



## TRUMPET

Time for blowing my own trumpet. I took on the Propagator for two reasons. Firstly, I enjoy doing this type of thing, and secondly, the original writers wanted a rest. They have a lot more staying power than me; I only intend doing the job for 12 months. Come next AGM, I will be standing down so I hope there will be someone else interested in doing the job. The problem is the standard. I have raised the quality a lot, not because the previous editors weren't doing their job, because they did a great job. It just happens I have more equipment and knowledge and am able to use it. As for the content, some say it's better, some say it's worse. No matter, that's the way it is and if every one thought it was great then maybe I should be a writer (heaven forbid). What this is leading up to is my worry that no one will want the job because they can't maintain the quality.

I definitely won't be standing again. It takes too much of my time to write all this. In hindsight, maybe I should have included more construction articles and reduced the editorial content, or taken on an assistant, but it's too late for that. I suggest the next editor doesn't fall into the same trap.

Why am I saying all this now? Just to enforce what I have said all along. This is a 12 month job for me, and after that I won't be doing it. Let's have some prospective editors thinking about what format they want to use. Naturally I will assist anyone in every way possible.

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## FOR SALE

I have for sale, HF rig. It's a Kenwood 120 and used to belong to a local amateur. I want to sell it, as I want a better one to cover FM and 6M. Peter VK2KHE has just lashed out and has a very nice set-up. I'm jealous, although unless I get my antennae system fixed up (and that's a tale in itself) it'll be useless. The price is \$550, but if you want to negotiate, I'm prepared to go up to \$600. A reasonable price considering it also has a 100w linear to help it along.

\*\*\*\*\* Page 2 \*\*\*\*\*

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### THE AUCTION

Well, it was a l-o-n-g day for some of us. We started the afternoon at home, organising the various items we have stored for the club. (There are still some members who have stuff stored at their homes that they weren't able to deliver (and I'm glad), so there's more of the same to come.) At 15:00, Phil VK2TPH arrived with his 1 tonner carrying 1.5 tonne. I arrived soon after, and about 15:20 (I said he would be late) Peter VK2KHE arrived. We spent from then until 19:00 booking in gear and checking and labelling

At 07:30 the meeting started. To those of you who missed out, tough. We had a fantastic night. It was very entertaining and we had a laugh a minute from go to whoa (no matter how I type it, that word looks strange. Let's just say from start to stop). The meeting itself had to be the shortest on record; about 5 minutes. When Peter VK2KHE asked for any visitors, well over half the meeting stood up!!!! The few of us remaining seated gave the customary applause, but we didn't ask them to introduce themselves as we'd have been there all night.

This was my first IARS Auction, and I couldn't get over the prices of all the goodies. There were boxes of relays and meters going for \$5. Boxes with dozens and dozens of components were \$1 each. Coax cable was \$25 for 100 metres. A valve tester went for a song. Valves went for \$5 for 50. Great big transmitting valves went for \$1 and \$2 each. In a couple of years they'll be worth 100 times that price. Frequency meters were \$10. Long wire Army field antennae were scooped up at \$3 each.

Our auctioneer Dennis VK2DMR (a fantastic job Dennis Thanks) sold off a meter in a nice wooden case for \$3 and said he had one more. He was then given another and said it was the last one and did anyone else want it for \$3. This was accepted and then he was told (so every one could hear) that there were still 15 left!!! That caused a million laughs. It doesn't sound funny here, but you should have been there

..... continued next page

\*\*\*\*\* Page 3 \*\*\*\*\*

I would love to give you a hilarious description of a lot of other incidents, but you had to be there to catch the spirit (poor John VK2XGJ No spirit for him; he had to console himself with a can of lemonade) of the night. Ray VK2XCC put his hand up to wave to some one and bought a printing desk calculator for \$2. John VK2XGJ was handing out money and waved to one of the other collectors and almost bought a box of goodies. Peter VK2BIT and Rob VK2MT struggled to bring out a Decwriter from behind piles of goodies, only to be told to take it back when no one would offer \$2!!!!

Honestly, I wish I was the handy man type. You could have set yourself up with enough gear to make like an amateur for years to come. One of the visitors sitting in front of me bought a pile of goodies, and wouldn't have paid more than \$50 all up. He was grinning from ear to ear.

Ken VK2TKE was doing a great job collecting money while Phil was at the table making notes on what was sold to who and for how much.

All in all, a great night was had. The remaining few tidied up and left the hall at 23:30. It was a long day, but we enjoyed ourselves and the club benefited greatly. I don't know what the the final profit will be, but it was definitely worth it.

