



The

# PROPAGATOR



Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.

The monthly newsletter of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.  
 Registered by Australia Post publication number :- NBH - 1491.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the  
 State Emergency Services building in Montague St, Nth Wollongong.

Visitors are most welcome.

Volume #89, Number 11

November 1989

MM

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Editorial Comment? I haven't a thing worth saying, (Don't be nasty!!!) so I'll just mention **THE AUCTION** that's happening this month.

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CLUB STATION

Well, things are on the improve. I saw the tower, as did a lot of you. Very nice too. I hope that VIC VK2 (soon) was suitably thanked and a letter sent to thank the appropriate personnel. Besides a paint job, we should give it a sand blasting as well there is a small amount of surface rust on some of the joints. It'd last for years and years, but it's easier to do now rather than when it's up. Can anyone give us some assistance?

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW ADVERT

I received a phone call a recently from a member who wanted to do some advertising and was prepared to pay \$1,000

per issue. As much as I hated to, I had to tell him the rates were only \$50 per quarter page and \$150 a full page for a full year! Of course, there are those who have paid and haven't had an advert put in yet. Thanks VIMCOM. Where's your copy????

Oh, I neglected to mention there is a once only charge for doing the artwork. I feel it's worth about \$20. The money doesn't come to me, but is put into club funds.

\*\*\*\*\*

FRL 6

Since I made a mess of last months article, I'll give you a list of the winners for the last 2 months.

Week.	#	Name
4	31	IARS
5	14	Bill VK2DYU
6	10	IARS
7	26	Mike VK2DFK
8	28	Tom VK2JTB mobile
9	38	IARS
10		

### The Treasurer

Last month I gave you a job description for the Broadcast Officer. This month I'll tell you what the Treasurer's job entails .....

Come on you two I want to get to the meeting early so I can get setup to collect the fees before everyone comes in. Hey Peter (VK2KHE), I'm (VK2FPN) dying for a coffee. OK! No problems. What about collecting the fees. Michelle, will you make Peter a coffee? Sure Dad no worries. What about collecting ... Would you like one too John ... the fees Oh (expletive deleted) might as well!! we've still got 10 minutes to get to the meeting!

30 minutes later! Oh hell, Bill has beaten us here, we must be late! Hey John, here's my fees..... Wait until I get out of the car! ..... How much do I owe for FRL5. ... I never received my Propagator ... I've \$10 here for FRL6 and you owe me \$15 from FRL5 and didn't give me enough change ... stop pushing ... last month when I paid you for ... wait your turn I was here first ... the outstanding FRL4. All in all, it works out that you owe me .... Ah there's Jim. Hang on Jim I want to see you as soon as John has fixed me up ... \$32 and I'll be fully paid up for FRL7 and 7 months dues for next year!. By the way, I've some raffle tickets here from my son's school. Do you want to ... go away and give someone else a go ... buy a ticket. Only 5 for \$1. Hey VK2KHE, I've received this cheque from someone who's name I can't read. What do I do with it? Do you really want an answer?? (All of this was on Tuesday night. Let alone the rest of the month).

Actually, the Treasurers job is nothing like that. He usually receives payment through the mail so he can sit down at his leisure and write his books. Each payment is accompanied with a short note informing him of what the money is for (paid well in advance of course) and thanking him for a job well done. On the rare occasions when he does collect money at the meeting, the members line up in an orderly queue talking in hushed tones so as not to disturb him and apologising profusely for inconveniencing him as they bow and walk out backwards! Naturally, the bank statement always arrives on time each month and naturally agrees perfectly with his books. Why he want to give the job away I honestly don't know.

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Wayne Newport  
VK2KWN

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEXT MONTH

Well, I'm sure you all know that November is the Club Auction night and a very good night it usually is as well. This year we have a lot of extra items that have been 'liberated' from the second hand store I have been telling you about. Unfortunately, we haven't had the time or manpower to collect everything so there will be another auction next year. Just to whet your appetite here's a couple of interesting items that have been unearthed:-

(Continued next column)

Oops! I've just looked back at the heading and it's supposed to be next month. The problem arises because when I was writing this, next month was the auction night. Now to correct myself, next month is XMAS! That's where we invite all the XYL's and harmonics along so they can confirm what they've been thinking all along about your strange hobby. The ladies are asked to bring a plate with some goodies on it. The diet starts next week!!

