



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

September 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

AGM



At the AGM on the 3rd of August 2019 all the positions were filled

Despite much canvassing, no other nominations were received for the position of Secretary so President elect Henry Lundell VK2ZHE agreed to take on the additional role of Secretary again for another year. I ask that members consider nominating to take on the important job of Secretary next year.

I am honoured to have been re-elected President and Public Officer for the 2019 – 2020 year. Congratulations to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ on being re-elected Vice President. Thank you to new Treasurer elect Dennis Meade VK2DAM.

The elected Committee members are Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Arthur Monck

Item	Page No
President's Monthly Report	Front Cover
Down the Coax	2
E-Mail Directory	2
Net Controllers' Roster	2
RD Contest and ILLW 2019	3
JOTA 2019	6
Beachwood Billy Cart Classic	7
White Ribbon Coastal Walk	7
Christmas Party	7
2020 Field Day	8
WICEN	8
Distant Members Get the Vote	9
Office Bearers	10
Life in the Simple Old Days!	10
WIA Matters	11
B2 Spy Set	13
Blast from the Past	14
Membership Directory	16

Down The Coax

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

Special General Meeting
Saturday 7 September 2019 2:00 pm
September Monthly General Meeting after SGM

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 20 September 2019 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 October 2019 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 October 2019 7.00 pm

The 62nd Jamboree On The Air will take place on 19
and 20 October 2019

VK2BOR will operate from the Club's Caravan at
McInherney Park

Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 27 October 2019

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 November 2019 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 November 2019 7.00 pm

Spring VHF UHF Contest
Sat & Sun 23 & 24 November 2019

White Ribbon Coastal Walk Against Domestic &
Family Violence
Tacking Point to West Port Park Port Macquarie
Sunday 1 December 2019

ORARC Christmas Party
And Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 7 December 2019
Long Point Winery Picnic Area

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

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		

October 6 2019

VK2FMGM	Oct 6	VK2ZHE	Oct 3
VK2FMGM	Oct 13	VK2ICQ	Oct 10
VK2FMGM	Oct 20	VK2EM	Oct 17
VK2FMGM	Oct 27	VKZHE	Oct 24
		VK2ICQ	Oct 31

November 2019

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

Continued from page 1

VK2ATM and Rob Frost VK2CRF.

Larry Lindsay VK2CLL is continuing in his long serving role as Education Officer. Many members have obtained their licences and upgrades through Larry's classes over a great many years. Anyone thinking of obtaining a licence or upgrading should contact Larry. Now that the new licencing arrangements are in place the club is able to conduct assessments again. Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Steve Wynn VK2ZSW have received accreditation as assessors so the club is well placed to run assessments. Exam papers now need to be individually ordered so there is a lead time in obtaining the papers. It means that spare papers will no longer be available for late applicants once an assessment date has been set.

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

ORARC is on Facebook. Thank you to John McLean VK2KC for taking on the role of Facebook Administrator. John will soon be migrating the ORARC Facebook to a new site. The change should be seamless but it will make the club Facebook easier to use.

John Hansen VK2AYQ continues as Oxtales Editor. Thank you Arthur Monck VK2ATM for taking on the role of Assistant Oxtales Editor. Also, thank you to Ian Lindquist VK2IDL and Darren Froggatt VK2MIA for joining the Oxtales production team as proof readers.

A full list of all the Office Bearers elected at the 2019 AGM is included in this issue of Oxtales.

At the AGM, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM was awarded Clubman of the Year for his dedicated valuable contribution to the club as long serving controller of the ORARC Sunday Morning 2 metre net. Congratulations, Mark.



RD Contest and ILLW 2019

This year the Remembrance Day contest and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend both took place on the weekend of the 17th and 18th of August 2019. In past years when the two events have coincided, the club station VK2BOR has operated from the club's communication caravan located in the carpark at the Tacking Point Lighthouse for both the ILLW and RD Contest. However, this year the Port Macquarie Hastings Council undertook a major upgrade of the road to the Lighthouse during the winter months and the Lighthouse was not accessible for the weekend. Thank you to Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE for obtaining agreement from the ILLW organisers for ORARC to operate VK2BOR from the carpark of the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club as the closest practical site to the Lighthouse.

