



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 fifty Second Anniversary Year

November 2023

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

President's Report

November 2023



Christmas Party

The club's 2023 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday the 2nd of December.

The venue will again be the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery at 6 Cooina Place, Lake Cathie. Cooina Place runs off Long Point Drive which in turn runs off Houston



Mitchell Drive. This is the "Ghost Road" which runs between Ocean Drive just south of Lake Cathie, and the Pacific Highway. The location is easy to find but a map is available on the Vineyard web site at <http://www.longpointvineyard.com.au/contact-us/>

The Christmas party will be from 10:30 am onwards. There will be a sausage sizzle barbeque lunch followed by delicious

ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

MIDDLE BROTHER

VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 146.700MHz - I/P 146.100MHz
VK2RPM EchoLink Node Number 916007

VK2RPM 70 cm (DMR Radnet)
O/P 438.525MHz - I/P 433.525MHz

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-CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 53.800 MHz - I/P 52.800 MHz
VK2RCN-5 (APRS iGate Digipeater)
SX 145.175 MHz 1200 Bps

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Down The Coax

**Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held
in the SES Building Central Road, Port
Macquarie.**

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

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 November 2023 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger
Bar, Thrumster
10am Thursday 9 November 2023**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 November 2023 7.00 pm**

**Spring VHF UHF Contest
Sat & Sun 25 & 26 November 2023**

**ORARC Christmas Party
(no Monthly General Meeting)
Saturday 2 December 2023 10:30 am to
2pm
Long Point Winery and Art Gallery
Covered Picnic Area**

**Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic
& Family Violence
Tacking Point to West Port Park Port
Macquarie
Sunday 3 December 2023**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger
Bar, Thrumster
10am Thursday 14 December 2023**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 December 2023 7:00 pm**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 January 2024 2:00 pm –
Show and Tell and Afternoon Tea**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger
Bar, Thrumster
10am Thursday 11 January 2024**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 January 2024 7.00 pm**

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

November 2023

VK2FMGM	Nov 5	VK2EM	Nov 2
VK2FMGM	Nov 12	VK2ZHE	Nov 9
VK2FMGM	Nov 19	VK2ICQ	Nov 16
VK2FMGM	Nov 26	VK2EM	Nov 23
		VK2ZHE	Nov 30

December 2023

VK2FMGM	Dec 3	VK2ICQ	Dec 7
VK2FMGM	Dec 10	VK2EM	Dec 14
VK2FMGM	Dec 17	VK2ZHE	Dec 21
VK2FMGM	Dec 24	VK2ICQ	Dec 28
VK2FMGM	Dec 31		

January 2024

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

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 February 2024 2:00 pm –
Guest Speaker TBA**

Stop Press

**VK2RPM Radnet DMR repeater in-
stalled at Middle Brother**

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Continued from front cover

pavlova and trifle desserts. Please bring your own salads and nibbles and drinks. The club will have some soft drinks and water available. Tea and coffee will also be available.

We look forward to a good attendance at this year's Christmas party. Please take the opportunity to come along and socialize. The covered picnic area has an elevated timber floor. The cover provides shade from the sun and offers shelter in the event of rain. There is no charge and family and friends are most welcome. If you have a folding chair and table, please bring them to help with the seating.



ORARC Meetings



ORARC Monthly General Meetings now only include a short 15 minute business meeting before a presentation by a guest speaker. The new meeting format leaves plenty of time for members to socialize over tea and coffee and biscuits.

The new meeting format has proven to be very popular but of course it does mean that we need a guest speaker for ten meetings a year. There is no Monthly Meeting in December as the ORARC Annual Christmas Party is held in place of the

formal meeting. Also, as the August Monthly General Meeting is held after the AGM each year, there usually isn't an August Guest Speaker.

Please let the Committee know if you are able to assist by doing a presentation yourself on a topic of interest, or if you are able to suggest a suitable guest speaker.

As has been mentioned, there will not be a December Monthly General Meeting. As is traditional, the Christmas Party on Saturday the 2nd of December 2023 takes the place of the December meeting.

The January Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of January 2024 will not have a formal guest speaker. After the 15 minute business meeting there will be an opportunity for "show and tell" and short talks from the floor. There will be extra time for socializing over tea and coffee and biscuits for afternoon tea.

A guest speaker is needed for the February Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 3rd of February 2024, after the 15 minute business meeting.

The monthly Friday night get togethers at 7pm on the third Friday of each month are an excellent opportunity to meet up with fellow members. Members are invited to bring items along for "Show and Tell". There is always something interesting to look at and discuss. It is also an opportunity to bring equipment in if you would like assistance from the collective "brains trust" rag chewing and brainstorming over tea, coffee and biscuits is always popular.

The 15th of December 2023 Friday Night Get together will be last Club activity for 2023.

Remember to put 2pm on Saturday the 6th of January 2024 in your calendar now for the January Monthly General Meeting as the first Club activity for 2024.

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Coffee Mornings



The informal Coffee Mornings at 10am on the second Thursday of each month continue to be very popular. The venue is Brooklyn's Burger Bar in the Sovereign Hills shopping centre at Thrumster.

The Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity to meet fellow members and their families socially over a leisurely morning tea.

JOTA 2023



The 67th annual Jamboree on the Air took place over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of October 2023. It also was the 28th annual Jamboree on the Internet.

Unfortunately, the planned VK2BOR JOTA operation at McInherney Park on the southern shore of the Hastings River upstream from Port Macquarie had to be cancelled as the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts received insufficient registrations from the Scouts and Guides for the event.

The 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts' new boathouse in the Park was recently completed and they were looking forward to JOTA 2023 but without sufficient registrations the event would not have been viable. Sincere apologies for the inconvenience to all those who had volunteered to run the VK2BOR JOTA Station.

We look forward to being able to participate in JOTA 2024.

Beechwood Billycart Classic



The 42nd annual Beechwood Billycart Classic took place on the morning of Sunday the 29th of October 2023.

After some rainy days before the weekend, the Sunday of the Classic dawned fine and clear.

ORARC members have provided safety communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic every year that it has run. We thank the 13 ORARC members who provided the safety communications this year.



Part of the intrepid team Peter VK2MPK, Lyle VK2SMI, John VK2PJW, Wade VK2EST, and Bruce VK2EM.

Those who participated were Peter Kucera VK2MPK, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Bruce Ekert VK2EM, Wade Boyd VK2EST, John Winter VK2PJW, Ray Mullins VK2JU and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.



Larry VK2CLL and Rob VK2CRF check radios.



Arthur VK2ATM at the finish line.



Mark VK2FMGM and Ray VK2JU wait at the briefing point.

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A larger than usual field had registered for the race but only six billycars lined up at the start for the main race. What the race lacked in numbers, it made up for in speed. The lead billycars travelled so fast that the Commentary Vehicle had to drive down the mountain as fast as it could go to stay ahead of them. A couple of the single seater billycars at the tail end of the field didn't have enough speed and momentum to clear the uphill rises at the bottom of the course and had to be pushed.



One of the fast cars whizzes past note the streamlining with both the driver and the pusher being inside. Below a close up of the cramped positions.



A single seater has almost stopped at the check point. By the time it arrived at the next check point a band of willing spectators sprang into action to push the cart up the next rise.



The single seater cart beautifully made. Note the streamlined cart to the left and an old red cart originally made and raced by Craig VK2ZCM (SK).

The popular short course Children's billycart race was run after the completion of the main race. As usual this race was very keenly contested.

There was only one incident during the Classic. Bruce VK2EM had to spring into action when the truck picking up the haybales after the main race hit a bump and lost its tailgate which blocked the road at his checkpoint in the upper part of the course. Thank you to Bruce for his quick action in radioing in the incident and stopping the traffic until the tailgate was safely reattached to the truck.

As always, the Beechwood Billycart Classic was a well-attended family day out with plenty of entertainment and food stalls in the finish area adjacent to the Beechwood Hotel. For safety in the finish area the main road was closed to vehicular traffic and through traffic was diverted via the backstreets of the northern part of Beechwood.



