



# 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

## July 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

## 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)

## President's Report

July 2019  
President's Report



## Membership Renewals

July marks the start of a new Financial Year for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Membership renewals became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Please renew promptly. The simplest way to pay is by direct deposit but Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM will always be pleased to receive payments in person at the club meetings. Cheques may be posted to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444. If you are paying by cheque it would be appreciated if you could please add 50 cents to the cheque amount to cover the cost of depositing the cheque into the ORARC account.

The Committee is pleased to advise that again there is no rise in the cost of Membership Subscriptions for the 20192010 Financial Year. The fees are the

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## Down The Coax

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

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 6 July 2019 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 19 July 2019 7.00 pm

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Car Boot Sale  
Saturday 20 July 2019, Westlakes club grounds in  
York Street, Teralba

Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 3 August 2019 2:00 pm

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 3 August 2019 after AGM

Remembrance Day Contest  
0300 UTC Saturday 10 August 2019 to 0300 UTC  
Sunday 11 August 2019  
VK2BOR will operate from the club's caravan at  
Tacking Point Surf Club

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 10  
& 11 August 2019  
VK2BOR will operate from the Club's Caravan at  
Tacking Point Surf Club

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 16 August 2019 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 7 September 2019 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 20 September 2019 7.00 pm  
The 62<sup>nd</sup> Jamboree On The Air will take place on 19  
and 20 October 2019.  
VK2BOR will operate from the Club's Caravan at  
McInherney Park on Saturday 19 October

## Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays**  
(0900 Local)

**Thursdays**  
(1930 Local)

### July 2019

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

### August 2019

VK2FMGM	Aug 4	VK2ZHE	Aug 1
VK2FMGM	Aug 11	VK2ICQ	Aug 8
VK2FMGM	Aug 18	VK2EM	Aug 15
VK2FMGM	Aug 25	VKZHE	Aug 22
		VK2ICQ	Aug 29

### September 2019

VK2FMGM	Sep 1	VK2EM	Sep 5
VK2FMGM	Sep 8	VK2ZHE	Sep 12
VK2FMGM	Sep 15	VK2ICQ	Sep 19
VK2FMGM	Sep 22	VK2EM	Sep 26
VK2FMGM	Sep 29		

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same as those of last year. Ordinary Membership remains at \$40 per annum. Associate Membership remains at \$20 per annum. Distant Membership remains at \$10 per annum. Family Membership remains as a single fee equal to the membership fee for the most expensive membership included in the members covered by the family membership. For example two Distant members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$10. An Ordinary Member and an Associate Member included in a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40. Two Ordinary Members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40.

It is important that all members renew their memberships and also encourage those who are currently not members to join or rejoin ORARC. The more members we have, the easier it is to keep our fees low. The club has a lot of fixed expenses and we rely on membership subscriptions to cover those expenses. Your membership subscription is greatly valued.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2019 Annual General Meeting takes place at 2 pm on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2019 in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Now is the time to consider nominating for one of the club office bearer positions. They all become vacant at the AGM. The strength of the club lies in having an active Committee to inspire and lead the club to do the many worthwhile things that enable the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club live up to all of its objectives to serve its members and the community, and to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby. The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting and a nomination form accompany this issue of Oxtales.

The current Committee has worked very hard to make the club's 2018 – 2019

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

### **Club Projects**

The major project is the establishment of a new repeater site for the VK2RCN Repeaters at Telegraph Point. The proposed site is a few kilometres along the ridge line from the existing VK2RCN site. The club has enjoyed a very generous usage of the existing site excellent for many years. The mast requires maintenance including replacement of the guy wires. There is significant cost in this work and to look after members' interests in expending club funds in this way there should be a formal agreement for continuing tenancy. The current arrangement is a mutually amical informal one but expected future changed family circumstances preclude being able to enter into a binding tenancy term. While the current informal arrangement will happily continue under the present circumstances, it is prudent to look at establishing a new site with a formal site lease.

Establishment of the proposed new site will require setting up a formal lease and then obtaining a Development Approval from the Port Macquarie Hastings Council before construction can

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*Arthur VK2ATM and Barry VK2LBG at the*



*proposed new site.*

Once the DA is approved the work to bring power to the site, construct an equipment building and to erect the new mast can commence. John McLean VK2KC has kindly donated the new mast. Donations in cash and kind for the project are continuing to be sought. Following the excellent work by Paul Jones VK2DEL, some funds are already in hand.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the sub-committee please contact the ORARC Committee.

It is planned to set up an additional UHF multi-mode digital voice repeater at each of the club's repeater sites. The club is indebted to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ for researching and developing a cost effective solution. The new repeaters will be fitted with MMDVM repeater controllers which support C4FM, Dstar, DMR and P25 digital voice modes. It is expected a firmware upgrade to the MMDVM controllers will

add support for NXDN as well. Paul has constructed a prototype repeater using this hardware has developed hardware and software to provide fail-safe control and monitoring of all the site repeaters. This will enable the intelligent linking of the two sites to facilitate linking at least the VK2RCN and VK2RPM 2 metre repeaters. It will also support a relay of the weekly VK2WI news broadcasts. Planning is under way to install the new equipment and link at the existing VK2RCN repeater site to enable full testing to be completed. A working bee will be called when the work is to be done. Only minor work will be required to relocate this equipment to the new Telegraph Point site when it is ready.