Thank you to Col Terry VK2LCT for towing the club's communications caravan to the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club carpark on the Saturday morning. The carpark was almost

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full despite the early morning arrival. The surprisingly large number of participants in the dawn bootcamp and the early morning surfers had taken over the carpark. Fortunately, there was just one suitable car space available and Col did a great job in shoe-horning the caravan into that space. Well done Col.



Club's communication caravan in position at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club car park.

Thank you to everyone who arrived early to set up the caravan. Special thanks go to John Bailey VK2KHB and newly appointed Social Director Ivan Southwell VK2IJS for cooking the breakfast bacon and eggs and the lunch and dinner sausages. Cooking on the Council-installed electric barbeque was a bit of a challenge in the wind. At lunch time the wind was particularly strong and Ivan had to work hard to keep the wind blown sand away from the barbeque plate. His vigilance paid off as the sausages were grit free.

Due to the limited space available to install HF antennas in the public space at the

carpark it was decided to erect just a single off-centre fed horizontal 80 metre dipole which neatly fitted into the space. A flagpole mast was attached to the side of the caravan to support the feed point of the dipole. The flag pole halyard made it easy to raise the 4:1 balun feed point to the top of the mast. The unguyed flag pole stood firm and steady in the wind. The antenna had a low VSWR on 80, 40, 20 and 10 metres, and worked well on all those bands. There had been some concern that electrical noise could have been a problem as the off-centre feeding of the 80 metre dipole was inherently unbalanced but this proved to be baseless as the noise level was surprisingly low on all bands. Toroid chokes were used at both ends of the coax feed line as a precaution. The noise level on the caravan's 5 band HF trap vertical antenna was much higher. As can be seen in the photographs the trap vertical bent significantly in the wind. See Photograph below.



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Unfortunately HF propagation was particularly poor this year. The skip distance on 40 metres was very long during the day and the stations heard were mainly in VK3, VK5 and VK7. 20 metre stations were few and far between. Despite an excellent signal from VK2WI in Sydney during the RD opening broadcast at 1 pm, very few stations were heard on 80 metres during the day. Consequently only a relatively small number of lighthouses were worked this year. In the evening 80 metres worked well and nearly all the 42 RD contacts were made in the early evening on this band.

The club's Honda EU20i inverter generator ran for the full day on a single tank of fuel and provided high quality AC power. The generator was placed under its cover in front of the caravan inside a safety barrier. The generator is very quiet and simply could not be heard over the wind. There was no concern over exhaust fumes despite the close proximity of the generator to the caravan as the generator was down wind from the caravan.



It had been intended to operate through the night and during Sunday but given the poor propagation and the lack of volunteers to stay the night, it was decided to pack up at about 8 pm and not return on Sunday. The Saturday operation was a very enjoyable day with great participation in all the activities. The food was excellent and the

caravan provided an excellent operating environment.

Thank you to participants Col Terry VK2LCT, John Bailey VK2KHB, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Ivan Southwell VK2IJS, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Bruce Walker VK2HOT, Des Thompson VK9FLHI, Darren Froggatt VK2MIA and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. It was great to have past member John McDonagh VK2VY drop in to say hello and to return a 2 metre cavity filter to the club. In the past John was a keen participant in packet radio and the filter had been part of the club's packet radio digipeater equipment. John still lives in Port Macquarie and can often be found on EchoLink.



Henry VK2ZHE , Col VK2LCT Ivan VK2IJS



Bob VK2ZRE Betty, Des VK9FLHI



Bruce VK2HOT Rob VK2CRF, Bob VK2ZRE

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JOTA 2019



The 62nd annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of October 2019. It is also the 23rd annual Jamboree on the Internet.

As with last year, this year the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts are 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.

VK2BOR will operate as usual on the Saturday from the club's Communications Caravan which will be set up at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie a short distance from Settlement City. Please come along and assist with the VK2BOR operation. The station will be very busy indeed this year so we will need more than the usual number of operators. Fortunately, with only one station to run this year, it should be a little easier to find enough

ORARC members.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE is co-ordinating the VK2BOR JOTA station operation. If you haven't already done so, please contact me to advise if you are able to assist on Saturday the 19th of October 2019. Due to a change in the way Scouting District events are run, those participating must register on line before Friday the 27th of September 2019. I will provide the registration details direct to those who have volunteered. Only those who register before the deadline will be able to attend the District Camp to assist with JOTA.