Henry VK2ZHE off to give the safety briefing.

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Liberty Coastal Walk



The annual Liberty (previously known as the White Ribbon) Coastal Walk Against Domestic & Family Violence from the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club to West Port Park in Port Macquarie will take place on Sunday 3rd of December 2023 <https://libertyservices.org.au/get-involved/coastal-walk-against-domestic-violence/>

This year walkers are requested to register via the above web page so the event is being run as a formal event this year.

In pre COVID years, members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club have provided the safety communications for the Coastal Walk.

As we were about to publish this issue of Oxtales, Liberty have advised that their approved safety plan for the Walk now has communications covered by other means, and that the ORARC safety communications is not required this year. Thank you to those who had volunteered. Sincere apologies for the inconvenience by this late cancellation.

Spring VHF UHF Field Day

The annual Spring VHF UHF Field Day takes place from 01:00 hours UTC on Saturday the 25th of November to 01:00 hours on Sunday the 26th of November 2023. This equates to 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday Eastern Australian

Daylight Saving Time.

The contest rules are downloadable as a .pdf document from the WIA website at <https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/about/>

The deadline for submitting logs is Monday the 11th of December 2023.

The downloadable VK Contest Log logging software <http://www.mnds.com.au/vkcl/> makes it simple to keep your log and score so that it can be submitted electronically.

The Spring VHF UHF Field Day will see many stations using their 2X1 contest callsigns callsigns with only one letter for their scoring contacts. As well as VK, prefixes may also be VJ or VL which will require vigilance when logging contacts.

The ORARC club station VK2BOR is not participating in this year's annual Spring VHF UHF Field Day. Club members are encouraged to participate from their individual stations. It is a great opportunity to operate portable. ORARC is conducting a Foundation Training and Assessment weekend over the Field Day Weekend and several key ORARC members will be occupied with running the Foundation Weekend.

ORARC 2024 Calendar

John Hansen VK2AYQ is busy creating the club's 2024 calendar.

The 2024 calendar will look very similar to the 2023 calendar. The calendar will showcase club activities and projects. The design of the calendar means that there will space for more club information than in previous years. This will make the calendar even more useful in the shack.

The 2024 calendar will be available at the Christmas Party on Saturday the 2nd of December 2023, and at subsequent club activities. It will be available at the Coffee Morning at

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Thrumster on Thursday the 14th of December, and at the Friday night get together on the 15th of December 2023.

It will of course be available at the Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of January 2024, and at subsequent meetings.

The price of the calendars will again be a mere \$2 each. The annual calendar has become a “must have” for every ham shack. The expanded information on the calendar will make it more useful than ever.

In past years, Jaycar Port Macquarie have for subsidized the printing costs of the calendar but due to a change in Jaycar sponsorship rules, Jaycar will now only sponsor one activity per year for each club. ORARC will be applying to Jaycar for sponsorship of the 2024 Field Day. The calendars are an important service to members so they will continue to be sold for the low price of \$2 each.

ORARC Communications Caravan

Several members carried out maintenance work on the ORARC Communications Caravan in four working bees during October 2023. Many tasks were completed including fitting compliant mudflaps, rewiring and testing the electric brakes, replacing corroded parts in the over-ride and hand brakes, and most visibly, pressure washing the outside of the caravan.



New Mudflaps and rewiring

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Ricky Hall VK2BXO and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE for

carrying out the work and supplying the tools and parts. The caravan is now roadworthy and looking very presentable.



The before maintenance appearance of the Communications Caravan



After maintenance with the pressure cleaners Rob VK2CRF, Larry VK2CLL and Ricky VK2BXO standing proudly in front.

VK2RCN Telegraph Point Repeaters

The off-grid solar powered VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point is almost complete and the repeaters are working well.

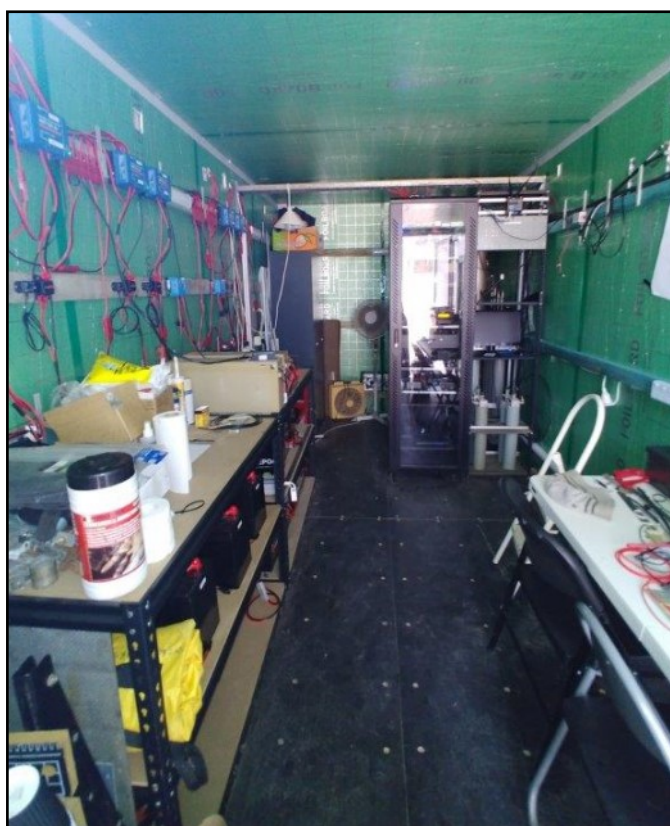
The VK2RCN repeaters are:

- The VK2RCN 438.425 MHz RadNet DMR digital voice repeater.
- The VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre voice FM repeater which will accept either analogue FM or C4FM Yaesu System Fusion digital voice input.

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- The VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre FM voice repeater.
- The VK2RCN-5 145.175 MHz 2 metre APRS iGate digipeater
- The VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre FM voice repeater and the VK2RCN 53.8 MHz 6 metre FM voice repeater both require a 91.5 Hz CTCSS sub audible tone for access.
- A new VK2RCN 70cm UHF multimode digital voice repeater supporting DMR, DStar, P25, C4FM and NXDN will be added once a frequency pair for this repeater is assigned.
- The VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre FM voice repeater will be linked to the Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre FM voice repeater when additional equipment is installed at both sites.



It is a busy place inside the repeater shack.

Amateur Radio Licence Training and Assessments

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend is being held in the SES Building in Port Macquarie on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 25th and 26th of November 2023. Papers have been ordered for the candidates who have registered for the weekend. This will be the last training and assessment weekend run by ORARC under the current arrangements with the Australian Maritime College (AMC). AMC is not renewing its Deed with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and in January 2024 ACMA will become responsible for the administration of Amateur Radio examinations and licencing.

Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL is working towards running training and assessments for the Foundation Licence and assessments for the Standard and Advanced Licences under the new arrangements with ACMA. Prospective candidates should contact Larry as soon as possible to register their interest so that a mutually convenient date can be set once the new arrangements with ACMA are finalized.

Mid North Coast Region WICEN



Amateurs are invited to join Mid North Coast Region WICEN. WICEN meetings are held in the SES building in Central Road Port Macquarie after the conclusion of the ORARC monthly general meetings on the afternoon of the first Saturday of

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each month except December. The next meeting will be on the afternoon of Saturday the 6th of January 2024 after the ORARC Monthly General Meeting.

Mid North Coast WICEN welcomes all amateurs to call in to the weekly 7 pm Thursday Night 3600 kHz LSB 80 metre nets. The nets conclude by 7:30pm so that participants can join the ORARC 7:30 pm Thursday Night Nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother 2 metre repeater, either directly via the repeater 2 metre input, or via the VK2RPM EchoLink Node. The VK2RPM EchoLink Node number is 916007

WICEN NSW runs two state-wide radio nets each month. On the second Sunday of each month at 6:30pm there is a DMR net on Talk Group 3810. On the third Sunday of each month at 6:30pm there is a 40m voice net on 7110 kHz LSB. Net control is VK2WIZ. All stations are welcome to check in.

