

# 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 fiftieth Anniversary Year

## July 2021

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

## 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 (DMR)  
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz

VK2RCN (6m Repeater)  
O/P 53.800 MHz - I/P 52.800 MHz

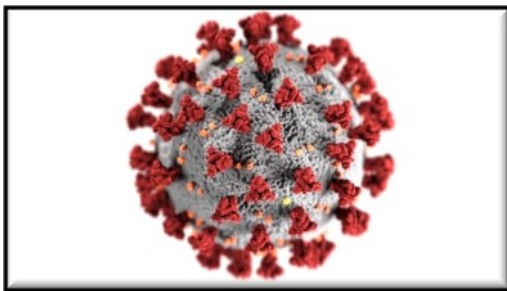
VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)

## President's Report

July 2021



## COVID-19



Despite concerted vaccination programmes in most countries including Australia, the COVID-19 pandemic is still having a global impact which all readers will be very aware of. After a welcome lull during the last few months, a more contagious strain of the virus, the Delta variant, is spreading in various parts of Australia so there are mandatory restrictions in force to curb

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### Down The Coax

Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held in the S.E.S. Building Central Road, Port Macquarie. \* All activities subject to COVID-19 safety restrictions.

#### Monthly General Meeting

Saturday 3 July 2021 2:00 pm – Cancelled due to COVID-19

#### Friday Night Get-Together

Friday 16 July 2021 7.00 pm – Cancelled due to COVID-19

#### Annual General Meeting Postponed COVID 19

Saturday 7 August 2021 2:00 pm

#### Monthly General Meeting Cancelled due to COVID-19

Saturday 7 August 2021 after AGM

#### Friday Night Get-Together

Friday 27 August 2021 7.00 pm Cancelled due to COVID-19

#### Remembrance Day Contest

0300 UTC Saturday 14 August 2021 to 0300 UTC Sunday 15 August 2021

#### International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 21 & 22 August 2021

VK2BOR entered for Tacking Point Lighthouse

#### Annual General Meeting

Saturday 4 September 2021 2:00 pm Then Monthly GM

#### Friday Night Get-Together

Friday 17 September 2021 7.00 pm

The 64<sup>th</sup> Jamboree On The Air will take place on 16 and 17 October 2021. VK2BOR Cancelled due to COVID-19

#### Beechwood Billycart Classic

Sunday 24 October 2021

ORARC Christmas Party – Sunday 5 December 2021 – Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery Covered Picnic Area.  
Note: Christmas Party is on Sunday this year.

### Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays**  
(0900 Local)

**Thursdays**  
(1930 Local)

#### July 2021

VK2FMGM July 4 VK2EM July 1

VK2FMGM July 11 VK2ZHE July 8

VK2FMGM July 18 VK1CQ July 15

VK2FMGM July 25 VK2EM July 22

VK2ZHE July 29

#### Aug 2021

VK2FMGM Aug 1 VK21CQ Aug 5

VK2FMGM Aug 8 VK2EM Aug 12

VK2FMGM Aug 15 VK2ZHE Aug 19

VK2FMGM Aug 22 VK21CQ Aug 26

VK2FMGM Aug 29

#### September 2021

VK2FMGM Sep 5 VK2EM Sep 2

VK2FMGM Sep 12 VK2ZHE Sep 9

VK2FMGM Sep 19 VK21CQ Sep 16

VK2FMGM Sep 26 VK2EM Sep 23

VK2ZHE Sep 30

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transmission of the virus in the community. With some parts of country NSW currently locked down like Sydney, the Central Coast and parts of the Central West, we now have to sign in with the QR code which we have become all too familiar with before entering business and other premises where we must wear face masks and observe strict social distancing. Due to the evolving situation readers need to keep themselves informed on a daily basis.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 restrictions were eased in June so the very successful ORARC 2021 annual Field Day was able to proceed.

After cancellation of the July 2021 Monthly General Meeting and the July Friday Night Get together it had been hoped that face to face meetings of club members would be able to resume in time for the ORARC AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. However, the COVID-19 restrictions have been extended so the AGM can't take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August and the contingency to postpone it to the 4<sup>th</sup> of September has been enacted. Hopefully, the AGM will be able to proceed on the new date of 2pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September but the Committee is continuing to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. The August 2021 Monthly General Meeting and the August 2021 Friday Night Get together are both cancelled. It is hoped that the September 2021 Monthly General Meeting will be able to take place after the conclusion of the AGM, and that the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 Friday Night Get together will be able to take place.

The July 2021 face to face Committee Meeting did take place and the Committee Minutes were emailed to members together with the notice of the AGM. Similarly, with the cancellation of the August 2021 Monthly General Meeting the minutes of the August 2021 Committee Meeting will be emailed to members after

the Committee has met.

Club meetings and activities are dependent upon the COVID-19 restrictions in force at the times of the planned meetings and activities. As well as the mandatory restrictions, club activities follow the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan and as the meetings are held in the Council owned Port Macquarie SES Building the meetings also have to comply with both the NSW SES and Port Macquarie Hastings Council requirements.

### **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 by cash or card in person at the club meetings when they resume. The treasurer now has contactless card reader facilities to accept payments. 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 2021-2022 Financial Year. The fees are the 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

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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.

Membership subscriptions may be paid by Direct Deposit to the club's Regional Australia Bank account:

**Bank Name: Regional Australia Bank**

**BSB: 932000**

**Account Number: 500032744**

**Account Name: Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

Please use your callsign as the reference for the payment

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**

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Annual General Meeting has been postponed to 2 pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 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 postponed Annual General Meeting and the office bearer nomination form accompany this issue of Oxtales.

The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the office bearer nomination form have already been emailed to members via the ORARC closed Google Group. However the Notice of the AGM that was emailed was for the original date of the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. A formal Notice of the postponed AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September will be emailed shortly. If you didn't receive original email via the ORARC Google Group, please send an email to [vk2zhe@orarc.org](mailto:vk2zhe@orarc.org)

The current Committee has worked very hard to make the club's 2020– 2021 Financial Year a very successful one. The continuing sound financial position has enabled the club to continue to work 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. At Telegraph Point the VK2RCN 438.425 MHz UHF repeater has been replaced with the ARNSW provided RadNet DMR digital voice repeater. The VK2RCN C4FM System Fusion repeater will be restored when additional UHF frequencies are obtained which will also enable the VK2RCN MMDVM multi mode digital voice repeater to be installed. 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 will be reinstalled with new equipment shortly 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 use the digital modes which are becoming more popular, especially now that Foundation Licensees are permitted to use them too. The major ongoing

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project is the establishment of the new VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point. A great deal of work has been done on this project. The site lease has been formalized and the Development Application has been approved. The engineering design of the mast has been certified. COVID-19 permitting, site works will commence when the Construction Certificate is issued.

It is planned to hold a short September Monthly General Meeting at the conclusion of the AGM.

As has already been mentioned, the face to face meetings called for Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 have been cancelled and the AGM has been postponed to 2pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.

## Club Projects

The major project is the establishment of a new repeater site for the VK2RCN Repeaters at Telegraph Point. The proposed new 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. While the current informal arrangement will happily continue for the time being under the present circumstances, the club must establish a new site with a formal site lease.

Much work has been done towards the establishment of the new site. A formal lease for the new site has been established and Development Approval for the site has been obtained from the Port Macquarie Hastings Council. The engineering design of the mast has been completed and certified.

The club was fortunate in obtaining a partial grant towards the establishment of the new site but the funding requires satisfying all the criteria of the Funding Deed.

The club has made second application for

an additional grant towards the cost of connecting mains power to the site. The success or otherwise of this application will not be known until later in 2021.

The success of the project to establish this major asset can only be achieved through the efforts of club members. As well as fund raising there are many tasks which need to be completed.

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

Through the generosity of Amateur Radio New South Wales, the club now has a Radnet DMR UHF repeater VK2RCN at Telegraph Point operating on 438.425 MHz (see photograph below).



It is using a 4G wireless data connection for Internet connectivity. Particular thanks must go to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ in his Repeater Committee role and Matt Perkins VK2FLY from ARNSW for setting up and commissioning the new repeater which is providing excellent reliable DMR coverage. Note that the VK2RCN 438.425 MHz Yaesu DR-1X analog FM/digital C4FM Fusion repeater is temporarily out of service but will return when additional UHF repeater frequencies are assigned to the VK2RCN site.

The setting up of an additional UHF multi-mode digital voice repeater at each of the club's repeater sites has been delayed but Paul Colledge VK2ICQ set up and tested the equipment which will be installed at the new VK2RCN repeater site. Once the VK2RCN

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equipment is proven the Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM installation will follow.

The new UHF digital repeaters will utilize Yaesu DR-1X repeaters fitted with MMDVM repeater controllers which support C4FM, Dstar, DMR, NXDN and P25 digital voice modes.

The intelligent linking of the VK2RCN and VK2RPM 2 metre repeaters utilizing hardware and software developed by Paul VK2ICQ is still being planned with the capability to also support a relay of the weekly VK2WI news broadcasts.

The repeater projects have been delayed by the ongoing extreme effects of the fires, storms, flooding, and the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the 2019 – 2020 and 2020-2021 Financial Years. The COVID-19 crisis is still continuing into the 2021-2022 financial year.

### **Club Activities**

Normally 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.

Most of the above activities had to be

cancelled last year due the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 crisis throughout the 2020 calendar year, although we did manage to hold a very successful Christmas Party at the Long Point Art Gallery and Vineyard covered picnic area on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

Club face to face activities recommenced this calendar year with the February Monthly General Meeting under the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan, although the Antenna Shootout and John Moyle Memorial Field Day events were cancelled as the ongoing social distancing requirements could not be met in the confines of the club's communications caravan. The Monthly General Meetings continued and importantly the 2021 Field Day on the June Long Weekend was able to proceed until the COVID-19 situation escalated at the beginning of July and necessitated the cancellation of the July and August 2021 Monthly General Meetings and postponement of the AGM to the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. We had been looking forward to a return to "normality" but with the current hiatus the Committee is continuing to closely monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation.

With the current escalation in COVID-19 restrictions the club's participation in both the John Moyle Memorial Field Day and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend in August are cancelled.

In discussion with the 1<sup>st</sup> Port Macquarie Sea Scouts, the ORARC participation in JOTA on the Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 is unable to proceed as social distancing is impractical for on air operation.

The 2021 Beechwood Billycart Classic will be held on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. As this is an outdoor event it is hoped that the event will be able to take place and ORARC will be able to provide the planned safety communications.

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## ORARC 2021 Annual Field Day

The very successful ORARC 2021 Field Day was held in perfect weather on Saturday and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June during the Queens Birthday June long weekend. As well as being a very enjoyable Field Day for everyone, the Field Day was a financial success as well.

This was the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Field Day as the 2020 Field Day which was to be the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Fortunately, the COVID-19 restrictions were still eased at the time of the Field Day and the COVID-19 Safety Plan requirements were easily met. Thank you to Paula Colledge VK2PDC for completing the safety plan and setting up the Service NSW QR Code check in for the event.

The 2021 Field Day was held at the Wauchope Showground Hall over the two days. The Field Day Dinner was held in the Seabreeze Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the evening of Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.



*Carol VK2CSR, Gary VK2ZKT, Jamie VK2YCJ and Grahame VK2FA enjoyed a talk at dinner as did Helen, Betty, Des VK9FLHI, Dot VK2DB and Roger VK2FOTO below.*



*An intimate dining room at the Club.*

The paid bookings for both the Wauchope Showground Hall and the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room that had been made for the 2020 Field Day were transferred to the 2021 dates. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for agreeing to transfer his original sponsorship of the 2020 Field Day Dinner venue to the 2021 Field Day Dinner. Gary has generously offered to sponsor the hire of the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room for the 2022 Field Day Dinner. Thank you, Gary.

2021 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club so this year's Field Day was a special celebration.



*The all important registration desk, Dennis VK2DAM, Arthur VK2ATM and David VK2AYD.*

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There were 99 paid registrations. The regular contingent from Sydney and environs, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Great Lakes and Taree, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour areas, the Clarence and the Northern Tablelands made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list includes home towns such as Sydney, Newcastle, Umina Beach, Lemon Tree Passage, Wyoming, Forster, Tuncurry, Taree, Wingham, Harrington, Coopernook, Kempsey, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Ilarwill, 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 2022. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 46<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 with a DMR clinic which was particularly popular as a total of approximately 25 DMR Code Plugs were loaded into newly purchased and existing DMR radios during the weekend. Some people came up from Sydney especially to have code plugs loaded.

## Trade Displays

### Radio Supply

Radio Supply had a large stock of a wide range of accessories and electronic items. A

great many people took advantage of the celebratory 50% off sale and almost all of the Radio Supply stock was sold during the weekend.