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 online at <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check> For volunteers there is no cost. Simply complete the on line form and you will receive an email. Print out the email and take it the RMS NSW Government Service Centre (In Port Macquarie it is in the building in Central Road that was originally the Motor Registry) where you will have to show your Drivers Licence for identification. The counter staff will verify the identification and you will receive the WWC number shortly afterwards by email.

It is now the responsibility of organisations to verify WWC numbers prior to events. ORARC has to provide 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts a list of names, date of birth and WWC Check numbers from each person who is attending JOTA/JOTI at McInherney Park. The Group Leader needs this list on Friday the 27th of September so it can be sent to the State Office for the checks to be completed prior to JOTA/JOTI. You will need the WWC number in order to complete the on line registration for the District Camp.

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If you haven't already done so, please email your date of birth and WWC Check number to Henry Lundell VK2ZHE by Friday the 27th of September at the latest so that I can forward it to the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts Group Leader in time to make the deadline.

Beechwood Billycart Classic



The 40th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic takes place on the morning of Sunday the 27th of October 2019.

The club needs someone to assist Richard Court VK2CHC with co-ordinating the club's involvement in the Beechwood Billycart Classic. Richard is kindly compiling the list of volunteers and will create the documentation. If you haven't yet offered your services as a volunteer, and/or would like to help with the co-ordination and are able to attend, please contact Richard Court VK2CHC or Henry Lundell VK2ZHE as soon as possible. The event is a very popular community event and our role of providing the safety communications is very important. The main race down the mountain starts at 11:00 am. This year the children's race will start at 11:30 am. The racing concludes at 12:00 noon so it won't be a long day.

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

White Ribbon Coastal Walk



The annual White Ribbon Coastal Walk Against Domestic & Family Violence from the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club to Westport Park in Port Macquarie takes place on Sunday 1 December 2019. As in previous years, members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club have been invited to provide the safety communications for the event.

The club's communications caravan will be set up at the finish at Westport Park. Radio communications are required at the start and the major check points, Shelly Beach, Flynn's Beach, Town Beach and the Town Green. Set up is from 7 am and the walk finishes before mid-day so it is not a long day.

Please consider volunteering to providing communications for this very worthwhile event. Names will be taken at the club's November meeting but please contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE if you would like to volunteer early.

Christmas Party

Don't forget the club's Christmas party on the normal December monthly general meeting date of Saturday the 7th of December 2019. The venue this year will again be the very popular Long Point Art Gallery and Vineyard. *Continued on next page*

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The cover over the picnic deck area has been extended so there is plenty of shade and protection in the unlikely event of rain.

More details in November Oxtales. Mark your calendar now.

2020 Field Day

The 2020 Field Day is only 9 months away. This will be the 45th Annual Field Day. The dates are Saturday and Sunday the 6th and 7th of June during the 2020 Queens Birthday Holiday long weekend. Planning is already in progress.

The venue will be the same as last year, the hall at the Wauchope Showground. The hall has been booked for 2020 and provides a spacious indoor venue with excellent access and parking. There is a separate alcove in front of the kitchen which provides a quiet area to sit down and enjoy the tasty food from the barbeque and the free tea, coffee and biscuits.

The Wauchope Showground permits camping and the rates are very reasonable but those wishing to stay on-site in their own caravans or motor homes (\$20) or tents (\$10) should book ahead as the number of campsites is limited and the June Long Weekend is always a popular weekend. For bookings see the website at <http://www.wauchopeshowsociety.com.au/camping.html> The phone number for the on site caretaker is 0475 111 074 . The campsites have mains power and the amenities include toilets and hot showers. The Showground is pet friendly and you can even stable your horse for \$10 a night.

The Field Day Dinner will be at 6pm on Saturday night the 6th of June 2020 in the Seaview Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply Pty Ltd at Bellingen for the generous sponsorship of the function room hire. The Seaview Room is a very

pleasant venue for the Field Day dinner. As in past years the excellent full dinner menu of the Aspire Restaurant will be available at club prices.

More details in the November 2019 issue of Oxtales.