For further information, please contact Larry Thompson VK2LJT, Rob Frost VK2CRF or Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE.

Life Members

Long time active ORARC members Des Thompson VK9FLHI of Lord Howe Island and Bob Yorston VK2CAN of Roseville were awarded Life Membership of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club at the 2023 AGM on the 5th of August 2023. Unfortunately, due to their personal circumstances, neither Des nor Bob were able to attend the AGM to be presented with their awards and sent their apologies.

Des Thompson VK9FLHI was presented with his Life Membership Certificate and badge by president Henry Lundell VK2ZHE when Des was in Port Macquarie before returning to Lord Howe Island. Please see the photo of Des with his

certificate and badge (Photograph Below).



Bob VK2CAN was unable to come to Port Macquarie for the AGM due to his personal circumstances but he did subsequently make a special trip from Sydney to Port Macquarie to be presented with his certificate and badge by president Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. The photograph below shows Bob with his certificate and badge.



Both Des and Bob were honoured to be awarded Life Membership and were very pleased to be presented with their certificates and badges in person. They had both attended the ORARC 2023 Annual Field Day in June

and caught up with quite a few members and visitors while they were there.

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Silent Key

As reported in the “Stop Press” in the September 2023 issue of Oxtales, it is with great sadness that we record the sad passing of esteemed Life Member David Pilley VK2AYD on Tuesday the 19th of September 2023, aged 93 years. David passed away peacefully at Wauchope after a long illness.

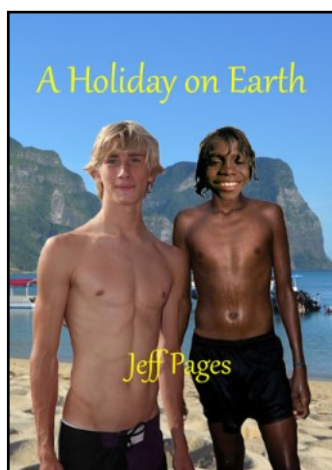
Please see the Silent Key Vale David Pilley VK2AYD in this issue of Oxtales.

wish all members and their families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

Book Review by Henry VK2ZHE of A Holiday on Earth written by Jeff Pages VK2BBY

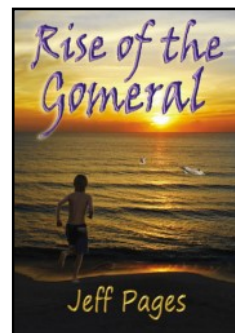
A Holiday on Earth



The latest book “A Holiday on Earth” by Dr Jeff Pages VK2BYY continues the fictional adventures of the Collins family and friends on their journey across worlds and galaxies, confronting ancient foes as they unravel the mysteries of the universe. Discovering the key to faster-than-light travel, they encounter other civilisations inhabiting the

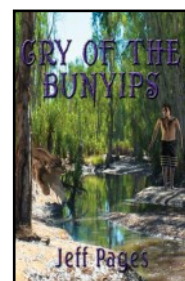
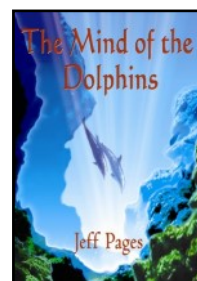
cosmos and the dark secrets they hide.

“A Holiday on Earth” ties up a loose end which arose from a holiday invitation in “Plight of the Tivinel”, that was not answered in the book or in the subsequent and last book “Rise of the Gomerl”.



The previous six books in the series by Jeff Pages are:

Barefoot Times
Call of the Delphinidae
The Mind of the Dolphins
Cry of the Bunyips
Plight of the Tivinel
Rise of the Gomerl



Jeff has a great knowledge of physics and his fertile imagination and flair for storytelling has enabled him to write a series of very readable plausible science fiction books that have a world-wide following. The barefoot adventures of his main characters growing up in a very high tech and sometimes dangerous universe remind us of the basic things that really matter in life.

Jeff modestly calls “A Holiday on Earth” a novella as it is only 128 pages long rather than the 400 to 500 pages of the other six books in the saga. Even if you haven’t read the other related books it’s worth reading “A Holiday on Earth”

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to sample Jeff's writing and the flavour of the adventure. 128 pages won't take too long and I'm sure you'll get a taste for the rest of the saga.

Download the six books for free and you'll have perfect ebook reading for your holiday! Don't forget to let Jeff know that you've read his books, and let him know how much you enjoyed them.

Those who have known Jeff Pages many decades like some of us will recognise the "barefooters" in the books as simply following Jeff's personal enjoyment of going barefoot. Just look at any of the many published photos of Jeff at Field Days over the last 50 years where he is sprinting along barefoot in the foxhunts.

Jeff's first book "Barefoot Times" set the scene where the main characters went barefoot and fittingly Jeff named his website "Barefoot Times". The subsequent books carry on the adventures through the barefoot universe.



"A Holiday on Earth" is set on Lord Howe Island which many of us know very well. Jeff notes on his website that one of the reasons for selecting Lord Howe Island as the holiday destination is his love of the stunning natural beauty of the Island, and that he has visited it himself so he is writing from first-hand experience of having actually done many of the things his characters do during their holiday. Of course, Lord Howe Island is the perfect place to enjoy barefoot which is just what

his young characters do in the book. It is a great compliment to the Island that with the whole Cosmos to choose from his characters picked Lord Howe Island for their holiday.

There is nothing quite like reading from the printed book but you can download a .pdf file of "A Holiday on Earth" free of charge from Jeff's Barefoot Times website at <https://www.barefoottimes.net/AHolidayOnEarth/index.htm>

Jeff's previous six books are also available from his website. Just go to <https://www.barefoottimes.net/> Most of these books are now out of print but you can download the .pdf files of them free of charge to read as ebooks. On the website you'll also find lots of interesting background information about Jeff and the books he has written.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE





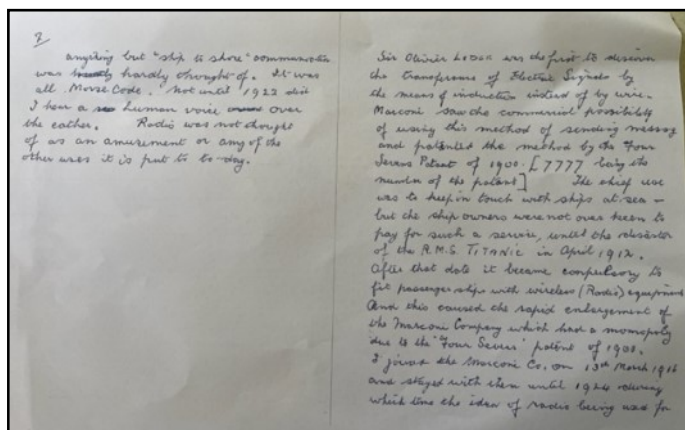
The following fascinating information was provided by John VK2PJW about his grandfather-in-law; Henry Robert Dawson who was a Marconi Ships Radio Officer between 1916 and 1924.

Pictured with friend left. Note the heavy headphones that operators used at that time.

Henry Robert Dawson also kept a diary of his life at the time which makes for interesting reading as it reflects a completely different world and times to that of today.

John VK2PJW and his family are hopeful that they might find some one who might transcribe Henry Dawson's diary with a view of publishing them as a historical perspective on radio and communications at that time.

The diary's were written in flowing cursive writing as the following photograph illustrates, with a transcript below.