I hope the next auction in April next year goes just as well. Actually, it should go even better as we have some operational radios to sell. I told you about them in the last newsletter. Unfortunately, delivery was delayed, but that might be a good thing as we have a lot of other '50s gear to collect. I think that maybe we should advertise more extensively and really clean up

I haven't mentioned the names of the many members who were involved in the Auction. I'm afraid I'll miss out someone who was working hard and will be upset. On behalf of the committee, I'll just say

TTTTT H H AAAAA NN N K K  
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Y Y 00000 U U  
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Mr. KEYS

I hate to do it, but I must give you the continuing saga (more like War and Peace) of our Illustrious President Peter VK2KHE.

All my faithful followers will recall the previous problems Peter had with keys. Well, it so happens the other day that he was working for the club (he never stops doing that. The boy sure is very conscientious) and had to go to SES headquarters. Well, that happens to need a key, and yes, naturally Peter never had one, he phoned John VK2XGJ at work. John had to leave work and go and get the key so Peter could give me something more to write about!!!!

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VK2RAW

You may have not known it, but VK2RAW was off the air for a short time last month. Rob VK2MT and Peter VK2BIT had the new 10M repeater testing out the current drain amongst other things. This was over the rainy/cloudy period and the tone dropped to an alarmingly low level so it was switched off for half a day and the night. It didn't take long for the batteries to regenerate, which is pleasing to know, but they are still low and a few cloudy days are going to cause problems. These batteries were the ones Graeme VK2CAG supplied earlier this year. The batteries are good, but the problem was caused by the 10m repeater receiver; it was sucking a lot of power that wasn't being replaced. The problem has been solved, but the batteries still have to recover. They'll be charged up this weekend

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WELCOME

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Peter VK2XQD. Only arrived in Kiama earlier this year from the UK and is keen to join the club.

Of course, this creates a big problem for us .....

What do we call him? We have the Ugly Peter, The Other Ugly Peter, the Hairy Peter and the Bearded Peter. I guess we'll have to wait and work out something. More likely call him Pommie Peter.

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### FOR SALE

Tom VK2JTB mobile knows of a tower for sale. It is in six 6' sections with stainless steel guy ropes, bolts etc. etc. The tower is down on the ground, and you could almost put it on your back one section at a time and carry it home. The price is amazing too. Only \$180. Yep! That's what was said. You're lucky it's not higher. The tower that is, but then again, I think the price is a good one. If it was, I'd have bought it, but with my location I need a bit more height.

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### COMMITTEE MEETING

Well, I have just returned from the committee meeting. There was a lot of discussion about the 70cm and the 10M repeaters and the working bee at VK2RAW this Saturday. Also discussed at length was the trips we have been taking to Sydney to liberate all those goodies for the auction. We have finally hit the jackpot, but are desperately short of storage space. If anyone can help with several hundred cubic metres it would be greatly appreciated. A lot of other things were discussed, but I'm put them in a separate article. Don't forget that ALL members are welcome to attend the committee meetings and have your say.

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### XMAS PARTY

The Xmas Party will be held at the same location as last year. That's in a park just opposite the archery range on Mt Keira Rd. The date is the 17th December. We had a great time last year, even though the weather was against

us. Father Xmas will be there and would appreciate it if you bringing a small gift for the children. Starting time I think will be just before lunch. For confirmation, listen to VK2RAW the week before and someone will tell you the final details or, see the next article.

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### NEXT MONTH

No!! No!! No!! That should be this month 'cause although it will be this month, it's now next month! Arrpw, we have our family night this month, where the ladies are asked to bring a plate of goodies, and the men supply the refreshments, and everybody supplies the friendship.

Starting time is 19:00 and should be all over by 21:30 so come along and join us in a bit of socialising. The date is the usual club night.

And speaking of next month, there will be no meeting and no Propagator. We are closing down for our usual month's holiday. There will however be a committee meeting in both December and January at the usual time to cover any thing that arises.

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### BIRTHDAY

I over heard someone on the repeater late 1st week. It seems that Harry VK2JHW has his birthday in the same week you receive this, or it might have been last week. I know how old he is, but I won't tell the world (This now goes to the USA as well!!!!!!). I do know that he won't see 21 again. All the Best Harry, I hope you have many more.

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### REPEATER REPORT

Well, after the working one on the 25th November VK2RAW voice and Packet repeaters are on top line. The job included refitting VK2RAW voice's antennae from the last lightning hit and moving the temporary voice antenna to the Packet Digipeater. The result was an improvement in propagation between 1 and 2 'S' points from the two/three stations who responded to the test call on VK2RAW voice.

Conditions were to say the least uncomfortably wet, so the coffee etc. went down very well. The batteries were also given a

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completely flattened through lack of sunlight and a higher than average current draw from an extra piece of equipment being online, so at this time of writing, with the sun almost at full height and a few extra hours of clear skies, we should be in an excellent position for the on-coming Xmas season. Many thanks to the workers on the day, VK2BIT, VK2XLA, VK2XBC, VK2KHE, VK2KEY, VK2TKE, VK2XGJ and Vic Hee. And also to the station who sat at home in the warm and dry requesting radio tests on the 70cm band while pretending to do some 'baby sitting!!