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group



WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region holds its monthly meetings after the conclusion of the ORARC Monthly General Meetings in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. Current and prospective WICEN members are invited to attend the meetings. A few more members are still needed in order to make a viable Region. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should contact Larry Thompson VK2LJT or Rob Frost VK2CRF, or just come along to the meetings. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

The annual VH-MDX SAREX in the Barrington Tops is taking place during the period the 26th to the 30th of September 2019. It is taking a slightly different form and WICEN isn't directly participating this year but at least one Mid North Coast WICEN member is intending to participate in his capacity as an SES member.

A significant number of WICEN and ORARC members are also SES members. As well as membership of local SES Units, there are opportunities in SES to join regional Capability

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Units and also the Operational Support Unit. Please contact Larry Thompson VK2LJT if you would like more information. The Capability Units and the Operational Support Unit offer opportunities for those with technical and communications skills to use those skills in various interesting and challenging SES activities. One example which some members will be familiar with is the deployment of the SES Forward Command Vehicle. There is an active Mid North Coast Capability Unit. Northern Rivers are currently working towards establishing a Capability Unit.



Member News

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their memberships this year. Only a couple of membership subscriptions are still outstanding. Please see the club Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM. Your continuing membership is greatly valued by the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Payments may be made by direct deposit to the club's Holiday Coast Credit Union account. Note that the Holiday Coast Credit Union has merged with the Regional Australia Bank so now has a new name. The club's account is in the new entity.

Distant Members Get the Vote

At the Special General Meeting on Saturday the 7th of September 2019 the Special Resolution was passed to amend paragraph 3.4.2 of the Constitution of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. so that Distant Members will have voting rights. Application has been made to NSW Fair Trading to amend the ORARC constitution accordingly. When advice is received that the amendment has been accepted the change will take effect. This will then be promulgated to members as soon as possible. Note that this will be the

first amendment since the current Constitution was adopted in 2011.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

For members renewing their membership the Club Treasurer Dennis VK2DAM has supplied the following details.

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 next monthly meeting you can pay fees at that time.

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



At the Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. held on Saturday the 3th of August 2019, the following office bearers were elected:

President: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Vice President: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Secretary: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Treasurer: Dennis Meade VK2DAM
Committee Member 1: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Committee Member 2: Arthur Monck VK2ATM
Committee Member 3: Rob Frost VK2CRF
Public Officer: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Repeater Chairman: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Oxtales Editor: John Hansen VK2AYQ
Oxtales Co-Editor: Arthur Monck VK2ATM
VK2BOR Mgr: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
QSL Manager: Bruce Walker VK2HOT
Welfare Officer: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Publicity Officer: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Education Officer: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Club Historian: John Bailey VK2KHB
Social Director: Ivan Southwell VK2IJS
Webmaster: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Facebook Moderator: John McLean VK2KC
WIA Liaison Delegate: Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE
Member Liaison Officer: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

Life in the simple old days!

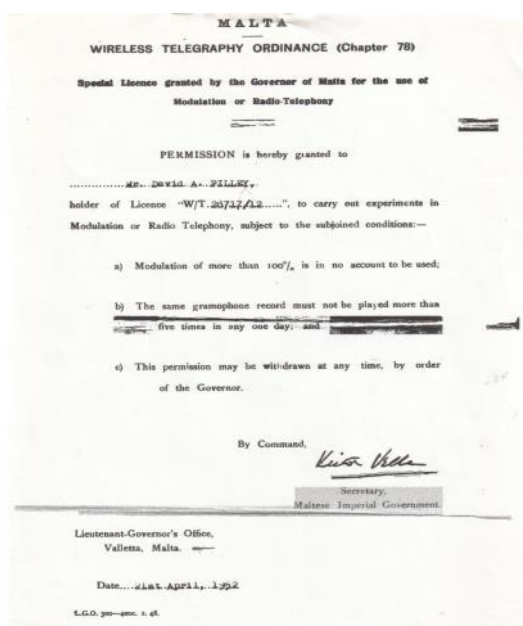
From: David VK2AYD

Ever wonder what an Amateur Licence 68 years ago permitted? Cleaning out some of my old files I found my ZB1HLW 1952 licence issued to me in Malta. It made interesting and current day humorous reading. It was for CW with an endorsement to use modulation. The following were a few items you wouldn't find in a 2019 licence.

