



# 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 fiftyfirst Anniversary Year

## January 2022

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

### President's Report

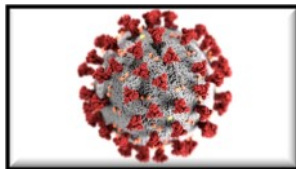


January 2022

President's Report

Welcome to 2022

COVID-19



The success of the world-wide concerted vaccination programme has reduced the mandatory restrictions that are being imposed to reduce the spread of infection by the COVID-19 virus. The virus is still spreading in the community but the return of ORARC face to face activities has been very welcome.

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**Down The Coax**

**ORARC meetings held in the S.E.S. Building  
Central Road, Port Macquarie with ORARC COVID Safety  
Plan**

**Ross Hull Memorial Contest 1 to 31 January 2022**

**Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 8 January 2022 2:00 pm (1 January New Years  
Day)**

**Summer VHF-UHF Field Day Saturday 15 &  
Sunday 16 January 2022**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 21 January 2022 7.00 pm**

**AX Prefix May be Used on Australia Day  
Wednesday 26 January 2022**

**Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 5 February 2022 2:00 pm**

**ORARC Antenna Shootout  
Sunday 6 February 2022 – To be Confirmed**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 18 February 2022 7.00 pm**

**Wyang Field Day Wyong Racecourse  
Changed from February to Mayham 1 May 2022**

**Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 5 March 2022 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 18 March 2022 7.00 pm**

**John Moyle Memorial Field Day Saturday 19  
& Sunday 20 March 2022**

**Urunga Convention - 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention  
Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 April 2022**

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

**Sundays  
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays  
(1930 Local)**

**January 2022**

**VK2FMGM Jan 2      VK2EM      Jan 6**

**VK2FMGM Jan 9      VK2ZHE      Jan 13**

**VK2FMGM Jan 16      VK2ICQ      Jan 20**

**VK2FMGM Jan 23      VK2EM      Jan 27**

**VK2FMGM JAN 30**

**February 2021**

**VK2FMGM Feb 6      VK2ZHE      Feb 3**

**VK2FMGM Feb 13      VK2ICQ      Feb 10**

**VK2FMGM Feb 20      VK2EM      Feb 17**

**VK2FMGM Feb 27      VK2ZHE      Feb 24**

**March 2022**

**VK2ICQ      Mar 3**

**VK2FMGM Mar 6      VK2EM      Mar 10**

**VK2FMGM Mar 13      VK2ZHE      Mar 17**

**VK2FMGM Mar 20      VK2ICQ      Mar 24**

**VK2FMGM Mar 27      VK2EM      Mar 31**

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The Committee is continuing to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation.

The easing of travel restrictions has made the festive season particularly enjoyable for many of our members who had been waiting anxiously throughout the last year for interstate and international family reunions.



The planned ORARC Christmas Party in the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery was able to be held on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The event was a great success. After a year with few opportunities for members to get together it was nice to end the 2021 calendar year with such an enjoyable face to face social activity in an outdoor environment. This excellent venue has been booked again for the 2022 Christmas Party. There is an expanded report on the Christmas Party later in this president's report.

### **ORARC is now in its 51<sup>st</sup> Year**

Last year the Oxley Region Amateur Radio celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Unfortunately the COVID-19 restrictions prevented the club from being able to hold a celebratory dinner but the milestone was still noted. The special limited edition 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary polo shirts and bucket hats are now collectors' items which will be worn with pride by those members who purchased them. The ORARC 2021 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar will also become a collectors' item!

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. was formed at a meeting in Port

Macquarie on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1971.

You will notice that the Oxtales Masthead now proudly proclaims that ORARC is in its 51<sup>st</sup> Year.

### **Coming Events**

The page 2 "Down the Coax" listing of coming events is looking a lot more positive than the listing we had in the January 2021 issue of Oxtales.

ORARC Monthly General Meetings and Friday Night Get togethers are now proceeding. Of course they still have to follow the ORARC COVID-19 Safety Plan.



The first Monthly General Meeting for 2022 will be held on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. Normally Monthly General Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month but in January the first Saturday is New Year's Day so the meeting has been moved to the second Saturday for January only.

### **ORARC 2022 Field Day 11 & 12 June**

The ORARC 2022 Field Day takes place on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June during the Queen's Birthday Weekend. The 2022 Field Day will be the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day.

The Field Day venue will be the Wauchope Showground Hall. This venue has proven to be very popular. The hall has been booked again for the 2022 Field Day.

The Wauchope Showground hall is spacious with plenty of off-street parking.

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On site camping is available and the Wauchope Showground is pet friendly. Early bookings to the live-in caretaker on phone 0475 111 074 are essential <http://www.wauchopeshowociety.com.au/camping.html> as the camp sites are very popular during the Queens Birthday Holiday weekend. This is likely to be even more so in 2022. Rates are very reasonable with power available. There are toilets and hot showers. You can even stable your horse!



The Field Day Dinner will be at 6 pm on the evening of Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for sponsoring the function room for the dinner. Gary has kindly sponsored the hire of the room for several years and ORARC is indebted to Gary for his continuing sponsorship. The Golf Club has an extensive menu to suit all tastes. Meals are at club prices.

Planning for the 2022 Field Day has commenced so please consider offering your assistance. The committee will be very pleased to hear from you. The position of Field Day Manager is still open, and there are lots of tasks to volunteer for.

One important project that must be completed prior to the Field Day is the construction and testing of new 2 metre and 80 metre foxes for the mobile foxhunts. Construction of these commenced in 2019 but there is still more work to be done to fully complete and test them.

## **Summer VHF UHF Field Day Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022**



The event runs from 12 noon on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> to 12 noon on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.

This year the club station VK2BOR will not be operating in the Summer VHF UHF Field Day. While COVID-19 safety restrictions have eased there is insufficient space inside the ORARC Communications Caravan to provide the current required social distancing.

Club members are encouraged to participate in the Field Day individually. This can be done using home stations, or perhaps operating portable or mobile. If enough members do this, quite respectable scores can be amassed by working each other. Activity breeds activity so amateurs from surrounding areas will hopefully be tempted to come on air and add to the number of stations that can be worked.

The 6 metre sporadic E season is still very active so if the band opens during the Contest some very impressive scores can be made as there are usually a lot of 6 metre stations participating in the Summer VHF UHF Field Day in the southern states, particularly VK3, VK5 and VK7. Sporadic E signals are usually very strong so even a mobile whip will work extremely well. Most contacts will be made on SSB. At the time of publication the 6 metre sporadic E season is still open

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which bodes well for the contest weekend.