### **Club Activities**

Thank you to everyone for participating in club activities. ORARC runs a surprising number of activities and events each year. These range from the Monthly General Meetings, the Friday night get-togethers on the third Friday of each month, the weekly Sunday morning and Thursday evening club nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother Repeater, the Wednesday morning working bees, and of course special events such as the Christmas Party, the annual Field Day on the June long weekend, and the Antenna Shootout. The club station VK2BOR participates in the John Moyle Field Day, the Remembrance Day contest, the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, and the Jamboree on the Air. In addition, club members provide the safety communications for events such as the Beechwood Billycart Classic, the annual White Ribbon Walk in Port Macquarie, and car rallies in the area.

### **ORARC 2019 Annual Field Day**

The ORARC 2019 Field Day was a great success over Saturday and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of the June 2019 over the Queen's Birthday long

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weekend. The many visitors who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and many reported that they had already booked accommodation for next year.

This year the venue for the Field Day was the Wauchope Showground Hall in High Street, Wauchope. Members with long memories will recall that it's not the first time that we have been to the Wauchope Showground. Previously the venue had been the building adjacent to the hall but this time we were in the hall itself which is much larger. The dining alcove where the free tea and coffee and biscuits were available was very a very popular retreat.

activities well and the Committee received many unsolicited compliments on the venue. The level site with plenty of off street car parking at the door was rated very highly. The ramp entry without steps made for easy access, even for those with mobility issues. Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for obtaining the hall and making the booking on the club's behalf.



*The hall provided plenty of places to grab a cuppa and chill out above Ian VK2JMW*

*Below, John VK2ZOI Tim VK2ZTM and Bob VK2CAN relax*



The hall accommodated the Field Day



*Easy and plentiful parking close to door.*



*Note wide doorways and easy ramp access was appreciated by those with mobility issues. Helen Williams in background, Jamie VK2YCJ, Ian VK2JMW wait in line whilst Trevor VK2TT registers with Andy VK2AAK with David VK2AIF looking on.*

A big advantage of the Wauchope Showground is that it is possible to camp on site in your own caravan, motor home or tent and have access to hot showers and toilets. A couple of those attending took advantage of this opportunity. The caretaker lives on site.

Following a motion at the July 2019 Monthly General Meeting

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the Wauchope Showground Hall has been booked again for the 2020 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day. This will enable the Field Day to be publicized immediately with a firm venue. It will assist with planning for those who wish to camp on site.

Rain was forecast for the 2018 Field Day weekend but only a little rain fell on the Saturday. Sunday was a magnificently fine and sunny day.

There were 86 paid registrations. As well as the regular contingent from Sydney and environs, this year a large Newcastle group from the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list also includes home towns such as Umina Beach, Lemon Tree Passage, Wyoming, Forster, Tuncurry, Taree, Wingham, Harrington, Coopernook, Kempsey, Bellingen, Thora, Coffs Harbour, Toormina, Lismore, Kootingal, and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular. Thank you to everyone who attended.

A number of the regular attendees were unable to make it this year but are all planning on attend in 2020. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Field Day.

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

The disposals tables were very busy with lots of bargains. The technical demonstrations created a lot of interest. This year HF digital communications and VHF/UHF digital voice were showcased.



*Charlie VK2CLH, Bruce VK2EM, Richard VK2FRKO with Barry VK2LBG examine some of*



*the disposals.*



*Bruce VK2EM setting up small signal display. Bob VK2ZRE and Rob VK2CRF exploring the world of small signals at the display.*

Radio Supply had a wide range of accessories and electronic items. Many people stocked up on the various hard to find connectors and adaptors that can't be bought over the counter locally. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol Ryan VK2FCRSR for their long-time support of the annual Field Day. Thank you to Radio Supply for donation of prizes for the Field Day as well. Gary reported that sales were

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Carol VK2FCSR on duty at the Radio Supply table.

Gary displayed a range of his beautifully constructed home brew projects and recent restorations. His very professionally completed uBITX QRP HF all band SSB transceiver in its custom 3D printed case attracted a lot of interest and won Gary the



Below a table full of Gary's home brew!  
Paul VK2ICQ with Hastings IT disposal equipment



table.

Paul Colledge VK2ICQ from Hastings IT had a large quantity of diverse new and used equipment on his tables. Discerning buyers went home with all manner of bargains.

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

The large number of surplus recent issues of Silicon Chip Magazine donated by Jaycar Port Macquarie were the ultimate bargain on the tables. They were free, and needless to say, they all went home to new homes.