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FOR SALE  
ALIEN  
From a Silent Key's estate we have the following pieces of equipment for sale, Please do the right thing.

1. Uniden 2020 HF Txvtr with ext VFO. \$400.
2. Triband beam (brand unknown). Make an offer.
3. Rotator with controller and cables.(brand unknown)
4. Frequency counter 1-150Mhz
5. Johnson Viking A.T.U.
6. S.W.R. meter (unknown range). Make an offer.
7. Standard morse key.
8. CW paddle with practice oscillator.
9. "Katsumi" paddle keyer (excellent condition)
10. Small meter; DC milliamps.
11. Power pack.
12. Small crate of assorted cables.
13. ARRL Antennae Handbook.
14. ARRL Handbook (1984)

You can make an offer on all the above equipment. I suggest you contact Phil VK2TPH as he knows all the details.

Sometimes on this Lump of Mud called Earth, certain carbon-based life-forms, who use the radio spectrum as though they own it, think that there is no one else listening to what they have to say.

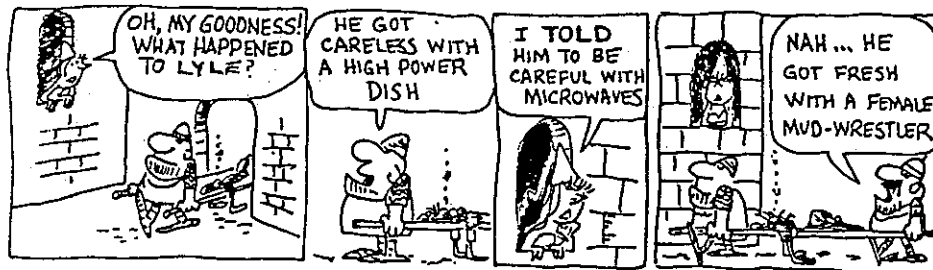
Their 'funny' phonetics and long, long, long 'overs' go well with the time they allow to repeater to reset, (if they do that is!), the tying up of the repeater while they work cross-band onto the HF bands and all of these quaint little chats on the supermarkets, the rose garden and a couple of 'commercials' who should be paying for the time they are stopping the quaintest person of all,..... the 'radio - signal - through - the - repeater - checker' chappie!!!

Who am I? This odd chappie who knows all sees all?

I am Ford Prefect, the chappie who has hitched a ride on one of those Flying-Saucer things to this quaint Lump of Mud called Earth and will be reporting on these and other happenings from time to time.

I might even start an award for the most significant botch-up or quaintest use of the RF spectrum.

Remember, you are being watched! There is nowhere that you carbon-based life form can be safe from my prying - Ether - Sensomatic - Scanner!!!  
Ford Prefect. VK2GNIK.



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## THE EDITOR

Over the past few months, you may have noticed that there are certain members of the committee that have had their working conditions explained in this column. Well this month it's the Editor's turn!!!

To start with, he begins each issue of the Propagator by pressing a key on one of his 12 computer systems which promptly prints the Banner and back page to the exact size. Then with the aid of modern technology (acquired through various auctions!!), he dictates each article into a microphone while simultaneously sipping on a fine Reisling (you may have noticed the strange spelling in some articles!) and contemplating where to drill holes in the wall for antennae cabling, whilst the computer converts the analogue speech pattern into digital signals that the printer can understand. Upon completion of this task (about 90 seconds and 5 glasses), the master edition of the Propagator is printed and forwarded to the printer for publishing.

Upon receipt of this issue, each member accords boundless praise to the editor for a job well done not knowing that the President, Secretary, Treasurer and various members have laboured for many hours handwriting and formatting each article for appearance in the issue. Well maybe this isn't exactly the truth, but I will let someone else tell their story.

(Thanks to an un-named (but known) contributor. Retribution shall be swift and merciful (after a fair trial) ..... ed)

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VK2KWN



★ "I WONDER who they'll get to be Christmas Club treasurer next year."

"I can't understand it, I've rung all my friends and their phone bills aren't half as much as ours!"

HE drove his old car up to the toll gate on the bridge. "That'll be \$1 for the car and 50 cents for the passenger," said the gate-keeper. He said: "You've got a deal with the car, but I won't take less than two bucks for the wife."

## BELATED MINUTES

Owing to the Editor having a blood alcohol level well in excess of 0.05 during the creation of last months Propagator, the minutes of the October meeting were omitted. (Lies, all lies ..... ed). Here they are:

General meeting 10/10/89

Apologies: VK2KHE, VK2FPN, VK2JBS, VK2VTS, VK2IU, VK2JT, VK2DTC, VK2HQ, VK2DFL, VK2DFK

Visitors: VK2FVG Peter, VK2GBI/N3GWL David.