The contest rules are available for download from the WIA website at <https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/>

### **Antenna Shootout Day February 2022**



The club's popular annual Antenna Shootout would normally be scheduled to be held on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 at the Tuffins Lane sports fields. There are still uncertainties in booking the site arising from the predicted heavy rainfall in January. The December touch football competitions were cancelled due to the state of the sports fields. The Committee is optimistic that the Antenna Shootout can be held and a firm decision will be made at the January 2022 Monthly General Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Wyong Field Day Now Being Held as Mayham on Sunday 1 May 2022**

Normally the Central Coast Field Day has been held in February each year but last year the February event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and the event was held as Mayham in May 2021. This year the Field Day is again being held in May instead of February as Mayham on

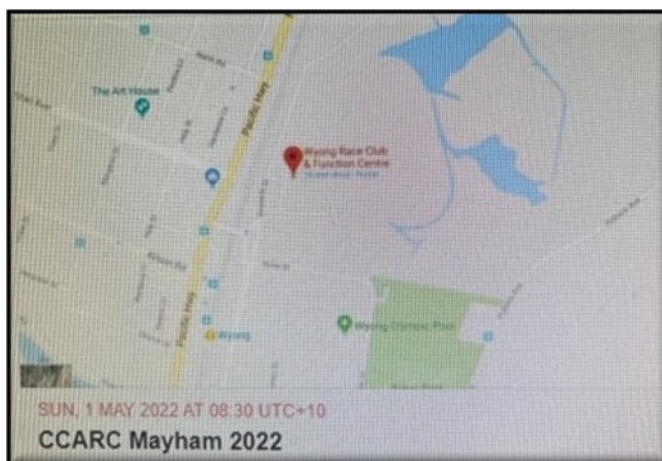
Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2022. The venue is the same as previously, the Wyong Racecourse.

It is hoped that many club members will be able to make the annual trip to Wyong racecourse for the Central Coast Field Day on the new date of Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2022. The Field Day details are at <https://www.ccarc.org.au/wyong-field-day/>

This event is the largest Amateur Radio Field Day in the Southern hemisphere. The Wyong racecourse facilities were significantly upgraded a few years ago. The flea market is now under cover and the Traders will be in an air-conditioned environment. This will make for a very enjoyable day regardless of the weather.

There are always lots of bargains at the Field Day and there is a full range of very interesting seminars during the event. Wear your ORARC polo shirt and cap or hat. Our club is always well represented at Wyong and the club yellow and black stands out in the crowd.

As with all planned large gatherings, the Central Coast Field Day committee is closely monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 situation.



### **Urunga Convention 16 & 17 April 2022**

Remember to mark your calendars for the 71<sup>st</sup> annual Urunga Convention during Easter on Saturday and Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.

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<http://users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/index.htm>

The 2020 Urunga Convention was to have been the 71<sup>st</sup> annual convention but sadly the both the 2020 and 2021 conventions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic so the 2022 convention will now be the 71<sup>st</sup> annual convention.

The Urunga Convention is always a very enjoyable weekend with plenty of time for socializing and participating in the keenly contested foxhunts. There are always bargains on the disposals tables and Radio Supply of Bellingen will have their usual wide range of trade items on sale.

In addition, the famous Urunga Scramble on the Sunday morning is not to be missed. The scramble runs on all bands for a frantic 30 minutes from 9 am to 9:30 am. Even if you are not able to get to Urunga please come on air on HF, 6 and 2 metres and 70 cm during the scramble to give the scramble contestants some extra contacts. Remember the scramble permits a contact on each separate band.



### Recent Events

#### Coastal Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence 28 November 2021

The Liberty Coastal Walk Against



Domestic and Family Violence, previously known as the White Ribbon Walk, took place on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the walk was run as a virtual event because a physical event with a large number of participants could not be held. Individuals walked on their own in their own time and took selfies to post on social media to document their walk but the usual event infrastructure was not set up.

As the usual infrastructure was not set up, there was no opportunity for ORARC members to set up safety communications for the 2021 virtual walk. Thank you to those members who had volunteered to provide the safety communications.

ORARC is looking forward to providing the safety communications for the 2022 walk. ORARC is a strong supporter of this most important cause.

### 2021 Christmas Party

The extremely enjoyable 2021 Christmas Party was held at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Normally the Christmas Party is held on the first Saturday of December each year but this year the Vineyard hosted a large event on the Saturday so the ORARC Christmas Party was moved to the Sunday.

The Christmas Party was one of the few face to face activities for the club since the Field Day on the June Long Weekend earlier this year. After the Field Day the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in restrictions which necessitated having to cancel all the usual

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club activities until November. It was nice to end the 2021 calendar year with such an enjoyable face to face social activity in such as pleasant outdoor environment.

The weather on the day ended up fine for the duration of the party despite the morning starting out wet after the heavy thunderstorms on the Saturday evening which brought 50mm of rain overnight to Port Macquarie. In expectation of the rain continuing, ORARC was very kindly given the use of the large marquee in the picnic area for our Christmas Party. Everyone had comfortable seating around the large tables in the marquee. We even had fairy lights which added to the ambience!



*Winery Staff making sure the fairy lights working after setting up the large Marquee*



*Undercover, out of the wind and a table full of food and conversations. Paula VK2PDC and Paul VK2ICQ enjoying the moment.*

Thank you to everyone who attended the party and contributed to making the day a great success. The sausage sizzle lunch was expertly barbequed and served by Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Rob frost VK2CRF (photograph below).



*The delicious trifle dessert (photograph at left) made by Dennis VK2DAM*

*under close supervision of XYL Sue Meade who had her arm in a sling after an operation was complemented by a lovely pavlova provided by Lesley. There was even whipped cream to go with the dessert. It was indeed a very popular treat to end a very enjoyable lunch.*



*Artist at work. Lesley assembling the pavlova with Arthur VK2ATM watching with great anticipation.*

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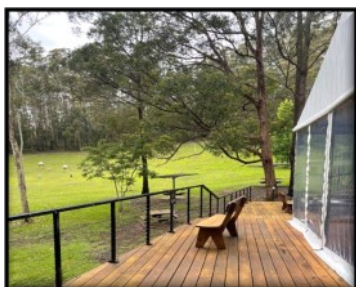
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As usual there was a veritable feast of party food brought by members. Thank you to Arthur VK2ATM for bringing along the delicious mangos which were served beautifully cut and diced. Arthur was apologetic that the cherries he had originally promised were not available as the crop had been destroyed before they could be picked but his daughter was able to obtain the perfectly ripened mangoes instead. No one went hungry. The tea and coffee, soft drinks and chilled water ensured that no one remained thirsty.

Those attending included Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Lesley, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Sue, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Ian Lindquist VK2GL, David Pilley VK2AYD, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Ray Mullins VK2JU, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Diana, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, Paula Colledge VK2PDC, Bob Small VK2BIG and Lynne, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Jim Neil VK2VIV, Trevor Hulme VK2TOV, David Brewster ZL3DS, Tracy Dignum ex VK2GTM, John Winter VK2PJW and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.

Quite a few apologies were received from members who were unable to attend. Hopefully, most of those who had to tender apologies for the 2021 party will be able to join those attending the 2022 Christmas party.

The venue has already been booked again for the 2022 Christmas Party on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2022. Mark your calendars now! The Christmas Party is indeed the social family highlight of the year and should not be missed. The covered timber deck picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery is a perfect party venue.



## Tracy Dignum ex VK2GTM



The club was very pleased to welcome past ORARC President Tracy Dignum ex VK2GTM to the 2021 Christmas Party. Tracy was elected President at the ORARC AGM in January 1992. Charles Edmondson (SK) then VK2FSH (later VK2KCE) was the outgoing President. In those days AGMs were held in January. Tracy was re-elected at the 1993 AGM. After two years as President he passed the baton on to David Smith VK2DAL (SK) who was elected as President at the AGM on the 29th of January 1994. Tracy's last annual report as outgoing President appears in the February 1994 issue of Oxtales which is available in the ORARC website Oxtales archives. Yes, David Smith VK2DAL (SK) is the father of Lyle Smith VK2SMI who is also a past ORARC President.