In

*Carol VK2CSR Staffing the Radio Supply Stall*

In the lead up to the Field Day, Gary Ryan VK2ZKT announced that at the ORARC Field Day Radio Supply had decided to celebrate the **"50 years of the club, 45 years of Field Days and Radio Supply now in its 21st year"** with a one-off, never to be repeated sale. The sale far



exceeded everyone's expectations. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol Ryan VK2CSR for

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their long-time support of the annual Field Day, not only just for their stand, but for their ongoing very generous sponsorship in the hire of the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club for the Field Day Dinner. The one off 50% celebratory sale was a very generous tremendous drawcard for the Field Day this year and every customer certainly went away more than just pleased. Gary certainly delivered on his promise of customer satisfaction. The unprecedented demand created by the sale means that Gary now has a big job to restock the Radio Supply inventory.

Gary displayed a range of his beautifully constructed home brew projects and recent restorations on the Radio Supply stand. Gary had been very busy during the COVID-19 restrictions and demonstrated his expertise in achieving a very professional high quality result through attention to detail and use of readily available resources.

This year we were very pleased to welcome QSL Comms as a trader at the Field Day. Mark brought along a very comprehensive range of his inventory. His full inventory can be seen on the QSL Comms web site at <https://qslcomms.com.au/> His purpose-built trailer was absolutely jam packed. Prior to the Field Day, QSL Comms advertised that people should pre-order any special items that they wanted, especially bulky items such as antennas, so that the items would be available for collection at the Field Day.

QSL Comms very generously donated a range of prizes which very significantly increased the prize pool for the Field Day. The donated prizes included a highly coveted Retevis RT3S hand held DMR/Analog FM hand held transceiver, two Nano VNAs, two Avair 35 Watt dummy loads, an Anderson connector crimping tool, a coaxial connector crimping tool, a wire stripping tool, a 100 pack of heatshrink with solder wire joiners in a storage box, and a nice 3 in 1 toolkit. The club is particularly appreciative of these generous donations which greatly increased interest in the major raffle and the lucky door draws. Thank you Mark.



*Gary VK2ZKT displaying a selection of home brew projects.*



- Portable AM Broadcast Receiver**
- Using MK484 TRF IC Receiver Chip
  - LM386 Audio amp
  - 9 volt DC operation
  - Housed in old I POD Sales case package
  - Built on Silicon Chip PCB
  - Internal ferrite antenna
  - Headphone audio output



*The QSL table attracted many interested people.*

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## Disposals



Thank you to past ORARC member and well known retired local dentist, Bill Roth VK2CWR for donating his HF and VHF radios to ORARC for sale at the Field Day. The proceeds of the sale of these items were a welcome addition to the club funds. Thank you, Bill.

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. There were even some give-aways of very useful new items. Everyone went home with at least something. Quite a few people went home with a great many bargains. As well as donating a large number of items such as water bottles and USB rechargeable key ring torches that were distributed for free, Jaycar Port Macquarie donated collection of returned and repaired stock items that were sold at very attractive prices with the proceeds going to the club.

## Field Day Dinner

The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular again this year with approximately 45 people enjoying good food and a pleasant social evening in the Seabreeze Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply Supply of the hire of Seabreeze Room for the dinner. The spacious function room provided a very pleasant environment for the Field Day Dinner and ensured that social distancing was easily maintained.

It is with pleasure that we can announce that the 2022 Field Day Dinner will again be in Seabreeze Room at the Port Macquarie Golf

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Club. ORARC wishes to express its sincere thanks to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply Supply of the hire of Seabreeze Room at the Golf Club which has been booked for the 2022 Field Day dinner on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.



*Diners enjoy their meal at the Port Maccquarie Golf Club's Seabreeze Room.*

### **VK2EM Digital Display**

Thank you to Bruce Ekert VK2EM for running his digital modes demonstration display on both days of the Field Day. His display created a lot of interest and he was kept busy answering questions and showing what can be done with digital communications, especially with low power and simple antennas.



*Col VK2LCT and Bruce VK2EM with low cost simple antenna*

### **ORARC Stand**

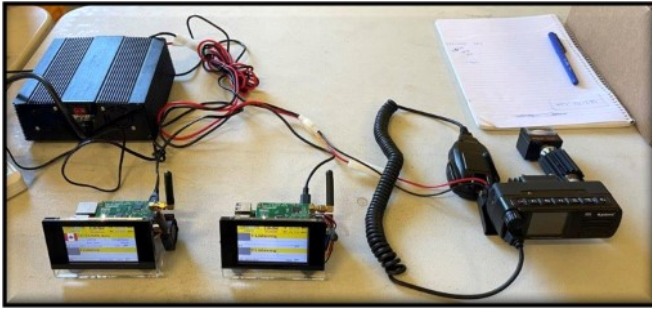
This year Paul Colledge VK2ICQ and Ian Lindquist VK2GL/VK2IDL ran an extremely popular stand demonstrating DMR radio communications. Throughout the weekend they were kept very busy answering an endless number of questions on DMR at all levels. The offer of loading code plugs into radios for those who had their DMR ID numbers was eagerly taken up by some 25 people. At least one person came up from Sydney especially to have a code plug loaded into his radio. Paul and Ian had code plugs for the common popular DMR radios such as the Retevis RT3S hand held DMR transceiver, Anytone AT-D878 series of hand held DMR radios, Anytone D578UV series mobile DMR transceivers and Kydera CDR300UV mobile DMR transceivers.



*Ray VK2JU, Tom VK2ATR Paul VK2ICQ and Ian VK2GL programming codeplugs.*

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*DMR hotspots*

For those who missed out on obtaining a DMR code plug at the Field Day or who would like to update their code plugs, please see the article by Ian Lindquist VK2GL/VK2IDL in this issue of Oxtales and visit his VK2IDL website at <http://vk2idl.com/index.php/dmr-digital-mobile-radio/>

### **ALARA Stand**

Thank you to Dot Bishop VK2DB and Diane Wilson VK2DNE for running the Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) stand this Year (photograph below).



Dot has been a long time supporter of the Field Day in running the ALARA stand for a great many years. As most readers will be aware Dot's OM John Bishop VK2ZOI who had always accompanied her very sadly became a Silent Key in January this year. The club is very grateful that Dot was able to attend the Field Day. She was

accompanied by her son Roger Bishop VK2FOTO.

ALARA <http://www.alara.org.au/> is one of many international associations of ladies in Amateur Radio. In Australia there are some 200 members. Dot is very pleased that Diane Wilson VK2DNE is going to continue running the ALARA stands at future events so that Dot can concentrate on the other aspects of ALARA. At the Field Day Dot handed Diane the impressive quilt that Dot won at the ALARA convention in Canada. This quilt has become a centrepiece at ALARA displays and is quite a drawcard.



*The ALARA stand always is always a very popular stand at Field Days.*

### **Fox Hunts**

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 but there was still a competitive field of hounds in each hunt.

The fox hunting was on an even playing field this year as this was only the second year that fox hunts were run at the Wauchope Showground after a long period of being run at other venues. 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 *Continued on next page*

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Hansen VK2AYQ. Special thanks must go to Grahame O'Brien VK2FA for running his mobile HF radio as the 80 metre mobile fox. Unfortunately the 80 metre foxes that were built for the Field Day were unable to be used as they didn't pass testing and there was insufficient time to rebuild them so Grahame saved the day by providing a second fox to complement Larry's temporary mobile 80 metre mobile.

Thank you too to Peter Kucera VK2MPK for starting the hunts and doing the recording and scoring. Thank you, Peter.



*Peter VK2MPK with his traditional and distinctive FOX Hunting Uniform complete with flashing lights and sometimes revolving antennae!*

### **Field Day Results**

**(A full listing of Field Day Results with additional photographs appears on the pages following the conclusion of the President's Report)**

Congratulations to 2021 Fox Hunt Champion Gerard Hill VK2IO of Castle Hill. The Runner-up Fox Hunt Champion

was Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach. Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby was a very close third. The top hunters are always keen to see their names engraved on those little shields that added to the Perpetual Trophy each year (see photographs below). 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.



Grahame O'Brien VK2FA of Cardiff took out the trophy for the best presented amateur vehicle. There were several worthy contenders but Grahame's vehicle stood out (photograph on the next page).

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Grahame VK2FA with his best presented amateur vehicle.

Bruce Ekert VK2EM of Forster won the trophy for the Home Brew Competition with his innovative microwave test set. The judges had to make a hard decision to determine the winner.



The 1950s vintage 2 metre AM mobile transceiver built by the late Jim Webster VK2ZCW who became VK2BZD, entered by his son Dr Paul Webster VK2BZC was a close second. The crystal locked transmitter ran a QQE03/12 in the PA and the receiver utilized a home built converter ahead of a

Command receiver. The 300 Volt high tension supply for the all valve transceiver came from a genemotor powered by the 6 volt electrical system in the Chevrolet car. That was the state of the art in in the 1950s. Pictured below.



2 Metre AM transceiver. 1950s vintage.

Yes it uses Vacuum Field Effect devices. Single channel Xtal locked transmit, QQE03/12 output stage.

Tunable receiver using converter and WWII "Command" receiver - what everyone used after the war.

Constructed by Jim VK2ZCW - later VK2BZD, SK 2007

No, it did not plug into the mains, was powered in the 6 V Chevrolet by a pleasantly purring "genemotor" to deliver 300 V., but used available connectors!

Vehicle somewhat similar to this:



Was retrofitted with those new flashing turn indicators!

The various entries on the home brew table and the display by Gary Ryan VK2ZKT demonstrated that the art of Amateur Radio home brewing was still popular (page nine of this issue has some examples of Gary's home brew).

Special commendation must go to David Pilley VK2AYD for his nicely presented home brew

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collection which included a 40 metre 5W CW transceiver, a 20 metre PSK digital transceiver, and a 40 metre 1W CW transceiver, all carried in a custom made carry case.



Thanks to many generous donations the major raffle and lucky door prizes were of an extremely high standard this year. The prizes included a DMR hand held transceiver, 6 metre base station antenna, two high quality portable radio receivers, various items of top quality radio test equipment, various tools including a very comprehensive set of tools, a flying jacket, a drone and gift cards. Thanks to QSL Comms, Kaysan Redcap Antennas, Bunnings Port Macquarie, Petries Mitre 10 Port Macquarie, Jaycar Port Macquarie, Radio Supply, Tecsun Australia, VK2ZHE and VK2EM.

The full lists of all the prizes and the winners appear in this issue of Oxtales.



*A selection of some of the raffle prizes.*

The Major Raffle first prize winner Shayne McBride VK2XUV of Forster took home the much coveted Retevis RT3S DMR/Analog FM hand held transceiver donated QSL Comms. (Photograph below).



The second prize in the raffle, the Tecsun PL330 compact LW/MW/SW/FM full coverage AM/FM/USB/LSB/Synchronous AM radio receiver donated by Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE was won by Ivan Southwell VK2IJS of Port Macquarie. (Henry VK2ZHE and Paul VK2ICQ presenting the prize)



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With a total of 13 prizes in the Major Raffle the draw was keenly watched. The subsequent prizes, all donated by QSL Comms, VK2ZHE, Petries Mitre 10, VK2ZHE, Jaycar, and Bunnings included a wide range of high quality prizes.

Jaycar also donated a large number of USB rechargeable keyring torches and water bottles as well as other items which were distributed to those present at the prize draw.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of a Kaysan Red Cap Antennas 6 metre Flower Pot base station antenna donated by Sandy Brucesmith VK2WH went to Grahame O'Brien VK2FA of Cardiff. As the antenna was over 4 metres long it is fortunate that Grahame had come to the Field Day in his caravan so he was able to transport it home without difficulty. Transporting it from Wauchope to his caravan at Port Macquarie in, or more correctly, on his twin cab 4 wheel drive ute required quite a deal of ingenuity!

The callsign Lucky Door draw second prize of a Nano VNA donated by QSL Comms was won by David Moore VK2BC of Forster.

In all there were 10 prizes in the callsign lucky door draw. These were donated by QSL Comms, Radio Supply, Bunnings, VK2ZHE and VK2EM.

In the non-callsign lucky door draw, first prize of an infra red ear thermometer was won by Armen Koopelian of Auburn. There was a total of 6 prizes donated by VK2ZHE and Bunnings.

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. Thanks to Paula Colledge VK2PDC for writing the COVID Safety Plan and ensuring compliance with the COVID-19 safety requirements that were in force during the Field Day. Compliance necessitated hiring a glass fronted Bain Marie to keep the hot food hot and even a glass cookie jar and tongs, all of which Paula arranged.

John Bailey VK2KHB did a great job in obtaining all the provisions and coordinating the running of the food service. As he has done for many years, John very generously donated most of the food and consumables, and all of the soft drinks. He also provided the gas to run the barbeque.

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 VK2PDC and Sue Meade who tirelessly worked all weekend to serve the food and



Paula VK2PDC  
And Sue

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drink while running the barbeque.