\*\*\*\*\*

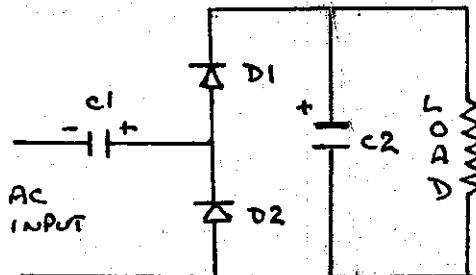
### DOTC QUESTION

The answer to last month's question was d. Remember a coulomb (like a farad) is a very large unit and in radio it would be most unusual to have a charge of more than 1 coulomb even in the largest linear power supply. The formulae is  $Q = C * E$ . Where Q is the charge in coulombs, c is the capacitance in farads and e the applied EMF volts. Therefore,  
 $Q = 10,000 * 10^{-6} * 50 = .5$

This month we ask:-

The peak voltage across the load in this circuit is approx equal to:-

- The peak value of AC input
- The voltage across C1.
- The mains voltage.
- Twice the peak voltage.
- I haven't a clue.



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## HEALTHY

I have a brochure from work on health. It has some very interesting points. Whole milk contains 53% fat. Cheddar cheese has 72% fat and Sour cream has 96%. %fat refers to the percentage of total calories that come from fat.

Here's a few other words of wisdom.

\* A lot of people who complain about the boss being stupid would be out of a job if he were any smarter!

\* If at first you don't succeed you are running about average!

\* The average time between throwing something away and needing it badly is about two weeks.

\* If you treat a sick child like an adult and a sick adult like a child everything works out pretty well.

\* By working hard 8 hours a day you may eventually get to become boss and work hard 12 hours a day.

\* Cheques are always delayed in the mail. Bills arrive on time or sooner.

\* Common sense and common knowledge are two of the most uncommon things in the world.

\* It is easier to seek forgiveness than permission.

\* The alternative to getting old is depressing.

\* If you do a job twice, it's yours.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BROKE

No wonder the country is going broke. Half the workers were chatting on VK2RAW on Friday morning the 13th Oct. There was a real good natter session going. Brian VK3ZCS gave some VERY interesting information on antennae. I hope to have it in this issue, but if not, it'll be in a later one.

With all the high tech gear around, antennae are just about the only chance we get to exercise our right experiment. Naturally there are exceptions but I'm not one.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

One of our members Kevin VK2EBI turned 80 late last month. All the best Kevin and we hope you have many more. Hope I can keep going that long.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Rob VK2MT and his better half (Janelle) produced a new operator late in September. Cop it up Rob!

\*\*\*\*\*

## LAZY

Now, on an unpleasant note. Octobers meeting was a bit of a hassle as three of the committee couldn't be there to help organise things. John VK2XGJ spent a good part of the night running around tidying up after the members. Cups were left lying around unwashed. The kitchen was a mess. The store room was a mess. John was upset, and no wonder. I know he agreed to serve on the committee this year, but at least he and the other committee members should be given a little assistance at mes. It's no wonder people Cn't want to nominate for positions.

\*\*\*\*\*

## KEYS

Does anyone have a foolproof method of making sure you have the necessary keys?

Last month we went to Sydney again to 'liberate' some more equipment for the club. We arrived at the appropriate place and went to unlock the door. Unfortunately, the very prominent (or is it eminent?)

member of our club who was supposed to have the key left it behind - 120 km away!!!

Luckily one of the local residents also had a key and we were able to get in and do the job. More detail of 'THE JOB' later. I was threatened with death if I mentioned his name, so I decided I would bite my tongue and consequently his notoriety would not be broadcast to my vast audience. (Would you believe this is an INTERNATIONAL publication. It gets sent to Fiji!!!)

HOWEVER .....

The same un-named member had to go to VK2RAW the following day, and that also needs a key! Guess what??

Yes, halfway down the expressway he was asked where he was and said he was on his way home as he had forgotten the key!!!!!!!

