



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

March 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
VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175 MHz 1200 Bps

President's Report

March 2022

President's Report



ORARC 2022 Field Day 11 & 12 June Queens Birthday Weekend

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of June for the ORARC 46th Annual Field Day over the 2022 Queens Birthday Weekend.

The venue for the 2022 Field Day is the Wauchope Showground hall in High Street, Wauchope. This hall is an excellent venue and will support all the usual Field Day activities. The Field Day has been held in the Wauchope Showground for the last few years and both locals and visitors were very pleased with the venue. There is plenty of on-site parking and the area is safe for the fox hunts.

The Wauchope Showground permits

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Down The Coax

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

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

**Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest
Resurface in Dry Dock for 6th March 2022**

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

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

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 April 2022 2:00 pm**

**Urunga Convention - 71st Annual Convention Cancelled
Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 April 2022
Visiting Amateurs informally getting together in Urunga**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 22 April 2022 7.00 pm**

**ANZAC Day AX prefix permitted by ACMA
Monday 25 April 2022**

**Wyong Field Day Wyong Racecourse
Mayham Sunday 1 May 2022**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 7 May 2022 2:00 pm**

**World Telecommunication Day
Tuesday 17 May 2022. AX prefix permitted**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 20 May 2022 7.00 pm**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 June 2022 2:00 pm**

**ORARC Field Day Wauchope Showground Hall
Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June 2022
Field Day Dinner Sat. Port Macquarie Golf Club**

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

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

March 2022

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

April 2022

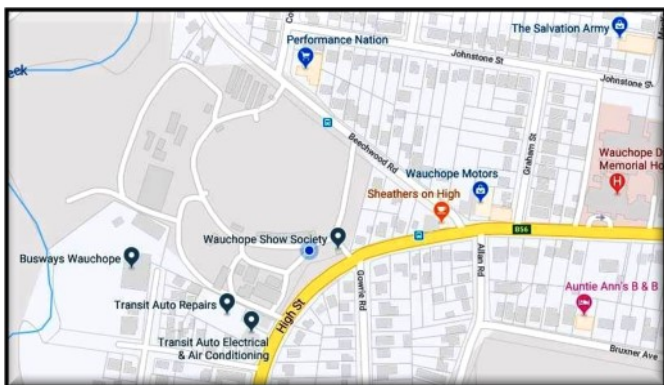
VK2FMGM	April 3	VK2ZHE	April 7
VK2FMGM	April 10	VK2ICQ	April 14
VK2FMGM	April 17	VK2EM	April 21
VK2FMGM	April 24	VK2ZHE	April 28

May 2022

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

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



The Field Day dinner as usual will be at 6pm at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday the 11th of June. The dinner will be held in the Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply of Bellingen for kindly sponsoring this function room for the Field Day Dinner. As usual, please place your orders at the Restaurant. The club offers an extensive dinner menu to cater for all tastes at club prices.

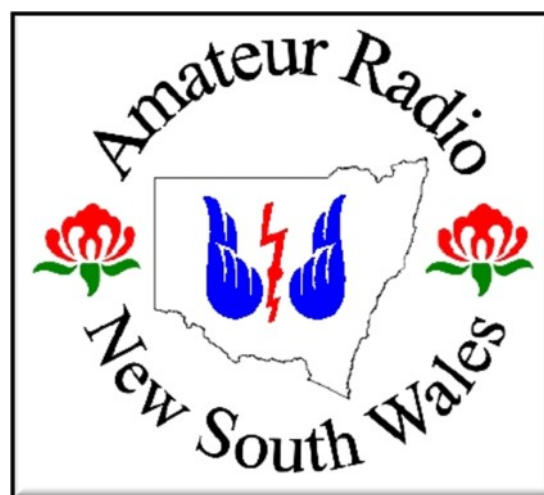
There will be all the usual displays and activities at the Field Day. Entry is still a very modest \$5 which covers admission on both days. The barbeque will work overtime with bacon and egg sandwiches for breakfast both days and sausages and steak for lunch both days. Tea and coffee and biscuits will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

Radio Supply of Bellingen will have a large range of accessories and other items at their stand at the Field Day. Gary Ryan VK2ZKT will have a range of his home brew and restoration projects on display. These always create a lot of interest and inspiration.

QSL Communications will have a stand at the Field Day as a trader. QSL Comms have an extensive range of products including DMR digital voice and analogue FM transceivers, digital radio hotspots, test equipment, antennas, antenna mounts, power supplies, spare batteries for various radios, programming cables for various radios, coaxial cable and connectors etc. Have a look at the QSL Comms website <https://qslcomms.com.au/> for details. Note that items can be pre-ordered for collection at the Field Day.



The ALARA stand will be run by Diane Wilson VK2DNE. Diane has taken over running ALARA stands from Dot Bishop VK2DB who had been running the stands at events for a great many years.



Amateur Radio NSW will have a stand. ARNSW have been very active in promoting and supporting Amateur Radio. The ARNSW DMR Radnet expansion project has provided DMR repeaters to a number of clubs including the

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Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

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

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

The planning for the Field Day is already under way. We look forward to another very successful Field Day. The Field Day will follow the ORARC COVID-19 Safety Plan and all COVID-19 restrictions will be complied with. Fortunately there is plenty of space in the Wauchope Showground Hall so social distancing requirements should be easily met. The Field Day Dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club is in the quite spacious separate function room and the dinner will be run in accordance with the Golf Club's COVID-19 safety plan.

The successful running of the Field Day weekend is dependent upon the efforts of many members to undertake the myriad of tasks that are required, both in preparation, and during the Field Day itself. Please help where you are able. This will spread the work-load so that everyone has time to enjoy the weekend. There will be a list of Field Day jobs in the next issue of Oxtales. Please let the Committee know if you can assist.

Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments

It is planned to conduct a Foundation Licence Training weekend and assessments for all grades of licences soon. Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL has

contacted those who have expressed interest and a date will be set when COVID restrictions permit. If you would like to obtain your Foundation Licence or upgrade your existing licence, please contact Larry as soon as possible.

John Moyle Memorial Field Day 19 & 20 March 2022



The major Amateur Radio event on the ORARC calendar in March is the John Moyle Memorial Field Day which commences at noon on Saturday the 19th of March and finishes at one minute to noon on Sunday the 20th of March 2022.

Normally the ORARC club station VK2BOR participates in the Field Day from the club's communications caravan. Unfortunately, it is not possible to maintain sufficient COVID-19 safety physical distancing in the confines of the caravan so VK2BOR will not be participating this year.

Members are encouraged to operate their individual stations portable during the Field Day. If you are not operating portable, please spend some time on air from your home stations and give the field stations some much needed contacts.

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

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

Urunga Convention 16 and 17 April 2022 Easter Weekend Cancelled



Planning had been underway for the 71st Annual Urunga Convention on Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of April 2022 in the Senior Citizens' Hall in Bowra Street, Urunga. Unfortunately, the Committee has reluctantly cancelled the 2022 Convention due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

As readers will be aware several of the long-serving, key hard-working organisers of the Convention including Brian Slarke VK2ZCQ, Arnold Austin VK2ADA and Terry Wood VK2TEZ have sadly passed away during the last few years. Aware that the large amount of work in running the convention was becoming a burden for remaining small number of Committee members, a number of the regular Convention attendees had offered their assistance to the Committee this year to help to spread the workload.

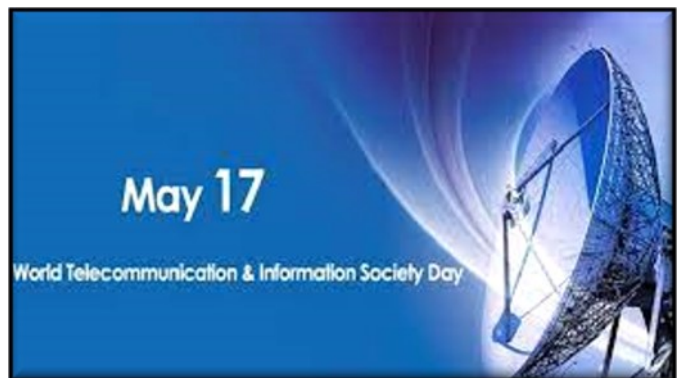
Many Amateurs and their families eagerly look forward to going to Urunga each year for Easter. This year, despite the cancellation of the formal Urunga Radio Convention, a growing number of Amateurs have made it known that they

will be holidaying in Urunga over Easter 2022. Grahame O'Brien VK2FA advises that he and Judy VK2ZZV and Riley, Roma VK2NZW, Jamie VK2YCJ and Ken VK2UTC and his XYL amongst others are going to Urunga for the Easter break. They will be informally getting together for meals and socializing and invite others to join them. Look for them on air on the local repeaters during the weekend.

The Urunga Radio Convention has a long history. Until the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021, and now the 2022 events which were to be the 71st Annual Convention, the convention had been held annually each year since 1949. It is hoped that the delayed 71st annual convention will now be held over Easter in 2023.

For some history and photographs of past conventions visit the web site <http://users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/>.

World Telecommunication Day



World Telecommunication Day is on Tuesday the 17th of May 2022.