Thank you to Col Terry VK2LCT for assisting with 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. Also, thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who transported the barbeque, and to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for providing the marquee for shade and setting up the barbeque.

Thank you to 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. As only the food service counter volunteers could handle the food due to the COVID safety requirements the workload was much higher this year.



*Sue and John VK2KHB part of the food preparation team*

The breakfast bacon and egg sandwiches were particularly popular on both days. The sausage sandwiches on both days were very popular. The steak sandwiches on Sunday were so popular that extra steak and bread had to be purchased. Word of

how delicious the food was spread very quickly. The secret was in the quality of the ingredients and the expert barbequing. As always the fruit salad and ice cream dessert nicely rounded out Sunday lunch.

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 David Pilley VK2AYD, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM. (Photograph below).



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.

The registration desk workload was increased this year due to the QR Code COVID traceability check in that had to be completed by all attendees as a condition of entry to the hall before they could register for the Field Day. Those who could not complete the electronic check in were required to sign in on paper sheet. Three new members joined ORARC at the Field Day and some members took the opportunity to pay their membership subscriptions.

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

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hive of activity with 99 attendees and a mountain of paraphernalia.

Thank you to everyone for a great job. ORARC promptly received a refund of the \$250.00 bond for the hall together with another accolade for being model hirers. The \$250.00 bond was rolled over as the bond for the hire of the Showground Hall in 2022 for next year's Field Day.

The generosity of the benefactors who so kindly donated all the prizes, food and drink is greatly appreciated. The financial success of the Field Day while keeping registration at a low \$5 per person is due to the generosity of these donations.

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

The 2022 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 46th annual Field Day. As already mentioned, the Wauchope Showground Hall has already been booked and the bond lodged. The Golf Club Seabreeze Room has already been booked for the Saturday night Field Day dinner. Thank you for Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again sponsoring the hire of the function room. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to another enjoyable successful Field Day in 2022.

### **Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments**

The last Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments were conducted on the weekend of the 17th and 18th of April 2021 prior to the COVID-19 lock down. Three new callsigns were added to the area, Wade Boyd VK2EST, Derek Allam VK2BTX and Rob Allam VK2CDX. All three are members of ORARC.

Candidates who were unable to attend the 17 and 18 April weekend, and others who

would like to obtain their Foundation Licence or upgrade, please contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL. This will help Larry to plan the next Assessment weekend which will be conducted when the COVID-19 restrictions are eased sufficiently. Once you have registered your interest, Larry will contact you as soon as it becomes possible to run another training and assessment weekend.

Note also that remote assessment is possible. Please contact Larry VK2CLL for further information.

### **Digital Radio**

While the ORARC, Taree and Great Lakes VHF and UHF repeaters have had C4FM Yaesu Fusion digital voice capability for some time, several members have set up their own digital voice hotspots. DMR is the most popular protocol but DStar, C4FM and P25 are also being used.

DMR operation has become quite popular since the commissioning of the Telegraph Point VK2RCN 438.425 MHz RadNet DMR digital voice repeater. This repeater has excellent coverage in the Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Camden Haven areas.

There were many DMR radios purchased at the ORARC Field Day and the great service provided by Ian VK2GL and Paul VK2ICQ in loading code plugs at the Field Day enabled many Amateurs to immediately access the DMR network with their new radios.

The excellent articles by both Ian Lindquist VK2GL/VK2IDL and Paul Colledge VK2ICQ in the May 2021 issue of Oxtales have become required reading for new and prospective users of DMR. Past issues of Oxtales are available for reading or download on the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/> Ian VK2GL continues his informative series of articles in this issue of Oxtales.

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More information on DMR may be found at <https://vkdmr.com/>

## Coming Events

### RD Contest

The 2021 Remembrance Day contest runs for 24 hours and commences at 1pm local time on the afternoon of Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, and finishes at 1pm on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. This year the RD contest and International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are on separate weekends which makes it simple to participate in both events.

Sadly, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation it is not possible to operate the Club station VK2BOR from the club's communications caravan as we have done in past years.

Members are encouraged to participate in the RD Contest from their home stations. Most importantly, please submit your logs as every log that is entered helps the VK2 score.

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.

### ILLW



The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) <https://illw.net/> takes

place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2021.

As mentioned above, the ILLW and RD Contest are on consecutive weekends.

The Club station VK2BOR is registered with ILLW for the Tacking Point Lighthouse. Normally, VK2BOR would operate in the ILLW from the club's communications caravan located in the carpark below the Tacking Point Lighthouse. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions this will not be possible this year.

Members with mobile radio capability are invited to operate VK2BOR during the ILLW from their mobile parked at the lighthouse. In using the club callsign a log of contacts must be kept and a copy provided to the VK2BOR station manager. Contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE if you would like to participate in the ILLW in this way.

### JOTA



The 64<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. It is also the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the Internet. Normally, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club would plan to set up the club station VK2BOR on Saturday the 16<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.

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However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, and the unavoidable close physical contact in operating a JOTA station, this is not possible this year.

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 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 you will need to follow the above procedure to renew your WWC check number well before JOTA.

Although ORARC participation in JOTA is not possible this year it is a good idea to obtain your working with children check number, and if your registration is to expire this year you should definitely renew. That way, you will be ready to volunteer to assist with JOTA 2022 next year. Note, that just like your Driver’s Licence and your Boat Drivers Licence, your Working With Children Check number can be recorded on the Service NSW app on your smart phone or tablet.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE is the ORARC co-

ordinator for JOTA.

## **Beechwood Billycart Classic**



*Courtesy Wauchope Gazette*

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

Sadly, the 2020 Classic had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The date this year is Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. ORARC members have again been invited to provide the safety communications for the event.

Fortunately, the date for 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.

In the first instance, please contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.

As the Beechwood Billycart Classic is an outdoor event it is hoped that the COVID-19 situation later in the year will permit the event to proceed.

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## **ORARC 2021 Christmas Party – Change of Date to Sunday 5 December**



As mentioned in May 2021 Oxtales, normally the ORARC Christmas Party is held on the first Saturday in December each year. The 2021 Christmas Party was planned to be on Saturday the 4th of December as marked on the ORARC 2021 calendar.

Unfortunately another commitment at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery on that day has resulted in the ORARC Christmas Party being moved to Sunday the 5th of December 2021. This change was ratified at the ORARC May 2021 Monthly General Meeting.

Please mark your calendars with the new 5th of December date for the ORARC 2021 Christmas Party – Sunday the 5th of December 2021. The venue remains the same - the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery.

By December it is hoped that the COVID-19 situation will have abated sufficiently to enable the 2021 Christmas Party to be held. We were fortunate that this was the case for the 2020 party and we are optimistic that this will be the case again for the 2021 party.

## **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 when they are able to resume 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>

The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group conducts a net on the WICEN 80 metre frequency of 3600 kHz LSB at 7 pm local time on Thursday nights. The nets finish in time for members to participate in the ORARC Thursday night net at 7:30 pm on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater.

### **Welcome New Members**

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club welcomes new members Richard Osborne VK2OKR of Lemon Tree Passage, Diane Wilson VK2DNE of Lemon Tree Passage and Graeme Frappell VK2GCF of Port Macquarie.

## Life Membership

Members are reminded that members are eligible for Life Membership when they turn 85 years. There are at least two members who will become eligible in 2022 but the Committee has not been advised of any members turning 85 this year. Life Membership can only be conferred at the AGM. It is important to please nominate any eligible members prior to the AGM each year so that the motion can be included in the agenda for the AGM as motions cannot be received from the floor at the AGM.

## Silent Keys

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of two of our esteemed members in June 2021.

Life Member Lewis Green ex VK2AG passed away at Port Macquarie on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 aged 96 years.

Member John McDonagh VK2VY passed away at Port Macquarie on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 aged 75 years.

Both Lewis and John are sadly missed by their families and by the Amateur Radio fraternity. Their Silent Keys appear in this issue of Oxtales.

At the Field Day, Ashley Anderson VK2XSO advised the club of the sad passing his father Keith Anderson VK2FKJA of Lake Cathie in April last year. A funeral service was not held due to the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020.

Keith retired to Lake Cathie from Sydney in 2005 after a long career in accountancy. Keith was a past member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and served on the Committee and was the Treasurer for 3 years between 2011 and 2014. As Keith was a CPA his accounts were always very

professionally presented. Keith was a long time very active volunteer with the NSW Cancer Council and his work as an advocate and public speaker was widely recognised. He was also a volunteer with the National Heart Foundation of Australia and was a Community Walk Organiser with Heart Health NSW.

Vale Keith Anderson VK2FKJA



Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President



# ORARC Field Day 2021 - Trophy Winners

	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
<b>Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt</b>	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
<b>Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt</b>	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
<b>Saturday 2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt</b>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<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>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt</b>	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
<b>Fox Hunt Champion</b>	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
<b>Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion</b>	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
<b>Best Presented Amateur Vehicle</b>	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>Best Home Brew Display</b>	VK2EM	Bruce Ekert	Forster

## Photographs from far left

Fox Hunt Champion Gerard VK2IO

Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion Jeff  
VK2BYY

Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt  
Chris VK2YMW

Best Presented Amateur Vehicle  
Grahame VK2FA

Best Home Brew Display  
Bruce VK2EM

Fox Hunt Champion Award to Gerard  
VK2IO



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# ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2021

## Non-Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Infra Red Ear Thermometer	VK2ZHE	Armen Koopelian	Auburn
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Bunnings \$20 Gift Card	Bunnings Port Macquarie	Debra Millen	Maitland
<b>3rd Prize</b>	3 Piece Stainless Steel Barbeque Set in Carry Case	VK2ZHE	Maurie Griffin	Port Macquarie
<b>4th Prize</b>	Discover Electricity and Magnetism	VK2ZHE	Gavin Dineen	Lemon Tree Passage
<b>5th Prize</b>	Toiletries in Zip Up Toiletries Bag	VK2ZHE	Helen Williams	Hornsby
<b>6th Prize</b>	Cheese Knife Set	VK2ZHE	Jannine Dineen	Lemon Tree Passage

## Raffle Prize Winners



Left Shayne VK2XUV Major Raffle first place Retevis RT3S.



Right Ivan VK2IJS second place Major Raffle Tescan P1330 Henry VK2ZHE and Paul VK2ICQ presenting.



Left Charlie VK2CLH eighth prize. Collected by Richard VK2OKR.



Right Judy VK2ZZV ninth prize Flying Jacket

Below Right Helen Non Callsign - Lucky Door Prize

Middle Jannine Cheese Knife set and Right Gavin Discover Electricity and Magnetism.





## ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2021

### Major Raffle

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Reveis RT3S DMR and FMDual Band VHF/UHF Hand Held Transceiver	QSL Comms	VK2XUV	Shayne McBride	Forster
2nd Prize	Tecsun PL330 High Performace Sensitive Compact Portable Receiver with LW, MW, Shortwave 1.7 to 30 MHz (AM, AM Synchronous, LSB & USB with selectable bandwidth and FM Broadcast reception. Time sensitive Easy Tune Mode with auto station storage. Keypad Frequency Entry. USB Rechargeable Li Ion battery	VK2ZHE and TECSUN RADIOS AUSTRALIA	VK2IJS	Ivan Southwell	Port Macquarie
3rd Prize	Nano VNA	QSL Comms	VK2ANF	Noelene Faulkner	Eland - Grafton
4th Prize	Avair 35 Watt Dummy Load	QSL Comms	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie
5th Prize	Anderson Connector Crimping Tool	QSL Comms	VK2GL	Ian Lindquist	Port Macquarie
6th Prize	Aerial Drone with 4k Camera	VK2ZHE	VK2MAX	Grant Snowden	Kempsey
7th Prize	Mitre 10 large Toolkit	Petries Mitre 10Port Macquarie	VK2FMGM	Mark McGuire	Port Macquarie
8th Prize	Wire Stripping Tool	QSL Comms	VK2CLH	Charley Hunt	Warners Bay
9th Prize	Flying Jacket 2XL (Marked 5XL)	VK2ZHE	VK2ZZV	Judy O'Brien	Cardiff
10th Prize	Jaycar Leather Toolbelt HB6373	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2AYQ	John Hansen	Port Macquarie
11th Prize	Jaycar Special Edition Collectors Ceramic Mug	Jaycar	VK2OKR	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
12th Prize	Bunnings \$20 Gift Card	Bunnings Port Macquarie	VK2OKR	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
13th Prize	3in 1 Toolkit	QSL Comms	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill

# ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2021

## Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	6 Metre Base Station Flower Pot Antenna	Redcap Antennas Kaysan Port Macquarie VK2WH	VK2FA	Grahame O'Brien	Cardiff
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Nano VNA	QSL Comms	VK2BC	David Moore	Forster
<b>3rd Prize</b>	Avair 35 Watt Dummy Load	QSL Comms	VK2FC	Glen Millen	Maitland
<b>4th Prize</b>	Retekes V115 AM/FM Shortwave Compact Portable Radio Receiver with SD Card Record & Play. LiIon USB Rechargeable Battery	VK2ZHE	VK2AAK	Andy Keir	Darrawank
<b>5th Prize</b>	1/4" & 3/8" Ratchet Socket Set	VK2ZHE	VK2DB	Dot Bishop	Hornsby Heights
<b>6th Prize</b>	Coax Connector Hex Crimping Tool	QSL Comms	VK2ICQ	Paul Colledge	Port Macquarie
<b>7th Prize</b>	Illuminated Headset Magnifier	Radio Supply	VK2UNI	Garry Woodward	Wingham
<b>8th Prize</b>	Pixie 40Metre QRP CW Transceiver Built and Tested	VK2EM	VK2XSO	Ashley Anderson	Kootingal
<b>9th Prize</b>	Bunnings \$10 Gift Card	Bunnings Port Macquarie	VK2EBR	Roy Brewer	Taree
<b>10th Prize</b>	Heatshrink With Solder Wire Joiners 100 pack In storage Box	QSL Comms	VK2IF	Scott Dening	Kempsey

## 2021 Field Day

### Some of the people who came and supported the day



Dining together



Arthur VK2ATM and David VK2AYD on the registration desk.