Now, I'd be neglecting my duty as a Reporter of Truth if I didn't mention that the person named was our Illustrious President, Peter VK2KHE.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ZEALAND

The weekend of 14/15 October was historic for Amateur Operators. VK2RAW was connected via AUSSAT to New Zealand. The repeater was being well used with operators from all over Sydney, South Coast and the Highlands having many ZL contacts. Of course, it's old hat to some operators as they use the satellites anyway. For the rest, it must be a big incentive to give OSCAR a try.

\*\*\*\*\* Page 5 \*\*\*\*\*

Dear Sir/Madam,

OK. OK. Ok enough of your ramblings. Here it is, a contribution to the Propagator. I just could not stand it any longer (there is nothing worse than reading monotonic text). News is news is news and I have had enough.

I have been meaning to get this down in print for some time, but due to other commitments, it was put in the too hard or not urgent enough pile.

Recently (last year) I happened to attend a reunion of some of the descendants of my great grandfather. Since that occasion, a cousin of mine (who did all the organising) has been keeping a diary/album/notebook of all events, present and past, concern my ancestors and their offspring. A week or two ago I was up that way again and on reading the album, came across this story.

#### First Wireless in the District

Grandfather Colless (Will A.) owned the first wireless to come into the district (Come By Chance, 80km north of Coonamble in the state's North West) in mid 1930. A friend of his, Walter Logan, travelled from Sydney to deliver it in time for the district to gather and listen to the cricket test in England, which went on into the early hours of the morning. Noel (my cousin, once or twice removed on my mothers side, I hope) still remembers the scene of everyone gathered around this box with it's knobs and a huge speaker on top - they were like bees around a honey pot. A week later the wireless broke down. This friend (Walter Logan, he was a mechanic in Arnott's biscuit factory) set off, with his wife and two sons, from Ashfield on Saturday at 1pm, after work. There were no bitumen roads beyond Penrith then. He arrived, fixed the wireless and left for home after lunch on Sunday to return to Sydney. He was back at work on time on Monday morning. The round trip was 900 miles.

Helen Allerton.

Well, there it is. A little bit of history before it got lost. It is quite extraordinary the lengths some went to so they could listen to the test in England. He must have been some friend too.

I hope to have a few constructional articles ready by the start of proceedings next year (when I unload the last of my studies.

My best wishes to you all, hope to catch up with some of you at a meeting soon.

Tony Mowbray, VK2ENX

## LOCATION

One of our advertisers has moved location. Newtek used to be in Corrimal Street near the Harp Hotel but has moved to ... 102 Kembla Street (opposite the Wollongong Bowling Club)

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### HINT OF THE MONTH

Here's a very useful hint.  
If you are using a multimeter,  
make sure you have the correct  
switch setting. Yours might be  
different to mine, but when I  
put mine on the 1k ohm scale  
and applied 240 volts, it  
didn't like it!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## JOTA

Well, JOTA has been and gone. As I stated last month, nothing would be done. Nothing would have been done except Harry VK2JHW received an urgent request to help the 1st & 2nd Dapto Guides join in JOTA. He contacted Peter VK2KHE, who said "Of Course we'll help" and then 'volunteered' John VK2XGJ and myself to do the job. John had to work so Peter and I went to the Guide hall at 11 am on Saturday and set up a 3 2m rigs and an HF set (that was an afterthought and should have stayed that way!!!). About noon, Graham VK2XLA, who heard us talking about it arrived to give us a hand. We really needed it by then as we weren't very organised. About 1.00 the guides arrived and we started doing the rounds of the repeaters. Quite a few local, Sydney, Blue Mountains and South Coast contacts were made after we managed to get the girls talking. They were really mic shy. Regrettably the opening ceremony was a failure due to the HF conditions in Canberra. They were bad here as well! We didn't hear one HF station, although there were a couple of contacts made by other operators. I eventually managed to pick up a QLD station using the links and the girls had a good chat. At about 5pm, we decided it was about time to pack up, so we did and decided a good day was had by all. We also promised to be better organised next year!!!! I will have Packet, satellite, 2M and HF. If we can get VK2KHE organised we'll even have a go at ATV. Won't that be fantastic.

I won't mention the coffee and terrific cakes and sponges and biscuits and .....