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coveted Best Homebrew trophy for 2019.  
Gary VK2ZKT displays his home brew all band SSB transceiver.



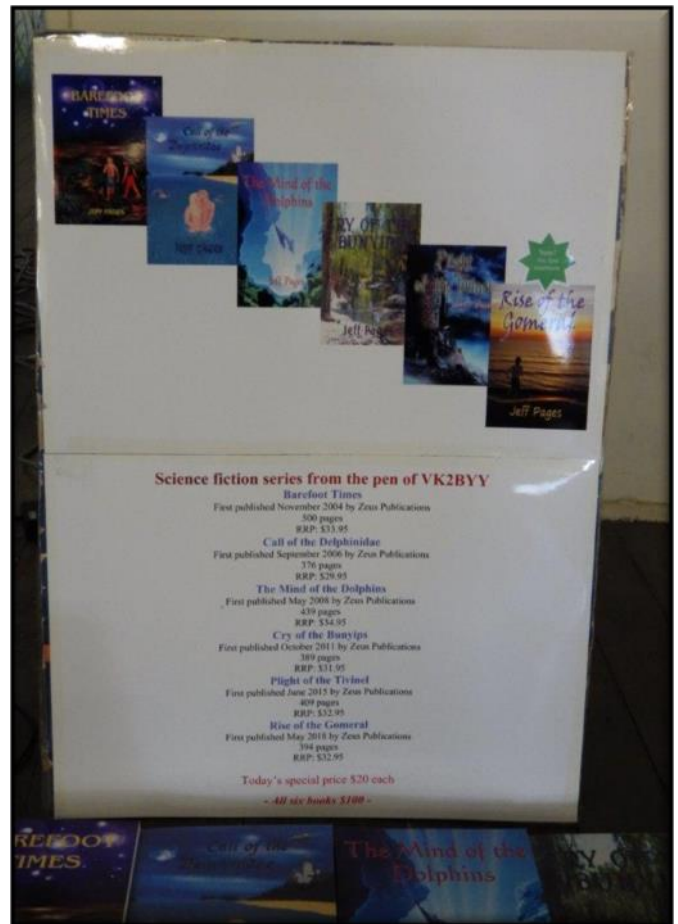
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The disposal tables with diverse, familiar and unusual items for sale.



Above an old Realistic DX 200 communications receiver sitting on an old it was thought CB radio. Below an RT-70/GRC Military Radio from the 1950's.



Above Jeff VK2BYY is not only a fox hunter but also a writer and had his science fiction books for sale.

Thank you to Stephen Wall for donating to ORARC the Yaesu FT-736R multi mode VHF/UHF transceiver from the estate of his late father Colin Wall VK2JC (SK). The transceiver was sold within minutes of being placed on the disposals tables. The \$500.00 raised by the sale of the transceiver is a very welcome donation to the club's funds. Thank you Stephen for your kind donation. It is greatly appreciated.



The Yaesu FT-736R multimode with Shayne VK2XUV

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The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular again this year with approximately 36 people enjoying good food and a pleasant social evening in the Seaview Room. See photographs below.



It is with pleasure that we can announce that the 2020 Field Day Dinner will again be in Seaview Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. ORARC wishes to express its sincere thanks to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply Supply for the hire of the Seaview Room at the Golf Club for the 2020 Field Day dinner on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

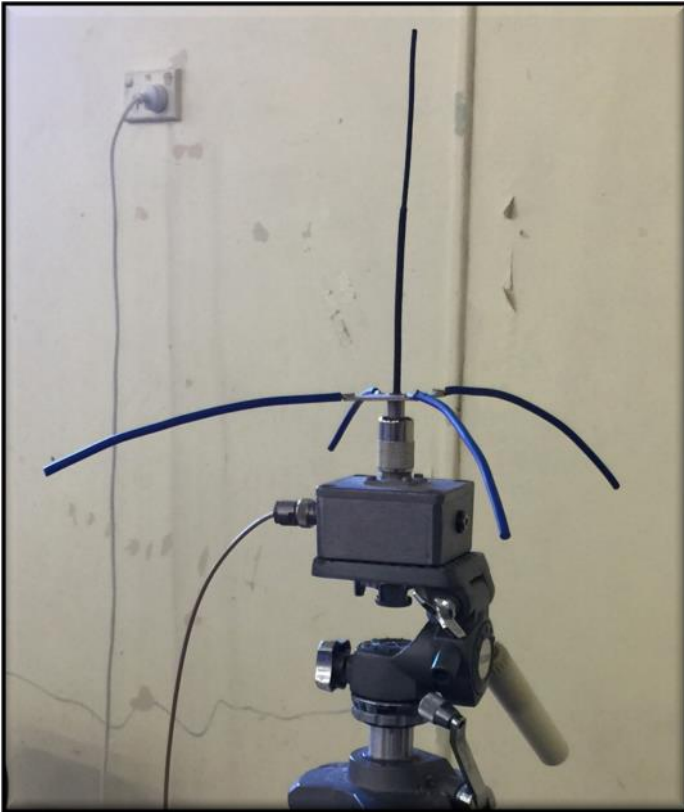
Thank you to Bruce Ekert VK2EM for for running the weak signal HF digital modes demonstration on both days of the Field Day. Arthur Monck VK2ATM usually runs this display but this year he was holidaying in Europe so Bruce very kindly offered to run this display. Bruce also displayed his portable digital voice Shark OpenSpot standalone digital radio IP gateway operating through the mobile data network. This was a very compact stand-alone battery powered UHF digital radio hotspot which was very quickly deployed. He answered a lot of questions from interested amateurs. His excellent demonstrations and depth of knowledge helped many people to see how simple it is to operate the various digital modes using the free software that is available today. Bruce answered many questions and ran tutorials during the weekend. Bruce also very generously donated a pair of Baofeng BF-888F UHF hand held transceivers programmed with 70 cm Amateur UHF frequencies for the mid north coast. Thank you, Bruce.