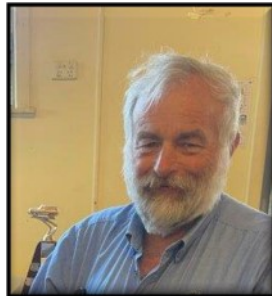
Disposals for sale



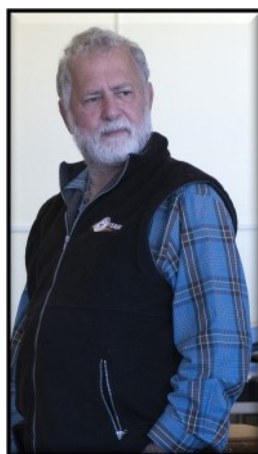
Above Discussions and chatting



Left relaxing



Left Prize winning smile  
From Grahame VK2FA



Thinking Jim VK2VIV, Contemplation Chris VK2YMW Observing Lyle VK2SMI and Investigating Mark VK2FMGM and simply sharing the pleasure of each other's company Judy VK2ZZV and Grahame VK2FA, each wearing The Official ORARC 50 Anniversary Polo shirts with Grahame wearing the dress hat. Ultimately isn't this what a field day is all about?

## Using DMR Talkgroups ORARC July 2021

By Ian Lindquist VK2GL

Understanding DMR talkgroups is not difficult when you take a little time to look into how they work.

For years, when you used your local 2m/70cm repeater you simply selected an appropriate repeater channel and any signals in range on that channel would be heard. Easy, right?

Then along came DMR with its talkgroups and made it complicated - or did it?

### TIME SLOTS

Before discussing talkgroups its important we delve into time slots again as the two are interconnected.

DMR channels are allocated within the standard 2m/70cm FM amateur bands. The main difference between channels used for DMR and FM is the channel spacing. Standard FM channels use 25 kHz channel spacing while the channel spacing for DMR is 12.5 kHz. DMR radios also use 4FSK (4 level frequency shift keying) modulation.

DMR radios transmit data using TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access). TDMA divides the channel into a series of time slots with each time slot allocated to a separate user.



The system was initially developed for 2G mobile phones to allow multiple users to simultaneously share a single channel.

The TDMA system used for DMR uses two 30 ms time slots called slot 1 and slot 2. This effectively splits the frequency into two separate channels allowing two simultaneous conversations.



*Images Courtesy of VKDMR.COM*

When you transmit, your voice is digitised then transmitted as a series of 30ms data packets which are inserted into the designated time slot. At the receiver, the data packets are received and recombined and the analog audio is restored. The time slot that your data packet occupies is determined by the programming of the selected talkgroup.

### TALKGROUPS

Talkgroups are a way of organising radio traffic. Although they share the same repeater frequency they function as separate channels, allowing groups of DMR users with a common interest to communicate through a common contact point.

Traffic on other talkgroups is excluded so you only hear QSOs on your selected talkgroup.

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## STATIC vs DYNAMIC Talkgroups

Talkgroups are created for specific purposes such as calling, network broadcasts or chatting and some talkgroups will trigger multiple DMR repeaters to provide extended coverage.

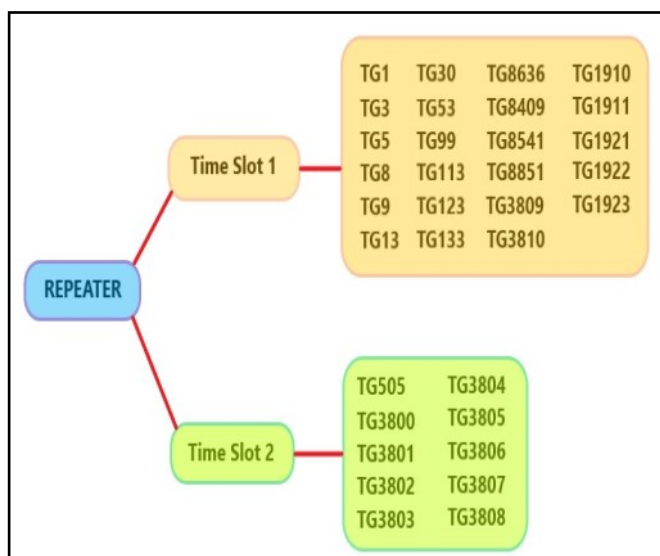
For example, 505, which is the main VK Call group, triggers DMR repeaters Australia-wide. Similarly 3802 is a VK2 state talkgroup that triggers DMR repeaters in NSW and TG9 is a local talkgroup that triggers only your local repeater.

Each talkgroup is assigned to a specified time slot as part of the design plan of the overall system. This results in a more efficient system with reduced risk of interference between talkgroups.

*For a full list of talkgroups and their uses please refer to the tables later in this document.*

### Talkgroup Interaction

Because a talkgroup will only let you hear QSOs within that talkgroup, you should be mindful that other talkgroups may be active on your repeater without you being aware of it. Since there are over 30 talkgroups sharing two time slots it is likely that there will be clashes from time to time. Understanding the DMR system will help you choose your talkgroups wisely to reduce the risk of interference across the network.



Talkgroups on a DMR repeater are defined as either Static or Dynamic. A repeater's Static or Dynamic talkgroup settings are unique to each repeater i.e. a talkgroup set to Static on one repeater may be set to Dynamic on another. The settings are chosen by the repeater administrator to suit the specific environment for that repeater. So what does all this mean?

**Static Talkgroups** (*Static: [lacking in movement, action, or change]*)

Static talkgroups are always ON. This means any activity on that talkgroup will be broadcast automatically on that repeater. All you need to do is select that talkgroup on your radio and any active QSOs will be heard. This is the same operation you would expect from any standard FM channel – i.e. you select a channel and if someone is transmitting, you will hear them.

Static talkgroups are usually confined to groups that might need to be monitored such 505 (VK-wide calling) or 5 (VK-wide Nets).

Similarly, state or regional talkgroups such as 8, 3802, 3803, 3804, etc. may also be set to Static on repeaters within their own state or region e.g. TG3802 might be Static on VK2 repeaters.

Since Static talkgroups are always ON, any activity on a Static talkgroup will automatically trigger ALL repeaters that have that talkgroup set to Static. This creates a lot of traffic across the network, so Static settings are usually limited to just a few talkgroups in each time slot.

**Dynamic Talkgroups** (*Dynamic: [characterised by constant change]*)

Dynamic talkgroups are always OFF by default and do not automatically broadcast their activity. If you select a Dynamic talkgroup on your radio, you would

Continued from previous page

not hear anything even though the talkgroup may be active on the DMR network. To access a Dynamic talkgroup you must 'user activate' it by pressing the **PTT** to 'kerchuck' the repeater.

The repeater will acknowledge by temporarily opening up the talkgroup for a set period of time (usually 15 minutes). Each time you press the **PTT** you will restart the timer so joining the QSO will keep the talkgroup active. Once the designated time period expires without any further TX activity, the talkgroup will return to its Dynamic state.

*Note that Dynamic talkgroups only broadcast on the repeaters where they have been 'user activated'. This minimises the number of active repeaters leaving the rest free for other activities. This is the efficiency of Dynamic talkgroups.*

## VKDMR REPEATER DASHBOARD

How do I know which talkgroups are set to Static on my local repeater and if a talkgroup is set to Dynamic how do I know when it is active if I cant hear it?

It is always useful to know which talkgroups have been set as Static on your local repeater so that you know which ones will broadcast automatically. Similarly, because Dynamic talkgroups do not automatically broadcast, it is also useful to know when they are active.

Fortunately there is an easy way to view the static talkgroup settings and monitor talkgroup activity on every DMR repeater in the network. There is a 'VKDMR Repeater Dashboard' that displays static talkgroup settings and LIVE talkgroup activity.

Go to <http://rpt.vkdmr.com/ipsc/> to view the VKDMR Repeater Dashboard.

**NOTE:** *If you operate through a Hotspot, there is a similar 'VKDMR Hotspot Dash-*

*board' available at <http://hot.vkdmr.com/ipsc/> (with a Hotspot, you are the administrator of your own talkgroup settings so you can decide for yourself which ones to set as Static).*

A screen shot of the VK DMR Repeater Dashboard is shown below. The Dashboard contains a list of all active DMR repeaters currently operating in Australia and their locations.

It also shows the Static talkgroup settings of each repeater, what the current talkgroup activity is and who is talking.

Editors note: A larger version of the table is reproduced at the end of this article.

If you see activity on a Dynamic talkgroup that you want to monitor, simply select it on your radio and 'kerchuck' the repeater by pressing the **PTT**. This will temporarily activate that talkgroup on your repeater.

STATUS	NR	REFLECTOR	CALL TS1	TS1-INFO	NET TS1	CALL TS2	NET TS2
MONITOR							
MATRIX							
REMAP							
BROADCAST							
TS1-INFO							
NET TS1							
NET TS2							
LINK STATUS							
TS2-INFO							
REF							
START							
HARDWARE							
SERVICE	1	WORM	Carlisle (22)	50101 5 380 3810 RT	CO	505 381 3802	505 381 3802
SITE INFO	2	WCRAG	Somerby (8)	50241 5 812 1100	CO	505 382	505 382
	3	WCRAG	Somerby(2)250 (26)	50246 3800 818	CO	3802	3802
	4	WCRAG	Somerby (8)	50244 3800 810 RT	CO	505 382	505 382
	5	WCRAG	Orange (24)	50226 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	6	WCRAG	Sarvey (17)	50201 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	7	WCRAG	Parthenocare (21)	50209 5 818 1100	CO	505 382	505 382
	8	WCRAG	Carlisle (24)	50226 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	9	WCRAG	UpperMall (22)	50282 5 818 1100	CO	505 382	505 382
	10	WCRAG	Colburn (16)	50224 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	11	WCRAG	Wayside (22)	50206 5 3800 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	12	WCRAG	Hilltop (22)	50222 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	13	WCRAG	Chelwood (22)	50225 5 812 1100	CO	505 382	505 382
	14	WCRAG	Newcastle-Cy (25) (25)	50222 818	CO	3802	3802
	15	WCRAG	Esplanade (12)	50222 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	16	WCRAG	Temple (26)	50225 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	17	WCRAG	National Hwy (27)	50205 5 818 1100	CO	505 382 3803	505 382 3803
	18	WCRAG	Nalorby (19)	50217 3800 818 1100	CO	505 382	505 382
	19	WCRAG	National Hwy (27)	50205 5 3800 8100	CO	505 382 3803	505 382 3803
	20	WCRAG	Lower Hunter (19)	50203 5 818	CO	505 382	505 382
	21	WCRAG	Dural (21)	50226 5 812 1100	CO	505 382	505 382
	22	WCRAG	Yass (12)	50229 5 812	CO	505 382	505 382
	23	WCRAG	Wayside Hunter (23)	50209 5 818	CO	505 382	505 382
	24	WCRAG	Chelwood (22) (22)	50207 5 818	CO	505 382	505 382
	25	WCRAG	Riverview (17)	50208 5 815	CO	505 382	505 382
	26	WCRAG	Wemy (21)	5 815 1012 1102	CO	505 382	505 382
	27	WCRAG	Cardross (22)	50201 5 815	CO	505 382	505 382
	28	WCRAG	Shepherd (22)	50202 5 814	CO	505 382	505 382
	29	WCRAG	Milmore (22)	50218 5 814	CO	505 382	505 382

VK DMR Repeater Dashboard

Referring to the columns in the image above:

**Repeater:** Lists the DMR repeater callsign

**Info:** Shows the repeater's location

**ID:** Lists the Radio ID of the repeater (repeaters require an ID the same as users do).

**TS1:** Shows the talkgroups that are set to Static on time slot 1 for each repeater. For example VK2RCN has

Continued on next page

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talkgroups 5, 8/8 and 1910 set as Static on time slot 1.