AUCTION

Yes fellows, it's November already. Next month Father Xmas will be along to give you all a brand new IC-781. (Would you believe a second hand crystal set?) Anyway, let's forget about that till next month. This month is even better than Xmas as we have our

CLUB AUCTION

This is where you donate all your unwanted equipment to the club and buy someone elses unwanted equipment. This year we have HEAPS. The club store is three quarters full!!!! and that is without what ever you are thinking of bringing in. And on that point, Peter VK2KHE says he will be at the club from 3 PM to receive things (personally I wouldn't believe him as he's always late, but I should be there then). To make life easy and avoid a pile up and L-O-N-G delays in starting the meeting, please bring along your goodies in the afternoon. The closing time is 6.30pm. Nothing will be accepted after that as we'll have to list and tag and mark those items that are brought in right on the deadline. We also want to get the meeting underway on time as there's a lot to do and get through.

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REPEATER

Rob, VK2MT (did I mention his wife's just had a new trainee operator?) And Peter VK2BIT and someone else I don't know (sorry) have been very busy conducting tests on the 10M receiver to see how it stands up to unattended operation. Looking very good says Rob. The new site should be confirmed by the time you read this so look forward to a lot of new contacts.

\*\*\*\*\*

CONTACTS

And speaking of contacts, is it my imagination or are there a lot more operators around? I have heard a lot of 'strange' call signs lately on VK2RAW. Maybe things are on the upswing again. Strange also; I was doing some 10M tests the other night with Peter VK2KHE and Harry VK2JHW (hasn't he been very quiet lately) and up popped Phil VK2PGL and we had an enjoyable hour. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun. Phil said he doesn't use the radio much but is getting back into it again. I guess we're all like that at times.

\*\*\*\*\*



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### FRIENDS

It's really great having some good friends. Definition of a friend .....

Someone who knows all about you and likes you just the same.

It's even better having slack friends!! My two know a couple of embarrassing things that happened to me and have promised to put them in this newsletter, but because they are so slack (oops, I meant to say they were very busy), they haven't done anything about it. Thanks John VK2XGJ and Peter VK2KHE.

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### MOBILE

Good news on the Sunday broadcast. A letter has been sent by WIA asking about the law and it appears we might be able to use handhelds while mobile without being fined. Talking about the broadcast on Sunday 29th, wasn't the packet problem bad. Of course, that's not the fault of packet (well, someone has to defend it), it's the problem of filtering. The packet will be switched off in future while the broadcast is on although I think that's a bad move. It's not the right way to solve a problem.

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# Calling All Amateurs

It's time to visit your local Market at BULL! if you need :-

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### GOOD ONE

Our Treasurer, John VK2XGJ has been very busy collecting fees lately, and that's got nothing to do with this story!!

John was reading ARA and saw an ad for a 70cm all mode transceiver for sale. He phoned up, but the operator wasn't home. John, being very persistent (see what happens if you don't pay your fees) kept on phoning and eventually made contact. Oh, someone else is interested John was told. Yes, but has he bought it said John? No, John was told so he put the screws on and effectively said stuff the other fellow, I want it and I'll sent the money now. Anyhow, the seller eventually

relented and agreed. John is now the proud possessor of the new set. Phil VK2TPH is not amused as he was the 'other fellow'!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Westfield**  
ROCK &  
SHOPPINGTOWN  
FIG TREE

\*\*\*\*\*

AR

I received my copy of AR recently and was looking through it. There's some very interesting points. Quite an interesting article on cross linking repeaters, which will affect us when VK2RAH is operational. Some Govt Departments are charging for repeater sites. In view of the problems we've had over the last two months, it might be worth while getting our situation sorted out and put on paper. All DOTC offices now have the second of the tee pamphlets that are replacing the Handbook. Have you got yours? Maybe someone will call in and get a supply for the next meeting. A good article on a 5/8 mobile antennae (what is the correct/usual spelling for that word?). Another article on lightning strikes. Amateur satellites are being launched. Nothing unusual, but they are only a 9 inch cube!!!! Talk about small. This way, the launch costs are negligible