*Bruce VK2EM in the middle running a small workshop with Rob VK2CRF and Andy VK2AAK*

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Bruce VK2EM's UHF portable Spider Antenna.

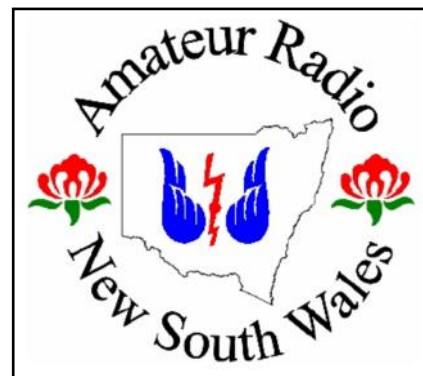


Thank you to Dot Bishop VK2DB for running the Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) stand again this Year. Dot and OM John Bishop VK2ZOI are long time supporters of the Field Day. ALARA <http://www.alara.org.au/> is one of many international associations of ladies in Amateur Radio. In Australia there are some 200 members. The ALARA display

featured the impressive quilt that Dot won at the ALARA convention in Canada. Dot did say that bringing it home on the plane took a lot of rearranging of her luggage. The very detailed quilt was definitely the focal point of the ALARA stand and started many conversations.



ALARA stand with quilt in background. Priscilla Noelene, Dot VK2DB, and Diane VK2FDNE



Amateur Radio NSW ran a stand this year as they have done for many years. Mark Blackmore VK2XOF couldn't attend this year due to recent surgery but Tim Mills VK2ZTM set up the stand and spoke with a great many people. Some people wanted to know more about ARNSW but many just took the opportunity to catch up on old times. Amateur Radio NSW donated several excellent reference books on Amateur Radio topics as prizes including the highly coveted Radio Theory Handbook by Fred Swainston.

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Well known faces in front of the ALARA Quilt and Amateur Radio NSW Stands. David VK2AIF, Charles VK2KCE, Trevor VK2TT and Ian VK2JMW



Bruce VK2HOT and Larry VK2CLL prepare the foxes.

Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was as intense usual, albeit with fewer participants. Some of the regulars were unable to attend this year. Last year's Champion Gerard Hill VK2IO decided to try his luck this year at the ARDF championships at Mt Gambier. Unfortunately, Mt Gambier is also on the Queens Birthday Weekend.

The fox hunting was on an even playing field this year as it is many years since fox hunts were last run at the Wauchope Showground. The hidden pedestrian and mobile foxes gave the hounds an opportunity to explore new territory.

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who hid and recovered the fox hunt transmitters with help from John Hansen VK2AYQ. Special thanks must go to Craig Martin

VK2ZCM for bringing his 2 metre fox controllers and 80 metre pedestrian foxes to the Field Day. Thank you also to Grahame O'Brien VK2FA for running his mobile HF radio as the 80 metre mobile fox. Unfortunately the 80 metre foxes that were being built for the Field Day weren't completed in time so Craig and Grahame saved the day. Thank you too to Bruce Walker VK2HOT for starting the hunts and doing the recording. Bruce did this under adversity with his right arm in a sling.



A fox in position at the Wauchope Community Arts Hall.

### Field Day Results

Congratulations to 2019 Fox Hunt champion Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach, and to Runner-up champion Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby. The top hunters are always keen to see their names engraved on those little shields that added to the Perpetual Trophy each year. There is very little space left on the Perpetual Trophy to add new shields. In a few years the trophy will be full and we will then need a new Perpetual Trophy.



Jeff VK2BYY left and Chris VK2YMW being awarded trophies by Henry VK2ZHE.

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Stuart

Walsh VK2FSTU took out the prize for the best presented amateur vehicle. There were several worthy contenders but Stuart's vehicle stood out.



*Henry VK2ZHE presenting award to Stuart VK2FSTU for best presented amateur vehicle.*

Thanks to many generous donations the major raffle and lucky door prizes were of a very high standard. Raffle first prize winner Des Thompson VK9FLHI from Lord Howe Island took home the much coveted Digitech DC1068 hand held UHF CB radio donated by Jaycar.