“The use of Spark sending apparatus and unrectified current is forbidden”. “No period of sending shall exceed ten minutes. The time occupied in sending shall not exceed two hours during any consecutive period of twenty four hours”. If power for working the wireless station is taken from public electricity supply there shall be no direct connection between supply and aerial” “The keying should be such that not key clicks shall be produced” (Quotations in “” taken verbatim from actual licence!).

I've attached a copy of the addendum for the use of modulation. Note (b): “I must not play the same gramophone record more than five times a day”

Ah ! Life was so simple in those days. de David



VK2AYD



Islands of Australia Award - Live Today



Date : 09 / 09 / 2019

Author : Graham Alston - VK3GA Awards manager on behalf of the WIA Awards Committee

The WIA DX Awards Program (*) Link is pleased to announce that the new award, the "Islands of Australia Award" is live and available today.

This new award recognises contacts with Amateur Radio stations on any of the 56 qualifying Islands of Australia.

The WIA Islands Of Australia Award is an award which compliments the RSGB/IOTA Ltd Program. The WIA wholeheartedly endorses this Program and hopes this award will encourage members to extend their "IOTA chasing" skills and achievements and apply for further RSGB/IOTA world-wide awards.

20 confirmed contacts qualify for the award. In addition, you will be able to download further copies of the award certificate with endorsement stickers for 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 contacts. Once you reached 50 islands, your certificate will include an Honour Roll scroll and once you are able to make contact with all 56 Australian islands you will be able to download your copy of the award certificate with an Excellence endorsement scroll. The certificates are produced in real time by the online awards system and can be downloaded in PDF format and printed either at home, or at Office works for those who don't own a high quality colour printer.

The new award also features a Most Wanted list, which allows activators to target the rarest VK islands for their next DXpedition.

The award certificate features Coochiemudlo Island, part of OC-137, a small island in Moreton Bay, near Brisbane in VK4. The European explorer Matthew Flinders landed on Coochiemudlo Island on 19 July 1799, while he was searching for a river in the southern part of Moreton Bay. The name "Coochiemudlo" is an anglicised version of the Aboriginal Yuggera words *kutchi* (meaning red) and *mudlo* (meaning stone).

By participating in the online WIA DX Awards Program, you will have the opportunity to obtain your own personalised "Islands of Australia Award" certificate, or any one of the other 12 certificates and over 300 endorsements.

I would like to acknowledge Marc Hillman VK3OHM and Robert Broomhead VK3DN for their efforts to make this award possible.

Graham Alston - VK3GA WIA Awards Manager, on behalf of the WIA Awards Committee

The WIA awards program is accessible by clicking WIA DX AWARDS under the FOR MEMBERS dropdown on the WIA

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website.

An "Island of Australia" is defined as an Australian (VK) island listed in the RSGB/ Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd Program. This list can be found via this [Link](#)

2020 WIA Annual Conference Hobart



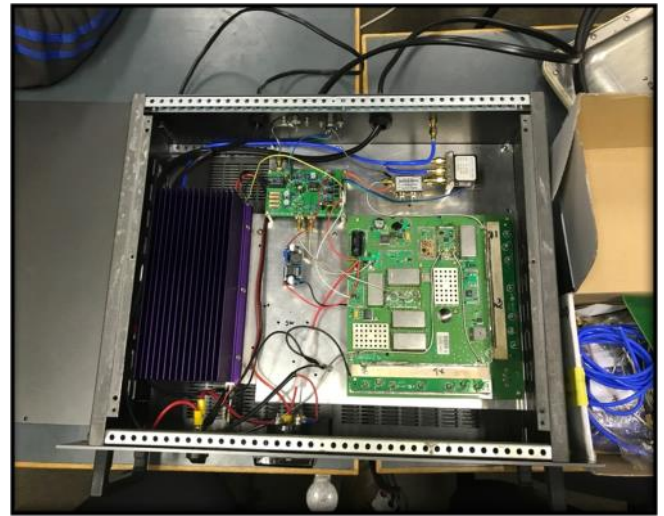
As announced at the 2019 WIA Annual Conference in Sydney, the 2020 Conference will be held over the weekend of May 8-10, 2020 in Hobart Tasmania.

Antarctic Gateway is the theme and this will see tours of the Mawson's Hut Replica Museum, Australian Antarctic Division and the Grote Reber (the first radio astronomer) Museum and there are some other interesting tours in the wind.