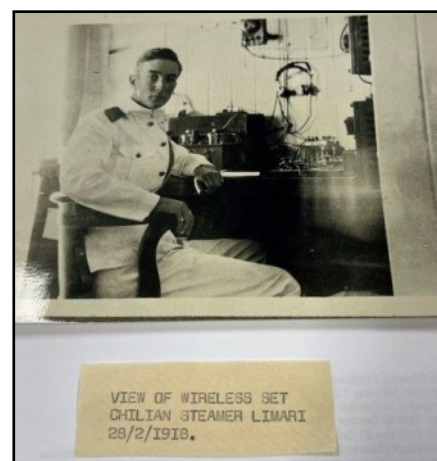
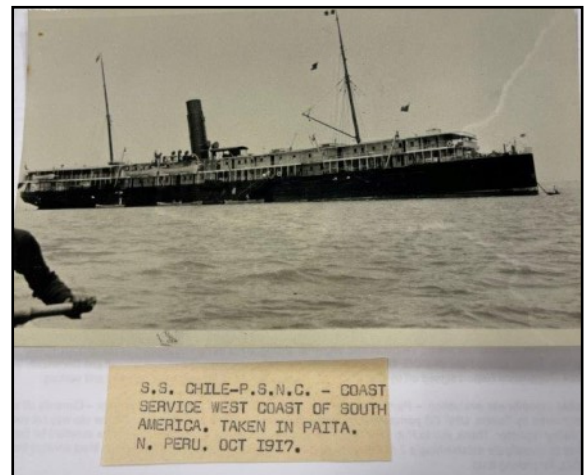


"Sir Oliver Lodge was the first to discover the transference of Electric Signals by the means of induction instead of by wire. Marconi saw the commercial possibility of using this method of sending messages and patented the method by the Four Sevens Patent of 1900 (7777) being the number of the patent.

The chief use was to keep in touch with ships at sea, but the ship owners were not

over keen to pay for such a service until the disaster of the R.M.S. Titanic in April 1912. After that date it became compulsory to fit passenger ships with wireless (Radio) equipment. This caused the rapid enlargement of the Marconi Company which had a monopoly due to the "Four Sevens" patent of 1900.

I joined the Marconi Company on 13 March 1916 and stayed with them until 1924 during which time the idea of radio being used for anything but "ship to shore" communications was hardly thought of. It was all Morse Code. Not until 1922 did I hear a human voice over the ether. Radio was not thought of as an amusement or any of the other uses it is put to to-day".



Editors note: Note the relative simplicity of the early 'Marconi' cabin. John VK2PJW recounts his grandfather-in-law explaining how a frequency change necessitated the physical removal and replacing of tuning coils for the desired frequency.

EchoLink Presentation by Jonathan Taylor K1RFD

Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE

The following is a presentation by Jonathan Taylor K1RFD given electronically to the Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX meeting on the 14th of September 2023, on EchoLink.

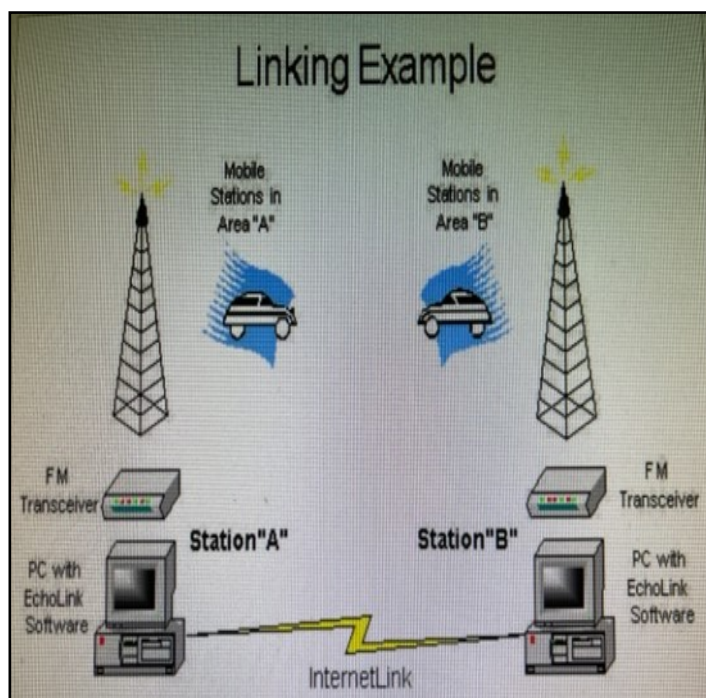
The presentation included a YouTube video that may be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7SMBqk_Ouo. The video is introduced by Grahame VK2FA.

Jonathan Taylor K1RFD developed EchoLink the Voice over Internet Protocol network for linking repeaters and amateurs.

More Echolink information is available at <http://echolink.org/> Echolink is available on many repeaters including the ORARC Middle Brother VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater.

Thank you to Grahame O'Brien VK2FA for advising that the presentation is now available on You Tube.

The following picture is an image of the Echolink Example which could be useful when watching the YouTube video.



Stop Press item from Page 3

On Saturday 18 November Henry VK2ZHE, Rob VK2CRF, Lyle VK2SMI and Paul VK2ICQ installed the VK2RPM Radnet DMR repeater at the Middle Brother repeater site. Stuart VK2BMX and Charlie VK2GMT also travelled up from Sydney to assist.



Photograph above shows the Motorola DMR repeater and router with the VK2RPM Yaesu 146.7 MHz 2 metre voice repeater below it.



**WIA AGM to be held at
BUNDABERG
CONVENTION CENTER**



Date : 17 / 11 / 2023

Author : Peter Clee - VK8ZZ

The Bundaberg Convention is happening in Bundaberg on 4th and 5th May 2024 and we would love it if you could attend!

This is by far the #1 event in the calendar year for Amateur Radio in Australia! Its being held at the new State-of-the-Art Multiplex convention center and it promises to be an amazing weekend - full of interesting activities!

The Bundaberg Convention will include the 2024 WIA Annual General Meeting as well as a variety of interesting discussions about the future of Amateur radio in Australia.

The results of the WIA elections will be announced as well as the annual WIA merit awards.

The annual WIA Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday May the 4th being International Star Wars Day where you can enjoy a tasty buffet meal and take some time to meet with other amateurs from all over Australia and internationally guest speakers.

There will be two days of interesting talks about the many different aspects of the Ama-

teur Radio service.

A commercial EXPO over the weekend where you can discover cutting-edge offerings from industry-leading companies with great equipment for sale and lots of Show Specials.

Bundaberg Hamfest 2.0 is where attendees can Buy and sell new and used radio and electronic equipment.

BARC Open Day is an opportunity to immerse yourself with hands-on demonstrations featuring state-of-the-art radio equipment such as computer controlled satellite tracking systems and software as well as vintage radio equipment on display.

We have also scheduled a contact with the International Space Station!: Communications with an astronaut on the ISS, involving students from the Bundaberg State High School.

We will have Soldering Workshops for the kids with interesting kits the youngsters can build and take home! Lots of great giveaways and raffle prizes over the weekend.

If your planning to attend, make sure you book your accommodation soon.

Bundaberg is an RV-Friendly Town and there are plenty of camping areas available if you are coming with your motorhome or caravan.

If you are flying into Bundaberg, mini bus shuttles will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation and to and from the venue over the weekend.

Mark the date in your calendar! May 4th and 5th 2024

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2024 Bundaberg WIA National Convention!

Continued on next page

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WIA Complimentary Reward Membership Update



Date : 10 / 10 / 2023
Author : WIA BOARD

GOT A NEW LICENCE? 1-Year Additional Membership on us!

If you have received an Amateur Operators Certificate of Proficiency:

(AOCP) **Foundation, Standard or Advanced** at any time since the January 1st, 2018 or if you are an Amateur Radio Operator, SWL or other interested party and at any time have not previously been a member of the WIA, you may be eligible for an additional 1- year membership extension to your first years WIA membership subscription* at no additional cost.

If this is you, or someone you know, all that is needed is to complete a WIA membership application form (hard or soft copy) along with a copy of the relevant AOCP qualification (or equivalent if applicable) showing the date of qualification attainment and send them to the WIA head office for processing.

Email: nationaloffice@wia.org.au

Join now and start receiving all the benefits of WIA membership.