One of the highlights of the Presidency of Tracy VK2GTM was the formal Incorporation of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. on the 8th of July 1992. Tracy was the club's first Public Officer. Also, during Tracy's Presidency the VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre repeater put together by Andrew Whalen VK2WAC was first tested at the QTH of Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV (SK) at Transit Hill. During Tracy's Presidency the club made a concerted effort to establish a clubhouse. The club had a building fund for

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this purpose. Sadly, the various negotiations at the time, and by subsequent Committees were unsuccessful.

During Tracy's terms as President, the June 1992 Field Day was held at the Tacking Point Surf Club hall. The June 1993 Field Day was held at the Wauchope Showground hall. One of the highlights at the 1993 Field Day was Tracy acting as auctioneer selling off surplus television and electronic equipment on behalf of the club. At the time, the Middle Brother Mountain TV station transmission equipment had been upgraded and the club received a substantial donation of surplus equipment. There is video footage of this and other 1993 Field Day activities in the ORARC video archive which is on the ORARC Hamstuff DVDs and USB Flash Drives that Arthur VK2ATM produced in subsequent years. Notable amongst the surplus TV equipment was a number of Channel 1 TV transmitter cavity filters. Tracy donated the filters which the club members modified to form the duplexer for the VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre repeater at Telegraph Point.

For many years Tracy had the Aussie Weld franchise store in Jindalee Road, Port Macquarie, next door to Tyre Power. When Tracy had Aussie Weld he did a lot of heavy industrial electrical work including rewinding large electric motors. After he sold the business it subsequently became CDA Eastland Trade Supplies. CDA Eastland Trade Supplies recently relocated to 160 Lake Road. After selling the Aussie Weld store Tracy built specialised mining equipment and spent time in the mines doing electrical work. He lives in Port Macquarie. Amongst his many interests is motorcycle racing. Tracy let VK2GTM lapse in recent years.

### **Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM Repeater Site**

The Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM repeaters have been working well with the

exception of the 438.525 MHz UHF voice repeater which is currently transmitting on low power. A working bee to swap out the faulty repeater will soon take place. The spare repeater which has a similar fault has been repaired by Lyle VK2SMI and is has been tested in readiness for the swap out.

### **Telegraph Point VK2RCN Repeater Site**

There has been a lot of work by the sub-committee appointed develop a new site for the VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point. The Development Application has been approved. The lease for the site is in place. The \$23,361.00 grant which will partially fund the construction of the equipment shelter and the footings for the mast has been received. The engineering design has been completed for the erection of the mast and its associated guys and footings. Work is in progress to obtain a Construction Certificate so that site works can commence early in the New Year. The equipment shelter and the footings and guy anchor blocks for the mast are scheduled for completion in April 2022.

A further Community Building Partnership grant application for \$10,300.00 was submitted this year to partially fund the connection of mains power to the site. The application was successful and the club was awarded partial funding of \$6,800.00. Larry VK2CLL and Henry VK2ZHE representing the club were presented with a certificate by Local Member of NSW Parliament Leslie Williams at a ceremony at the Tacking Point Surf Club on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2021 (Photograph below).



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The decreasing cost of solar panels has prompted the Committee to again investigate off-grid solar power for the new site in lieu of the planned mains power connection. If the off-grid solution is feasible despite the shading of winter sun at the site an application will be made to rescope the mains power CBP grant to purchase solar panels and associated batteries and charge controllers instead of mains power cabling.

The VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre FM repeater at the existing site is still out of service. Thank you to Ian VK2GL who has built and tested a dual frequency synthesizer to replace the repeater receive and transmit crystals which has made the repeater unreliable. When further testing has been completed the repeater will be restored to service.

When the new VK2RCN repeater site is completed, in addition to the existing repeaters, the VK2RCN facilities will include a UHF multimode digital voice repeater supporting DMR, DStar, P25, C4FM and NXDN.

### **ARNSW DMR Expansion Project - Radnet**

The Amateur Radio NSW sponsored VK2RCN DMR Radnet UHF repeater at Telegraph Point has proven to be very popular.

The coverage of VK2RCN 438.425 MHz Radnet DMR repeater compliments the coverage of the Great Lakes 439.775 MHz VK2RGL Radnet DMR repeater at Mt Cabbage Tree. This repeater was provided to the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club under the ARNSW DMR Expansion Project.

The VK2ROJ Nelson Bay 438.825 MHz Radnet DMR repeater covers the Port Stephens area. It has a -7MHz offset for its

input (431.825 MHz). VK2ROJ also has an analogue FM UHF repeater on 439.7 MHz It has a standard -5MHz offset for its input (434.7 MHz).

The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club VK2RAG 438.850 MHz DMR Radnet Repeater is also part of the ARNSW DMR Expansion Project. Note that VK2RAG DMR repeater has a - 7 MHz offset for its input.

DMR voice communications is becoming increasingly popular. Many ORARC members already have DMR capability with others expressing interest. So far members in at least Forster, Tuncurry, Failford, Rainbow Flat, Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Pappinbarra are on the air. Many of those members also have equipment for other digital voice protocols as well including C4FM, DStar and P25.

For the ultimate in flexibility in communicating via digital and analogue repeaters via the internet at home and on the move, refer to the very informative Network Radio article by Paul Colledge VK2ICQ in the November 2021 issue of Oxtales.

### **Repeater Linking, Multi Protocol Repeaters and VK2WI Broadcast Relay**

Work on this project has temporarily slowed due the personal circumstances of the club members responsible for this project. Work will be carried when time and opportunity are available.

The Mount Yarrahapini VK2RMY 146.875 MHz 2 metre repeater has been linked to the North West Repeater network. The VK2RMY repeaters are easily accessible from Port Macquarie, Wauchope and the Camden Haven so repeater users are encouraged to make use of the 146.875 MHz repeater to communicate with stations in the North West Repeater Network.

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## VK2WI Sunday Morning and Evening Broadcasts

The ARNSW Sunday morning and evening broadcasts can usually be received at good strength from Dural in Sydney on the VK2WI HF frequencies of 1845 kHz AM, 3595 kHz LSB, 7146 kHz AM, 10.125M MHz USB and 14.170 MHz USB, and on the VKE580 morning transmission on 5425 kHz USB. The morning broadcasts commence at 10am Daylight Saving time and the evening broadcasts commence at 7:30 pm Daylight Saving Time. Callbacks are done in the SSB mode on all the VK2WI frequencies at the conclusion of the broadcasts.

The Sunday morning broadcasts are live streamed on the internet on the ARNSW web site at <https://arnsw.org.au/audio> If you miss the live streaming, mp4 audio files of past broadcasts are available on the same page.

## Education and Amateur Licence Assessments

The club's long serving Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL together with Steve Wynn VK2ZSW and Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE all have their AMC assessor accreditations.

A Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend is planned for early in the new year now that the COVID-19 safety restrictions have eased. Larry Lindsay VK2CLL will contact those candidates who have already expressed interest. As well, at least a couple of club members are planning to upgrade their licences.

If you know anyone who would like to obtain their Foundation Licence or would like to upgrade their existing licence, please contact Larry Lindsay VK2CLL.

Anyone who is ready for assessment may

also consider the option of Remote Assessment. If you are interested in this option, contact Larry Lindsay VK2CLL or Steve Wynn VK2ZSW.

## ORARC 2022 Calendar



The club's 2022 calendar is as popular as ever with photos of almost all of our current members. The calendar was launched at the Christmas Party on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

Thank you to John Winter VK2PJW and Murray VK2LAT who took copies to distribute to the ORARC members in the Great Lakes who weren't able to attend the party, and to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who took calendars to distribute to the Wauchope members who were unable to attend the party. Thank you to Grahame O'Brien VK2FA who is distributing calendars to the ORARC members in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. Arrangements will be to distribute calendars to the ORARC members in Sydney and to other Distant Members.

Copies of the 2022 calendar are available and may be purchased at the Monthly General Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, and at subsequent club activities. The price, a mere \$2 each.

The club meeting dates and the ORARC Field Day dates are all marked on the 2022 Calendar. The calendar also contains the details of the frequencies for the club's repeaters.

Thank you to John Hansen VK2AYQ for creating this year's calendar, and to Larry VK2CLL for picking up the printed copies.

As always, ORARC is indebted to Jaycar Port Macquarie for their sponsorship towards the cost of the printing of the calendar. Thank you Jaycar.

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## 2022 Callbooks

Sadly, there is no 2022 callbook this year. After 105 years of annual WIA Callbooks, the 2019 WIA Callbook is likely to be the last to be published. The Wireless Institute of Australia was founded in 1910 and is the oldest national Amateur Radio Society in the World. The first Callbook was published in 1914 with the title of “Wireless in Australia”. It was preceded by a single page list of WIA Members and Commercial Stations published by the Wireless Institute of Australia of NSW. The Wireless Institute of Victoria published a listing of experimental, commercial and Navy stations in 1913. The First World War began shortly after and on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1914, all Australian Experimental stations were closed down.

Fortunately, many past Callbooks are archived on the internet and elsewhere so it is possible to do research even if you don't have access to the printed copies of the Callbooks. However, if publication of Callbooks after 2019 is not resumed, that will be the last year of Callsign reference material for future historians to research.

Yes, the ACMA website Register of Radiocommunication Licences [https://web.acma.gov.au/rrl/register\\_search.main\\_page](https://web.acma.gov.au/rrl/register_search.main_page) enables lookup of current Australian Callsigns but as soon as callsigns lapse the details are no longer available so past history is lost. For example, it is not possible to see who held your callsign before it was issued to you. The importance of current Callsign information in the international Amateur Radio community can be gauged by the popularity of on-line databases such as QRZ.com.

## Milestones

Just a reminder that members who turn 85 years are rewarded with Life Membership. Eligible members must be nominated by the end of June so that they can be included in

the agenda for the ORARC Annual General Meeting. Please let the Committee know of any members who will become eligible in 2022. There are at least a couple of members who will become eligible in 2022.

Amongst our esteemed Life Members, we offer special greetings to Trevor Thatcher VK2TT who is in his 95<sup>th</sup> year, and to David Harding VK2AIF who turns 93 this year. Trevor and David are long time friends who live on the outskirts of Wauchope. They have been contacting each other every morning as a welfare check on each other. The simple daily radio sked has proven to be a life saver on a number of occasions when following up on the reason for missing a sked has turned out to be a call for help.

Welcome to new member Trevor Hulme VK2TOV of Bonny Hills. Trevor has very recently moved to Bonny Hills from Woy Woy. He made his membership enquiry via the contact form on the ORARC website. His timing was excellent as he was able to bring his membership application along to the Christmas Party where he was made very welcome and met the locals. Trevor is still unpacking after the move and is looking forward to re-establishing his station and participating in club activities.

Best wishes to all members and their families for a happy and healthy 2022. After a couple of very trying years, I sincerely hope that 2022 will see a great improvement. While COVID is still with us, the success of the concerted vaccination programmes and the ongoing precautions have gone a long way to restoring a significant degree of normality to daily life. The long awaited re-opening of the state borders has been very welcome. The emergence of the Delta variant, and most recently the particularly contagious Omicron variant, reinforce the need for continuing COVID vigilance.



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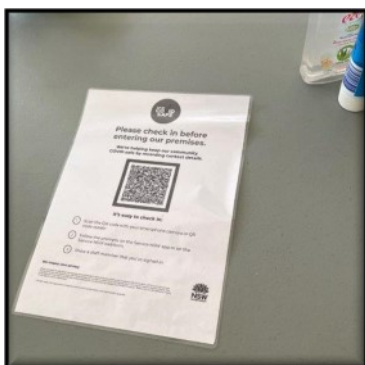
Continued from previous page

The new Solar Cycle is showing great promise and our wish for better HF communications is looking like becoming a reality. Spending more time on the air should be among everyone's New Year resolutions! Don't forget to check the higher HF bands. 10 metres is opening almost daily. There are lots of 6 metre contacts to be made during the many sporadic E openings at this time of the year. Also, keep a watch for tropospheric ducting during the warm weather. VK7 two metre stations have been recently heard in Port Macquarie and openings to New Zealand on 2 metres and 70 centimetres can be expected.

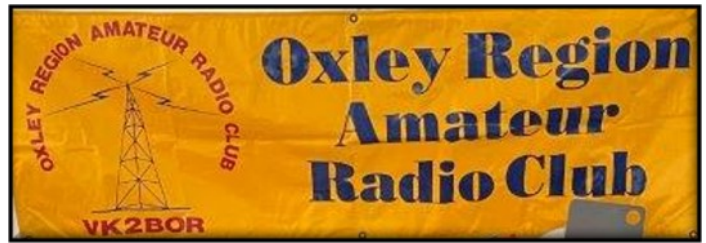
It is not often that we report on births in Oxtales, but in this issue we congratulate Michael VK2FMDW and Sereena Ward on the birth of their second son, Ethan, and also Toby VK2XTX and Rachel Messina on the birth of their daughter Charlotte. It is significant that Michael and Sereena as well as Toby are all active Port Macquarie Unit SES Members. While two births to ORARC members in a short space of time is quite a milestone, the Port Macquarie SES Unit is celebrating the birth of three babies as Unit Member Scott Witchard also started his family at almost the same time. There had been much interest in the impending births!

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2022.  
Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President

Additional Photographs from the Christmas Party.



COVID Sign in and hand sanitizer before entry.



Ian VK2GL, Dennis VK2DAM, Ray VK2JU background Bob VK2CRF, Paul VK2ICQ and Trevor VK2OV awaiting the BBQ.



A table of party food. Rob VK2CRF, Bob VK2BIG with Lynn and Paul VK2ICQ.



What a bowl of trifle and pavlova looks like after lunch!