**TS1-INFO:** Displays any activity currently occurring on time slot 1. At the time of the screen shot there was no activity on time slot 1.

**TS2:** Shows the talkgroups that are set to Static on time slot 2 for each repeater. For example VK2RCN has talkgroups 505 and 3802 set as Static on time slot 2.

**TS2-INFO:** Displays any activity currently occurring on time slot 2. In this example a series of ORANGE bars indicates that talkgroup 505 is active across most of the repeaters. The caller is easily identified by their callsign and ID within the ORANGE bars. You will notice that the ORANGE bars appear adjacent to every repeater that has talkgroup 505 set as Static. The only repeaters not broadcasting are VK2RAG and VK2RHX, neither of which have 505 as Static. A single GREEN bar appears adjacent to VK2RCN. This indicates that the person initiating the call is using VK2RCN to access the network.

***TIP:** You can use the Repeater Dashboard to confirm that your own radio is correctly programmed. When you press your PTT, your transmission should appear adjacent to your local repeater showing your callsign, radio ID and talk group. If your transmission doesn't appear, or the wrong talkgroup or user is displayed, your radio may be incorrectly programmed. In that case, check your channel frequencies, talk group and time slot settings. If you are using a Hotspot you should be able to perform the same test using the Hotspot Dashboard.*

### Why does the 'receiving' indicator appear on my radio but I cant hear anything?

Most radios will indicate if the channel is busy by activating an LED on the top panel or displaying an Icon on the LCD. You may have noticed this and wondered why some-

times the radio appears to be receiving but you are not hearing anything. This is normal. The LED/Icon will always indicate when the repeater channel is busy regardless of the talkgroup. So, if you see the LED/Icon but don't hear anything it simply means there is a signal on the repeater but the user is on a different talkgroup to you. If you are viewing the repeater dashboard you should be able to identify the user and the active talkgroup.

*Note that if your radio is correctly programmed you should not be able to transmit when the LED/Icon is visible. This is a commercial radio feature known as 'Busy Lockout' designed to prevent users on a shared frequency from accidentally transmitting over each other.*

### CHOOSING A TALKGROUP

Choosing which talkgroup to use can be confusing for those just starting out. Here is a brief summary of the available talkgroups and what they are used for.

TALKGROUP USAGE		
Talkgroup	Time Slot	Description
505	2	505 is the main call group. Most people will monitor 505, so if you're after a contact or trying to locate someone, 505 is the place to be.  Be aware that 505 activates every repeater in Australia so avoid prolonged QSO's. You should transfer to a chat talkgroup on time slot 1 such as 3809, 3810 or 53. These will keep time slot 2 free across all repeaters for other callers on 505
3801 (ACT)	2	These state-wide talkgroups activate all repeaters within their state. These talkgroups share repeaters and time slots with 505, so if you have a QSO on one of these state-wide talkgroups you should leave a reasonable gap between overs to allow time for calls on 505 and break-ins from other users.
3802 (NSW)	2	
3803 (VIC)	2	
3804 (QLD)	2	
3805 (SA)	2	
3806 (WA)	2	
3807 (TAS)	2	
3808 (NT)	2	
53	1	Recommended Chat groups. These groups are 'user activated' so they only link the individual repeaters that have been activated. This inflicts minimal interference to the network. These groups share time slot 1 with some Static groups such as TGS, TG8, TG1910 and TG1911 as well as some Dynamic international talkgroups. Except for active Nets you should experience minimal interference using these talkgroups.
3809	1	
3810	1	
3800	2	Alternate Chat group. Only links repeaters that have been user activated for this group thereby inflicting minimal interference to the network. Shares time slot 2 with TG505 and state-wide talkgroups so may experience some interference from these groups during busy periods.
99	1	A new simplex talkgroup that allows you to talk directly to another radio using a simplex frequency. Recommended DMR simplex frequencies are 439.200 MHz and 144.8 MHz
8	1	Talkgroup 8 defines repeaters into regional groups (as listed immediately below). If your local repeater is part of a regional group, use 8 through your local repeater to automatically access all the associated repeaters in your

Continued on next page

		region. If you are using a Hotspot, or you wish to activate a regional group outside of your local region, use the extended talkgroup 8 options listed below.
10008 (8/1)	1	Use 10008 to activate a regional repeater group in VK7 Hobart & Launceston.
20008 (8/2)	1	Use 20008 to activate the All Sydney, West & North regional repeater group.
30008 (8/3)	1	Use 30008 to activate the VK1 and Southern VK2 regional repeater group.
50008 (8/5)	1	Use 50008 to activate the VK3 regional repeater group.
60008 (8/6)	1	Use 60008 to activate the South East QLD regional repeater group.
80008 (8/8)	1	Use 80008 to activate the VK2 Central Coast, Hunter Valley & Mid North Coast regional repeater group.
		For more details on these regions, refer to the dedicated talkgroup 8 section further below.
5	1	Use 5 for Nets and Broadcasts. There is a regular Net on Tuesday evenings at 0930Z (7.30pm Eastern Time). Net control is Peter VK4NBL. All are welcome.
9990 (Repeater)	1	9990 is the Parrot talkgroup. Use the parrot to test your TX audio quality and modulation level. The network will record your voice and play it back to you. Use time slot 1 through a repeater or time slot 2 through a Hotspot.
9990 (Hotspot)	2	
9	1	Localised talkgroup that operates only through your local DMR repeater. Use 9 to chat to your local members and local area visitors.
		These are a series of International talkgroups. Some of these groups trigger repeaters world-wide while others trigger country-wide repeaters.
1 (WW)	1	World wide English – keys repeaters world wide including VK
3 (US Wide)	1	US wide English (North America) – keys repeaters US wide
13 (WW Wide)	1	World wide English – keys repeaters in the UK Phoenix network including VK
113 (WW Chat)	1	User activated WW Chat channel. QSY after calling on 1 or 13.
123 (WW Chat)	1	User activated WW Chat channel. QSY after calling on 1 or 13.
133 (US Wide)	1	User activated US wide English (North America)
8409 (CQ UK)	1	User activated UK CQ Wires room (Ref 4409)
8636 (Tac310)	1	User activated US technical chat group.
8851 (Pacific/ZL)	1	User activated South Pacific and many NZ repeaters
1910	1	Links ARNSW funded repeaters in NSW. Currently this includes VK2RAG, VK2RCN, VK2RGL, VK2RHT, VK2RNC, VK2ROJ AND VK2RWL.
1911	1	Links ARNSW funded repeaters in far north QLD. These currently include VK4RBB & VK4RSB
30	1	JOTA – for use during the scouts Jamboree on the Air.
1921	1	Scouts Victoria supplied repeaters
1922	1	Scouts Victoria supplied repeaters
1923	1	Scouts Victoria supplied repeaters
8541 Quadnet	1	Quadnet is a multi-mode DMR network that supports D-STAR, DMR and Yaesu System Fusion II systems. Talkgroup 8541 is a bridge to Quadnet 4541. With Quadnet your transmission can be heard by users on DMR Plus, Brandmeister, Yaesu Fusion, D-STAR and more. For a complete overview of the QuadNet Array visit the QuadNet website at <a href="http://www.openquad.net">www.openquad.net</a>

## MIND THE GAP

While this is usually a safety message associated with railway transport, it also relates to DMR usage.

Since DMR is a digital system that operates through a number of network servers, there are going to be propagation delays. When you press the **PTT** it can take several seconds for your signal to appear in the DMR system. Similarly, your signal may continue broadcasting through the system for several seconds after you release the **PTT**. The delay may vary considerably depending on the system, the distance, time of day and the equipment being used. Because these delays are unpredictable it is recommended that you wait up to 10 seconds after each over before transmitting. This is because the propagation delays for you may be quite different for someone

else. A QSO that may appear to have ended at your radio, may still be in progress for someone else.

These gaps allow others to break in or make calls on other talkgroups that share the same time slot. It can be very frustrating to be locked out of making a call on 505 because there is a QSO on your local state talkgroup 3802 and the users are not leaving a sufficient gap between overs for you to break in. Here is where the RX LED or LCD Icon on your radio can be useful for confirming when there are other active users on the repeater.

It is highly recommended that, if you can, you have the repeater Dashboard running in your shack whenever you are active on DMR so you can monitor the activity and know which talkgroups are in use. Personally I have an old Android tablet permanently setup in my shack just for this but any PC or smart phone will do the job.

## USING TALKGROUP 8

Talkgroup 8 can be a little confusing as it can be accessed several ways. Unlike talkgroups 3801 to 3808 which divide the country by state, talkgroup 8 divides the country into regions (see table below). Talkgroup 8 uses time slot 1 so it can operate without affecting activity on TG505 or any of the TG380x talk groups.

If your local repeater is part of a talkgroup 8 region, you can access all the other repeaters within that region via your local repeater simply by selecting talkgroup 8. Your local repeater will then automatically trigger the other repeaters in that regional group.

However, if you want to access repeaters in a different region or you are using a Hotspot instead of a repeater, you will need to select the individual talkgroup for that region. These are often labeled as 8/1, 8/2, 8/3, etc which are simply common names for the actual

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talkgroup numbers 10008, 20008, 30008, etc as listed in the table below.

e.g. The Port Macquarie repeater VK2RCN is part of the NSW Central Coast and Mid North Coast region. If you want to use VK2RCN to access this region, select 8 as your talkgroup. However, if you are using a repeater outside this region or you are using a Hotspot, you will need to select talkgroup 80008 (otherwise known as 8/8) to access this region.

**Note:** You cannot use 8 through a Hotspot, you must use one of the specific regional talkgroup numbers listed under 'Hotspot TG' below.

USING TALKGROUP 8				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the <b>Repeater TG (8)</b> to access your local regional group via your local repeater only.</li> <li>Use the <b>Hotspot TG</b> to access all OTHER regional groups via your local repeater or via a Hotspot.</li> </ul>				
Local RPT TG	Hotspot TG	Common Name	Defined Region	Repeaters Accessed
8	10008	TG8/1	VK7 Hobart & Launceston	VK7RAD, VK2RAK, VK2RCR, VK7RJG
8	20008	TG8/2	All Sydney, West and North	VK2RAG, VK2RAO, VK2RCG, VK2RCV, VK2RHK, VK2RHT, VK2RLE, VK2RMB, VK2RWI
8	30008	TG8/3	Southern VK2 and VK1 - Highrange, Goulburn, Yass, Bombala and Canberra	VK1RMB, VK2RGN, VK2RHR, VK2RYS
8	50008	TG8/5	VK3	VK3RAH, VK3RAJ, VK3RDR, VK3RMC, VK3RPS, VK3RSA, VK3RSU, VK3RTA, VK3RTE, VK3RWV, VK3RYN
8	60008	TG8/6	South/East Qld	VK4RBT, VK4RBU, VK4RDB, VK4RJW, VK4RLU, VK4RMC, VK4RNX, VK4RTQ, VK4RVR
8	80008	TG8/8	All Central Coast, Hunter Valley, Newcastle & Mid North Coast repeaters - Somersby, Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Nelson Bay, Upper Myall & Port Macquarie.	VK2RAG, VK2RCN, VK2RGL, VK2RHX, VK2RNC, VK2ROJ, VK2RUM, VK2RZL

## FINALLY

Here are some useful links related to DMR.