The second prize in the raffle, the pair of Baofeng UHF hand held transceivers, was won by Shayne McBride VK2XUV of Forster.

With a total of 19 prizes in the Major Raffle the draw was keenly watched. The subsequent prizes, all donated by Jaycar, Amateur Radio NSW, Radio Supply and VK2ZHE included a wide range of high quality prizes.

Jaycar also provided complimentary recently released Jaycar 2019 catalogues. In addition their donation of a large number of recent Silicon Chip magazines which were distributed free during the Field Day were very gratefully received by those did not already have them. The donated drink coolers and combination tape measures were well received. Jaycar is a long time supporter of the Field Days.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of a pair of UHF hand held CB transceivers donated by VK2ZHE went to Bryce Steep VK2FADS of Wauchope.

In all there were 15 prizes in the callsign lucky door draw. These were donated by Jaycar Port Macquarie, Radio Supply, Amateur Radio NSW and VK2ZHE.

In the non-callsign lucky door draw, first prize of a book "Everything Origami" donated by VK2ZHE was won by Helen Williams of Hornsby. There was a total of 6 prizes.

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but as already mentioned, many of the volunteers put in extraordinary efforts during the weekend as a number of those who normally volunteer for various tasks were either absent or not able to undertake the tasks that they had done in previous years. It did mean that some people doubled up and undertook more than one task. The result was that the weekend events all ran smoothly and everyone was well fed.

The Wauchope Showground hall has a dedicated kitchen but there was still a lot of work in setting up to barbeque and serve delicious food and drink throughout the weekend.

John Bailey VK2KHB did a great job in obtaining all the provisions and co-ordinating the running of the food service. John very generously donated most of the food and consumables, and all of the soft drinks. The generosity of John and other benefactors such as Henry Lundell VK2ZHE who donated the sausages, steak,



bacon and the fruit salad and ice cream ensured that that sale of the very reasonably priced food was profitable.

Special thanks go to Paula Colledge VK2FPDC and Sue Meade who tirelessly worked all weekend to serve the food and drink while running the barbeque. The basic kitchen was a great help with its sink and hot water for washing up. Importantly, it also had refrigerator and freezer space.



*Paula VK2FPDC and Sue Meade a winning team.*

Special thanks to Lyle Smith VK2SMI who, despite having work during the weekend, very kindly donated and delivered the gas to fuel the barbeque.

Thank you again to the food service team. There was always someone behind the counter to provide immediate service. The free tea, coffee and biscuits were continuously available in the dining alcove which worked particularly well and drew much favourable comment.



*Merv VK2DMS orders from Sue*

The breakfast bacon and egg sandwiches were particularly popular on both days. The sausage sandwiches were very popular. Word of how delicious these were spread very quickly. The secret was in the quality of the ingredients and the expert barbequing. The innovative serving of the fruit salad and ice cream dessert in cups drew much favourable comment. It is planned to serve the dessert this way in the future.

Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desk at the entrance to the hall and sold all the tickets for the food, drinks and the raffle. Special thanks must go to Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM and his team. At the end of the weekend Dennis was happy that the money and ticket sales reconciled, and that the Field Day had made a substantial profit. Three new members joined ORARC at the Field Day and some members took the opportunity to pay their membership subscriptions.



*Dennis VK2DAM with Craig VK2ZCM at the registration desk.*

Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Saturday morning and then packed everything up on Sunday afternoon. The Showground Caretaker did a check as the hall was finally swept and everything was stowed. He was happy. It was hard to believe that only a few hours earlier the hall and environs had been a hive of activity with 86 attendees and a mountain of paraphernalia. Thank you to everyone for a great job. ORARC promptly received a refund of the \$250.00

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bond for the hall together with a nice letter thanking us for being model hirers.

The generosity of the benefactors who so kindly donated all the prizes is greatly appreciated.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Field Day. The support is greatly appreciated.

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

The 2019 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 45th annual Field Day. The Wauchope Showground Hall has already been booked. The Golf Club Seaview Room has already been booked for the Saturday night Field Day dinner.

## **Coming Events**

### **RD Contest**

The 2019 Remembrance Day contest runs for 24 hours and commences at 1pm local time on the afternoon of Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, and finishes at 1pm on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. This year the RD contest and International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are on the same weekend so VK2BOR will operate in both the RD Contest and the ILLW for the full 24 hours from the club's communications caravan. The RD rules permit contacts with stations in the same call area and there is the incentive of double points for contacts on 160 metres so operating the full 24 hours is a worthwhile strategy. See the WIA web site <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/> for details.

The venue for this year's RD and ILLW operation will be the carpark of the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club. The 160 metre dipole will be set up for the Saturday night to take advantage of the RD contest bonus points for 160 metre contacts.

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

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

### **ILLW**



The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) <https://illw.net/> takes place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th of August 2019.