(* Subject to WIA Membership being approved and WIA Membership Terms and Conditions being fully met.)

This new updated arrangement was introduced in October 2022 and was advertised in Vol 90 No6 2022 AR magazine. This supercedes any previous conditions or offers of WIA 1 year complimentary membership.

Election for WIA Directors Call for Nominations



Date : 11 / 10 / 2023
Author : WIA Returning Officer
Wireless Institute of Australia

Pursuant to clause 14.1 of the Constitution the Wireless Institute of Australia, the Board has determined that the election of directors shall be conducted by ballot.

Three directors retire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting which will be held in May 2024, namely Lee Moyle VK3GK, Chris Dimitrijevic VK3FY and Steven Green VK2TSG. Each retiring director is eligible for re-election.

Nominations are called for from persons seeking election as a director of the WIA.

A director must be a voting member of the WIA and must hold an Australian amateur radio license and a Company Director Identification Number.

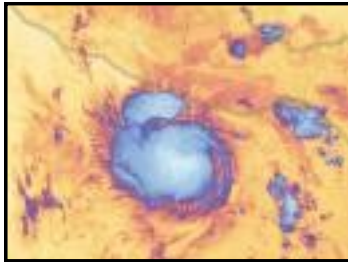
Any person wishing to nominate as a candidate for election as director of the WIA must deliver or cause to be delivered to the Returning Officer by not later than 2.00pm on 10th December 2023.

A nomination form is available on the WIA web site .

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Amateur Radio Operators Provide Post-Hurricane Communications in Mexico



Above visible Infra Red image of Hurricane before landfall in Mexico.

Radio Amateurs are providing communication services to and from the affected areas in and around Acapulco, Mexico.

On the morning of Wednesday, October 25, 165 mile-per-hour winds from Hurricane Otis knocked out all communications and unleashed a nightmare scenario in Acapulco.

The area is home to roughly 800,000 people.

Radio Club Queretaro member Ruben Navarrete Galvan, XE1EC, told ARRL News that amateur radio operators are still active with multiple operations, and they are receiving citizen requests to obtain information on the whereabouts of their relatives.

"We keep an online database with these requests that we share with the different hams participating in the operation. Read-only access to this database is provided to the authorities who might need it, too. We also transmit this information to hams deployed in the Acapulco area via HF," Galvan said.

Additionally, hams in the Acapulco area are trying to locate civilians using their own resources. Some of these hams are operating their equipment on battery power, while others have access to generators. Accessing many areas in the region has been a challenge due to the amount of debris blocking travel.

Amateur radio operators have also been receiving requests from Acapulco residents to call their relatives and let them know they are

fine. Those requests are transmitted via HF to the Emergency Net Operator, and then the call is made to the family members.

Galvan also reported that hams have been providing communication between state agencies and their field personnel deployed in the Acapulco area. "At least three state agencies have hams on their teams. This is the case for the state of Durango, Morelos, and Santiago de Quer  taro. We have been communicating their messages to their central coordination via HF relays. Requests for specific requirements have been escalated to the support teams. Air medical services have been directed to areas that were not being attended," he said. Hams are also helping in other areas, including:

Repairing a damaged repeater on Altzomoni at the Izta-Popo Zoquiapan National Park to support communication efforts in certain areas of Guerrero Deploying donations from a ham in Arizona, including a UHF repeater, solar panels, and 50 handhelds, to the affected areas. Getting the state agency's mobile stations back on the air and reinstalling the HF antennas that were damaged Emergency Communications Coordinator International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator Carlos Alberto Santamar  a Gonz  lez, CO2JC, said frequency protection has been requested for the following bands and frequencies:

80-meter band: 3690 kHz 40-meter band: 7060 and 7095 kHz 20-meter band: 14.120 kHz.

The K7RA Solar Update

11/17/2023

ASWFC GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE WARNING ISSUED AT 2306 UTC 16 NOVEMBER 2023 BY THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE WEATHER FORECASTING CENTRE.

Two recent CMEs associated with small solar filament eruptions are expected to increase

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geomagnetic activity from mid 19-Nov to 20-Nov.

Solar activity was lower this week, November 9-15, with average daily sunspot numbers dropping from 89.7 to 80.1, and average daily solar flux from 151.7 to 133.8.

A single new sunspot group appeared on November 10, another on November 12, one more on November 13 and another on November 14.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere November 17-23, 2023 from OK1HH:

"During the first half of November, solar activity continuously decreased, which was not what we would have liked for shortwave propagation.

Shortwave propagation conditions in the second half of the month should definitely be better as solar activity is expected to increase. In addition, with the exception of the last days of November (when we expect a disturbance), we expect the geomagnetic field to be mostly quiet to only moderately active.



ARRL's Role in RFI Investigations

ARRL helps amateur radio operators through both technical and process hurdles often experienced while investigating RFI to or from a ham's station. Most assistance, well over ninety-five percent of assistance from the ARRL, is due to interference to an amateur radio station. There are very few instances where ARRL is called upon for assistance, and the radio amateur is causing the RFI.



Power Lines

Power lines can be a significant source of RFI, and can take hams off the air for extended periods of time. ARRL encourages hams to raise suspected power line noise with their power companies and to seek ARRL's help if they are unable to get the matter resolved on their own.



Solar

Solar is becoming increasingly more popular, amongst hams and their neighbors. With the increase in solar installations, the ARRL has been fielding many questions on addressing RFI issues. ARRL has developed relationships with several solar developers, in an effort to minimize harmful interference to amateur radio stations.

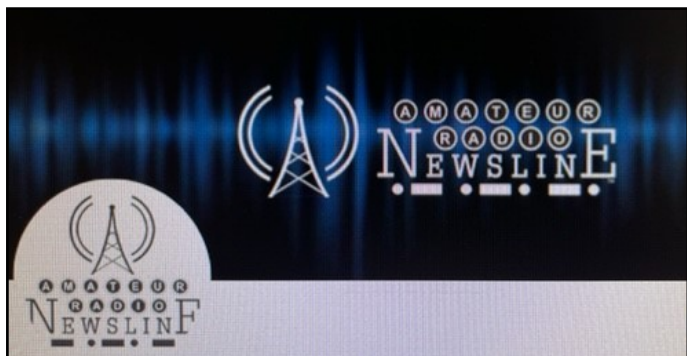


Lighting Devices

ARRL gets numerous reports of RFI from lighting devices, due to the increase in energy efficient LED lighting, and the increase in the use of grow lights that can rely on high power ballasts for their operation.

So how does ARRL help with RFI investigation? First, ARRL provides technical assistance in finding the source of the RFI, whether its coming from a device in the amateur radio operator's own home, a neighbour's home or power lines, ARRL can help by working with ham's to identify the RFI through the characteristics of the noise source, helping with Direction Finding (DF'ing) techniques and in advising ham's on how to approach their neighbours when the noise appears to be coming from a neighbouring home.

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FIRE DESTROYS KEY BEACON ON MADEIRA ISLAND

DON/ANCHOR: An important guide to ionospheric conditions for hams and non-hams alike has been damaged beyond repair. It was the newest beacon in the network of the International Beacon Project of the Northern California DX Foundation and the IARU. Ralph Squillace KK6ITB has that story.

RALPH: A wildfire destroyed one of the newest installations to the Northern California DX Foundation's International Beacon Project. A blaze in October destroyed radio beacon CS3B (ICOM 7200), on the Portuguese island of Madeira off Africa's northwest coast. The CW beacon had been in operation barely a month when fire swept through, destroying the building, the radio inside and the antenna. Replacement is expected to take some time.



The HF beacon was one of several operating on 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m and 10m and was viewed as an important resource for testing HF propagation between North America and Europe. The various beacons operate by transmitting once on each of

these bands every three minutes, around the clock.

No timetable was disclosed for the beacon's return to service.

This is Ralph Squillace KK6ITB.