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

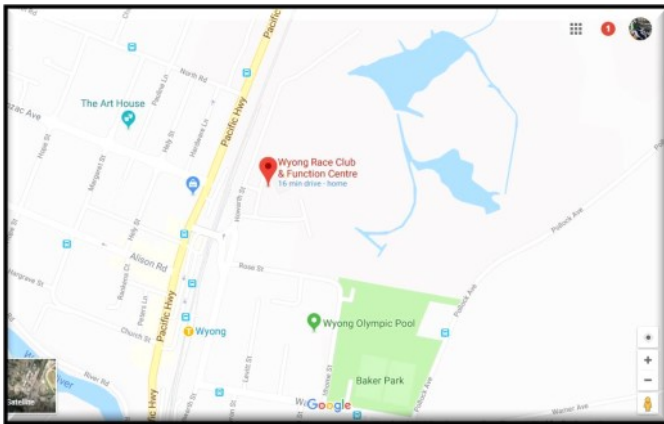
In Australia the ACMA authorizes the use of the AX prefix for

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Amateur Radio Stations in lieu of the VK prefix on World Telecommunication Day.

Central Coast Field Day at Wyong now Mayham on 1 May 2022



Last year the 63rd Central Coast Field Day which was planned for the Wyong Racecourse on Sunday the 28th of February 2021 unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Committee scheduled the Mayham Field Day on Sunday the 30th of May 2021 as a replacement for the cancelled 28th of February Wyong Field Day.

Following the success of Mayham on the 30th of May last year, the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Committee has decided to run the Wyong Field Day as the Mayham Field Day on Sunday the 1st of May 2022. The venue as usual will be the Wyong Racecourse and the Field Day will be run on similar lines to the usual Wyong Field Days. However, the Field Day will have to follow the COVID-19 safety requirements that are in force on the Field Day date.

Rain is not a concern at Wyong as the entire Field Day is under cover. The Traders are accommodated in the air-conditioned semi-permanent carpeted marquee. The flea market is under cover in the breezeway that had been occupied by the Traders in past years. This arrangement is a great improvement in amenity for the respective sellers and attendees.

There are certain to be many bargains to be had from both the Traders and the Flea Market sellers.

Hopefully, a strong contingent of ORARC members will be able to make the journey to Mayham.

Friday Night Get together 17 December 2021

The last Friday night get together before Christmas was held in the SES Building in Port Macquarie on Friday the 17th of December 2021. While the gathering was quite small and several apologies were received, the eight members who attended enjoyed a very pleasant social evening. As usual, the show and tell was particularly interesting.

Rod Bailey VK2AJ demonstrated the prototype of the self-contained rack mounting APRS Digipeater that John Sheehan VK2ZSI of Gunnedah built. Rod kindly took the cover off so that everyone could see how the repeater had been built.



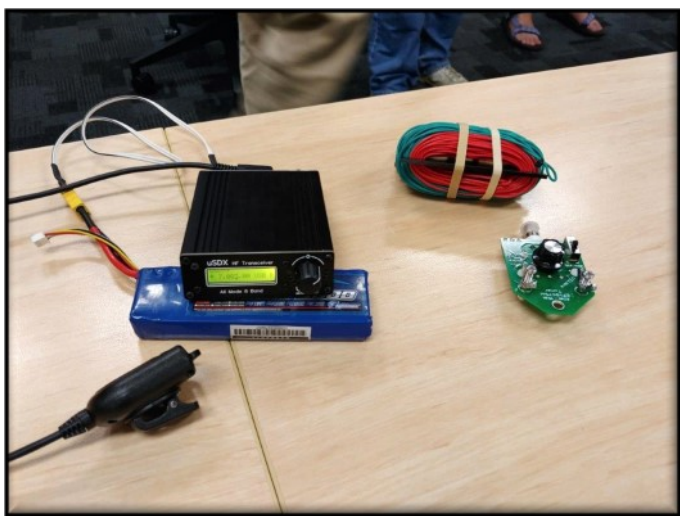
Examining the insides of the APRS Digipeater Jim VK2VIV, John VK2KHB, Ian VK2GL, Rob VK2CRF, Arthur VK2ATM, Dennis VK2DAM and Rod VK2AJ

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Ian Lindquist VK2GL brought his extremely compact 8 band 5 Watt QRP SSB/CW uSDX HF transceiver along for everyone to look at. As can be seen from photograph the complete self-contained QRP HF station with its lithium battery, wire antenna and antenna tuner is lightweight and occupies very little space.

Ian has successfully operated the station portable during his travels. The tiny EFHW 5 Watt rated antenna tuner tunes half wave length wire antennas for bands between 40 and 10 metres.



As can be seen from the accompanying photos, there was great interest in both show and tells. Thank you to Rod and Ian for demonstrating the respective equipment. They both fielded lots of questions.



Jim VK2VIV, Ian VK2GL, John VK2KHB, Rob VK2CRF, Rod VK2AJ, Dennis VK2DAM and Arthur VK2ATM asking questions.

John Bailey VK2KHB brought along a very interesting screw-down high current dual diode which he obtained from amongst the give-aways at the ORARC Field Day last June. It always pays to look closely at freebie goodies. John also brought along a link to an interesting YouTube video entitled “The Big Misconception About Electricity” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHIhgxav9LY&t=255s> John also had a printed copy of the QR Code link to the video. This made it easy for people to find the video without having to type in the URL. The video makes for interesting viewing and created some interesting discussion.

The get together was conducted under the ORARC COVID-19 Safety Plan and masks were worn and social distancing maintained.

Due to the COVID-19 safety considerations the January 2022 and February 2022 Monthly General Meetings and Friday Night get-togethers were cancelled so at the time of writing the December 2021 Friday Night Get-together was the last opportunity for ORARC members to meet face to face. With the easing of safety restrictions in March 2022 it will be possible to resume face to face meetings.

Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM Repeater Site

The Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM repeaters are working well although the noise floor on 2 metres is still occasionally a problem. The VK2RPM 438.525 MHz UHF repeater is still operating on low power. This repeater will be replaced by a recently repaired repeater. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for carrying out the repairs and modifications to the faulty Yaesu DR-1X repeaters.

Telegraph Point VK2RCN Repeater Site

The VK2RCN repeaters are all working well with the exception of the 6 metre 53.800 MHz voice repeater which will

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shortly be returned to service after work by Ian VK2GL to replace the faulty crystal-controlled local oscillator in the repeater receiver with a synthesized source. The repeater is currently under test in Port Macquarie pending installation back at the VK2RCN site.

The VK2RCN 438.425 MHz Radnet DMR repeater at Telegraph Point is working particularly well.

The DMR repeater lost its internet connection on Thursday the 10th of February 2022. The repeater continued to function as a local DMR repeater but of course wasn't connected to the DMR network. Thank you to Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Paul Colledge VK2ICQ who went to the repeater site on Sunday the 13th of February 2022 and restored the service. Paul found that the Telonika 4G modem indicated that it had an internet connection but in fact was not actively connected. The modem had not self-rebooted because it did not see the problem but after a manual reboot the connectivity was restored. Thank you to ARNSW Radnet manager Matthew Perkins VK2FLY for remotely rebooting the repeater itself which restored full Radnet DMR network service to the VK2RCN repeater.

The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club has their ARNSW provided DMR Repeater VK2RGL on 439.775 MHz with a -5 MHz offset on air from Cabbage Tree Mountain. Those amateurs south of Port Macquarie who are out of range of the VK2RCN Telegraph Point DMR repeater should have coverage from the VK2RGL Cabbage Tree Mountain repeater.



The Coffs Harbour and District Amateur Radio Club has its VK2RDO Radnet DMR Repeater operational from its club rooms on 439.875 MHz with a -5 MHz offset. Planning is in progress to

install a Radnet DMR repeater on Mt Yarrahapinni as well.

In the Northwest of the state, the new Radnet DMR repeater VK2RNW on Mt. Kaputar on 438.575 MHz with a -7 MHz offset is now operational. ORARC Member Rod Bailey VK2AJ has had a number of trips to the site and was there for the recent commissioning.

Telegraph Point VK2RCN New Repeater Site

The project to build an entirely new repeater site in the Red Hill area is progressing. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes on this project. Thank you to everyone who is involved.

Site works will commence very shortly now that a Construction Certificate has been issued. The Development Application Consent is in place and the certified engineering design and drawings for the mast have been completed. The Club has engaged the mast manufacturer to install the footings and guy anchor blocks for the mast in readiness for erection of the mast itself. Club members are liaising with a builder to ensure that the concrete block equipment shelter and its concrete slab are constructed to comply with requirements.

It is hoped that despite the unavoidable delays due to the fires, floods, storms and COVID-19 the agreed milestones can be completed by the extended deadline of the 30th of April 2022 to satisfy the conditions of the Grant from the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program which is partially funding the project.

The club has an additional Grant from the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program which will partially fund the connection of power to the site. The Club is still evaluating a proposal to obtain the power off grid by solar power.

The club is still looking to raise additional funds for the

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Telegraph Point Repeater site project as the cost of the project is greater than originally budgeted for.

Oxtales Cup Trophy 1991 A Club Mystery?



Thank you to John McLean VK2KC for forwarding the photo of the 1991 Oxtales Cup trophy which Lindsay Murphy VK2WY/VK4JP from Tamworth posted on the ORARC Facebook. Lindsay who now holds VK2WY advised John that the trophy was presented to Tony Butler the previous holder of VK2WY. Thank you to Lindsay for posting the photo.