As mentioned above, ILLW and RD Contest are both on the same weekend so the club station VK2BOR will operate from the club's communications caravan to be located in the carpark of the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club as this is the closest practical location for the station to the Tacking Point Lighthouse. Please come along and support this operation. Again, as usual there will be a free hot dog lunch

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with biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks provided in the caravan. It is planned to continue to operate through the night and a sausage sizzle barbeque evening meal and a bacon and egg breakfast will be provided.

### **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Car Boot Sale**

The Westlakes Amateur Radio Club 12<sup>th</sup> annual Car Boot Sale will take place in the grounds of the club premises in York Street Teralba on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2019. The annual car boot sale is an event not to be missed. The bargains are legendary. Enjoy the food from the club barbeque while enjoying the great social event. The bargains are a bonus! There is always a strong contingent of Westlakes members in attendance at the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Field Days so it is a great opportunity to reciprocate the interclub support.



### **JOTA**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. It is also the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Jamboree on the Internet. As in past years, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will set up the club station VK2BOR on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October in the club's communications caravan to be located adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Port Macquarie Sea Scouts boatshed in McInherney Park on the bank of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie.

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

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.

Those who already have a WWC check number should check the expiry date of their certificate. Use the "Renew Your WWC Check Number" option. If your expiry date is prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 you will need to follow the above procedure to renew your WWC check number well before JOTA.

Please consider volunteering to participate in running the VK2BOR JOTA station. With the large number of Scouts and Guides expected at the District Event, Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October will be a busy day.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE is the ORARC co-ordinator for JOTA 2019.

### **Beechwood Billycart Classic**

Members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club provide the safety communications for this high profile event each year.

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The date this year is Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

Fortunately, the Beechwood Billycart Classic this year is the on the Sunday of the weekend after JOTA so there is a week between the two events.

Please consider volunteering to be the co-ordinator for the Billy Cart Classic. The event will require a large number of volunteers on the day to man the radio check points, run the PA position at the finish, provide the radio communications in the Commentary Vehicle, and to act as net control station.

### WICEN



### WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group

The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group 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. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should come along to the meetings. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

### Welcome New Members

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club welcomes new members John Garland VK2CJG of Jewells in Newcastle, Ron Swindley VK2DDQ of Kempsey and Bob Yorston VK2CAN of Roseville in Sydney.

Welcome to returning member Col Terry VK2LCT of Wauchope. Col was previously VK2VQT

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President

## Important Annual Subscription Information

Dear fellow ORARC members,

This is a reminder that annual subscriptions are due for renewal on th 1 July 2009.

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 call sign or name 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 on July 7, you can pay then.

If you wish to pay by Cheque please add 50 cents to the amount as the Bank charges a 50 cent fee for processing the Cheques.

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

73

Dennis VK2DAM

### Club Treasurer



*Continued on next page*



## ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2019

### Major Raffle

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Digitech DC1068 5 Watt Hand Held UHF CB Transceiver	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Pair of Baofeng BF-888F Hand Held UHF Transceivers Programmed with 70cm Amateur Radio Frequencies for the Mid North Coast	Bruce Ekert VK2EM	VK2XUV	Shane McBride	Forster
<b>3rd Prize</b>	ARRL Satellite Radio Handbook	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie
<b>4th Prize</b>	Radio Theory Handbook by Fred Swainston	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2TT	Trevor Thatcher	Wauchope
<b>5th Prize</b>	Practical Projects Book	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2FSTU	Stuart Walsh	Crosslands
<b>6th Prize</b>	Vino Pop Cork Remover	VK2ZHE	VK2BIG	Bob Small	Lake Cathie
<b>7th Prize</b>	Instruments of Amplification	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2DB	Dorothy Bishop	Hornsby Heights
<b>8th Prize</b>	Osram Techlight ST3487 Waterproof LED Torch	VK2ZHE	VK2FRKO	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
<b>9th Prize</b>	Battery Tester BT-168	Radio Supply	VK2YF	Fred Messemaker	Toronto
<b>10th Prize</b>	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2HZV	Judy O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>11th Prize</b>	Discover Electricity and Magnetism	VK2ZHE	VK2BMX	Stuart Walker	Beecroft
<b>12th Prize</b>	Earth Stress Ball	VK2ZHE		Priscilla Perry	Lemon Tree Passage
<b>13th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
<b>14th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2KD	Kevin Dawson	Oatley
<b>15th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2BMX	Stuart Walker	Beecroft
<b>16th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2NJJ	John Winchester	Port Macquarie
<b>17th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2UJ	Tim Mills	Beecroft
<b>18th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie		Priscilla Perry	Lemon Tree Passage
<b>19th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FRKO	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2019				
Non-Callsign Lucky Door				
	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Everything Origami	VK2ZHE	Helen Williams	Hornsby
2nd Prize	Vino Pop Cork Remover	VK2ZHE	Anne Burke	Coffs Harbour
3rd Prize	The Complete Idiot's Guide to Facebook	VK2ZHE	Joshua Gardiner	Newcastle
4th Prize	Discover Electricity and Magnetism	VK2ZHE	Fay McDonald	Taree
5th Prize	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	Betty Thompson	Lord Howe Island
6th Prize	Jaycar Stubby Holder	Jaycar Port Macquarie	Gloria Savins	Toormina