Hotel Accommodation

The Conference will be centred around the Best Western Hotel in Bathurst St Hobart and the WIA has been able to secure excellent room rates at the hotel and these can be booked by calling (03) 623 262 43 or emailing reservations97434@bestwestern.com.au and quoting WIA to receive a \$149 discounted room rate.

New 3.4GHz Digital Mode Record



Date : 06 / 09 / 2019 Author : WIA

John Martin VK3KM - WIA keeper of the records lets us know that there is a new 3.4GHz Digital Record that has been set in VK7.

The record was set between Hayden VK7HH on Mt Wellington in Southern Tasmania and Peter VK7PD and Andre' VK7ZAB on Mt Barrow in Northern Tasmania over a distance of 168.7km.

The digital record was used the WSJT mode - FT8 and was set on the 2nd of September 2019.

The latest lists of current and past HF-UHF records are available on the Records Update Page <http://www.wia.org.au/members/records/data/>

The picture above features the VK7HH Transverter.



Equipment from the Past

Type 3 Mk. II (B2)

The equipment from the past for this month is a British WW-II clandestine radio called the Type 3 Mk. II, commonly known as the B2 Spy Set used in World War 2. The set was designed in 1942 by (then) Captain John Brown at SOE Station IX, and manufactured by the Radio Communication Department of the SOE at Stonebridge Park.



The set was issued to agents and resistance groups and special forces operating on occupied territory. The initial version came in an unobtrusive leather suitcase that allowed an agent to travel inconspicuously. This is the most well-known variant. Later in the war it was dropped by parachute in two water-tight containers that were more suitable for use by resistance groups operating in the field.

Some individuals were trained in England and dropped back into the Netherlands as secret agents to gather strategic information about the German occupation. It was too dangerous to transmit from a permanent

spot. The Germans actively went after these illegal radios and whoever was caught, risked the death penalty. Secret messages, about for instance, weapons being dropped were passed via Morse code: a series of short and long beeps transmitted the text letter by letter. Originally these transmitters were hidden in an English brand of luggage. But because the Germans soon recognized these cases, members of the Resistance switched to carrying these spy radio sets in suitcases made in the Netherlands.

The Type 3 Mk.II (B2) was relatively small for its day and produced an HF output power of 20 Watts and had an estimated range of around 100 Km. Nevertheless, it was too big to carry around unobtrusively especially when travelling by public transport.

The Radio Society of Great Britain approached the Ministry of Supply at the end of the war to ask if radio amateurs could purchase these sets. The Ministry agreed to the purchase on condition of one set only per amateur and it was not to be resold by the amateur for a profit! These sets are desirable collectors items today and in good condition and even though they are nearly 80 years old may sell for many thousands of dollars.

Technical specifications:

Receiver frequency range: 3.1-15.2 MHz

Transmitter frequency coverage: 3-16 MHz (4 ranges) CW only.

RF output: 20 W

Antenna: 18 meter wire

Ground: 3 meter wire

AC power supply: 97-140V and 190-250V (40-60Hz)

Power consumption: 27W (RX) and 57W (TX)

DC power supply: 6V, 4.5A (RX) and 9.5A (TX)

Weight 15 Kg

Acknowledgements:

Brenton VK3CM Facebook site for photographs.

Crypto Museum www.cryptomuseum.com

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 month's 'Blast' is taken from the September 2014 edition of Oxtales.

In September 2014 The President was Henry VK2ZHE, with Vice President Charles VK2KCE, secretary David VK2FRAB and Larry VK2CLL treasurer. The club had 82 members.

The main club activities reports for the month were on the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, Remembrance Day Contest and the Alzheimer's Memory walk

'OR A R C assist s WICEN report by Henry VK2ZHE

On Sunday the 31st August at 06:30 4 members of our club attended Westport park to assist in the communication for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk.



Bob VK1ZRE, Arthur VK2ATM, Lyle VK2SMI and Compton VK2HRX.

Arthur VK2ATM, Bob VK1ZRE, Henry VK2ZHE, and Lyle VK2SMI met up with WICEN member Compton VK2HRX to set up two repeaters, the first one was a VHF repeater at the high point near Town Beach and the second being a UHF/VHF cross band repeater at Westport Park this allowed for track checkpoints (VHF) to liaise with the officials (UHF).

