

PROPAGATOR



Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.

The monthly newsletter of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.
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Meetings are held on the second Tuesday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the State Emergengy Services building in Montague St, Nth Wollongong.

Visitors are most welcome.

VOLUME 90 No8

AUGUST 1990

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WELCOME TO THE FIRST PROPAGATOR STARRING THE NEW COMMITTEE. WE THE EDITOR OF NO FIXED ABODE WISH TO WELCOME YOU TO THE INCREDIBLE WORDS OF WISDOM THAT ARE CONTAINED IN THESE PAGES.

YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THIS ISSUE HAS A FAIRLY NEW FORMAT. HOWEVER THE ASTUTE READERS OUT THERE WILL NOTICE THAT IT HAS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THE PREVIOUS TOME, MOSTLY BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING. HAVING SAID THAT, WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT STANDARD SET BY THE PREVIOUS EDITOR. TO THAT END, WE WILL NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THE SHAPE PF NEWS, ARTICLES. INTERESTING BITS AND GENERAL STUFF. SO DON'T BE BACKWARD IN COMING FORWARD. OTHERWISE ALL YOU WILL GET TO READ IS THE RUBBISH WE WRITE.

THIS ISSUE TAKES THE UNUSUAL STEP BEING EDITED BY NOT ONE BUT THREE PEOPLE. THIS IS MAINLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT NO ONE PERSON WAS CRAZY ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE JOB. IT ALSO MEANS THAT TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE EDITORIAL RESIDENCE WILL BE THREE TIMES AS HARD TO CARRY OUT.

PROGRAMME

AFTER THE AGM, THERE IS A COMPLETELY NEW CALENDAR. SOME EVENTS COMING UP INCLUDE.

AUGUST: TALK BY LYLE VK2ALU ON MICROWAVES. THERE IS SOME DETAILS ON THIS SOMEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE (WE HOPE)

SEPTEMBER: TALK BY JOHN VK2XGJ AND CRONIES ON PACKET AND DIGI-STUFF. (RAY VK2XCC IS IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANISING SOME RIVAL ACTIVITY WE HEAR.....SURELY WE DON'T WANT MORE PEOPLE ON PACKET).

SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER WILL BE A DX-PEDITION ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY. DUE TO LACK OF BRAVADO, THIS WILL BE TO THE TOP OF ONE OF THE LOCAL MOUNTAINS, THE IDEA HERE WILL BE TO TALK TO KIWIS ON 2M, SOME SERIOUS MICROWAVE WORK, AND OF COURSE THE REGULATION HF WORK. MORE DETAILS ON THIS AS THEY COME TO KEYBOARD.

DECEMBER: NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER CHRISTMAS PARTY ON IN DECEMBER. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION OF THIS YET, BUT IT FILLS UP THE PAGE NICELY.

* PAGE 1 ***

DENNIS'S ANTENNER COLUMN

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING
MATERIAL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE
EDITORS BY DENNIS. DENNIS IS A REAL
PERSON, BUT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THIS
SOCIETY AND IS NOT YET AN AMATEUR
OPERATOR. HE IS, HOWEVER, AN EXPERT
ON ANTENNA SYSTEMS (SO HE SAYS). IT
WILL ALSO BECOME RAPIDLY OBVIOUS
THAT HE IS NOT LIKELY TO NEED THE
SERVICES OF THE SOCIETY FOR SOME
TIME TO COME....

DENNIS'S TIPS FOR GOOD ANTENNER OPERATION:

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLES WITH HIGH VSWR ON AN ANTENNER SYSTEM, THE SIMPLEST AND BEST SOLUTION IS TO LOOSEN OFF THE CLAMPS AND MOVE THE OFFENDING ANTENNER IN A DOWNWARD DIRECTION ON THE MAST. THIS SHOULD HELP TO LOWER THE VSWR AS REQUIRED.

A CO-LINEAR ANTENNA AT UHF IS SUPERIOR ON RECEIVING COMPARED TO MOST COMMON TYPES OF YAGI BEAM. THIS IS PRETTY OBVIOUS, REALLY. YOU CAN HEAR MORE NOISE AND PEOPLE AND STUFF, SO IT MUST BE WORKING BETTER. UNFORTUNAIELY, A YAGI WILL WORK BETTER FOR TRANSMITTING, SO A CO-AXIAL RELAY MUST BE USED. EITHER THAT OUR YOU NEED TO BE QUICK AT SWAPPING CONNECTORS.