Various correspondence. No business from previous meeting. Discussion on the garage clearance in Sydney for the November Auction. We will have no representation at the next Conference of clubs, however, 2 agenda items were proposed,

1) Limited calls be given full access to the 10 metre band. VK2TPH/VK2XGJ.

2) Novices be given full access to 6 metres. VK2OB / VK2TPH.

A discussion was held on the problems of VK2RIL 70cm repeater. JOTA to be activated at the Keiraville scout hall by Tony VK2ENX. A Video on the 7J1RL DXpedition was viewed.

Committee meeting, 17/10/89

A letter was received from the Motorola Company re the situation at Sublime Point. after much discussion it was decided to wait and see if any problems would arise. The Tower donated by Allied Constructions, is now in the SES compound. Vic Hee and Phil VK2TPH are to form a sub-committee to clean, paint and erect the Tower. A letter of gratitude was sent to Mr Russ Harrison of Allied

Constructions. There was more discussion re the relocation of VK2RIL 70cm repeater to Point Perpendicular. Coast Guard is complaining that our repeater VK2RUW at Hill 60 is not a revenue generating device. A meeting is to be arranged to clarify the situation. A discussion was held on the Sydney disposals removals and preparations for the November Auction. Peter VK2KHE and Peter VK2FPN volunteered their services to the Dapto Guides for the JOTA weekend.

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DOTC QUESTION

The answer to last months question (the one with the circuit diagram) was 'D'. The circuit was a voltage doubler and as you'd expect, the voltage was doubled.

This week Keith VK2OB asks One advantage of using a dual gate MOSFET as the mixer in a receiver operating in the VHF bands is to:-

- a) Provide a blocking impedance for the oscillator output.
- b) Suppress harmonics generated by the RF amp.
- c) Provide an impedance match to the RF amp stage.
- d) Provide some conversion gain while keeping noise figures low.
- e) I haven't a clue.

This is the last question I have, so if you read this Propagator Keith, could you please issue me with a resupply. More importantly, I don't have the answer to this question, and that could prove to be embarrassing next month!!!! (I might have to forget to put it in!)

HELPER

A new force has emerged in the club. Vic Hee, VK2(SOON) has been a great help to the committee. Vic was the one who organised the tower for us, and the delivery, and the hole, and the concrete, and the sand blasting, and the painting. They're not game to ask him to put it up, because by the time they're half way through asking, the tower will be half way up!!!!!!

Vic has also offered to help get the Club Store into shape. There have been some murmurings from some committee about getting rid of the store as it is a space waster and not too useful. If you have any strong feelings I suggest you make them known.

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TO FINISH

Well, that just about wraps it up for another month. I'll just remind you about the Family Night for this month's meeting, and Father Xmas will be at the BBQ outing at Mt Keira on the 17th.

URGENT \*\*\*\*\*  
We need a lot of storage space for about 6 months for second hand equipment we have to liberate from Sydney. Contact Peter VK2KHE.

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for

YOUR article

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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 \*\*\*\*\*

**President:**

VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin

30 Kotara Cr Unanderra.

**Vice Pres**

VK2FPN - Peter Read

43 Bright Pade. Dapto.

**Secretary**

VK2TPH - Phil Howchin

12 Mawarra Ave. Dapto

**Assistant Sec.**

VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy

**Treasurer**

VK2XGJ - John Simon

14/42 Brownsville Av Brownsville

**Assistant Treas**

VK2YKQ - Dave Henderson

**Gen. Committee**

VK2KEY - Pat Jordan

VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy

VK2MT - Rob McKnight

any club member

**Repeater Pres**

VK2XGJ - John Simon

**Repeater Comm**

VK2CAG - Graeme Dowse

VK2EXN - Ian Callcott

VK2MT - Rob McKnight

VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin

VK2JBS - Bill Stone

VK2XLA - Graham East

VK2FPN - Peter Read

VK2EMV - Morry van der Vorstenbosch

**@SL Cards out**

VK2IU - Raffael Buono

**@SL Cards In**

VK2JJJ - B Rewak

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VK2MT - Rob McKnight

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VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin

**Cartoonist**

VK2AXI - Brian Wade

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VK2FPN - Peter Read

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VK2XCC - Ray Ball

**Social Director**

VK2XCC - Ray Ball

**Canteen Manager**

VK2DYU - Bill Chadburn

**Store Manager**

VK2OB - Keith Curle

**DOTC Liaison**

VK2CAG - Graeme Dowse

VK2OB - Keith Curle

**Life Members**

VK2ALU - Lyle Patison