Tony Butler regularly attended ORARC Field Days for a great many years around the 1990s into the 2000s. He was keen foxhunter and he was Foxhunt Champion many times. His name appears on the engraved shields as Foxhunt Champion on

the “Oxtales Trophy for Annual Foxhunt Championship” perpetual trophy under his earlier callsign of VK2CTB for the years 1989, 1990, 1992 and 1993, and then as VK2WY in 2000. Significantly, there is no shield on the perpetual trophy for the year 1991. Perhaps Tony was Foxhunt Champion in 1991 and was awarded the “Oxtales Cup” that year but there is no mention of it in Oxtales in 1991.

ORARC President Henry Lundell VK2ZHE would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is able to provide any information regarding the “Oxtales Cup” trophy so that its history can be recorded. Was it awarded only in 1991 or had there been more of them? Each year the Foxhunt Champion at the ORARC Annual Field Day is presented with a smaller trophy to keep and has the year and his or her name and callsign



engraved on a shield which is attached to the perpetual trophy.

As can be seen from the accompanying photos, the “Oxtales Cup” is very similar in size and shape to the perpetual trophy which is held by the club and may indeed have provided a template for the current trophy.

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Milestones

New Members

The Club extends a very warm welcome to two new members, David Burt VK2EYE of Port Macquarie and John Winter VK2PJW of Krambach.

Silent Key – Ron Swindley VK2DDQ

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of ORARC Member Ron Swindley VK2DDL of Kempsey on the 31st of January 2022.

Please see the Silent Key Vale Ron Swindley VK2DDQ in this issue of Oxtales.

Silent Key – Bob Blyth VK2XIQ

It is with great sadness that we belatedly record the passing of ORARC esteemed Life Member Winston Lloyd (Bob) Blyth VK2XIQ of Telegraph Point on the 9th of September 2021.

Thank you to ORARC Club members Paul Romaine VK2UPR who found Bob's house empty when he called in on the 17th of February 2022 and to John McLean VK2KC who found the funeral details by doing an on line search. It is most embarrassing that the club didn't learn of Bob's passing earlier but Bob lived very privately on his own. He was not active on air and people had not visited Bob for some time due to COVID-19 safety considerations after ascertaining that he had not suffered damage in the fires and storms last year.

Please see the Silent Key Vale Winston Lloyd (Bob) Blyth VK2XIQ in this issue of Oxtales.

Silent Key – David Catlin VK2ZK

It is with great sadness that we belatedly record the passing of David Catlin VK2ZK of King Creek on the 28th of November 2021. David was a member of the Wauchope Amateur Radio Club.

Many ORARC members will have met David at the ORARC 2021 Field Day over the June Queens Birthday Long Weekend, and some members will have spoken with David on air prior to his untimely passing. He had been stoically battling cancer but had been enjoying his hobby of Amateur Radio.

The members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club express sincere condolences to David's family on their sad loss. Thank you to Pip Sinclair for advising of David's sad passing.

Vale David Catlin VK2ZK

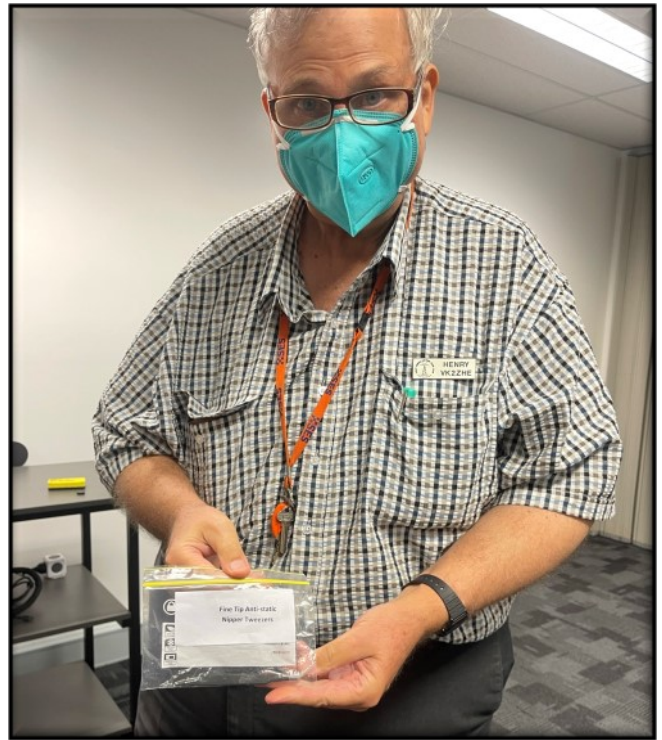
Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President



Photographs of the Oxley Region amateur Radio Club March 2022 Monthly Meeting



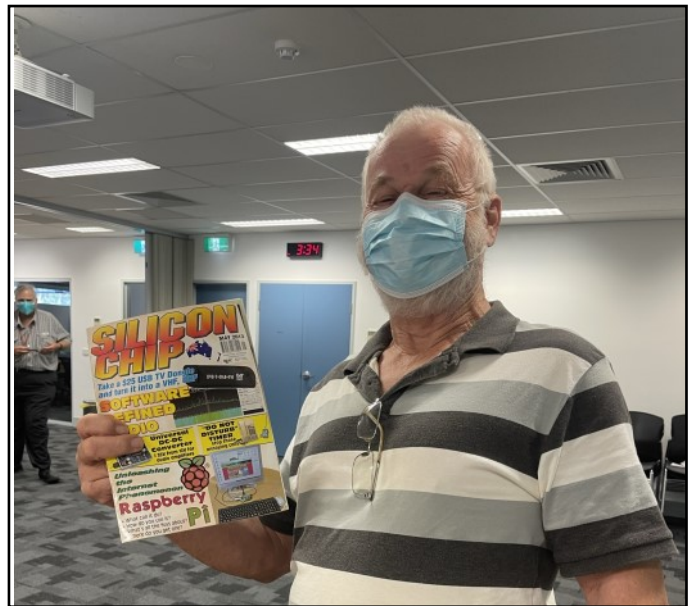
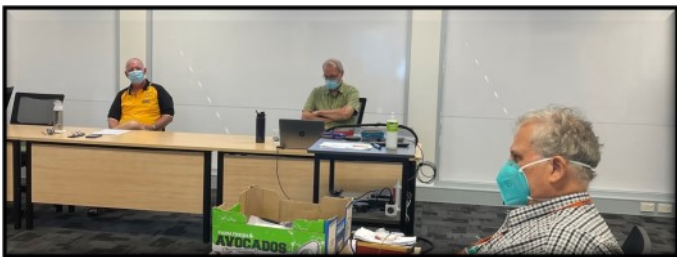
Rob VK2CRF, Larry VK2CLL, John VK2KHB, David VK2AYD, Rod VK2AJ, John VKPJW, and Larry VK2LJT



Winners are gridders above Henry VK2ZHE below John VK2PJW



*Above Larry VK2LJT, Bob VK2ZRE, Ian VK2GL
Below Ian VK2GL, Dennis VK2DAM and Henry VK2ZHE*



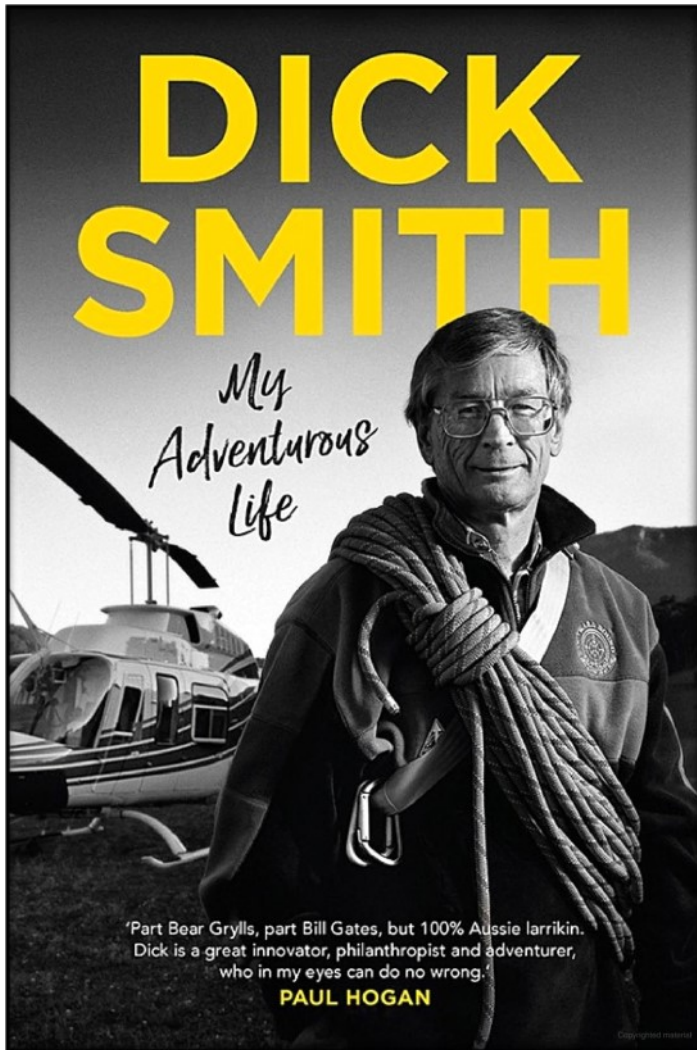
Selection of raffle ticket prizes.