The VK DMR website contains up to date information on the Australian DMR system including the latest settings and current talkgroups. <https://vkdmr.com/>

For those of you on Facebook there is a private VK DMR Network Facebook group run by those involved in the VKDMR Network. It provides the latest updates and information as well as a forum for discussing issues and asking questions. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/743300879089972/>

The Radio ID website issues DMR IDs to users world wide. If you haven't yet done so, go here to create an account and apply for your free DMR radio ID. You can also download the latest DMR contact-list files in CSV format and search for users on the DMR system. <https://www.radioid.net/>

A current map of the DMR repeaters in Australia. Yes the link is a handful but you should be able to copy and paste it from this page to your web browser. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1pN0ls-uQ6GlixGanunLe0HETqo8&oid=0&ll=-32.836093563431795%2C169.85865216896417&z=4>

A current map of the DMR repeaters in New Zealand (for when you are able to travel again). <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1vQhxTQKabGT19ILTp2hKV2t5GU8&ll=-41.25247652331952%2C170.72748162101084&z=6>

A link to my website providing DMR programming tips, links and codeplugs for the Retevis RT3S and Kydera CDR-300UV/ Retevis RT73. <http://vk2idl.com/index.php/dmr-digital-mobile-radio/>

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## Larger Image of the VK DMR Repeater Dashboard from Page 29

REGISTERED (8.04.07) 2021-04-30 07:04:16												
STATUS	NR	REFLECTOR	CALL TS1	NET TS1	CALL TS2	NET TS2						
MONITOR												
MATRIX												
REMAP												
BRIDGE	WW-CQ active talkgroups: <											
LINK STATUS												
	NR	REPEATER	INFO	ID	TS1	CQ	TS1-INFO	TS2	TS2-INFO	REF	START	HARDWARE
SERVICE	1	VK1RBM	Canberra (22)	505101	5 3809 3810 8/3	CQ		505 3801 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	2	VK2RAG	Somersby (18)	505241	5 8/2 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
SITE-INFO	3	VK2RAG	SomersbyNSW2250 (28)	505049	3810 8/8	CQ		3802				MMDVM
	4	VK2RAG	Somersby (28)	505234	3809 3810 8/8	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			MMDVM
	5	VK2RAO	Orange (24)	505229	5 8/2	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	6	VK2RCG	Sydney (17)	505201	5 8/2	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	7	VK2RCN	PortMacquarie (21)	505059	5 8/8 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
DMR+ TPSC2	8	VK2RCV	Grafton (24)	505230	5 8/2	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	9	VK2RGL	UpperMylall (22)	505052	5 8/8 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	10	VK2RGN	Goulburn (18)	505224	5 8/3	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
DG1HT	11	VK2RHK	Wyee, NSW (22)	505206	5 3809 8/2	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			MMDVM
DLS01	12	VK2RHR	HighRange (22)	505223	5 8/3	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
OE1KBC	13	VK2RHT	Chatswood (25)	505225	5 8/2 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	14	VK2RHY	Newcastle-City, QF57 (25)	505222	8/8	CQ		3802				MMDVM
	15	VK2RLE	Engadine (17)	505212	5 8/2	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	16	VK2RMB	TerreyHills (26)	505235	5 8/2	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	17	VK2RNC	Newcastle (23)	505051	5 8/8 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	18	VK2ROJ	NelsonBay (19)	505017	3809 8/8 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	19	VK2RPH	Bairnald NSW (27)	505019	5 3809 3810	CQ		505 3802 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			MMDVM
	20	VK2RUM	Lower_Hunter (19)	505035	5 8/8	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	21	VK2RWI	Dural (21)	505236	5 8/2 1910	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	22	VK2RYS	Yass (17)	505239	5 8/3	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	23	VK2RZL	Upper_Hunter (23)	505050	5 8/8	CQ		505 3802	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	24	VK3AS	Daylesford-TEST (27)	505307		CQ		505 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			MMDVM
	25	VK3RAG	RenniesHill (17)	505026	5 8/5	CQ		505 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	26	VK3RAJ	Upwiy (21)	505038	5 8/5 1921 1922 1923...	CQ		505 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	27	VK3RDR	Cranbourne (23)	505011	5 8/5	CQ		505 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	28	VK3RDS	Shepparton (22)	505013	5 8/4	CQ		505 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000
	29	VK3RGV	MtWombat (22)	505318	5 8/4	CQ		505 3803	505/AUS (5051201) VK2GL			DR3000

Interlink:2   cBridge:0   Motorola:39   Hytera:2   MMDVM:12   HOTSPOT:0   Dongle:0   Max User DB:132430   bMaster+:43.245.72.68   Starttime:2021-04-30 01:25:54   ID:351223

## Silent Key

### Lewis Arthur Green ex VK2AG



It is with great sadness that we record the passing on Friday the 4th of June 2021 of esteemed ORARC Life Member Lewis Arthur Green ex VK2AG at Port Macquarie. He was 96 years old.

Lewis was born on the 8th of September 1924 in Elmore Victoria. He was the eldest son of Arthur Thomas Green and Ruby Avenel Dawson. His father was a carpenter. Lewis had a twin sister, Beryl and an older sister Marion and a younger brother Bobby. Lewis was the last of his siblings to pass away.

After growing up during the difficult years of the depression, Lewis enlisted in the RAAF in 1942 at 18 years of age. He became a radar technician at the Richmond RAAF Base. After a posting to Collaroy looking and listening for enemy submarines he was transferred to Darwin and worked at the Peron Island radar station.

On completion of his war service Lewis had a 40 year career with the PMG, later Telecom, as a linesman and technician.

Lewis married Janette Elizabeth Uglow on

the 17th of April 1963. They had two daughters, Anna and Sally. They lived at Vermont in Melbourne where Lewis built their first house with the help of his brother-in-law Reg who was married to Lewis' older sister, Marion.

Lewis loved the outdoors and particularly enjoyed fishing and boating. He built a catamaran with his brother-in-law Reg.



*Lew sailing catamaran Salanna he built with his brother-in-law Reg*

Lewis also enjoyed camping and bird watching as well as astronomy. Cricket was one of his passions and he played for Hawthorn and opened the first grade batting for 19 years. His name is on the honour board of the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Lewis and Jan travelled around Australia in the 1980s and discovered Port Macquarie where they settled down.

Tragically, Jan passed away in 1995 from cancer after 31 years of marriage to Lewis.

Having been friends for forty years through the Hawthorn East Melbourne Cricket Club, and after the death of their respective spouses, Lewis and Pamela Green supported one another. After a trip to the Daintree they married on the 3rd of November 1996.

In marrying Pam,

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Lewis gained three Stepchildren and their families. The waterfront family home in Port Macquarie was always popular with the grandchildren as Lewis enjoyed taking them out on the Hastings River and teaching them to fish.

During the winter months, Lewis and Pam were avid grey nomads, travelling far and wide in their Jayco caravan, with the tinny on the Landcruiser roof racks and bikes on the back. Each year, with Lewis at the wheel, taking different routes, they explored Australia. They traversed the Nullarbor, the Western Australia coastline, across the Top to Darwin and Kakadu, up and down the Stuart Highway making various stops in towns like Katherine, Mataranka and Woomera. They twice trekked up the middle taking in Uluru, Kata Juta, Kings Canyon and the magnificent landscapes of the Red Centre and drove across Queensland to Townsville.

Each year, their ultimate destination was Pinnacle Village Caravan Park, Wonga, at the mouth of the Daintree River.

His hobby of Amateur Radio had always been a big part of his life and on moving to NSW Lewis became VK2AG. Amateur Radio enabled him to maintain contact while travelling and he always checked in each day to the travellers net. On moving to Port Macquarie Lewis joined the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Lewis and Pam were involved with the administration of the Port Macquarie RAAF Branch, Lewis was the Social Secretary and Pam was the Welfare Officer. Throughout their membership, they helped organise funding, social and educational events, tours to flying shows, not to forget, the much-loved bus trips and long lunches. He always attended RAAF commemorations and marched in the ANZAC parade.

Lewis was an active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club where he enjoyed the camaraderie of kindred spirits.

He presented a number of well remembered lectures on some of his favourite subjects. After being regaled by astronomy and optics and Lewis' home built telescope several club members were keen to try their hand. Everyone was always enthusiastic to hear of Lewis' travels and were always envious of his successes in fishing.



*Golden trevally Daintree Rv 1998*

The members with war service had lots of common ground to discuss. Those who were fortunate enough to visit his home were greatly impressed by his professional design and the attention to detail that Lewis achieved in his woodworking projects.

Only a few Amateurs realised the significance of the callsign VK2AG in that Lewis' middle name was Arthur and while his first and last name initials were not available for issue at the time he moved to NSW, he settled on VK2AG which gave him his middle and surname initials.

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*Lewis Green built his radio desk and stool*

On attaining the age of 85 Lewis was very proud to be awarded Life Membership of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. It was a sad day when Lewis was no longer able to get on the air and he decided to let his licence lapse a couple of years ago.

The moment it became available his callsign VK2AG was immediately taken out by an active Amateur in the area, Anthony Gapps of Boambee who is very pleased to be able to hold the prestigious well known callsign. Even though Lewis no longer held VK2AG in his latter days, Lewis was still very proud of his Life Membership of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and with 30 years of continuous membership he maintained an enduring friendship with some of the senior members of the club.



*1st Aug 2014 Lew celebrating his 90th*

Lewis and Pam enjoyed 25 years of marriage before Lewis passed away. His passing was mourned by his extended family and a wide circle of friends from the many activities that he had enthusiastically embraced throughout his long life.

The very well attended funeral for Lewis was held in the Hastings Chapel in Gordon Street, Port Macquarie on Thursday the 10th of June 2021. The touching eulogies by son-in-law Paul Fullwood and Step-Daughter Mitzi Crawford were complimented by the RSL Service at the conclusion lead by Greg Laird.

It is fortunate that the funeral was held while the COVID-19 restrictions were still relaxed so that the large number of mourners could attend. The Chapel was filled to capacity. The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club was represented by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE and Paul Romaine VK2UPR.

### **Vale: Lewis Arthur Green ex VK2AG**



*Armistice Day 2015*

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

The Club is indebted to Pamela Green for her assistance in the preparation of this Silent Key, and for providing the photos.

## Equipment from the Past

### Wireless Set 108 Australian



The inspiration for this month's equipment from the past came from the following link <https://www.qsl.net/g4bxd/> that Dennis VK2DAM provided that links to the Military Wireless Museum dedicated to Military Radios located Kidderminster.

The Wireless Set 108 was designed and produced by Radio Corporation (ASTOR) (Melbourne) around 1940 during WW2. The set was designed for backpack use by the A.I.F. and was based on the existing British #18 set. This radio was the standard manpack set for providing communications in forward areas during the Middle East campaign. By late 1941 the Mk.II version with a wider tuning range, had been introduced and remained the principal manpack until being replaced in 1946 by the Wireless Set No.128.

Ranges up to 10 miles could be achieved using vertical antennas, the range largely depending on the type of country.

The set evolved over time, with 3 different variants being produced, known as the 108 Mk1, 108 Mk2 and 108 Mk3. The variants must have produced some problems for the army as they were not always able to communicate with each other, owing to differing frequency ranges as follows:

108 Mk1 8.5 - 8.9 Mc/s (1941)

108 Mk2 6.0 - 9.0 Mc/s (1941)

108 Mk3 2.5 - 3.5 Mc/s (1943)

These Mk3 in particular was used by amateurs for portable operations after the war despite having frequency stability problems. Popularity was also due to the low cost of disposal equipment immediately after the war.

The 108 Mk1 was very rare, as only a small number were made. It was discontinued owing to the very restricted frequency range. The Mk2 addressed the lack of frequency coverage, but it would not perform in the tropics as the frequency was too high and the signal was easily absorbed by the jungle.

The WS 108 sets were very low powered and were all battery operated; featuring a 1.5v LT battery and 2 45v batteries connected in series for HT. The radios had 6 vales.

The unmodulated power output of the sets was between 0.4 and 0.45 watts depending on the frequency and the length of the aerial. The sets weighed in at just above 26 lbs (approximately 12 Kg). Mobile operators had to be fit as this was carried in addition to gear and weapons plus spare batteries.

A netting switch was provided to adjust the transmitter and receiver to a common frequency. There was also a 4 channel pre-selector system, which enabled 4 predetermined frequencies to be quickly selected.

Output was approximately 1/4 watt. Modes, voice (a.m.) only for the Mks. I and II, voice (a.m.) and m.c.w. for the Mk.III.

Acknowledgements

Kidderminster  
Military Wireless  
Museum.





## Ham radio helping lifelong hobbyists stay mentally fit in old age



**VK6GOM**

Date : 03 / 07 / 2021

Author : ABC News

It comes with all the benefits of social media but without "any of the downsides" — and one of Australia's oldest ham radio enthusiasts says it is also the perfect hobby for retirees looking to stay mentally sharp.

West Australian-based Norman Gomm VK6GOM took to ham radio over forty years ago and now aged 82 has no intention of signing off - just yet.

As one of VK's estimated 10,500 licensed ham radio operators, NK6GOMi s also President of the Bunbury Radio Club.

For more information on this story use the url link below.

[Ham radio helping lifelong hobbyists stay mentally fit in old age - ABC News](#)

## Preparations for World radio Conference 2023

Date : 01 / 07 / 2021

Author : Peter Clee - VK8ZZ

WRC-23 Preparations Continue



Volunteers representing the IARU and member-societies are participating actively in the preparations for the next ITU World Radio-communication Conference (WRC-23).

Virtual meetings have taken the place of travel during the pandemic, but the work continues to represent the amateur and amateur-satellite services to national administrations, regional telecommunications organizations, and ITU-R Working Parties (WPs). The WPs form the structure of the ITU-R Study Groups.

WP5A is the focal point for ITU activity on behalf of the amateur and amateur-satellite services, among others. WRC-23 preparations on agenda items potentially affecting amateur radio also are being conducted in WP4C, WP5D, and WP7C.

While not directly related to WRC-23, important work is also being done in WP1A, WP1B, and WP3L. IARU is participating in each of these Working Parties.