WICEN portable VHF repeater ready to put into operation.



International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day Contest

Report Henry VK2ZHE

This year the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day Contest both took place over the same weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of August 2014. The club's communications caravan was set up at the Tacking Point Lighthouse to operate VK2BOR continuously in both events for both days, including operating right through the Saturday night. The triple points after midnight in the RD contest were a great incentive!

In view of the extended 24 hour operation over the two days a decision was made to set the caravan up in the small parking area immediately to the north of the Lighthouse. This enabled a separate set of horizontal dipoles for 160, 40 and 20 metres to be erected to supplement the 5 band trap vertical HF antenna which is attached to the caravan. It is a testament to the strength of the caravan and its trap vertical HF antenna, and to the skill of the dipole erectors, that the installation survived the weekend unscathed despite the extreme wind and rain that Mother Nature inflicted on the site. Over 40 mm of rain fell and the wind blew from the north at over 20 knots throughout Saturday night. In the small hours of Sunday morning the intrepid midnight to dawn operators Paul Colledge VK2ICQ and club president Lyle Smith VK2SMI feared for their safety as the caravan was buffeted by severe wind and rain squalls. Locating the caravan with a northerly aspect below the Lighthouse was a prudent decision. Had the caravan been located with a southerly aspect at the top of the Lighthouse turning circle the caravan would have been more exposed.

Thank you to Barry Gilson VK2LBG for towing the caravan to and from the Lighthouse and for so expertly maneuvering the caravan into position at the Lighthouse very early on the Saturday morning. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI who arrived on site

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

with his caravan equally early and to John Bailey VK2KHB, Des Thompson VK9FLHI, Bob Ecclestone VK1ZRE, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Ray Mullins VK2JU, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, David Hogan VK2FRAB, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, Bill Brooke VK2ZCW, Thomas Rae VK2ATR, Jim Neil VK2VIV John Hansen VK2AYQ and Craig Martin VK2ZCM who participated in the weekend.

The team of early morning starters on the Saturday morning made light work of the many tasks required in order to set up for the weekend. The erection of the HF dipoles was particularly challenging. The 160 metre dipole spanned all the way from the top of the very steep slope adjacent to the Lighthouse building to a location amongst the bushland on the high ground to the north of the parking area.



A 160 metre dipole is a long antenna. The same length of wire from the caravan extends up the distant hill.

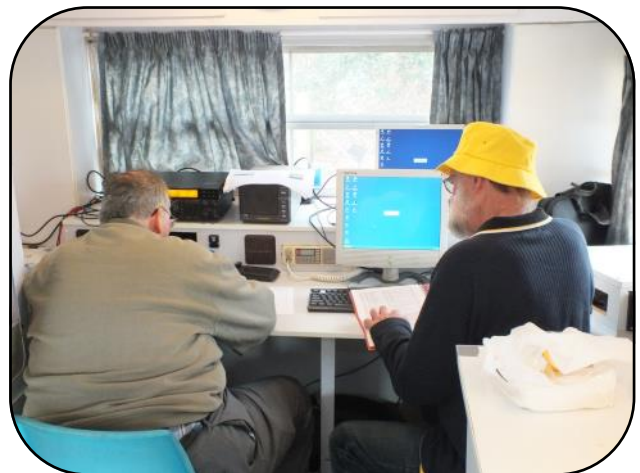
The Remembrance Day contest commenced at 1 pm local time. VK2BOR then actively participated in both events with paper logging of the Lighthouse contacts and computer logging of the RD contracts. The log keeper was always very busy! Again, there were plenty of stations on air and band conditions remained good although there were fewer contacts to be had this year on 20 metres and the higher bands than in some previous years. It was advantageous

to be able to quickly switch between the trap vertical and the horizontal dipoles to select the antenna giving the stronger signal.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the VK2BOR operation over the two days to make it such a successful and enjoyable weekend despite the weather. VK2BOR made 48 contacts in the Lighthouse Weekend and scored a total of 315 points in the RD Contest . . .'



Not much room in the car park. A tight fit to maneuver the caravan into position.



Henry VK2ZHE and Rob VK2CRF on duty.

Editor's note: It is interesting to compare the report of the weekend in September 2014 with the current report of the same contest held this year.