David VK2AYD and John VK2KHB examine the selection of prizes.

Book Review by Henry VK2ZHE

Dick Smith – My Adventurous Life



In Dick Smith's recently published book, *Dick Smith – My Adventurous Life*, he shares his extraordinary life story. His adventures which many people will be aware of make fascinating reading but the less well known details of Dick's life story make inspiring reading. The book starts with Dick's formative childhood days progresses through to the present day.

Dick writes "I have been charmed by good fortune to be born in Australia in the 1940s. I have lived through a time of great prosperity and every day I am reminded of my good luck." The book tells how Dick's philosophy and a well developed sense of integrity and social responsibility have combined steer him through adversity to achieve business success while indulging in his many passions. Clearly,

his success has come from more than just making money. He has enjoyed the freedom that wealth brings. Less well known is his generous philanthropy. He gives a valuable insight into the value of friendship and personal development.

Everyone will remember the highly successful Dick Smith Electronics retail empire which he sold as it was approaching its peak. The book details how Dick progressed from his car radio business to building a multi million dollar chain of electronics stores. He learned many lessons along the way. The book's prologue opens with the harsh reality of being defrauded. He didn't take the easy way out through bankruptcy but instead chose the much more difficult moral path to pay his debts and successfully achieve solvency and go on to make his business a success which expanded rapidly. The value of taking good advice and managing risk become obvious. We see glimpses of Dick's business acumen and the value of having an up to date catalogue. The importance of publicity is well covered. His "iceberg" being towed into Sydney Harbour on the 1st of April 1978 is legendary (Photo Below)



Some of us remember Dick crossing the harbour bridge on his petrol powered pogo stick

After selling Dick Smith Electronics, Dick went on to founding Australian Geographic and Dick Smith Foods.

Dick's aviation adventures such as his solo around the world flight by helicopter and then solo to the

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North Pole and his fixed wing around the world and Pole to Pole make compelling reading. His balloon flight was an epic adventure in itself. Less well known is his around the world by Earthroamer land vehicle.

Included is his successful climb to the top of Balls Pyramid near Lord Howe Island. Dick also writes a lot about how important it is to manage risk.

Amateur Radio played an important part in Dick's life. Some of us will remember Dick as VK2ZIP for many years before the fascinating story of his becoming VK2DIK so that he could operate on HF for his around the world helicopter flight. The importance of the 20 metre HF communications with VK2DIK on that flight can be gauged by the enormous number of stations all over the world who spent countless hours listening to and occasionally speaking with Dick.

The book manages to cover a myriad of grounds in its 330 printed pages. There are quite a few interesting photographs and the inside front and back covers carry a world map with the paths of Dick's various adventures. There is a comprehensive index at the back of the book.



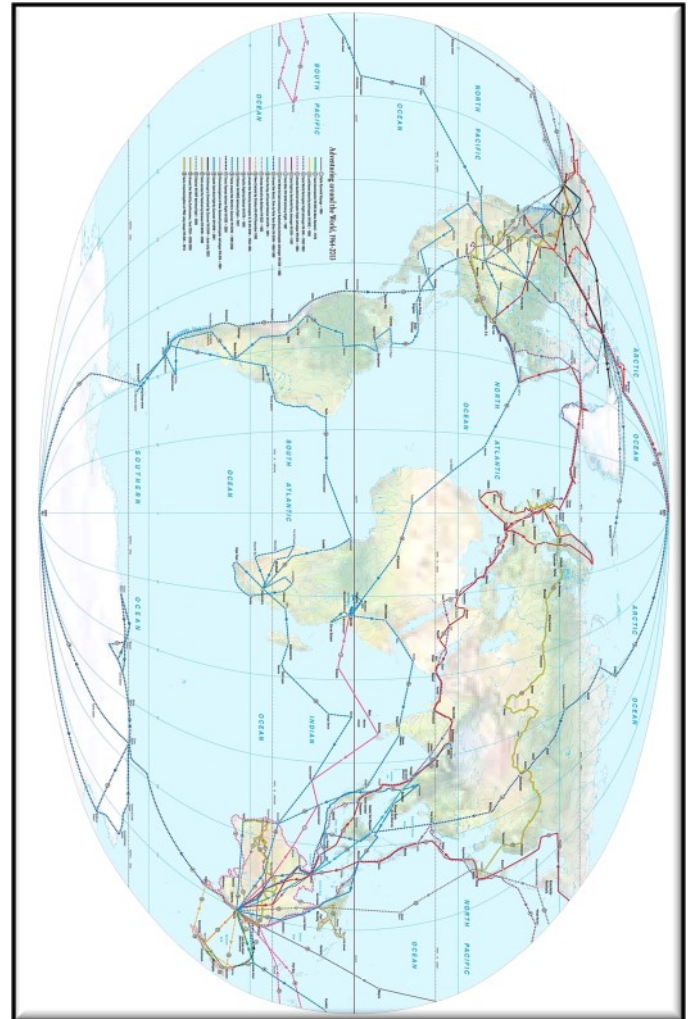
It is noteworthy that Dick Smith is a Companion of the Order of Australia, (shown below), an Australian of the Year and one of the National Trust's Living Treasures.

As well as reading Dick's book there are many YouTube videos of Dick's adventures and various related activities. Just search on Dick Smith.

There is a great video of Dick talking about his life and the book and Amateur Radio. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itOOTmEgbHY&t=1479s>

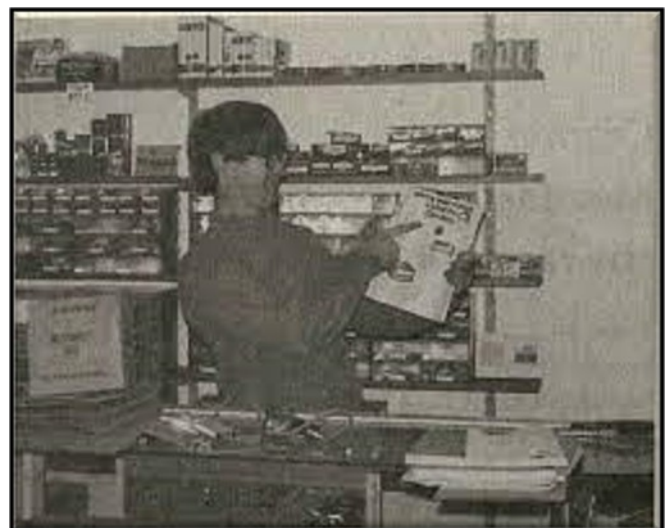
The book Dick Smith – My Adventurous Life is available from all the usual booksellers as well as chainstores such as BigW.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE



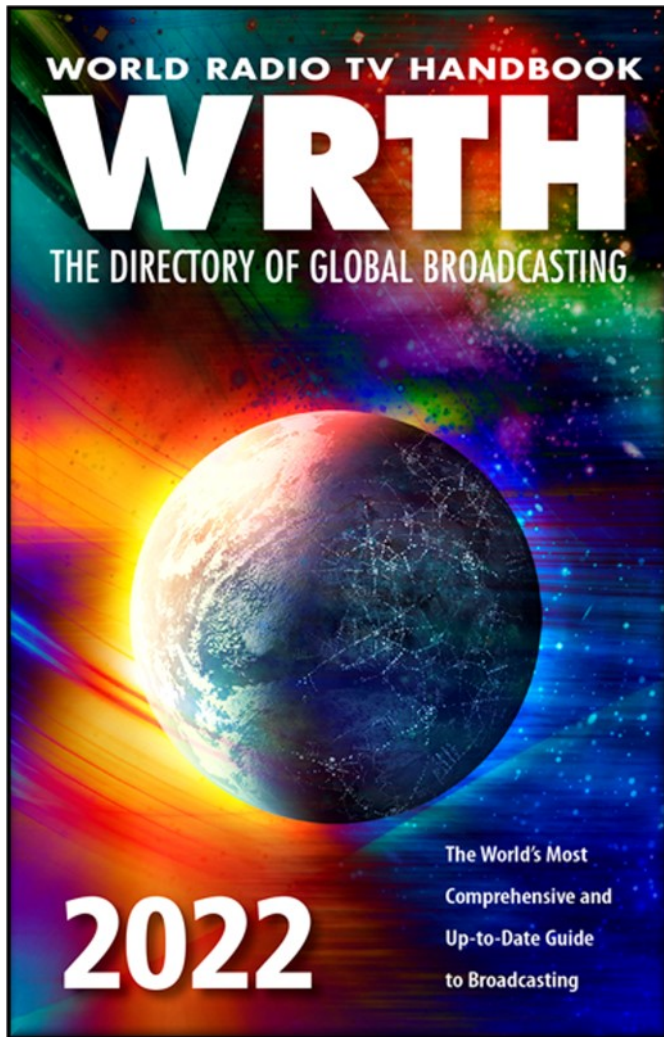
Above: World Map showing many of Dick Smith's Adventures

Below A young Dick Smith in an early Dick Smith Store.



Book Review by Henry VK2ZHE

World Radio TV Handbook 76 Edition 202



This is brief review of the 76th Edition of the World Radio TV Handbook published in 2022. After being published each year for 76 years, the 2022 edition will be the last edition to be published as a printed book.

The World Radio TV Handbook is recognised as the bestselling annually updated directory of global broadcasting on LW, MW, SW and FM.

