructed using a design by John VK2KC.



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Note the construction of the antenna designed specifically to be quickly and easily broken down for transportation to portable location.

Additional photographs of the Coastal Repeater Linking Meeting held on the 9 February.



Participants in the previous photograph.

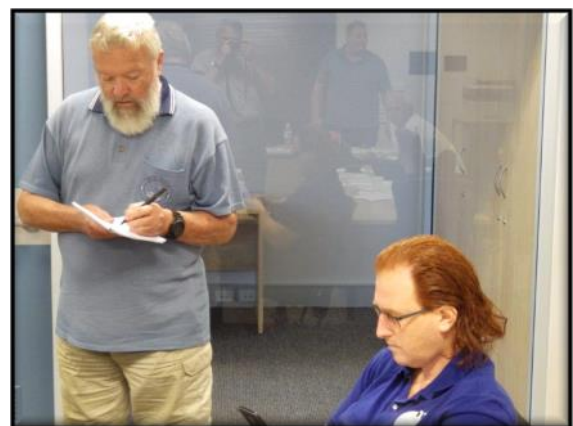
VK2AAK, VK2XUV, VK2ICQ, VK2IF, VK2MAX and VK2FADS.



VK2DK, VK2VK, VK2AF and VK2MAX



Arthur VK2ATM taking a video recording of the meeting.



VK2VK and VK2ICQ

The above photographs show all the participants except for Henry VK2ZHE who was talking the photographs.