### ORARC Field Day 2019 - Trophy Winners

	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
<b>Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt</b>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt</b>	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
<b>Saturday 2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt</b>	VK2SMI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
<b>Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt</b>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt</b>	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
<b>Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt</b>	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
<b>Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt</b>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>Fox Hunt Champion</b>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion</b>	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
<b>Best Presented Amateur Vehicle</b>	VK2FSTU	Stuart Walsh	Crosslands
<b>Best Home Brew Display</b>	VK2ZKT	Gary Ryan	Bellingen



Henry VK2ZHE presenting Jeff VK2BYY with the Fox Hunt Champion Trophy



## ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2019

### Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Pair of hand held 80 Channel UHF CB Radios Jaycar DC-1017	VK2ZHE	VK2FADS	Bryce Steep	Wauchope
<b>2nd Prize</b>	LED Headband Magnifier	Radio Supply	VK2ELH	Robert Gallagher	Lismore
<b>3rd Prize</b>	100 Amp DC Circuit Breaker PB100	Radio Supply	VK2EM	Bruce Ekert	Forster
<b>4th Prize</b>	Independent Energy Guide	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2HOT	Bruce Walker	Port Macquarie
<b>5th Prize</b>	Vino Pop Cork Remover	VK2ZHE	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>6th Prize</b>	Pixie 40 Metre CW QRP Transceiver kit	VK2ZHE	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie
<b>7th Prize</b>	DX World Guide	Amateur Radio NSW	VK2ZOI	John Bishop	Hornsby
<b>8th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>9th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2FPDC	Paula Colledge	Port Macquarie
<b>10th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CJG	John Garland	Jewells
<b>11th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2AAK	Andy Keir	Darawank
<b>12th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2HPF	Peter Fletcher	Port Macquarie
<b>13th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2IJS	Ivan Southwell	Port Macquarie
<b>14th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2WH	Sandy Brucesmith	Port Macquarie
<b>15th Prize</b>	Jaycar TH2510 4in1 Tape Measure	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CLL	Larry Lindsay	Huntingdon

*Henry VK2ZHE presenting Call sign Lucky Door 1st prize to Bryce VK2FADS*





## **ACMA proposed changes to licence conditions**

Date : 28 / 06 / 2019

Author : Peter Clee - VK8ZZ

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has conducted a review of licence conditions that apply to amateur radio operators with Foundation, Standard and Advanced level qualifications.

The amateur service is a longstanding user of the radiofrequency spectrum, with a range of bands made available for qualified amateurs. It is designed primarily to facilitate hobby radiocommunications and technical experimentation.

The ACMA supports the amateur service through planning arrangements which recognise the desires of amateur radio operators to access frequency bands, while balancing other demands for spectrum.

In the Draft five-year spectrum outlook 2019–23 (draft FYSO), the ACMA indicated it would commence consultation on potential changes to amateur licensing conditions in Q4 2018–19.

Our review considered various requests for changes to licence conditions in submissions made by amateur peak bodies—the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) and the Radio Amateur Society of Australia (RASA).

The ACMA is also taking the opportunity during this process to consult on our proposals to remove amateur advanced licensees' access to the 3575–3600 MHz band within areas reallocated for spectrum licensing. The purpose of these changes is to prevent cancellation of advanced amateur licences that would otherwise occur as a result of the reallocation of the 3575–3700 MHz band (the 3.6 GHz band) to spectrum licensees.

This paper sets out our proposals for public consideration. We are seeking stakeholder views on the following:

- the removal of amateur advanced licensees' access to the 3575–3600 MHz band within specified areas

- changes that progress various requests of the amateur community, that will account for technological changes, reduce restrictions and increase flexibility for licensees

- changes that respond to requests by the amateur community for the medium term, that will increase flexibility for licensees
- additional proposals for change that we have identified for the medium term to longer term aimed at reducing the overall regulatory burden of amateur licensing arrangements.

The ACMA article can be viewed by copying the following link into your browser

<https://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/proposed-changes-to-amateur-licence-conditions>

The discussion paper is downloadable from this the above page.

The WIA will be making a submission in response to this article.

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## Equipment from the Past

### Receiver-Transmitter RT-70/GRC - MILITARY U.S



This is a photograph taken at the Oxley Amateur Radio Club Inc,'s recent field day of an item that was offered for sale on one of the disposal tables.

These radio sets were manufactured in the 1950's and were valve operated. They needed a voltage supply of 6 volts for the valve filaments and 90 Volts for the valve plates. This voltage was supplied by either a mains power supply or a vibrator power supply.

The set design was a superhet with double or triple conversion and covered the frequency range of 47 to 58.4 MHz.