Keen short wave listeners all over the world have always purchased each edition as their guide to their hobby. The manual came into being as a guide to broadcasters and their frequencies and times. Importantly for Short Wave Listeners the addresses of the broadcasters are listed so that reception reports can be sent in and the coveted QSL cards ob-

tained. However, it's not only SWLs who buy the book. The manual has always had a big following in the broadcasting industry. All manner of researchers find the manual a mine of information. The annual editions form a valuable record of broadcasting over the last three quarters of a century.

The 76th edition includes articles on the Further Development of HF Transmitters, the history of Radio in Lesotho, Over 75 Years with My Radio by Ullmar Qvick, Technical Monitoring at VOA, and the history of KTWR on Guam. There are equipment reviews of the Icom IC-705, Sangean ATS-909x2, Tecsun H-501, Tecsun PL-330, the CCW LAA++ loop antenna, and ATS25 Si4732, along with other articles, information and maps.

The book is full of extensive up to date comprehensive information on:

- National and International broadcasts and broadcasters
- Clandestine and other target Broadcasters
- MW and SW frequency listings
- Terrestrial TV by country

Also included is an extensive reference section.

An enormous amount of ongoing research is required in order to publish an up to date book each year with such an extensive listing of world wide broadcasting. The sheer amount of information becomes immediately apparent when you look at the listings for each country. Even though the number of shortwave broadcasts have been continuing to decline in the last couple of decades, there are still many shortwave broadcasts to be heard. At the same time there has been a big growth in commercial, community and government broadcasting on the FM bands. A great many of these broadcasts are streamed on the internet to the whole world so it is now

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possible to do a lot of listening without using a radio.

I obtained my first copy of WRTH in 1969 using the coupon that came with the Eddystone EC10 receiver that I had just purchased from RH Cunningham in Alfred Street at North Sydney. (Yes I still have my EC10, Note: More Details of the Eddystone EC10 can be found in the Equipment from the Past Section in this Month's issue of Oxtales). My copy was free with the coupon that came with the receiver. I posted off the coupon and the book came from the UK by return mail.

I found that the WRTH was an invaluable resource when it came to shortwave listening. Back in those days the number of shortwave broadcasters was astounding. Little wonder the short wave bands were so crowded. There was no such thing as a clear frequency. It was always interesting to read the monthly updates in Arthur Cushen's column in Radio and Hobbies and Radio, TV and Hobbies. I regularly bought the WRTH annual editions as they came out. They were easy to get when Dick Smith stocked them but in Sydney one could also get them from Dymocks. McGills in Melbourne and other bookstores also advertised them. I'm sure lots of copies were purchased my mail order.

In recent years I must admit to having fallen out of the habit of purchasing new editions of the WRTH. With the ever diminishing number of shortwave broadcasters and the readily available information on the internet I imagine a lot of people were doing what I was doing and looking on line.

It is sad to see the end of the print edition of the WRTH. I had to have a copy. I bought mine from Tecsun Radios Australia. Despite its relatively high price the 76th edition has predictably been a big seller and the first shipment sold out in less than two days. I've enjoyed spending time reading through the book. At 672 printed pages

there is a lot of interesting reading. The World Radio TV handbook 2022 76th Edition is a valued addition to my library.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Equipment from the Past

Eddystone EC10 Receiver



The Eddystone EC10 was a transistorised broadcast communications receiver covering the MF and HF bands released in 1963 at a cost of approximately fifty three English pounds. The retail price in Australia would have probably been around at least \$200 which was quite a considerable amount in 1963.

The EC10 was one of their first radios to be fully transistorised and was first seen in 1963, and as such was a leader at the time. Although it worked well and received many very positive reviews at the time, many agree that it did not have the performance of their previous valve / tube based radios, although later designs from the same stable considerably improved on the performance.

The EC10 was in many ways a ground breaking communications receiver - one of the first fully transistorised sets, and this makes it a classic vintage radio.

The Eddystone EC10 was one of the first professional radio receivers to use all transistor technology.

The circuit used a total of ten transistors, all of which were germanium as transistors using this *Continued on next page*

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semiconductor were far more widely available. Silicon transistors were not widely used until a little later.

The construction for the radio was based around a printed circuit board, but there were still many techniques used that were common in the larger valve / tube radios. For example large screens were placed around the RF areas of the circuitry.

The radio covered frequencies from 550 kc/s up to 30 Mc/s in a total of 5 ranges. This meant that it was able to cover the medium wave broadcast band, short wave broadcast bands, marine and the MF & HF amateur radio frequencies as well.

In terms of the transmission of modulation modes that are catered for, the radio was aimed at CW and AM. As single sideband was not particularly widely used at the time, single sideband, SSB was not expressly catered for. However it was perfectly easy to use the CW position and adjust the BFO frequency accordingly.

The radio incorporates independent RF and AF gain controls and in addition to this there are separate controls for the BFO ON/OFF and AGC switching. There is also a BFO pitch control as well.

In terms of the mechanical aspects of this vintage radio, it retained the Eddystone feature of having a very luxurious tuning feel to it. The tuning control was loaded with a flywheel and this was connected to a well engineered 110:1 reduction drive.

The main scale provided a total of nine inches of band-spread like many other Eddystone vintage radios. Coupled with the reduction drive, etc, this made tuning very easy and with a calibration accuracy of 1%, this enabled easy location of frequencies for its day.

A switch is provided for turning the dial illumination on and off - having the dial illumination off will preserve the batteries by reducing consumption.

The radio was powered by six D cells or U2

using the terminology of the day. A separate battery compartment was used. If buying one of these vintage radios, care should be taken to ensure that old batteries had not been left in the battery compartment as this could cause serious damage to the circuit board, etc.

When operation of the EC10 was required from the mains, a suitable Eddystone power supply unit was available.

The EC10 was a single conversion superheterodyne radio using a free running local oscillator. It used a total of ten transistors in the circuit as well as five semiconductor diodes. The topology for the radio was very standard as it used a single down-conversion to the 465kc/s local oscillator and it had a simple diode envelope detector for AM and a beat frequency oscillator is provided for CW reception which could also be used for SSB. SSB was not widely used when the EC10 was first introduced.

Five ranges give continuous coverage from 550 kHz to 30 MHz, and included were the medium wave broadcast band, the marine band from 1500 kHz to 3000 kHz, all the short wave broadcast bands and six amateur bands from 160 metres to 10 metres.

The receiver accepts normal AM signals and CW telegraphy, a special filter being provided to increase selectivity in the latter mode. Although not designed for single sideband operation, signals in this mode can be received by appropriate setting of the BFO for carrier insertion.

Eddystone introduced a Mark 2 version in 1977 which incorporated an S meter and had an estimated production run of more than 10,000.

Acknowledgements:

electronics-notes.com/articles/history/radio-receivers/eddystone-ec10-radio-receiver.php and richardsradios.co.uk/ec10.html



IARU statement in response to recent world events



Date : 01 / 03 / 2022

Author : Oscar Reyes - VK3TX
Statement from IARU

Feb 28, 2022

In response to recent world events, the International Amateur Radio Union has issued the following statement:

“IARU is an apolitical organization focused on promoting and defending amateur radio and the amateur radio services. The amateur radio service is about self-instruction in communications and friendship between people.”

<https://www.iaru.org/2022/statement-from-iaru/>

IARU Region 3 Newsletter Issue 61– Q4 2021, Released

Date : 10 / 02 / 2022

Author : Oscar Reyes - VK3TX

The IARU Region 3 Newsletter Issue 61– Q4 2021, has just been released.

Contents include:

- Editor's Note
- A Word from the Chairman
- The International Amateur Radio Union Region 3, 18th Virtual Regional Conference, Bangkok 2021
- New Executive Committee elected at IARU-R1 Conference
- Shaping the Future of Amateur Radio IARU
- MARTS Society Update
- 60m WSPR Beacon in Malaysia
- ITU: 23cm ham radio band and sat-nav coexistence
- ACMA Clarifies Callsign for Life Procedures
- IARU Region 3 Contacts

To download and read the IARU R3 newsletter see: [The-IARU-Region-3-Newsletter-61_Q1_2022_V3.pdf \(iaru-r3.org\)](https://www.iaru-r3.org/The-IARU-Region-3-Newsletter-61_Q1_2022_V3.pdf)

WIA Virtual Conference 2022 Antarctic Gateway

Date : 03 / 03 / 2022

Author : WIA Virtual Conference Organising Committee



The WIA AGM and Virtual Conference is being held on Saturday May 7, 2022. The morning consists of the Online Annual General Meeting and the afternoon is the online / Virtual Conference with the theme Antarctic Gateway and will be coming to you from Hobart Tasmania.

For those who remember "Pre-COVID" times, the 2020

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WIA AGM & Conference was to be held in Hobart Tasmania with the theme Antarctic Gateway.

Well spin forward two years and the Virtual Conference is being streamed from Hobart Tasmania on the afternoon of May 7, 2022.

It consists of an afternoon of brilliant presentations all about different aspects of Antarctic history, adventure, research and challenges.

Our keynote speaker is Professor Elizabeth Leane from the University of Tasmania with a presentation on Sidney Jeffryes and the role played by wireless in the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-14).

We have Rex Moncur VK7MO who was Director Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) between 1988-1999 with his experiences as a Director of the AAD - the good and the challenging!

We have Dr Andrew Klekociuk from the AAD who is giving us a fascinating presentation on the atmospheric studies and research happening in Antarctica.