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## **Fellowship of ORARC members is the spirit of the Christmas Party.**



*Diana with Bob VK2ZRE enjoy the dips and the day.*



*Ray VK2JU, David VK2AYD, Dennis VK2DAM*



*Above David ZL3DS Friendly staff of the Longpoint Venue Jen and Kirsty right sculptures at the venue, and*



*Below ORARC Club President Henry*



*Jim VK2VIV and ex-president Tracey VK2GTM catch up on old times.*





## New release of VK 2022 Contest Calendar

VK4SN's 2022 VK and POPULAR CONTESTS.											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Date : 29 / 12 / 2021

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

WIA Contest Committee Chairman - Alan Shannon VK4SN has released a new up to date 2022 Contest Calendar Focusing mainly on the popular VK and International Contests.

Remember the Ross Hull VHF/UHF Contest, which is an international contest, runs for the whole month of January, from 1st to 31st of January 2022.

Jan 15/16 2022 is also the VHF/UHF Field Day.

With the recent Sunspot activity and the SFI up to 140, the high HF bands have been performing, along with 6m and 2m International DX being worked on all modes.

### HAMADS - WIA Online Classifieds

Date : 27 / 11 / 2021

Author : David Ford VK4MZ

### HAMADS

Offers made in advertisements below are made "subject to sales." This column is open to W.I.A. members at a charge of 2d. (two pence) per line.

To non-members of W.I.A. or affiliated bodies the charge is 4d. (four pence) per line or part thereof.

The Editor reserves the right of refusal of any advertisement.

WANTED—Burnt out "Ferranti" Audio Transformers.

FOR SALE—One (1) only push-pull, input-output "Ferranti" Transformer for coupling two push-pull stages.—VK3XR, c/o W.I.A., or Phone: U-2662.

WANTED—One National drum dial, with escutcheon. Cheap. VK3OC, c/o W.I.A.

FOR SALE—U8 Full wave rectifiers, 500 volt rating. Will definitely replace UX281's, 4/6 each.—VK3LQ, c/o W.I.A.

If you want a lapel call sign, as described in this issue, write, see, or call VK3PS. Price 6d. finished. Postage 2d.

FOR SALE—Transformers 230v., 325 watt, 1260v. C.T., new 35/-; 10v 8a 8/6; 1250v. 150ma. Kenotron. 15/-; Transmitters. 28 MC. T.N.T with 171a, 10/-; 7MC Hartley with E408, 17/6; o-25MA meter, valves, condensers etc. Any offers?—VK3JJ. M-1984.

20

1st October, 1933.

### HAMADS DOT COM DOT AU

Since the first issue of Amateur Radio (AR) magazine, released by the WIA on 1st October 1933, Hamads has had a prominent presence as a premium buy/sell platform. Now 88 years later, Hamads is now online to complement the current AR magazine content.

After a number of enquiries and requests from Members, the WIA has created a Members classified website; **Hamads**.

If you are a WIA member or registered on memnet you can join, but wait there's more, even WIA non-members can access the site as well, viewing adverts and contacting vendors.

Clear out the shack with the Classifieds and Auction sales.

Right now Hamads is ready to accept your advertisements.

However this is currently the BETA release and we didn't want to hold back the release to our members.

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The Hamads team will be fine tuning the site to improve the user experience, so please report any anomalies found as we value your feedback to: hamadsonline@wia.org.au

## **The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW**

Date : 17 / 11 / 2021

Author : Riki - K7Nj

The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW.

CWops is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations for this prestigious award for the year 2022.

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.

Criteria - Candidates for the award may be one or more of the following:

- Authors of publications related to CW
- CW recruiters, trainers, mentors, coaches and instructors
- Public advocates of CW
- Organizers of CW activities
- Designers and inventors who advance the art or practice of CW
- Other contributors to the art or practice of CW

Note: The award is not limited to amateur radio operators or their organizations.

## **Nomination**

Nominations may be made by anybody (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to awards@cwops.org with a copy to secretary@cwops.org. An email confirmation will be sent acknowledging receipt of each nomination. In order to be considered, a nomination should be received by March 18, 2022 and include:

- A detailed explanation supporting nominee qualifications according to the above criteria.
- Name(s) and call sign(s) (if applicable) of nominee(s), and contact information including postal address(es), email address(es), and telephone number(s).
- Name, telephone number, email address and call sign (if applicable) of the person submitting the nomination.

## **Presentation of Award**

A plaque will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention. If the recipients are not present, it will be sent to them.







### **Hurricane Watch Net Recorded 300 On-Air Hours in 2021 29/12/2021**



Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says 2021 was the third most-active hurricane season on record in terms of named storms, and was the sixth consecutive above-normal season. “We’ve completed another hurricane season.

The Atlantic basin was extremely busy again for 2021,” Graves told HWN members. “For the year, we had 21 named storms, seven of which became hurricanes, and four of those became major hurricanes — Category 3 or stronger.” Graves noted that 2021 marked the first year on record that two consecutive hurricane seasons exhausted the list of 21 storm names.

Tropical systems that made landfall caused a total damage of \$70 billion, as of the end of November, making 2021 the fourth most costly hurricane season on record, behind 2012, 2005, and 2017.

“Hurricane Ida was a deadly and destructive hurricane that made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane — the most intense and destructive hurricane to affect the state since Hurricane Katrina,” Graves continued. He noted that Ida also caused catastrophic flooding across the US northeast.

In 2021, the HWN activated for five hurricanes — Elsa, Grace, Henri, Ida, and Larry. Graves said the HWN racked up nearly 300 hours on the air, with 140 of those spent on Hurricane Ida alone.

The HWN membership is strategically disbursed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Sea, Central America, and the northern coast of South America. Its primary mission is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic Seaboard of the US, and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. It also gathers observed or measured weather data via amateur radio from operators in storm-affected areas — as well as any post-storm damage — and conveys that information to NHC forecasters via WX4NHC.

The HWN typically activates on 14.325 MHz by day and 7.268 MHz after nightfall, whenever a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass or at the request of the NHC or the Canadian Hurricane Centre.

### **Experimental Station will Recreate 1906 Fessenden Transmissions 24/12/2021**



Experimental station WI2XLQ will be on the air on 486 kHz AM for the Reginald Fessenden commemorative transmission. Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, is the licensee. He will transmit for 24 hours starting at 2000 UTC on December 24, with a repeat transmission starting at 2000 UTC on December 31. Justin will use a homebrew

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1921-era MOPA exciter with Heising modulation, followed by a modern 500-W linear. The transmission will be the same as in past years — two violin pieces that Fessenden claims to have played as one of the very first voice transmissions from his Brant Rock, Massachusetts, radio lab site. “While doubt remains that such a transmission ever took place, Fessenden did perform some crude voice transmissions over a few miles distance in early December near Washington, DC, as a demonstration for the US Navy,” Justin said. “So, perhaps some credit is due Fessenden for his efforts to transmit the human voice in an era of spark transmissions.”

## **Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2290 for Friday September 17, 2021**

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

### **ROSENWORCEL BECOMES FCC'S FIRST WOMAN LEADER**

PAUL/ANCHOR: Our top story is a historic move by US lawmakers, who have confirmed the first woman to lead the Federal Communications Commission.

Jim Damron N8TMW brings us the details.