The terms of reference of these and other ITU-R WPs as well as the Study Groups may be found at the ITU website: [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int).

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## WIA Board announces new President.

Date : 14 / 07 / 2021

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK



The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) board of directors convened their first meeting after the 2021 AGM, which is when the President and Vice President are appointed and all new directors are welcomed to the board.

Firstly all returning and new directors were congratulated on their appointments and then we all welcomed new Director, Peter Schrader VK4EA to the WIA board.

The WIA Board of Directors are proud to announce the appointments of Scott Williams VK3KJ as new WIA President and Lee Moyle VK3GK will continue as Vice President.

All the directors thanked past President Greg Kelly VK2GPK for his commitment and contribution to the WIA during his past Presidential tenure. Greg Kelly continues on the WIA board as a valuable resource and support to assist new President Scott Williams as he transitions into the role.

A general meeting followed with some excellent initiatives tabled, including a focus on the aspects of increasing our utilization of social media platforms and memnet for information delivery to our WIA membership base.

The board undertook a range of discussions focused towards improvement on the levels of customer service to members. It was acknowledged that the WIA board must introduce system enhancements to triage

member feedback and concerns. With a goal to address matters more timely and efficiently.

The mood was very upbeat as we look forward to the coming year ahead.

On behalf of the WIA board of Directors

## Family of Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM (SK), receives “Michael J. Owen, VK3KI Memorial Award”

Date : 19 / 07 / 2021

Author : Oscar Reyes - VK3TX

Last July 17, 2021, in Miami, Florida, relatives of IARU-R2 former president Reinaldo Leandro received the “Michael J. Owen, VK3KI Memorial Award” from Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, IARU-R2 current president. The award is granted by the IARU Administrative Committee as the highest distinction granted at the world level to acknowledge decades of service to IARU and to amateur radio.

The family expressed their gratitude, indicating that besides them, radio amateurs were Reinaldo’s other family. The simple and emotional ceremony, shared virtually with a small group of his relatives and amateur radio friends, started on a sad note because of the loss of the relative and friend, but one of them mentioned that Reinaldo would have liked for this to be a happy ceremony, and it turned it into a celebration of his life, where some of the friends attending shared anecdotes of his life as a radio amateur.





## Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2277 for Friday June 18, 2021

Dave VK2AYD is kindly supplying various Amateur Radio Newsline Reports on the world of Amateur Radio.

### 3Y0J BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION CANCELLED



PAUL/ANCHOR: Our top story this week marks the end of a DXpedition dream: The Intrepid-DX Group has called off its planned activation of Bouvet Island. Jim Meachen ZL2BHF brings us those details.

JIM: The RV Braveheart, the sailing vessel that has carried many DXpeditioners to remote and challenging destinations, is being sold and the Three Y Zero J (3Y0J) Bouvet Island DXpedition has been cancelled.

The Braveheart was to have taken members of the Intrepid-DX Group to Bouvet in 2023. It was a trip that had been in the planning stages since 2016, following the team's DXpeditions to South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands.

Writing on the group's webpage, Paul Ewing, N6PSE and Kenneth Opskar LA7GIA said the ship will be sold as a result of a downturn in the charter vessel business—a direct result of the pandemic. Paul and Kenneth are advising donors that their contributions are being returned to

them by the same method in which they were received and it will take several weeks.

The hams wrote: [quote] "We will continue to research other ships and possibly find another suitable vessel for a future project." [endquote]

Based in New Zealand, the Braveheart was the vessel of choice for numerous DXpeditions, including the Perseverance DX Group's VP8PJ DXpedition to South Orkney Island in 2020 and the VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition in 2018. Its skipper is Nigel Jolly, K6NRJ, a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jim Meachen ZL2BHF.

Editors note: Another casualty of the Covid Virus pandemic. As is the story below.

### UK'S NATIONAL HAMFEST POSTPONED UNTIL 2022

JEREMY: The National Hamfest, considered the premier radio rally in the UK, has been postponed until September of 2022. Organisers made the announcement on their website and Twitter account on Friday, June 11th.

A number of factors were making it impossible to predict whether the event can be safely held in September of this year as scheduled. With at least three months' worth of planning involved in staging the hamfest it was determined wiser to wait another year. The show was to be held as always at the Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground.

The rally is held by National Hamfest (Lincoln) in association with the Radio Society of Great Britain.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

## Trivia 92 Comms

This is part of a series of light hearted looks at the world of communications by club member VK2AYD.

A “AYD” rambling to off-set the solitude imposed by a Virus and Yes, this is the 92nd Trivia I’ve written. When will it stop ?

Whilst putting together a brief on the history of communications I ran into some new words that were not regular to my vocabulary and wondered if I had miss-spent my youth and early English lessons. Perhaps they are familiar to you.

The research took me back 500,000 years BCE, to the origin of speech, long before the cell phone was developed. As this was the ice age I imagined the carvings would eventually melt!

Then I discovered my first new word. “Petroglyphs”. Even my computer coughed when I typed it. It refers to carving into rocks and referenced the era of Neolithic and Palaeolithic times dating back some 12,000 years. (I wondered how they called “CQ”).

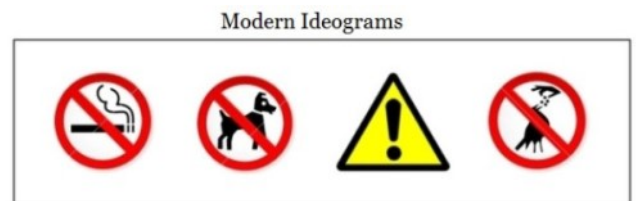


*An example of a Petroglyph*

Next came the “Pictogram”. Now that was something I could relate to. I love looking at pictures! They tell the story and leave it to your imagination to interpret them. Getting closer to my child hood at just 5,000

BCE. Wikipedia says they were the basis of “Cuneiform” and the beginning of “Logographics”. No translations on these. Still no mention of the cell phone!

The next one threw me. “Ideograms”. Now we are getting to me as I fall in this category of idiots. And so came “Writing” and “Script” and the alphabet, but nothing about the art of contest logging. No mention of the poor birds that lost their tails to create the quill pen and I still haven’t found out who developed the first pencil.



In the end I concluded that story telling was perhaps the early means of passing on a message. Of course these were followed by smoke signals and flashing mirrors. I noticed there was no mention of the two empty cans and a length of string.

About 150 years ago the age of combustion, electricity was born.

You know all about this. Wow. We live in a wonderful era of evolution. My chapter on the use of code (like the one Morse expounded) is just as exciting and here we are in the digital age of 1 and 2 or + and -, I wonder who Binary was ?

de VK2AYD

Editor note: Thank you David VK2AYD and I am sure that we all look forward to future communications trivia! If other club members have a light hearted story or update on communications in general that they are willing to share please send them in.



## Blast from the Past

Blast from the Past' is the section of Oxtales where we reflect on what the club was doing in years gone by. This months 'Blast' is taken from the 2011 and the 2016 editions of Oxtales (10 and 5 years ago)

In July 2011 Henry VK2ZHE was President, Vice President Bruce VK2HOT, Secretary John VK2KC and Treasurer was John VK2KHB. The club had 57 Financial Members.

In July 2016 Lyle VK2SMI was President, Vice President Richard VK2CHC, Treasurer, Secretary John VK2KC and John VK2KHB treasurer. The club had 57 Financial members.

The main story in the July 2016 Oxtales was a report on the 2016 Field Day which was held at the Tacking Point Surf Club.



*Arthur VK2ATM demonstrating low power digital communications*



*Craig VK2ZCM receives runner up fox hunting championship trophy from President Henry VK2ZHE.*



*80 metre Trophy winner Chris VK2YMW*

In 2016 Oxtales the main activity was the 2016 Field Day. Many of the people and trophy winners have become familiar faces at field days today

### *Trophy Winners*



*Craig VK2ZCM,*



*Gerard VK2IO,*



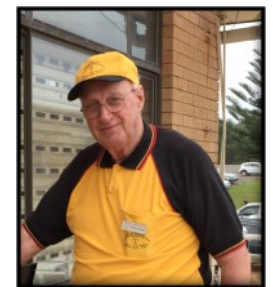
*W  
Jeff VK2BYY,*



*Chris VK2YMW,*



*Bob VK2ZRE,*



*Richard VK2CHC*



*Lyle VK2SMI.*

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## **The changing nature of Amateur Radio from the past to the present.**

In Henry's VK2ZHE Vale for John VK2VY (SK) on the following Oxtales pages mention was made of John's involvement in various digital communications within the club during the 1990's that included Amateur Packet Radio. Club members have always taken an interest in new and challenging technologies involving communications. ORARC has always had members who have explored the many different aspects of amateur radio. Reading some of the back copies of Oxtales provides an insight into some of these changing technologies. We are fortunate in that Paul VK2ICQ has been able to find and scan most editions of Oxtales from February 1980 to the present. The copies can be found on <https://www.orarc.org/>.

RTTY, Radio teletype was popular on both HF and VHF in the pre internet days, as mechanical teletype machines gave way to "glass RTTY". An examples of a mechanical teletype machine model 15 is shown below.



The above shows a model 15 Teletype station and the transition to "Glass Teletype" where a computer with the appropriate software could be used to display and send teletype code.

The model 15 was a machine of awe which

was very heavy and in operations extremely noisy. Having a QSO with one was an experience and could be slow due to frequent drop out especially on HF. In the early 1950's they could be purchased quite cheaply on the disposal market. When receiving the characteristic thumping sound could be clearly heard throughout the house. Your editor had such a machine and thrill of calling CQ on the keyboard and having it answered by a station in Bulgaria was a real thrill.

Club members were very active on packet radio which saw many developments in digital communications during the 1990s as personal computers evolved. Radio teletype was popular on both HF and VHF in the pre internet days, and as mechanical teletype machines gave way to "glass RTTY", RTTY became the first digital mode to enable small files to be passed through bulletin boards and mailboxes to be read later.

Packet radio using the AX.25 (Amateur X.25) protocol to enable point to point connection between stations (nodes) emerged as a popular means of digital communications.

There was a keen group of club members using packet that included John VK2VY (SK). Many club members will remember the then local ORARC member Tony Lonsdale VK2DHU who developed the widely used paKet software. Version 6.2 can still be downloaded from the AAPRA (Australian Amateur Packet Radio Association) website.

Club members also set up an extensive infrastructure that enabled the Mid North Coast to provide access to the expanding packet radio network.

VK2RCN gave local amateurs access to the network so that messages could be sent and received Australia Wide.

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The network carried a lot of traffic in the days before the Internet became the universal means of digital connectivity that we all now take for granted. Connecting to a Bulletin Board isn't quite the same as surfing the World Wide Web but it was how a lot of files were downloaded at the time.

The club's repeater site VK2RPM at Middle Brother Mountain was part of the East Coast UHF digital backbone. The VHF radio ROSE nodes at VK2RPM and VK2RCN gave local amateurs access to the network so that messages could be sent and received Australia Wide. The network carried a lot of traffic in the days before the Internet became the universal means of digital connectivity that we all now take for granted. Connecting to a Bulletin Board isn't quite the same as surfing the World Wide Web but it was how a lot of files were downloaded at the time.

By 1992 the club had established a large packet presence and Packet was frequently mentioned in Oxtales. The following extract is taken from the November 1992 edition.

*'The copy for this issue of "OXTALES" was transferred from VK2TT to VK2ZIS by Packet Radio using paKet pP digipeating through VK2RPM-I'*

The Packet Radio Column from the same November issue makes interesting reading as follows.

*'The VHF frequencies have all changed and locally we operate on 144.875 MHz*

*If you want to use the Walcha repeater for ROSE contacts throughout Australia, use 144.775 MHz*

*VK2WST has an active VHF/HF Gateway if you want to send Packet overseas.*

*VK.2ATM- 1 is still the local Bulletin Board/Mail Box stop if you want to send or receive messages.*

*Most of the Packet Racket makers are using commercial TNC/Modems such as KAM, MFJ, AEA, etc.*

*These also have facilities for other modes of transmission/reception such as RTTY, AMTOR, CW, FAX, etc..*

*A few people in the area who are not amateurs (cannot transmit) also use these TNC's for listening to commercial transmissions on non-amateur frequencies. Its actually amazing just what you can hear and you would be amazed at the number of commercial stations using AMTOR, (just listen around 16.500).*

This article will continue in future editions of Oxtales.