(IARU, WIA)

IN GERMANY, AN EASIER WAY TO REPORT RFI

DON/ANCHOR: Amateurs in Germany now have a direct means of communication with the federal regulator BNetzA (Pron: B-NETS-EH) when they want to report electronic devices that have caused radio interference or are inaccurately labeled as being safe. An online form allows a report to be made with relevant details so that the agency can more easily take action and determine if these devices are non-compliant, dangerous - or both. Customs agents and postal authorities will also be notified of imported devices that are found to be faulty so those items can be placed on the list of banned products.

The form is designed to help expedite an official response, especially with regard to interference - be it on the amateur radio frequencies or on mobile phones or broadcast radio and TV. BNetzA (Pron: B-NETS-EH) has provided a link to the form, which is in German. That link appears in the text version of this week's Newsline script at arnewsline.org

ADVENT CALENDAR' EVENT ACTIVATES UK BUNKERS



DON/ANCHOR: With Christmas on the horizon, the UK Bunkers-on-the-Air awards scheme has introduced a special set of awards in the format of an Advent Calendar. Here is Ed Durrant DD5LP with more information: *Continued on next page*

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ED: Bunker activators will be on the air from bunkers in the official ROC reference list from December 1st through the 24th, and chasers can symbolically "open" a new bunker door each day by working that station - right up through Christmas.

The Bunkers on the Air Advent Calendar Award has two parts: one for hunters or shortwave listeners and one for activators. The programme runs in parallel with the Bunkers on the Air 2023 annual award meaning that those taking part in both events must use two separate online trackers.

To keep the season bright and even a little amusing, the multi-tiered point system for the Advent Calendar Award has such names as "Santa's Little Helper" all the way to the top-scoring "Super Santa." Spotting, alerting and all information about the scheme is available on the website at bunkerson-theair.org"

Bunkers on the Air is a rapidly growing amateur radio activity that centres around Royal Observer Corps monitoring posts created during the Cold War Era.



Photograph above taken by Fraser Wenseth from the Bunkers on the air website.

I am Ed Durrant DD5LP.

EVENT ENGAGES VINTAGE-STYLE RADIOS IN QSO PARTY

DON/ANCHOR: If you're looking for an old-fashioned QSO, get your hands on an

old-fashioned radio and listen to this next report from Jack Parker W8ISH.

JACK: If you've built yourself a vintage-style transmitter - or are lucky enough to have acquired one - you're just in time for the Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party this month. It's taking place on the 11th and 12th of November and again on the 18th through the 20th. It bears the name of Bruce, W8ACY/W2ICE, who was part of the group of amateur radio operators who founded the Antique Wireless Association, in 1952. He became a Silent Key in 1997, six years after the first QSO Party took place.

The association is sponsoring this year's event to celebrate the glory of tubes and techniques that date back to 1929 or even earlier. The QSO Party is open to anyone with an appropriate oldtime-style radio, whether they are an association member or not. It is, however, a CW-only event and in addition to hearing dits and dahs sent at a wide variety of speeds, operators can expect to hear the buzzing, chirping and drifting associated with the ham radio experience of a century or so ago.

So now that you've likely turned back your clocks, get ready to turn back your calendar. Additional details - and a video about vintage transmitters - can be seen at the website [antiquewireless dot org](http://antiquewireless.org) (antiquewireless.org)

This is Jack Parker W8ISH.



A 1,000 Watt spark gap transmitter from the antiquewireless.org web site.

Blast from the past

Blast from the Past is the section of Oxtales where we reflect on what the club and its members were 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 2013 November issues of Oxtales. The club had 80 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President, Larry VK2CLL Vice President, Secretary David VK2FRAB and Keith VKFKJA (SK) Treasurer.

The main club activity reported upon was JOTI and JOTA. The club was able to set up two stations one at the Sea Scouts Hall in Port Macquarie and the other down at the Scout Hall in Laurieton.

The club's communication caravan was at Port Macquarie and Lyle VK2SMI took his Communication 'Palace Caravan' to Laurieton.

Extracts from the report follow:

' . . . On Saturday the 19th of October club members set up two stations for the 56th annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). VK2BOR operated from the club's communications caravan adjacent to the Port Macquarie Sea Scouts Hall. The second station was set up in the communications caravan of Lyle Smith VK2FCVI which he set up the Camden Haven Scout Hall at Laurieton.

JOTA was very popular this year with Scouts and Guides at both locations very keen to make their on-air contacts. HF was poor at Port Macquarie on the 5 band trap vertical antenna on the caravan but the group at Laurieton were able to erect horizontal antennas which greatly improved the strength of the HF signals at their station. It was very convenient to have the two stations within VHF range as this enabled the Scouts and Guides at both locations to talk to each other for their contacts. Of course there were more Scouts and Guides at Port Macquarie so many of the Camden Haven Scouts and Guides, and their leaders made multiple contacts and became very proficient in the art of carrying on intelligent conversations. It is a pity that HF propagation did not enable contact to be established with the overseas JOTA Caravan set up at Port Macquarie . . .

Some of the Scouts and Guides had lined up contacts with Japanese JOTA stations via JOTI but there were no DX signals to be heard on 20 and 15 metres . . .

' . . . At Port Macquarie the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts set up several outdoor activities and a sausage sizzle which proved to be very popular throughout the day. The outdoor activities nicely complimented JOTA and JOTI and ensured that there was plenty to keep all the participants busy. . . '



David VK2FRAB and Bill VK2ZCV (SK) operating the JOTA station.

' . . . Thank you to the many members who helped to make JOTA such a great success. At Port Macquarie, thank you to hard working secretary David Hogan VK2FRAB who helped Henry Lundell VK2ZHE hitch up the club's Communications Caravan at 5:45 am, and to Richard Court VK2CHC who joined us at the Sea Scout Hall at 6 am to set the caravan up in record time. . . Thank you to Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV (SK), Mark McGuire VK2FMGM and John Winchester VK2NJJ who made up the rest of the Port Macquarie contingent. A special thank you Bill and David who so patiently mentored a seemingly endless stream of JOTA participants to make their on-air contacts.

At Laurieton, a big thank you to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI for making his well equipped communication caravan available, and for towing it to the site early on Saturday morning to set up the Camden Haven JOTA station . . .



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Thank you to Alex Dorahy VK2HBF, Ross Davidson VK2NUD, Keith Anderson VK2FKJA (SK), Keith Bayliss VK2FPTL and Dennis Meade VK2DAM for helping Lyle to make the Camden Haven JOTA station such a great success. Their effort in erecting horizontal HF antennas paid a handsome dividend in enabling contacts to be made on HF. . . '



Inside the Lyle's radio palace. Lyle VK2FCVI, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Ross VK2NUD operating the JOTA station

' . . . As already mentioned, the Camden Haven station very patiently recycled their participants, including leaders, to enable all the Port Macquarie participants to make their on-air contacts on VHF. The Telegraph Point VK2RCN 147.0 MHz repeater worked overtime! . . .

. . . A special thank you goes to the Camden Haven Sea Scouts for making the ORARC members so welcome in setting up a JOTA station at their hall. They have already asked that we come back to do it again next year . . . '



The following is an article written by David 2AYD (SK) from the November 2013 Oxtales.

'MORSE CODE IS ALIVE..!

It has just changed its place in society.

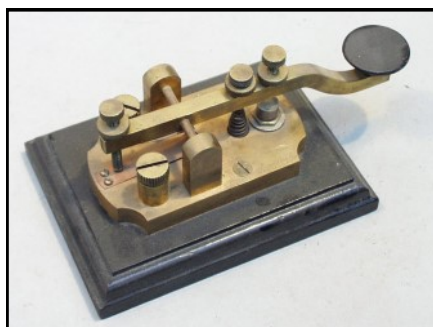
I've been a keen CW operator for over 65 years. However in recent years I have been ribbed and told that MORSE CODE was dead. Most readers will probably endorse that statement, but let me assure you it is very much alive. It has just changed its slot in society from being a digital means of communication to something much more important in life. You have to step outside the box.