We finish with Peter Yates VK7PY and Kim Briggs VK7KB both from the AAD with a presentation on Antarctic communications challenges and review.

These presentations will all be professionally streamed using zoom for those registered participants.

To register please go to [WIA Virtual Conference - Antarctic Gateway Tickets, Sat 07/05/2022 at 1:00 pm | Eventbrite](#)

We look forward to seeing you on May the 7th at the WIA Virtual Conference - Antarctic Gateway.

73, WIA Virtual Conference Organising Committee.

ACMA updates its Five Year Spectrum Outlook (FYSO) Program.

Date : 16 / 02 / 2022

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK



ACMA updates its spectrum management work program. ACMA have released their 6-month progress report for the Five-year spectrum outlook 2021–26 (FYSO), covering 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021.

The report shows ACMA are largely on track to deliver their 2021–22 spectrum management work program.

ACMA expect to consult on the draft FYSO 2022–27 in March. FYSO 2021–26 provides a broad overview of trends that affect spectrum management and factors used to inform the ACMA's planning and spectrum allocation priorities.

FYSO 2021–26 includes a detailed annual work program, with activities and milestones for the 2021–22 financial year.

ACMA's extensive planning activity to support their deployment of 5G services in Australia continues to inform priorities in our allocation workplan.

For more info and downloadable FYSO documents from ACMA's website:

Link <https://www.acma.gov.au/publications>.



Ukraine Maintains Ham Radio Silence in State of Emergency

03/03/2022



Radio amateurs in Ukraine appear to be diligently maintaining radio silence as the state of emergency de-

clared there just prior to the Russian military invasion remains in effect. A February 24 decree from President Volodymyr Zelensky included “a ban on the operation of amateur radio transmitters for personal and collective use.” The Ukraine Amateur Radio League (UARL/LRU) reported this past week that it has received many messages of encouragement from the worldwide amateur radio community.

“The LRU informed international amateur radio organizations about Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine,” said the message from UARL Vice President Anatoly Kirilenko, UT3UY. “To date, there have been many reports from radio amateurs around the world in support of Ukraine.”

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has adopted a neutral stance. “IARU is an apolitical organization focused on promoting and defending amateur

radio and the amateur radio services,” the IARU said. “The amateur radio service is about self-instruction in communications and friendship between people.” IARU Region 1 has said it continues to monitor the development and expects all radio amateurs “to follow their national laws and regulations.”

IARU Region 1 also re-posted part of an advisory from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) HF Committee on February 27. “Any radio amateur currently transmitting from Ukraine is risking his or her life. If you hear a Ukrainian station, do not broadcast its call sign, location, or frequency — whether on the band, in a cluster, or on social media. You may be putting lives at risk.” The DARC’s overarching advice: “In the current situation, the best we can do is listen.”

Ukraine’s assigned amateur radio call sign prefixes include EMA – EOZ and the more commonplace URA – UZZ. Some stations with Ukrainian call signs may still be active, because an exception to the amateur radio ban was made for stations in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (eastern Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts), which have special legal status owing to Russia’s occupation since 2014.

In a Facebook post, Poland’s IARU member-society PZK has offered available Winlink nodes in Poland for any licensed refugees. If you are a licensed amateur radio operator, you can send information by email to your relatives in Poland or Emergency Services via the Winlink system. Polish Winlink nodes are active on 160, 80, and 20 meters: SR5WLK, 3.5955 MHz USB; SR3WLK, 14.111 MHz USB, and SP3IEW, 1.865 MHz USB.

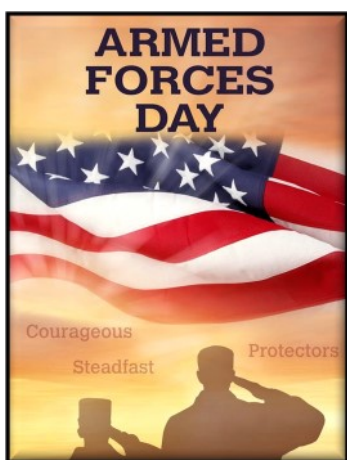
W9IMS, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club — known for its special events commemorating major races at the Speedway — has posted a statement on its QRZ.com profile expressing its concern for well-known QSL maker Gennady V. Treus, UX5UO. The

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statement reads in part, “His last email to us said: ‘This moment we are safe, but we hear strong explosions near Kyiv. Do not know what will happen in nearest hours/days.’ We have not heard from him for days now. We are greatly concerned for Gennady and his family along with all the other citizens of Ukraine.” — Thanks to The Daily DX, PZK, and to Brian D. Smith, W9IND, for some information

Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Exercise Set for May 14 03/10/2022



The 2022 running of the Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band exercise will be held on May 14, 1300 – 2200 UTC. A complete list of participating stations, modes, frequencies, times, and other details will be announced on April 1.

The event is open to all radio amateurs. Armed Forces Day is May 21, but the AFD Cross-band military-amateur radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier, in order to avoid conflicting with Dayton Hamvention®. During the exercise, radio amateurs listen for stations on military operating frequencies and transmit on frequencies in adjacent amateur bands.

Military and amateur stations have taken part in this event for more than 50 years. It’s an exercise scenario, designed to include ham radio and government radio operators alike.

Per previous announcements: “The AFD Cross-band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service, as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a

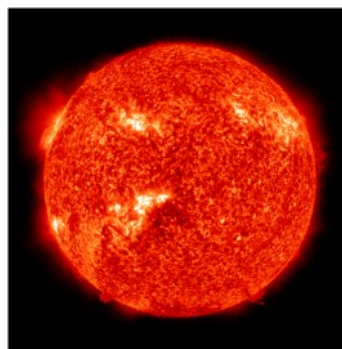
tightly controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications.”

Military stations in various locations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham band frequencies they are monitoring.

An AFD message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) serial PSK waveform (M110), followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. The AFD message will also be sent in CW and RTTY.

The K7RA Solar Update

03/04/2022



Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Solar activity was weaker over the February 24 – March 2 reporting week, with the average daily sunspot number weakening from 54.3 to 44, but average daily solar flux rising slightly from 95.4 to 98.5.

Registration is Open for USA ARDF Championships

03/03/2022



Registration is now open for the 21st USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF), set for April 7 – 10, 2022. The competition will take

place in Prince William Forest Park near Quantico, Virginia.

“Radio orienteers from all over the country, plus visitors from abroad, are invited to attend,” said ARRL ARDF Co-coordinator Gerald Boyd, WB8WFK.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2313 for Friday February 25, 2022

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

UKRAINE BANS AMATEUR RADIO AS PART OF STATE OF EMERGENCY



NEIL/ANCHOR: A decree by Ukrainian officials imposing a state of emergency, including a ban on amateur radio operation, took effect on Thursday, February 24th. Officials had announced the previous day that they would do so in anticipation of a Russian military invasion. The decree can last as long as 30 days, with an option to be extended.

HAM RADIO UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS



NEIL/ANCHOR: If there was a workshop you wanted to attend at the virtual Ham Radio University conference, but missed it, now's your chance to make up for lost time. Stephen Kinford N8WB tells us how.

STEPHEN: Held on January 8th as a virtual conference, Ham Radio University may be over but it's not gone. Videos of the day-long event have been uploaded to YouTube where any number of workshops are available for viewing. Whether you couldn't attend HRU or weren't able to get to all the workshops you wanted, the HRU YouTube channel makes it easy to see what you missed.

In addition to the introductory classes for DXing and the basics of HF operating, presenters also cover contesting, the various logging programs out there, Parks on the Air, the HF digital modes and QRP operations. As well as several other topics covered in the videos, an assortment of workshops from previous years complete the channel. Ham Radio University played host to the ARRL New York City / Long Island Section Convention.

www.youtube.com/c/HamRadioUniversityNLI/videos]

HISTORIC MARCONI HUT DEPICTED IN VIRTUAL 3D MODEL



NEIL/ANCHOR: In England, radio is about to embrace one digital mode yet unknown on the amateur bands: Digital art. Jeremy Boot G4NJH has that story.

JEREMY: Hams in the UK have played a big role in celebrations of the BBC's centenary this year. The most recent special event station was heard on the 14th of February as radio operators in Chelmsford called QRZ as station GB100 2MT, marking the historic first transmission from the Marconi Company's Writtle Hut there. The hut is now going digital with the help of an artist who is creating a digital model of it for inclusion at the Chelmsford Museum. The artist, Sian Fan, and the museum are calling the exhibit Forecast22 - the Birth of British Broadcasting. The virtual 3D model will include a replica of the 2MT transmitter as well as contents of the building. The exhibit opens in October.

If you can't get to Chelmsford to take a step inside history, don't worry. You can take part in the Forecast22 on your mobile phone wherever in the world you might be. It's a different kind of 'digital DXing' but a fitting option for a celebration that changed the shape and the sound of British broadcasting.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

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AUSTRALIA PREPARING FOR A WHOLE LOT OF 'MAYHAM'

NEIL/ANCHOR: There are big happenings planned for hams in New South Wales, Australia. Jason Daniels VK2LAW brings us that report.

JASON: Mayham, the largest amateur radio gathering in the Southern Hemisphere, has an equally large and ambitious agenda for Sunday the 1st of May. In addition to planning the usual activities, such as pedestrian and mobile fox hunts, organisers from the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are looking for lecturers to deliver talks on a variety of subjects. Each 45-minute presentation will be followed by no more than 15 minutes of questions and answers.