1992 was an important year for the club as reported by the then club president Tracey VK2GTM

*'Perhaps the most significant recent event in the activities of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, was the ultimate realisation of the step taken in April of this year, to seek incorporation.*

*Members will recall that at a special meeting held on 10th April 1992, that a special resolution was passed to make application to the Business and Consumer Affairs Agency for incorporation.*

*Following the multitude of formalities required to bring this about, official notification was received in August, 1992 in the form of our very own certification of incorporation. From that time our club officially became The Oxley Region Amateur Club Inc'*

Also from the same issue the following information

*'VK2A YD who is a Competition freak, won first prize (Oceania) in the First Class CW Operators' Contest..and .made second place in the ARRL International Contest.'*

## Silent Key – John McDonagh VK2VY



It is with great sadness that we record the untimely passing of esteemed ORARC member John McDonagh VK2VY. John passed away at Port Macquarie on Sunday the 27th of June 2021 aged 75 years.

John was born on the 13th of March 1946 and grew up in Sydney. His interest in cars and motorcycles led him to a career as a motor mechanic. In the late 1960s as CB radio emerged his interest in radio progressed to Amateur Radio which became a lifelong hobby.

John moved to Port Macquarie where he worked as a motor mechanic. In his working

life he was not only highly proficient in things mechanical but he was one of the first mechanics to gain expertise in automotive electronic engine management systems. He had a particular interest in engine performance. He worked at the local Ford dealership, Miedecke Motors. Owner, Andrew Miedecke was active in motor racing where electronic engine management became increasingly important in the 1990s. As the expanding Miedecke Motor Group took on additional makes such as Mercedes Benz, well known as an early adopter of automotive electronics, John's skills in electronic vehicle diagnosis complemented his diverse mechanical skills. Many will remember John hard at work with the complex Bosch diagnostic trolley connected to an ailing Mercedes Benz.

In Amateur Radio, as well as enjoying HF, John was very active on packet radio which saw many developments in digital communications during the 1990s as personal computers evolved. Radio teletype was popular on both HF and VHF in the pre internet days, and as mechanical teletype machines gave way to "glass RTTY", RTTY became the first digital mode to enable small files to be passed through bulletin boards and mailboxes to be read later.

Packet radio using the AX.25 (Amateur X.25) protocol to enable point to point connection between stations (nodes) emerged as a popular means of digital communications.

John was in his element with a keen group of packet radio enthusiasts in Port Macquarie. Many will remember then local ORARC member Tony Lonsdale VK2DHU developing the widely used paKet software. Version 6.2 can still be downloaded from the AAPRA (Australian Amateur Packet Radio Association) website.

John was an active member of the Committee of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club at a time when the club set up infrastructure to provide access to the expanding packet radio network.

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The club's repeater site VK2RPM at Middle Brother Mountain was part of the East Coast UHF digital backbone. The VHF radio ROSE nodes at VK2RPM and VK2RCN gave local amateurs access to the network so that messages could be sent and received Australia Wide. The network carried a lot of traffic in the days before the Internet became the universal means of digital connectivity that we all now take for granted. Connecting to a Bulletin Board isn't quite the same as surfing the World Wide Web but it was how a lot of files were downloaded at the time.

John was a past Treasurer of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club in the years 1995 to 1999. John's wife, Karin, reminisces the seemingly incongruous image of John heading off to work dressed in his mechanic's uniform but carrying his briefcase. John was of course heading to an ORARC meeting after work and he had his Treasurer's documents with him.

In retirement John continued to enjoy Amateur Radio and he kept abreast of the new technologies in digital voice and data communications. He enjoyed the Yaesu Fusion C4FM digital voice supported by the club's VHF and UHF repeaters and he was looking forward to using the club's new DMR repeater as well as other digital network access at his time of passing.

John also volunteered with Lifeline in Port Macquarie and this played a big part in his life during retirement. He was a highly respected volunteer who used his many skills to contribute a great deal to Lifeline.

The Funeral for John was held in the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Chapel in Port Macquarie on Friday the 9th of July 2021. The attendance was limited due to the COVID-19 travel and safety restrictions. Eulogies were delivered by representatives from both Lifeline and the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Henry Lundell VK2ZHE was honoured to have been invit-

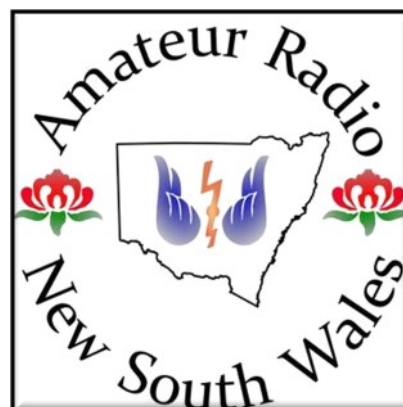
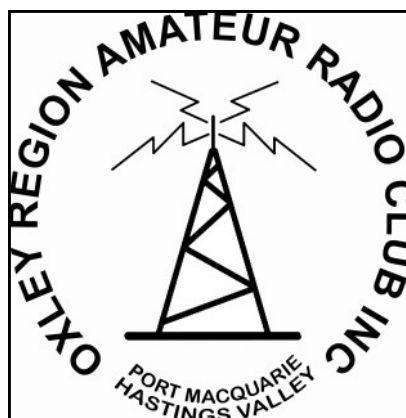
ed to deliver the eulogy on behalf of ORARC. Amongst the mourners present was John's long time close friend from the Amateur Radio fraternity going back to the 1960s, Bob Girdo VK2RG.

The Amateur Radio Fraternity extends Deep Sympathy to John's wife Karin and their family on their sad loss.

Vale: John McDonagh VK2VY



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



## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

## Membership List as at 10 , July 2021

No.	Cat	Surname	Given Name	Spouse	Call	Location	Phone
1	D	ALLAM	DEREK	(CLARE)	VK2BTX	CUNDLETOWN	0403 796 102
2	D	ALLAM	ROBERT		VK2CDX	CUNDLETOWN	
3	O	BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2192
4	O	BAILEY	ROD		VK2AJ	PORT MACQUARIE	0428 670 001
5	D	BAYLISS	KEITH	(DEBBIE)	VK2PTL	COOPERNOOK	0478 606 464
6	D	BLACKMORE	MARK	-	VK2XOF	BAULKHAM HILLS	02 9639 0663
7	L	BLYTH	BOB	-	VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	-
8	D	BOYD	WADE		VK2EST	WINGHAM	0400 589 265
9	O	BREWSTER	DAVID		ZL3DS	LAKE CATHIE	0407 749 748
10	D	BRICE	GRAHAM	(CYNTHIA)	VK2VV	SCONE	02 6545 0411
11	O	BRUCESMITH	SANDY	(KAY)	VK2WH	PORT MACQUARIE	0435 356 466
12	D	CAMPBELL	JAMIE		VK2YJC	HAMILTON	0418 628 321
13	O/F	COLLEDGE	PAUL	(PAULA)	VK2ICQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6580 9912
14	O/F	COLLEDGE	PAULA	(PAUL)	VK2PDC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8829
15	O	COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 5658
16	D	DORAHY	ALEX	(ANNE)	VK2HBF	TOORMINA	0400 849 098
17	O	ECCLESTONE	BOB	(DIANA)	VK2ZRE	KEMPSEY	0419 414 412
18	D	EKERT	BRUCE	(YULIA)	VK2EM	FORSTER	0414 532 496
19	O/F	FLETCHER	CAROLINE	(PETER)	VK2CZF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191
20	O/F	FLETCHER	PETER	(CAROLINE)	VK2HPF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191
21	O	FRAPPELL	GRAEME	(BAMBI)	VK2GCF	PORT MACQUARIE	0490 088 048
22	O	FROGGATT	DARREN	(KRISTY)	VK2MIA	PORT MACQUARIE	0488 01 8102
23	O	FROST	ROBERT	(SUSAN)	VK2CRF	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587 6129
24	D	GARLAND	JOHN		VK2CJG	JEWELLS	02 4948 1950
25	O	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2LBG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8814
26	O	HALL	RICHARD		VK2BXO	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 6588
27	O	HANSEN	JOHN	-	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	0427 407 973
28	L	HARDING	DAVID	-	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 1947
29	D	HARPER	JOHN	(VIVIANE)	VK2LJ	VICTORIA	0417 254 763
30	D	HIRSCHEL	ALLAN	-	VK2OK	DOUBLE BAY	0415 259 777
31	D	HUTCHESSON	COLIN	(PAULINE)	VK5DK	MT. GAMBIER	08 8725 5527
32	D	JANES	LES	(BEVERLY)	VK5JL	SALISBURY HEIGHTS	08 8281 3878
33	D	JOHNSON	STEVE	-	VK2SJJ	BELLINGEN	0466 334 626
34	O	JONES	PAUL	(SANDRA)	VK2DEL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 3772
35	D	KEIR	ANDREW	(BARBARA)	VK2AAK	DARAWANK	02 6554 3498
36	O	KUCERA	PETER	-	VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	0429 229 290
37	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	(PENNY)	VK2CLL	HUNTINGDON	02 6587 1155
38	O	LINDQUIST	IAN	(BERNADETTE)	VK2GL	PORT MACQUARIE	0414 419 462
39	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	-	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0534
40	D	MACNAUGHTON	JENNY	-	VK2BA	MUDGE	02 6372 4053
41	O	MARE	HANS	-	VK2MRK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 7080
42	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2CSM	SANCROX	02 6585 3452
43	D	McADAM	PETER	-	VK2EVB	COFFS HARBOUR	-
44	O	McGUIRE	MARK	-	VK2FMGM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8875
45	O	McLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 6220
46	O	MEADE	DENNIS	(SUE)	VK2DAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2998
47	D	MEEHAN	TERRY	-	ex-VK2KL	KEMPSEY	-
48	O	MELVILLE	STUART	-	VK2KSM	PORT MACQUARIE	0419 043 316
49	O	MESSINA	TOBY	-	VK2XTX	PORT MACQUARIE	0417 293 377
50	L	MONCK	ARTHUR	-	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	0459 679 425
51	O	MULLINS	RAY	(LYNNE)	VK2JU	PORT MACQUARIE	0432 559 400
52	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 5387
53	O	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	0487 812 481
54	D	NIVEN	TREVOR	(BETH)	VK5NC	MT. GAMBIER	08 8723 2432
55	D/F	O'BRIEN	GRAHAME	(JUDY)	VK2FA	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688
56	D/F	O'BRIEN	JUDY	(GRAHAME)	VK2HZV	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688
57	D	OLSEN	KIMBERLY		VK2KMI	GUNNEDAH	04 5515 5798
58	D	OSBORNE	RICHARD		VK2OKR	LEMON TREE PASSAGE	0429 824 951
59	D/F	PETTET	JOHANNA	(STEVEN)	VK2FJMM	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290
60	D/F	PETTET	STEVEN	(JOHANNA)	VK2ZVG	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290
61	L	PILLEY	DAVID	-	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585 2647
62	O	PISANI	VIC	(MEREDITH)	VK2UVP	BONNY HILLS	02 6584 8361
63	D	PRATT	PETER	-	VK2PX	PENNANT HILLS	0418 965 962
64	O	RAE	THOMAS	-	VK2ATR	PORT MACQUARIE	-
65	D	RAY	ROBERT		VK2ZWZ	SINGLETON	0412 573 861
66	D	ROMAINE	PAUL	-	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	0428 466 075
67	O	SANDERS	BILL	(SUELENE)	VK2FWHP	REDBANK	0437 004 228
68	O	SMALL	ROBERT	(LYNN)	VK2BIG	LAKE CATHIE	02 6584 8148
69	D	SWINDLEY	RON		VK2DDQ	KEMPSEY	0417 299 397
70	O	SMITH	LYLE	(JEANNINE)	VK2SMI	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2497
71	D	SMITH	MURRAY	(MARGARITA)	VK2LAT	RAINBOW FLAT	0423 781471
72	D	SMITH	STEVE	(HELEN)	VK2IS	RAWDON ISLAND	0404 612 126
73	O	SOUTHWELL	IVAN	-	VK2IJS	PORT MACQUARIE	0439 611 452
74	O	TERRY	COL	(KATHLEEN)	VK2LCT	YIPPIN CREEK	0429 002906
75	L	THATCHER	TREVOR	-	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2278
76	D	THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
77	O	THOMPSON	LARRY	(KATHLEEN)	VK2LJT	TUNCURRY	02 6555 7994
78	D	THRING	HAYDEN			TEMAGOG	0435 287227
79	D	WALKER	STUART	-	VK2BMX	BEECROFT	02 9869 0515
80	D	WALSH	STUART	(JENNIFER)	VK2WAL	TUNCURRY	0409 531 310
81	O	WARD	MICHAEL	(SEREENA)	VK2FMDW	PORT MACQUARIE	0418 291 276
82	D	WILSON	DIANE		VK2DNE	LEMON TREE PASSAGE	0429 824 951
83	O	WINCHESTER	JOHN	(PAULINE)	VK2NJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6580 3031
84	O	WYNN	STEPHEN	(LYALLE)	VK2ZSW	YIPPIN CREEK	02 6585 3327
85	D	YORSTON	ROBERT		VK2CAN	ROSEVILLE	02 9426 3727