JIM: The United States Federal Communications Commission gained its first woman at the helm on Tuesday, December 7th, as lawmakers overwhelmingly confirmed her nomination. Jessica Rosenworcel begins her five-year term, following a vote of 68-31 in the United States Senate. She had been serving as the panel's acting chair since January.



The new FCC chief immediately went on Twitter, saying it was [quote] the honor of my lifetime to lead the FCC and serve as the first permanent female Chair. Thank you to the President and Senate for entrusting me with this responsibility." [endquote] The law-

makers confirmed her just

weeks before her temporary term was about to expire.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jim Damron N8TMW.

### **HAMS TURN OUT FOR 22ND SKY- WARN RECOGNITION DAY**



PAUL/ANCHOR: The 22nd annual SKYWARN Recognition Day was a busy one. Randy Sly W4XJ brings us up to date.

RANDY: The phrase “how’s the weather?” took on a different meaning recently during the 22nd annual SKYWARN Recognition Day. On Saturday, December 4th, amateur stations exchanged QSO information, including weather reports, with as many of the National Weather Service Stations active as possible. More than 970 registered SKYWARN amateur stations and 1,600 total registrants participated. Supporters who weren't hams did their part by posting on various social media platforms.

SRD coordinator, Michael Lewis of the National Weather Service, told Amateur Radio Newsline [quote] "Even with restrictions preventing amateur radio operators from attending all the NWS offices, the amateur radio community came to the rescue; putting 32 offices on the air throughout the event." [endquote]

SKYWARN Recognition Day began in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the ARRL to recognize all SKYWARN™ spotters serving the United States. Spotters provide critical weather information before, during and after adverse weather strikes, including reports of rain and snow, ice and wind, storms, and tornadoes, flooding and fire. For more information on the SKYWARN program, visit [weather.gov/skywarn](http://weather.gov/skywarn).

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## **JAPAN'S SPACE AGENCY SEEKING ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES**

**PAUL/ANCHOR:** Japan's space program is looking for a few good astronauts, as we hear from Jim Meachen ZL2BHF.

**JIM:** The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency will begin receiving applications later this month for astronaut candidates to be part of the NASA-helmed lunar exploration programme called Artemis.

JAXA plans to assign astronauts to long-term work either aboard the International Space Station, the Japanese experiment module attached to it or to NASA's lunar orbit outpost known as Gateway. The application window opens on December 20th and will close on March 4th of 2022. JAXA does not expect to release the names of successful candidates before February of 2023. Part of the recruitment effort will focus on attracting female candidates since Japan presently has no female astronauts active in the nation's space programme.

## **WEBINAR CELEBRATES INDIA'S WIRELESS PIONEER BOSE**

**PAUL/ANCHOR:** Hams in India gathered recently to celebrate one of radio's pioneers and to share his story. John Williams VK4JJW brings us that report.



**JOHN:** Celebrated for his studies into transmitting and receiving on radio's shortwave frequencies and for his spirit of experimentation the pioneering Indian scientist

Jagadish Chandra Bose was the focus of a webinar held

by the West Bengal Radio Club. The one-hour webinar took place on November 30th but is now available for viewing on the club's YouTube channel. The programme opens with a presentation by biophysicist Gautam Basu who told attendees [quote] "He took a road that no one took before and that is why we should remember him." [endquote] The scientist, who died in 1937, was born in what is now Bangladesh. He is credited with developments that eventually led to Guglielmo Marconi's creation of the wireless receiver.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm John Williams VK4JJW.

## **QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO SEEKS PRESENTERS**

**PAUL/ANCHOR:** If you have a skill to share, an insight to explain or some other contribution you'd like to make to the world's amateur radio community, you may want to offer a presentation at the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo, which is taking place on the weekend of March 12th and 13th, 2022. Stephen Kinford N8WB has details.

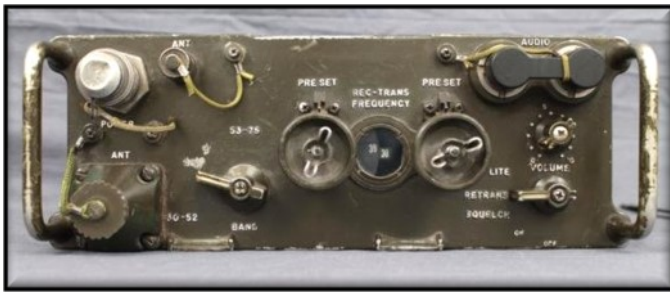
**STEPHEN:** With the new year just around the corner, planning is already well under way for the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. Hams and other presenters are being asked to consider sharing on various aspects of the hobby in which they have expertise. According to the QSO Today website, the ongoing search is an international one, with hams being asked to present from around the world to the thousands who attend the virtual two-day conference. Presentations are generally recorded for playback during the event, followed by a live question-and-answer period.

The QSO Today website has an online application for prospective speakers. If you wish to apply, follow the link below. For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Stephen Kinford N8WB.

<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/speakercall.html>

## Equipment from the Past

### PRC-25 and PRC -77 Radio Set



The AN/PRC-25 WAS a compact, light-weight, tactical VHF, solid state man pack radio set. Prototypes of this set were initially tested in 1959. After some modifications, initial distribution began in 1962. It is reported that more than 130,000 sets were produced.

The ANPRC-25 was the main 'Aussie' communication hardware in the field. Each platoon had a dedicated radio operator (Signaller). When the Battalion, during its first tour, arrived in Vietnam with not enough radio sets, it required some members to beg, borrow, or steal from American units.

Frequency coverage was 30 to 75.95 MHz in 2 bands. Modulation was FM and power initially 1 to 1.5 watts rising to up to 4 Watts in the updated PRC-77 version of the set. The operational range was 8 km. Power requirements were for 12.5 Volts and 3 Volts for the valve filament. The later version of the set was fully solid state. It is interesting to note that there is no outward physical difference between the updated 77 version and the PRC-25 except for an equipment tag. This was to ensure that operator retraining was at a minimum.

The first AN/PRC-25's in Southeast Asia (mid-1965) were intended for advisers. These radios soon became the mainstay of tactical communications in Southeast Asia. In three and a half years, 33,000 PRC-25 radios were delivered to Southeast Asia. The PRC-25 was, according to General Creighton Abrams, "the single most important tactical item in Vietnam."

The PRC-25 was about the size and weight of a case of softdrink and with battery weighed about 23.5 pounds (around 10.8 Kg) There was a handle on each side at the top to carry it. The radio consisted of two parts, both in metal boxes, called "cans." The upper can held the radio itself, the lower can held its battery pack. Metal buckles held the two together.

The radio was tough and would easily survive a 50 foot fall from a helicopter onto a metal-planked runway. You could throw the whole thing in the water for an hour, completely submerged, then pull it out and expect it to work. It could be battery powered for use as a backpack radio, or it could be plugged into an external power source for use in a vehicle or a helicopter.

Set up for use in a vehicle or aircraft, the PRC-25 looked like this.



The extra box included a speaker and a conversion to the vehicle/aircraft's electrical system.

The two "pre-sets" were done at the base camp. Usually they would be tuned to a selected main frequency and an alternative. The FUNCTION switch, in order, turned ON the radio, then SQUELCH suppressed static.