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## CONF of CLUBS

Unfortunately we didn't have a representative this year so we don't know what happened. I believe the next one is being held in Campbelltown in 6 months time, so we don't have any excuse this time. Let's try and put some input into our hobby. Secretary Phil VK2TPH (he who missed buying the radio) put forward a couple of proposals concerning novice operation on 6 and 10m. There was also something in AR about novices on 6m, but I can't find it and I'm running short of time. This issue has to be

delivered to Dale VK2DSH for printing (I hope) (I won't bore you with all the details of the problems over the last 3 issues) but this is the first one Dale will have printed. Definitely not his fault, the boy's raring to go but Murphy has been very active.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MISSING

You'll notice there are no minutes of previous meetings here. I was requested (No! That should be ORDERED) by our Beloved President to inform you that due to Technical Problems the minutes weren't available. I would be remiss in my duty if I didn't inform you that he is blaming John VK2XGJ. I would also be remiss if I didn't tell you that it wasn't John's fault. Maybe spoil your month and give you a double dose next month.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW RADIOS

I don't now whether I'm supposed to mention it, but we have located a source of some mobile radio's. I can't give you any information, but I'm told they will be available at the Auction. BE WARNED. If you miss this Auction, you'll be crying for a month.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WORKING BEE

There will be a working bee on Saturday 25th November at Mount Murray to install a couple of new antennae at VK2RAW. For confirmation of this, listen to VK2RAW the week before and call John VK2XGJ. A good roll up is needed.

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POST BOX All mail can be sent to The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at P.O. Box 1838. Wollongong. NSW. 2500.

<u>Repeaters</u>	VK2RAW - 146.850	Voice	VHF	Mt. Murray
	VK2RAW - 147.575	Packet	VHF	Mt. Murray
	VK2RIL - 147.275	Voice & RTTY	VHF	Sublime Point
	VK2RUW - 438.225	Voice	UHF	Hill 60 Pt Kembla
	VK2RIL - 438.725	Voice & RTTY	UHF	Sublime Point
	VK2RAH - 29.520/.620	Voice	HF	

Broadcast is on Sunday evening at 6.45 pm. RTTY mode transmitted on 147.275 and relay on 3.562 Mhz +/- QRM. Callbacks taken immediately after. Voice broadcast held after WIA broadcast on 146.850 Mhz (VK2RAW) and 3.562 +/- QRM.

WIA Relay is on 146.850 at 10.45 am and 7.15 pm each Sunday.

Newsletter is published monthly to reach all financial members in the week preceding the club meetings. Articles and letters are welcomed.

Membership costs \$12 per annum. Concessions are \$9 per annum.

Lawrence Hargreave Award  
VK stations require 10 contacts with I.A.R.S. members. Overseas stations require 5 contacts. One contact with the club station VK2AMW is suitable. Details of contacts to be sent to secretary.

Store The club runs a store each meeting where the unusual and hard to obtain hardware may be purchased.

\*\*\*\*\* COMMITTEE \*\*\*\*\*

<u>President:</u>	VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin	30 Kotara Cr Unanderra.
<u>Vice Pres</u>	VK2FPN - Peter Read	43 Bright Pade. Dapto.
<u>Secretary</u>	VK2TPH - Phil Howchin	12 Mawarra Ave. Dapto
<u>Assistant Sec.</u>	VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy	
<u>Treasurer</u>	VK2XGJ - John Simon	14/42 Brownsville Av Brownsville
<u>Assistant Treas</u>	VK2YKQ - Dave Henderson	
<u>Gen. Committee</u>	VK2KEY - Pat Jordan	VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy
	VK2MT - Rob McKnight	any club member
<u>Repeater Pres</u>	VK2XGJ - John Simon	
<u>Repeater Comm</u>	VK2CAG - Graeme Dowse	VK2EXN - Ian Callcott
	VK2MT - Rob McKnight	VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin
	VK2JBS - Bill Stone	VK2XLA - Graham East
	VK2FPN - Peter Read	
	VK2ENV - Morry van der Vorstenbosch	
<u>QSL Cards out</u>	VK2IU - Raffael Buono	
<u>QSL Cards In</u>	VK2JJJ - B Rewak	
<u>Publicity</u>	VK2MT - Rob McKnight	
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