I'm sure you have all heard of Professor Stephen Hawking in the UK. He is the holder of the Lucasian Chair of Mathematics at Cambridge University. The highest award known to a scientist. Primarily a cosmologist, his life is entirely dedicated to the study of the origin, nature and the dynamics of evolution of the universe. He suffers from DMD (degenerative muscle disease) and over the years his mobility is progressively degrading. He has little or no movement in the muscles of his body. His communication has all been through computer technology and painfully slow.

Ten years ago he was down to five words a minute and eventually reduced to one word per minute. It was then the medical profession realized that if you could only move a muscle in your cheek, an eye-brow or any facial movement, that, using code, such as Morse Code, it was possible to communicate. One company involved is Intel, a world leader in microprocessors.. Hawking is once again able to communicate using facial recognition and code. His speed is back past ten words a minute but has the capability of reaching 18 to 20 words per minute. Intel has perfected the translation from code to speech and Hawking doesn't sound like a "Dalek".

So, in anticipation you may want to talk to me, learn Morse code....it may be useful one day and is not difficult to learn compared with say Chinese!

Dave VK2AYD



Editors note: The following is an extract taken from the August 1996 edition of Oxtales.

**WRTC-96 2013
OLYMPIAN RETURNS
David VK2AYD (SK)**

Our Olympian of the Brass Lever is home! Following a trip around the globe that took in a visit to UK, the WRTC-96 event in California, and amounted to several weeks away from home, OXTALES extracted the following from him .. in his own words:

"It's over, but I will retain a wonderful memory and the experience of a life time. Over the past 4 years the World Radio Sport Team Championship committee have been monitoring world contests and in July, top stations from each country were invited to participate in the Champions of Champions Contest, to be held in Silicon valley, California. Martin, VK2SGN, and myself were invited to represent Australia. It was the first time that Australia had been invited.

Fifty-two two person teams from around the world, were drawn together for this contest.

.. Wednesday and Thursday was a "get to know your competitor" time, and to ensure we were kept busy, the Organisers arranged visits to HRO (Ham Radio Outlet) and to Fry's, which must be the worlds largest computer warehouse ...

Friday was "C DAY", and the 102 competitors met in the motel conference room for the selection of stations. 52 stations had been selected within a radius of 40 Km of the motel, each one had a 3 element triband beam at approximately 50 feet for 10/15/10 metres and a dipole for 40 meters ready for us to connect to. ..there are about 6,00 amateurs in the area so selection was not difficult. Our QTH was Fred W6NA at Palo Alto and our Referee was to be Al RUIAA...

Fred and his wife Rosemary had provided us with beds so we had an early night and awoke at 0400 for a 0500 start. . I was on CW and Martin on SSB. . .

. . . At 1200 UTC (0500 local) bedlam erupted as the teams took to the air. . . Our CW rate averaged around the 120 per hour, peaking to 160.. After about 2 hours solid operating my rate dropped to 90 per hour. Martin using SSB made over 200 . . . At 2300 we stopped our logging disc taken for the judging. . . We had worked 1,822 during the 18 hour contest! . . . Most of the Sunday afternoon was spent around the pool listening to the various gripes from operators who were not completely satisfied with the stations they had drawn . . . Mostly due to the fact that their home stations ran Kilo Watts of power with at least 45 metre high antennas it was a bit different using only 100 Watts on a 3 element beam . . . In the evening a magnificent dinner at Stanford University. . . The winners were KYOY and KITO with some 2,457 QSO's and 183 multipliers . . . It was a USA clean sweep for second and third , , , was it local knowledge—no, it was just excellent operating.

It was great experience which will be recorded in the archives of Amateur Radio. Where the next WRTC will be held is unknown as there are not that many placed in the world that have 6,000 amateurs in the small area that Silicon Valley does.

I suggested the outback with everyone using pedal power, but it didn't go down too well!! . . ."

Editors note; The World Radio Sport Team Championship is held every 4 years and is considered to be the pinnacle of radio sport.

Equipment from the Past

AWA Wireless Set No 11



The Wireless Set No. 11 was a portable transmitter/receiver developed in 1938 for short range use in Infantry Brigades, Divisions and for Artillery Regiment communications as both a vehicle and a ground station.

The radio operated in both R/T (Voice) and CW modes with a range of up to 20 miles. It replaced the Wireless Set No. 1 which was found unsuitable due to its limited frequency range and unsuitability for mass production.

The No 11 was a short range transceiver covering 4.2 - 7.5 MHz, AM and CW. Output on low power less than 1 Watt telephony, 1.5 Watt CW, High power 1.5 Watt telephony and 4.5 Watt CW.

The set could be powered by one 6 volt battery for low power output or by a 12 volt battery (or 2 6 volt batteries) operated a rotary converter (pictured below) to produce the high tension of 480 volts needed for high power.



The antenna could either be a 6 foot whip on a vehicle or a 9 foot ground antenna used by British Army for short range communications on armoured fighting vehicles.

The station could also be packed into packs for operation on mules!

The Wireless Set No. 11 was developed in 1936 and a first batch of 20 sets were produced for trials in 1937. Production models were delivered from 1938, production numbers reached around 19000 sets in 1942 and became the backbone of short range communications of the British Army in early WW II together with the Wireless Set No.9.

Wireless Sets No 11 were originally designed to be used in tanks for short to medium range communications, it was later used by the Long Range Desert Group in Libya and Tunisia for long range communications while deep behind enemy lines.

A large number of Wireless Sets No.11 were captured by German troops when the British Expeditionary Corps had to retreat back from France in 1940 and then found use in the German military.

When used on the ground, the set came with a clip on face cover, often stencilled with "WIRELESS SET No.11" which, when removed, had two fold out legs and the cover became a table to put the set on and keep it out of the mud. Like many lids and covers, this one too had a metal plate with working instructions attached on the inside.

Connection between the units was with cables that plugged into sockets on the face of the components. A replaceable ammeter on the sender/receiver was protected by a quick release clear plastic cover.

Aerial connections from the set went through a Condenser on the top of the sender receiver to either an aerial base or a Aerial Coupling Equipment which allowed the aerial to be remote from the set.

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A remote Wireless Remote Control Unit could link the set to other sets, field phones or a switchboard. This can be seen sitting on top of the wireless set in the above photograph.

Like most early British radios, changing between 'send' and 'receive' was accomplished by operating a large switch on the set (the big white one) rather than a pressel switch on the microphone. This meant that even when the remote unit was in operation there had to be an operator physically at the wireless set who moved the lever to the send or receive function.

The operator would receive instruction from the remote location when to change from receive to transmit.

The Canadian sets made by Canadian Marconi Company differs from its British cousin by having a green wrinkle finish instead of black.

A complete station to operate in high power was at least 98 Kilos. The dimensions were 22cm x 50 cm x 30cm. An antenna could be situated up to 400 metres away using the external antenna unit.

The WS No11 (Aust) was designed to replace the Australian 101 set in the Army. The set was produced by Amalgamated Wireless Australasia in 1942 and is an Australianised version of the UK No 11, using different valves and receiver IF frequency.

The circuits of the two units are so arranged that the main tuning control for the receiver is also the master oscillator for the transmitter, which makes netting easier.

The set is equipped with 9 valves, three of which are common for transmitting and receiving. The receiver used an IF Frequency of 455kc.

These sets were popular with hams after the war but only covered the 40 metre band. Many sets were released after the war in original packing, having never been in service as they were replaced by the No 19 set which used AC valves and included close range VHF communication and an intercom for use in armoured fighting vehicles.

The brown AWA paper condensers are a constant source of trouble and caused many set failures.

The remote antenna unit boxes with their morse key and buzzer also sold in many of the disposal stores and provided the basis for many a school project.



Acknowledgements:

Radiomuseum.org

[Wireless Set no 11 \(royalsignals.org.uk\)](http://Wireless Set no 11 (royalsignals.org.uk))

royalsignals.org.uk/films/F05265.mp4

Editors note the last is an interesting film well worthwhile watching.