RETRANS was a mode that allowed it to act as a relay for another radio. LITE turned on the little light in the REC-TRANS FREQUENCY channel dial, for night work. The VOLUME control controlled the receive volume. The PRC-25 worked like a car radio, you could dial in any frequency at any time, preset any two, then use the

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switches to select either of them, usually called a "push." And maybe then dial in and use a third. The radio was issued with its own packframe.

The PRC-25 design had many firsts, all intended to make it much easier to carry and use than previous models such as the AN/PRC-10. It was the first solid state FM backpack radio but also incorporated new ideas for radio circuits (such as "150 Hz squelch feature") that made it easier for the average soldier to use by reducing controls to a minimum. Radio Set AN/PRC-25 had 920 channels spaced 50 kHz apart, operating in the 30-75.95 MHz spectrum. The whip antenna was like a metal table that could be extended to different lengths across the band.

The AN/PRC-77 was the upgraded version of the AN/PRC-25. Specifications and accessories for the two radios are nearly identical. The only important differences in design were internal; they are virtually impossible to tell apart externally. The AN/PRC-77 includes a solid state power amplifier that does away with the PRC-25 2DF4 power amplifier tube in the final transmitter section. Its completely solid state design made it more reliable and reduced its power requirements. Filters were added to reduce interference. The PRC-77 also includes the capability to work with X-mode speech encryption to respond to the need for greater communications security. The PRC-77 radios could be used for secure voice communications with the addition of NSA designed COMSEC boxes (KY-38 and later KY-57).



The radio's weak point was the communications handset. The handset was like a telephone handset, with a "push to talk" bar. A hook on the back allowed you to hang the handset off your web gear, etc. The handset could simply not get wet. In a

wet, humid, country like Vietnam, this was a serious problem. The usual way to deal with this was to put the handset inside the clear plastic bag (usually the one from the radio battery's packaging), tie it in place with a rubber band, and use it like that. Fording streams, the handset had to be held clear of the water. For all that, the microphone was fairly sensitive and could even be whispered into.

The radio antenna was exactly like a metal tape measure, but the bottom foot or so was a round flexible tube that screwed into the radio. There were actually two antennas, a regular one and a long-range antenna, carried in a canvas bag strapped to the side of the radio. The radio had a transmission range, with the short antenna, of about 3-4 miles, but various terrain factors could influence this, of course. It helped to be higher up. The long range antenna was supposed to be good for up to 18 miles.

By the early 1970's, production of the PRC-25 had ceased. Over 130,000 radios had been built in the U.S. alone. Production had continued even after the advent and large-scale deployment of the PRC-77. The PRC-25 had become legend, in the words of General Westmoreland himself, "the PRC-25 was the single most valuable contribution to the war effort". Not the M-16 rifle nor any other item of ordinance, but a lowly radio!

Many of these sets were sold off in disposals and became quite a collectors item.



Editors note: [PRC-25, Forgotten Legend](#) by Dennis Starks has a very comprehensive history of the PRC-25 and its sister PRC-77 radio sets.

Acknowledgements; Tour of Duty Website, Olive Drab website. Brian Harren PRC-77 10 December 2017.

## 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. Members are also encouraged to send in items relating to club members or club activities in previous years.

Tracey Dignum ex VK2GTM who attended the recent Club's Christmas Party was president in May 1992 and was instrumental in steering the club towards becoming an incorporated association as the following extract outlines below:



### ***' INCORPORATION FOR O.R.A.R.C.***

*The membership's decision to become an incorporated association has been put into effect.*

*The initial application for "Reservation of Name" has been lodged with the Business and Consumers Affairs. Following the receipt of an "all clear" response from the B & C A, our formal application will be lodged. It is hope that within the near future, we will be sporting those three letters "Inc." after our name, and enjoying the security which incorporation offers.'*

This led to the club being and incorporation association in November 1992.

### ***'INCORPORATION OF THE O.R.A.R.C.***

*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.*

*A new letter head, and a new rubber stamp became necessary to legally reflect the new status of our organisation. This resulted in nothing more than the letters "Inc" being inserted in the appropriate place on our old letter-head and old stamp. It was deemed fitting (and very simple) to preserve as near as possible the original appearance of these club "artifacts".*

*Perhaps the most notable acquisition, which came about as a result of the legalities required of incorporation, was the procurement of our own Common Seal, which is now waiting to be affixed, as required, to our legal documents.*

*For those members who may not be aware of the identity of our first Public Officer, be advised that it is none other than our current President, Tracy, (VK 2GTM).*

*The advantages of incorporation are well known to most, but as a refresher to the memories, the official words which appear in the helpful documents of the Business and Consumer affairs Agency are included below. They read:-*

*"The main benefit of incorporation is that it protects individuals within an association. Committee members of unincorporated bodies face the possibility of being sued as individuals. Creation of a separate legal entity through incorporation usually prevents this*

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*happening provided the committee operates in accordance with acceptable business and community standards."*

*Other major advantages are •*

- *The incorporated association can sue or be sued;*
- *The incorporated association continues regardless of changes to membership, etc., unless it is wound up - or its registration is cancelled;*
- *The incorporated association can accept gifts and Bequests;*
- *The incorporated association has the power to hold, acquire and deal with property;*

*The incorporated association can enter into and enforce contracts."*

*It is clear from the above that there are very good reasons for us to continue in the traditions already established under our earlier name... i.e. maintaining acceptable business and community standards.'*

In May 1992 the executive of the Club comprised of

PRESIDENT Tracy Dignum (VK2GTM)  
VICE PRES Charles Edmondson(VK2FSH)  
TREASURER Kevin Coulter (VK2MAM)  
SECRETARY Trevor Thatcher (VK2TT)

#### Committee

Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV) , Arthur Monck (VK2ATM) Bill Stofmeel (VK2WST), Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU) Larry Lindsay (VK2CLL)

#### Delegates

WIA Henry Lundell (VK2ZHE)  
WICEN - Currently Vacant

Assistant Secretary  
Lewis Smith (VK2LS)

Assistant Treasurer  
Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

Club Librarian  
Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)

The club had 45 members in May 1992 and had grown to 58 members by November. In the membership register no mobile telephone numbers were listed!

Club nets were conducted on Wednesday, 8.00pm, on 3.5795MHz and a visitors net on Sundays 8.00am, 146.700MHz (RPTR).

The club had also moved its regular meeting place to the S.E.S building in Gordon Street by November 1992. Meetings continued to be held at this site until the current SES building was established and a new agreement made with SES to provide us with the amenities we enjoy today.

Editors Note: All Call signs above were as current in 1992. Unfortunately many are now (SK) today.

Looking at the club executive and membership lists of 1992 it is interesting to see so many members who are still active and involved with the club today. Current club membership is 90 with many mobile telephones being listed.

In this new year of 2022 and ORARC'S fiftieth Anniversary Year is probably appropriate to reflect on how much the club has grown and embraced new technology and be appreciative of the work put in by past members to help build the club to its present position.



## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

## Membership List as at 1 January 2022

No.	Cat	Surname	Given Name	Spouse	Call	Location	Phone	Cat Key
1	D	ALLAM	DEREK	(CLARE)	VK2BTX	CUNDLETOWN	0403 796 102	Cat Key
2	D	ALLAM	ROBERT		VK2CDX	CUNDLETOWN		
3	O	BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2192	A= Associate
4	O	BAILEY	ROD		VK2AJ	PORT MACQUARIE	0428 670 001	D= Distance
5	D	BAYLISS	KEITH	(DEBBIE)	VK2PTL	COOPERNOOK	0478 606 464	F= Family
6	D	BLACKMORE	MARK		VK2XOF	BAULKHAM HILLS	02 9639 0663	L= Life
7	L	BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	-	O= Ordinary
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	D	ECCLESTONE	BOB	(DIANA)	VK2ZRE	KEMPSEY	0419 414 412	
18	D	EKERT	BRUCE	(YULIA)	VK2EM	TUNCURRY	0414 532 496	
19	O	EKMAN	JOHN	(MELLISSA)	VK2VEX	WAUCHOPE	0417 448 998	
20	O/F	FLETCHER	CAROLINE	(PETER)	VK2CFZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191	
21	O/F	FLETCHER	PETER	(CAROLINE)	VK2HPF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191	
22	D	FOX	JOHN		VK2AEG	WAHROONGA	02 8711 0100	
23	O	FRAPPPELL	GRAEME	(BAMBI)	VK2GCF	PORT MACQUARIE	0490 088 048	
24	O	FROGGATT	DARREN	(KRISTY)	VK2MIA	PORT MACQUARIE	0488 01 8102	
25	O	FROST	ROBERT	(SUSAN)	VK2CRF	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587 6129	
26	D	GARLAND	JOHN		VK2CJG	JEWELLS	02 4948 1950	
27	O	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2LBG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8814	
28	D	GREENE	DENNIS		KN4VKT	FLORIDA USA	+1321295 1184	
29	O	HALL	RICHARD		VK2BXO	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 6588	
30	O	HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	0427 407 973	
31	L	HARDING	DAVID		VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 1947	
32	D	HARPER	JOHN	(VIVIANE)	VK2LJ	VICTORIA	0417 254 763	
33	D	HIRSCHEL	ALLAN		VK2OK	DOUBLE BAY	0415 259 777	
34	O	HULME	TREVOR	(JACQUI)	VK2TOV	BONNY HILLS	0402964278	
35	D	HUTCHESON	COLIN	(PAULINE)	VK5DK	MT. GAMBIER	08 8725 5527	
36	D	JANES	LES	(BEVERLY)	VK5JL	SALISBURY HEIGHTS	08 8281 3878	
37	D	JOHNSON	STEVE		VK2SJJ	BELLINGEN	0466 334 626	
38	O	JONES	PAUL	(SANDRA)	VK2DEL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 3772	
39	D	KEIR	ANDREW	(BARBARA)	VK2AAK	DARAWANK	02 6554 3498	
40	O	KUCERA	PETER		VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	0429 229 290	
41	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	(PENNY)	VK2CLL	HUNTINGDON	02 6587 1155	
42	O	LINDQUIST	IAN	(BERNADETTE)	VK2GL	PORT MACQUARIE	0414 419 462	
43	L	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0534	
44	D	MACNAUGHTON	JENNY		VK2BA	MUDGE	02 6372 4053	
45	O	MARE	HANS		VK2MRK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 7080	
46	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2CSM	SANCROX	02 6585 3452	
47	D	McADAM	PETER		VK2EVV	COFFS HARBOUR	02 6652 7160	
48	O	McGUIRE	MARK		VK2FMGM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8875	
49	O	McLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 6220	
50	O	MEADE	DENNIS	(SUE)	VK2DAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2998	
51	D	MEEHAN	TERRY		ex-VK2KL	KEMPSEY	-	
52	O	MELVILLE	STUART		VK2KSM	PORT MACQUARIE	0419 043 316	
53	O	MESSINA	TOBY		VK2XTX	PORT MACQUARIE	0417 293 377	
54	L	MONCK	ARTHUR		VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	0459 679 425	
55	O	MULLINS	RAY	(LYNNE)	VK2JU	PORT MACQUARIE	0432 559 400	
56	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 5387	
57	O	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	0487 812 481	
58	D	NIVEN	TREVOR	(BETH)	VK5NC	MT. GAMBIER	08 8723 2432	
59	D/F	O'BRIEN	GRAHAME	(JUDY)	VK2FA	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688	
60	D/F	O'BRIEN	JUDY	(GRAHAME)	VK2HZV	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688	
61	D	OLSEN	KIMBERLY		VK2KMI	GUNNEDAH	04 5515 5798	
62	D	OSBORNE	RICHARD		VK2OKR	LEMONTREE PASSAGE	0429 824 951	
63	D/F	PETTET	JOHANNA	(STEVEN)	VK2FJMM	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290	
64	D/F	PETTET	STEVEN	(JOHANNA)	VK2ZVG	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290	
65	L	PILLEY	DAVID		VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585 2647	
66	O	PISANI	VIC	(MEREDITH)	VK2UVP	BONNY HILLS	02 6584 8361	
67	D	PRATT	PETER		VK2PX	PENNANT HILLS	0418 965 962	
68	O	RAE	THOMAS		VK2ATR	PORT MACQUARIE	0409 808 528	
69	D	RAY	ROBERT		VK2ZWZ	SINGLETON	0412 573 861	
70	O	ROMAINE	PAUL		VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	0428 466 075	
71	O	SANDERS	BILL	(SUELENE)	VK2FWHP	REDBANK	0437 004 228	
72	O	SMALL	ROBERT	(LYNNE)	VK2BIG	LAKE CATHIE	02 6584 8148	
73	D	SWINDLEY	RON		VK2DDQ	KEMPSEY	0417 299 397	
74	O	SMITH	LYLE	(JEANNINE)	VK2SMI	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2497	
75	D	SMITH	MURRAY	(MARGARITA)	VK2LAT	RAINBOW FLAT	0423 781471	
76	O	SMITH	STEVE	(HELEN)	VK2IS	RAWDON ISLAND	0404 612 126	
77	O	SOUTHWELL	IVAN		VK2IJS	PORT MACQUARIE	0439 611 452	
78	O	TERRY	COL	(KATHLEEN)	VK2LCT	YIPPIN CREEK	0429 002906	
79	L	THATCHER	TREVOR		VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2278	
80	D	THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	KN9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152	
81	D	THOMPSON	LARRY	(KATHLEEN)	VK2LJT	TUNCURRY	02 6555 7994	
82	D	THRING	HAYDEN			TEMAGOG	0435 287227	
83	O	WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8360	
84	D	WALKER	STUART		VK2BMX	BEECROFT	02 9869 0515	
85	D	WALSH	STUART	(JENNIFER)	VK2WAL	TUNCURRY	0409 531 310	
86	O	WARD	MICHAEL	(SEREENA)	VK2FMDW	PORT MACQUARIE	0418 291 276	
87	D	WILSON	DIANE		VK2DNE	LEMON TREE PASSAGE	0429 845 111	
88	O	WINCHESTER	JOHN	(PAULINE)	VK2NJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6580 3031	
89	O	WYNN	STEPHEN	(LYALLE)	VK2ZSW	YIPPIN CREEK	02 6585 3327	
90	D	YORSTON	ROBERT		VK2CAN	ROSEVILLE	02 9426 3727	