Modulation was FM with a power output of less than 1 Watt. The sets were designed to be used to give reliable coverage within a 1.6 Km (1 mile) range and be operated in tanks, other vehicles or as a field based radio.

Audio output was to headphones or fed into an external amplifier for external speaker use. These radio's were extremely rugged and at the time considered to be relatively light weight at 7 kg.

The basic design was manufactured by several NATO countries and the sets were considered to be of an extremely robust design.

Tuning was continuously variable between 47 and 58.4 Mhz. However they could be set up mechanically to have two preset channels to simplify net use.

The following 2 photographs were taken from the [www.radiomuseum.org](http://www.radiomuseum.org) website where extensive examples of the set can be found, including being used with the multi-vibrator and amplifier module.



Above picture give a clearer indication of what the purpose of the controls.

Editors note: It would be interesting to find out the history of the unit on the disposal table and also if it were sold on the day.



## Blast from the Past

Blast from the past is the section in Oxtales where we look back into the past to see what the club was doing at that time. This months 'Blast' is taken from the July 2007 edition of Oxtales.

The president at that time was Alan Nutt VK2GD (SK), Vice president Bruce Walker VK2HOT, Treasurer John McLean VK2KCE now VK2KC and secretary Jim Neal VK2VIV. With the exception of VK2GD all are still current active members of the club. In 2007 we had 47 members compared with the 78 of today.

The following is an interesting comment on the Fox Hunting activity at the 2007 Field Day.

### ***'Cunning Foxes Can't Elude the Wily Hounds'***

*ORARC's crafty foxes, Jim VK2VIV and Larry VK2CLL, demonstrated unprecedented slyness in the placement of hidden transmitters at the June long weekend field day. However, their Machiavellian antics were no match for ORARC's resident hound, Craig VK2ZCM and regular visitors Chris VK2YMW and Arnold VK2ADA.*

*Overall Foxhunt champion, by a hound's whisker, was VK2ZCM. Craig has developed outstanding technical abilities in all facets of fox hunting. He constructed the 80 metre transmitter used in the events. This is a programmable unit that is capable of working into any aerial, from a piece of wet string to a chain wire fence, without an ATU.*

*Craig was without peer in both the 80 metre championship event and the Saturday practice event. This was largely because of the excellent 80 metre DF'ing aerial set-up on the roof racks of his car. Chuffed with his success in Saturday's practice events, and a pleasant dinner in town with the XYL that evening, Craig arrived home and drove straight into the car-port, forgetting the precious and complex equipment above his head. The damage was extensive and Craig worked into the early hours of Sunday morning rewinding ferrite rod aerials and straightening bent bits and pieces. Needless to say, he had his gear working perfectly again for the main event.*

*The number of participants was down this year because of the appalling weather conditions down south but competitors, who made it*

*to Port Macquarie, enjoyed ideal conditions for all events'.*

Editors note: It is interesting to note that we are still using Craig's 80 metres foxes today.

Arthur VK2ATM has been interested in small bandwidth transmissions for many years. The following is an extract from the 2007 July edition of Oxtales where Arthur had been experimenting with the BPSK31 mode of transmission.

### ***'Digital BPSK31***

*Most newcomers to Amateur radio have computers. Some have dedicated computers interfaced with their transceivers, yet few have migrated to digital modes. Perhaps it's consider something akin to the internet, but be assured that is not so. Perhaps they believe Packet Radio is the only system available to Amateurs. Again, not so!*

*Amateur Radio digital communication encompasses over 50 different modes and some programmes, such as "Multipsk" and "Mix-W", give you the capabilities to receive most of these. It ranges from SSTV to keyboard-to-keyboard transmissions. It even includes CW which was the first digital mode!*

*One of the most popular modes is PSK31 (Phase Shift Keying) and if you really want to see something fascinating, download the programme "Digipan" off the internet, (or buy the club's "HamStuff" CD produced by Arthur VK2ATM) install and watch and read on your computer up to 20 stations all transmitting within a 2 kHz band. Yes I did say 20. The bandwidth of a BPSK31 signal is just 62.5 Hz., so there is plenty of room inside a 2 kHz bandwidth.*

*You will need a very simple interface (a simple mini 1:1 600 ohm transformer for isolation purposes) to connect the transceiver output to the input of your sound card'.*

# Additional Photographs from the 2019 Oxley Regions Radio Club Field Day



*Trophies above and Raffle prizes top right.*



*Mobile Fox hunt Champions above. Henry VK2ZHE, presents Perpetual Trophy to Jeff VK2BY and Kevin VK2KD*



*Andy VK2AAK/VK2UE explaining set up to Gary VK2ZKT*



*Henry VK2ZHE presenting John VK2KHB with raffle prize upper left. Discussion left Stuart VK2BMX with David ZL3DS. Above Bruce VK2HOT and Lyle VK2SMI share a story. Left Judy VK2HZV and Carol VK2FCSR share a moment.*