Silent Key

David Pilley VK2AYD



David Pilley VK2AYD was an esteemed long time active Life Member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Despite illness in his later days, David remained active in club affairs to the very end. He rarely missed a meeting. David passed away peacefully at Wauchope after a long illness on Tuesday the 19th of September 2023. Club members and the Amateur Radio fraternity worldwide mourn his sad passing at 93 years of age but remain inspired by his example and the legacy he has left to the hobby that was such a big part of his life.

David was born in Christchurch, England, in a thatched cottage called the “White House”. He grew up in the South of England. His early and adolescent years were shaped by the depression and World War 2.

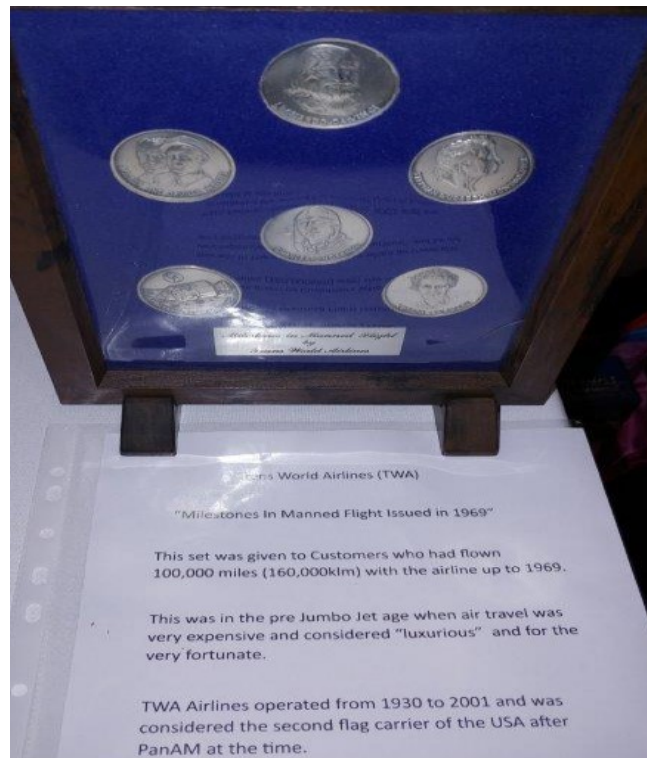
David joined the Royal Navy at 17 years of age as a telegraphist incorporating radio communications which became his lifelong passion and hobby.

David’s distinguished naval career and subsequent ongoing interesting work took him from the UK to Malta, to Germany, and to the USA before putting down roots in Australia in 1974. He continued to regularly travel internationally for work and returned to the USA in 1977 for a 3 year posting which also took him to Mexico and South

America amongst other places. He returned to Australia in 1980 where he spent the latter part of his life. His travels made him a true citizen of the World. He enjoyed travel and continued to travel in his retirement. The map below shows the extent of David’s travels around the world.



Trans World Airlines (TWA) recognised his flying with them for more than 1000,000 miles by presenting him with a ‘Milestones in Manned Flight’ medal set. Pictured below.



As well as his well-known VK2AYD Australian callsign, David held callsigns in the United Kingdom,

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the United States of America, Malta and Germany which he used when in those countries. David was a leading proponent of Morse Code. He was an avid CW and contest operator who was well known internationally. Amateur Radio was an important part of his life and David always took the opportunity to actively join the local Amateur Radio clubs wherever he lived.

In 2017 David was recognised for his 70 years of continuous membership of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). He was also a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) as well as, of course, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA). These are the national organisations representing Amateur Radio in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Australia, respectively. David was active in Wireless Institute of Australia affairs for a number of years where he contributed his expertise. He was Treasurer of the WIA in 2005.

David always scored highly in the various national and international contests as a Morse Code Operator.

VK2AYD appears in the results of practically every contest he participated in from Australia. He represented Australia at the World Radio Sport Team Championship in 1996 in San Francisco. David tells the story in the August 1996 issue of Oxtales which is available on the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club website.

David was a past President of the Manly Warringah Radio Society from the years when he lived in Sydney. He is well remembered by the Society in the tribute posted on their website.

After moving to King Creek near Wauchope in 1991 David built his house named "Pilley's Pad" and joined the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The Photograph shows David operating at "Pilley's Pad".



David was a very keen active member and participated in all the Club activities to the very end. He was on the registration desk at the 2023 Field Day at the Wauchope Showground in June and put a couple of his projects in the Radio Home Brew display. After the Field Day he did several presentations at Monthly General Meetings on subjects such as the contribution of Radio Amateurs to the wartime work at Bletchley Park and the history of computing. David was a past President and Secretary of the Club as well as holding positions such as Repeater Chairman. He was a regular contributor to the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales". He greatly valued his Life Membership which the Club awarded to him at the Club's 2015 Annual General Meeting after he had turned 85 years to recognise his valued ongoing contributions to the Club.



David had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of international affairs and role of communications and Amateur Radio throughout the decades.

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There were many things which he could not tell us but he was always very keen to share the things that were in the Public Domain. David made far too many contributions to Amateur Radio to mention but a few in this brief eulogy.

David was a prolific writer and had great interest in recording history. Amongst his many contributions is an interesting article in the WIA published book "Wireless Men and Women at War" on the role of amateur radio operators in the UK during World War II as part of the Radio Security Service (RSS). Over 1,500 radio amateurs were used for radio intercept work. They were tasked with listening on designated frequencies, looking for enemy agents that may have landed in the UK. As the author of this article, David Pilley explains in some detail the extent of wireless operations in the European theatre. This extremely interesting topic was the subject of one of David's last presentations after one of the recent ORARC Monthly General Meetings in 2023.

David had many interests in addition to Amateur Radio. As well as his business interests he particularly enjoyed aviation and golf. He always participated in community activities and was an active member of Lions and Probus Clubs where he held every position on the Committee. The photograph below shows David taking over the presidency from Harry Lavender in 2013.



David was President of the Wauchope Probus Club in 2013. The Wauchope Probus Club celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2014 and David was very pleased to hand

over the presidency to Roma Smith at the 2014 annual dinner at the Wauchope Country Club, Photograph Below. Roma is well known to ORARC members as the mother of past ORARC president Lyle Smith VK2SMI and wife of past ORARC president, the late David Smith VK2DAL (SK).



ORARC members at a Friday Night Get together a couple of years ago were treated to a video taken by David on a gyrocopter flight that he piloted during one of his last trips to the USA.

David was an active member of the NSW State Emergency Service (SES). He spent many hours operating the Port Macquarie SES Headquarters radio during floods, storms and other emergencies to communicate with SES teams out in the field. His professional communication skills were well recognised. During the 2019 – 2020 bushfires SES was requested to provide additional radio operators to the Rural Fire Service and David was seconded to the Wauchope Rural Fire Service Fire Control Centre. His contribution and service to the NSW Bushfire Emergency Response was recognised by David being awarded the NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation in 2020.



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David was devoted to his family who shared his very interesting life spanning the globe.

ORARC members fondly remember David's late wife Dee who sadly predeceased him. We extend our deepest condolences to David's daughters Jayne and Amanda and their families.

David will be sadly missed by all who knew him, including the Amateur Radio Fraternity throughout the world.

The life of David Pilley was celebrated at a very well attended Memorial Service at the Westport Club in Port Macquarie on Saturday the 4th of November 2023. Over 70 people represented David's family and a cross section of his many friends from David's diverse interests. Amateur Radio was well represented. Everyone learned of an interesting life well lived from David's family Eulogies. Henry Lundell VK2ZHE as president of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club had the honour of presenting a Eulogy highlighting some of David's Amateur Radio life.

Vale David Pilley VK2AYD



Presented by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Thank you to David's elder daughter Jayne for providing a copy of her family Eulogy which was of great assistance in preparing this Silent Key.



David's signal patch.

The photographs show David with his family and with his late wife Dee.