Formerly known as Wyong Field Day, it has run over 60 years without a break, even through these COVID years. Mayham is scheduled to be held at the customary location of the Wyong race course. If you have a presentation you'd like to share with some of Australia's most enthusiastic radio amateurs, contact Col VK2ZCO by emailing ccarc at ccarc dot org dot au (ccarc@ccarc.org.au) and describe your proposed lecture. If you're looking to upgrade - or even get - your first licence, contact education coordinator of the club at education at ccarc dot org dot au (education@ccarc.org.au)

For Amateur Radio Newslines I'm Jason Daniels VK2LAW.

COLLECTOR IN ENGLAND ENJOYS MORE THAN 200 RADIOS

NEIL/ANCHOR: If certain important people in your life, maybe even the ones living under the same roof as you, constantly remind you that you have far too many radios, perhaps it's time you shared this story about a retired electrical engineer in England and his collection of

more than 200 radios. Jeremy Boot G4NJH has all the details you'll need.

JEREMY: How many radios is too many? Norfolk retiree Richard Allan stopped counting when his collection reached 200. His shelves of crystal sets, antique transistor and valve radios is valued somewhere around £15,000, or \$20,000 in US currency. His favourite radio is the one his late father bought in 1928 and listened to throughout World War II. His father had been an amateur radio operator and at one point even built his own transmitter. He passed along his skill for repairing radios to his son along with his massive radio collection. Richard, who is 85, has spent the past 50 years adding to that collection and restoring the non-functioning ones to good working order. He told the Daily Mail newspaper: "The value is in the eye of the beholder."

About 90 percent of the radios work just fine. The other 10 percent are the ones that keep him busy. He told the newspaper: [quote] "If they were all working, I'd have nothing to do with my time!" []

For Amateur Radio Newslines I'm Jeremy Boot G4NJH.
(THE DAILY MAIL)



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.

This month's blast is taken from the 2017 March issue of Oxtales which was a busy reporting time for our club which had 68 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President, Paul VK2ICQ Vice President, Larry VK2CLL Treasurer and Jim VK2VIV Secretary.

In this pre-covid time the club was involved in many activities which included, The Summer VHF and UHF field day, Antenna Shoot out, the Central Coast Wyong field day, preparation for the John Moyle Memorial Field Day and the reformation of a local WICEN group. In addition a 6 meter repeater was installed at telegraph point.

The following is an extract from Henry VK2ZHE's report on the Summer VHF and UHF field day:

'... Summer VHF/UHF Field Day Saturday 14th January 2017

After the substantial VK2BOR score in the Spring VHF/UHF Field Day on the 26th of November 2016 when 6 metres opened, it was decided to again operate the club station VK2BOR from North Brother Mountain in the Summer VHF/UHF Field Day on Saturday the 14th of January 2017.

VK2BOR was set up in the configuration which worked well for the Spring VHF/UHF Field Day using two gazebos with the 6 and 2 metre and 70 centimetre antennas all mounted on the trailer mounted mast loaned by Station Manager Lyle Smith VK2SMI. The 6 metre station was set up in one gazebo and the 2 metre and 70 centimetre station was set up in the second gazebo. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI and to Keith Bayliss VK2FPTL for loaning the two gazebos for the event.

North Brother Mountain is well elevated with excellent clear coastal paths to both the north and the south. The antennas all worked well but sadly, the hoped for 6 metre opening didn't materialize

and no DX stations were heard on either 2 metres or 70 centimetres. As a result, VK2BOR did not have a score to submit. . . . '



The two gazebos together made a large operating space for the stations.

Above Ray VK2JU, Keith VK2FPTL and Dave VK2AYD and below Paul VK2ICQ, Larry VK2CLL and Lyle VK2SMI



Bob VK2ZRE cooking up a storm watched by Dennis VK2DAM with Bob VK2FBOB gives some pointers!

Continued on next page

‘... Antenna Shoot out

The ORARC annual Antenna Shootout took place at the Tuffins Lane sports fields in Port Macquarie on Sunday the 12th of February 2017. Normally informal foxhunts are run during the Antenna Shootout day but this year the day was far too hot for foxhunting. In fact, the forecast of the temperature exceeding 30 degrees Celsius, caused the Committee to consider postponing the Shootout. However, it was decided to proceed with the shootout only. Plenty of chilled water and soft drinks were provided and adequate shade was available at both ends of the antenna range, and at the covered picnic tables used for the barbeque bacon and egg breakfast and sausage sizzle lunch.

During the shootout the temperature was in the mid 30s with the nor'east sea breeze helping to keep conditions quite comfortable in the shade. Just as we were about to leave the site the wind swung to the nor'west and the wind felt like a dragon's breath. The Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at the airport only a few hundred metres from Tuffins Lane recorded 46.6 degrees Celsius which is a new record for Port Macquarie... .



Larry VK2CLL, Ray VK2JU and Lyle VK2SMI at the transmitter site.

‘... There was intense interest in the results. Both Ivan VK2FIJN and Larry VK2CLL had built several antennas especially for the shootout with the aim of taking out the honour of the highest gains on 2 metres and 70 centimetres.

On 2 metres in the directional category Ivan Southwell VK2FIJN was a clear victor with his 4 element yagi at 10dBd beating both the 4 element yagi of Paul Colledge VK2ICQ at 8dBd and the 5 element yagi made by Larry Lindsay VK2CLL at 8dBd. In the 2 metre omnidirectional category the flowerpot antenna made by Lyle Smith VK2SMI tied with the J Pole antenna made by Ivan VK2FIJN at 3dBd each. Ivan's five eights wavelength ground plane and his flowerpot antenna were only fractions of a dB behind in gain.

On 70 centimetres in the directional category, the ancient 4 element yagi made by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE in 1969 won with a measured gain of 5.5 dB. In the 70 centimetre omnidirectional category the Diamond X-50 base station submitted by Paul Colledge VK2ICQ won with a measured gain of 6dBd.



The club's caravan with the VHF and UHF receiving antennas. With Barry VK2LBG and Arthur VK2ATM setting up.



... .

Arthur VK2ATM with the spectrum analyser at the receiving end being assisted by Bob VK2ZRE and Barry VK2LBG

Continued from previous page

The Diamond X-50 dual band base station antenna was the only commercially made antenna that fully lived up to its published specifications on both 2 metres and 70 centimetres. This is comforting as the ORARC 2 metre and 70 centimetre repeaters at both Middle Brother Mountain and Telegraph Point use the Diamond X-50.

Those participating in the shootout included VK2LBG, VK2ATM, VK2SMI, VK2CLL, VK2VIV, VK2FMGM, VK2FIJN, VK2MPK, VK2ZHE, VK2CRF, VK2ICQ, VK2ZCM, VK2AYD, VK2UPR, VK2JU, VK2DAM, VK2VIV AND VK2ZRE . . . ‘

‘ . . . Central Coast Field Day at Wyong

This year was the 60th Central Coast Field Day held at Wyong Racecourse on Sunday the 26th of February 2017. There was heavy rain forecast for the event but despite many travelers encountering heavy rain showers on the way to Wyong, the weather at the racecourse remained fine all day for the Field Day. Unfortunately, the unfavourable forecast deterred some of the usual visitors from attending this year so the attendance was a little smaller than expected. This was most noticeable in the flea market area as there were fewer sellers than usual. However, those sellers to did attend had less competition. There were many bargains to be had and no-one went home empty handed unless they had exceptionally strong willpower. . . As usual, a great number of ORARC members made the journey to the Field Day. Those members who wore their club Tee shirts and hats were very easy to spot in the crowd. I counted at least 16 members during the course of the day. . . ‘



Familiar faces at the Flea Market, Bruce VK2EM with XYL Yulia

Denis VK2DAM and Paul VK2ICQ check out the merchandise



Local trader Radio Supply from Bellingen Gary VK2ZKT and XYL Carol VK2FCRS

‘ . . . Working Bee – 6 Metre Repeater Duplexer Construction

In the January 2017 issue of Oxtales there was a brief summary of the work that had been completed in construction of the antenna duplexer for the Telegraph Point VK2RCN 6 metre repeater. This repeater will transmit on 53.800 MHz and receive on 52.800 MHz . . . ‘



Arthur VK2ATM assembling the cavities



Lyle VK2SMI Rob VK2CRF and Arthur VK2ATM tuning the cavities.



Arthur VK2ATM, Lyle VK2SMI and Rob VK2CRF contemplate a job well done.

Silent Key

Winston Lloyd Blyth VK2XIQ known as Bob



It is with great sadness that we belatedly record the passing on the 9th September 2021 of esteemed ORARC Life Member Winston Lloyd Blyth VK2XIQ known as Bob. He was aged 80 years.

Bob had lived in retirement on his own at Telegraph Point for many years. Prior to moving to Telegraph Point he was a resident of Port Macquarie.

Bob retired to his home in Port Macquarie after a long and interesting technical career with Telstra and its predecessors. He was extremely knowledgeable in electronics and communications.

Bob generously contributed his expertise in radio communications to the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. His valuable contribution was recognised by awarding him one of the first Life Memberships of the club.

Bob was an avid experimenter and built many interesting projects. He was always very pleased to demonstrate his satellite TV systems. He was very skilled at making printed circuit boards and often helped fellow amateurs with their projects. He had excellent

computer skills and expertise in digital circuitry.

As well as enjoying his technical hobby activities, Bob volunteered as a marine base station operator with Port Macquarie Sea Rescue for many years. He particularly enjoyed being rostered on with other local amateur radio operators who also volunteered there. Fellow volunteer Jim Neil VK2VIV was always impressed at Bob's particularly acute eyesight as Bob was always first to spot vessels a long way out to sea.



Bob will be sadly missed.

The funeral service for Bob was held at the Manning Great Lakes Memorial Gardens Chapel on Wednesday the 22nd of September 2021.

Unfortunately, the news did not reach his fellow amateurs at the time, and the news of Bob's passing has only just become known. Thank you to Paul Romaine VK2UPR who learned of Bob's passing from Bob's neighbours when he went to visit him, and to John McLean VK2KC for researching the funeral details.

Vale: Winston Lloyd Blyth VK2XIQ known as Bob 09/02/1941— 09/09/2021.

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

Silent Key

Ronald Swindley VK2DDQ



Ron was a Farmer in the Trundle NSW area of western NSW and became an avid Amateur Radio operator, his interest piqued by his on-farm association with the early 27mHz days of CB radio. He was raised on his parents farm and developed a passion for farming and eventually purchased his own farming property "Steeton" Fifield Road Trundle, not far from his parents property.

He gained his NAOCP (Novice Amateur Operator Certificate of Proficiency) in early 1970's and quickly upgraded to the AOC, the Full Call, and had an impressive setup, complete with a 100 foot tower topped with a multiband HF beam, where he enjoyed chatting to AR Ops worldwide.

Ron's hospitality was legendary in the western area and hosted many other AR Ops and supplied accommodation and food for various worldwide contests held in his shack on his farm. He also served for quite a few years as President of the Parkes and District Amateur Radio Club.

A major change occurred in 1984 when he sold his farm and pursued tertiary studies at Charles Sturt in Bathurst where he studied for his Bachelor of Business degree and majored in computer programming, his first job was with the University and then with the RTA until his retirement in 2014. After purchasing a Nissan Navara

and fitting it out for a few laps around Australia. Of course, the Ute had to have all his AR gear installed along with all the other creature comforts for extended travelling.

In 2015 Ron discovered that he had a very aggressive form of cancer, but still continued to travel until late 2018 when his declining health forced him off the road as a tourist and he decided to purchase a home in Kempsey and from then lived with daughter Heidi being his carer.

Ron was hospitalised in early 2021 and fought a battle that was to last until 31/01/2022 when he passed away. He was interred in the Tuncurry Cemetery where his mother and father rest.

The information for this Tribute was kindly supplied by his daughter Heidi Norton.

Vale Ronald Swindley VK2DDQ

As a personal friend and knowing Ron from those very early 27mhz CB days and both of us graduating from CB'ers to Novice Ops and then to full calls at roughly the same time, I found Ron was a thoroughly good bloke and would help anyone in anyway, witness the AR "camps" he hosted on his farm and the camaraderie and hospitality that only those living west of the Sandstone Curtain have experienced!

John McLean VK2KC



Ron VK2DDQ in his 'radio shack' and his very impressive 100 foot tower at Trundle in the 1970s.



MEMBERSHIP REGISTER Membership List as at 1 March 2022

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		Cat Key
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
8	D	BOYD	WADE		VK2EST	WINGHAM	0400 589 265	O= Ordinary
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	O	BURT	DAVID	(SHANNON)	VK2EYE	PORT MACQUARIE	0408 175451	
13	D	CAMPBELL	JAMIE		VK2YCJ	HAMILTON	0418 628 321	
14	O/F	COLLEDGE	PAUL	(PAULA)	VK2ICQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6580 9912	
15	O/F	COLLEDGE	PAULA	(PAUL)	VK2PDC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8829	
16	O	COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 5658	
17	D	DORAHY	ALEX	(ANNE)	VK2HBF	TOORMINA	0400 849 098	
18	D	ECCLESTONE	BOB	(DIANA)	VK2ZRE	KEMPSEY	0419 414 412	
19	D	EKERT	BRUCE	(YULIA)	VK2EM	TUNCURRY	0414 532 496	
20	O	EKMAN	JOHN	(MELLISSA)	VK2VEX	WAUCHOPE	0417 448 998	
21	O/F	FLETCHER	CAROLINE	(PETER)	VK2CFZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191	
22	O/F	FLETCHER	PETER	(CAROLINE)	VK2HPF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191	
23	D	FOX	JOHN		VK2AEG	WAHROONGA	02 8711 0100	
24	O	FRAPPELL	GRAEME	(BAMBI)	VK2GCF	PORT MACQUARIE	0490 088 048	
25	O	FROGGATT	DARREN	(KRISTY)	VK2MIA	PORT MACQUARIE	0488 01 8102	
26	O	FROST	ROBERT	(SUSAN)	VK2CRF	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587 6129	
27	D	GARLAND	JOHN		VK2CJG	JEWELLS	02 4948 1950	
28	O	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2LBG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8814	
29	D	GREENE	DENNIS		KN4VKT	FLORIDA USA	+1321295 1184	
30	O	HALL	RICHARD		VK2BXO	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 6588	
31	O	HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	0427 407 973	
32	L	HARDING	DAVID		VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 1947	
33	D	HARPER	JOHN	(VIVIANE)	VK2LJ	VICTORIA	0417 254 763	
34	D	HIRSCHEL	ALLAN		VK2OK	DOUBLE BAY	0415 259 777	
35	O	HULME	TREVOR	(JACQUI)	VK2TOV	BONNY HILLS	0402964278	
36	D	HUTCHESON	COLIN	(PAULINE)	VK5DK	MT. GAMBIER	08 8725 5527	
37	D	JANES	LES	(BEVERLY)	VK5JL	SALISBURY HEIGHTS	08 8281 3878	
38	D	JOHNSON	STEVE		VK2SJJ	BELLINGEN	0466 334 626	
39	O	JONES	PAUL	(SANDRA)	VK2DEL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 3772	
40	D	KEIR	ANDREW	(BARBARA)	VK2AAK	DARAWANK	02 6554 3498	
41	O	KUCERA	PETER		VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	0429 229 290	
42	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	(PENNY)	VK2CLL	HUNTINGDON	02 6587 1155	
43	O	LINDQUIST	IAN	(BERNADETTE)	VK2GL	PORT MACQUARIE	0414 419 462	
44	L	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0534	
45	D	MACNAUGHTON	JENNY		VK2BA	MUDGE	02 6372 4053	
46	O	MARE	HANS		VK2MRK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 7080	
47	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2CSM	SANCROX	02 6585 3452	
48	D	McADAM	PETER		VK2EVB	COFFS HARBOUR	02 6652 7160	
49	O	McGUIRE	MARK		VK2FMGM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8875	
50	O	McLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 6220	
51	O	MEADE	DENNIS	(SUE)	VK2DAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2998	
52	D	MEEHAN	TERRY		ex-VK2KLL	KEMPSEY	-	
53	O	MELVILLE	STUART		VK2KSM	PORT MACQUARIE	0419 043 316	
54	O	MESSINA	TOBY		VK2XTX	PORT MACQUARIE	0417 293 377	
55	L	MONCK	ARTHUR		VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	0459 679 425	
56	O	MULLINS	RAY	(LYNNE)	VK2JU	PORT MACQUARIE	0432 559 400	
57	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 5387	
58	O	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	0487 812 481	
59	D	NIVEN	TREVOR	(BETH)	VK5NC	MT.GAMBIER	08 8723 2432	
60	D/F	O'BRIEN	GRAHAME	(JUDY)	VK2FA	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688	
61	D/F	O'BRIEN	JUDY	(GRAHAME)	VK2HZV	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688	
62	D	OLSEN	KIMBERLY		VK2KMI	SINGLETON	04 5515 5798	
63	D	OSBORNE	RICHARD		VK2OKR	LEMONTREE PASSAGE	0429 824 951	
64	D/F	PETTET	JOHANNA	(STEVEN)	VK2FJMM	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290	
65	D/F	PETTET	STEVEN	(JOHANNA)	VK2ZVG	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290	
66	L	PILLEY	DAVID		VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585 2647	
67	O	PISANI	VIC	(MEREDITH)	VK2UVP	BONNY HILLS	02 6584 8361	
68	D	PRATT	PETER		VK2PX	PENNANT HILLS	0418 965 962	
69	O	RAE	THOMAS		VK2ATR	PORT MACQUARIE	0409 808 528	
70	D	RAY	ROBERT		VK2ZWZ	SINGLETON	0412 573 861	
71	O	ROMAINE	PAUL		VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	0428 466 075	
72	O	SANDERS	BILL	(SUELENE)	VK2MVC	FREDRICKTON	0437 004 228	
73	O	SMALL	ROBERT	(LYNNE)	VK2BIG	LAKE CATHIE	02 6584 8148	
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)	VK9FLHI	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	D	WINTER	JOHN		VK2PJW	KRAMBACH	02 6550 2590	
89	O	WYNN	STEPHEN	(LYALLE)	VK2ZSW	YIPPIN CREEK	02 6585 3327	
90	D	YORSTON	ROBERT		VK2CAN	ROSEVILLE	0428 310 407	