THAT'S ALL WE HAVE FROM DENNIS FOR THIS MONTH. WE GET THESE TIPS FROM DENNIS FROM TIME TO TIME, AND WILL PASS THEM ON AS WE GET THEM. WE HOPE THAT YOU FIND THEM USEFUL.

DOTC EXAM

KEITH VK20B ADVISES THAT THE NEXT SET OF EXAMS WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD TUESDAY IN AUGUST (WHICH IS THE 21ST), AT THE TAFE COLLEGE. APPLICATIONS WOULD BEST BE MADE BY CONTACTING KEITH VERY SOON.

**** PAGE 2 ****



★ "NOW don't let things worry you, Mr Smith. We all have our funny little ways."

ZAPHOD'S HINT No 75

NORM VK2ZXC HAS ADVISED US THAT HE HAS HAD A PROBLEM ON SUNDAY'S BROADCAST. WHEN HE WENT TO CALL BACK, NO-ONE HEARD HIM. THIS WAS MOSTLY BECAUSE HE WAS USING THE WRONG MICROPHONE. APPARENTLY THERE IS LOTS OF BIROLIFE AT HIS LOCATION WHICH WAS DISTRACTING HIM.

ZAPHOD (THE EDITORIAL NOM DE PLUME) SUGGESTS THAT THE BEST METHOD TO AVOID THIS PROBLEM IS TO FOLLOW THE CABLE FROM THE RIG TO FIND THE CORRECT MICROPHONE. UNFORTUNATELY THIS HAS THE SIDE EFFECT OF MAKING THE OPERATOR EXTREMELY DIZZY, BUT YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL.....

Microwaves - KISS

So you have read Dale's article in the Propagator about our recent mini DXpedition? No - well take a look at it, as it forms the introduction to the little talk on "simple microwaves" that I have been conned into giving at a Club meeting soon.

Read it now? Good!

should be "down the bottom end" on SSB.

If my transmitted signal frequency was 10350MHz. on what frequency should he be transmitting? Two guesses - maybe they are both correct! Why?

We were using wideband FM. So, what approx. signal level above noise will be needed for us to just hear each other? --- Come on, look in your books if you can't answer. "off the top of your head." After all, you probably use FM on 2 metres - its just the same for that - and knowing the answer will help to explain why those with "all mode" 2 metre rigs

Final question. Why do I use an ironing board as the "table" for my WBFM gear at home? (Two points for the correct answer to this one!)

On the night of my talk on Microwaves (KISS), bring along any of the bits and pieces from your junk box that you think may be microwave items (not more than 101bs, weight per person!) and also a ruler calibrated in mm, and we will see if we can identify them, and also decide on what approx, frequency they may have been used. No fancy filters or other more complex devices please! (I never was involved with microwaves while at work!)

OK - on this night it will be - KISS - !!! (So, if you want to bring your wife/girlfriend with you. Well!)

Lyle VK2ALU.

FOR SALE

HITACHI CL212 OSCILLOSCOPE. THIS DEVICE IS ALSO IN AS NEW CONDITION, AND HAS ONLY BEEN USED FOR HALF AN HOUR. FREQUENCY IS GOOD TO 20MHZ. PRICE IS \$650, CONTACT VK2JTB, PHONE 562213.

YAESU FT-747GX HF TRANSCEIVER. THIS RADIO IS IN AS NEW CONDITION, AND HAS NEVER BEEN TRANSMITTED ON. IT HAS HAD THE FM OPTION FITTED AND HAS A SCANNING MIC. CONTACT GRAHAM VK2JGI. PRICE IS \$850.00

REPEATER REPORT

THIS IS MY FIRST REPORT FOR THE PROPAGATOR SINCE MY "LANDSLIDE UNOPPOSED ELECTORAL VICTORY" SWEPT ME TO POWER AS REPEATER CHAIRMAN. WHY DIDN'T ANYONE ELSE PUT THEIR HAND UP? (THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB GOT IT, ROB...ED). WHAT HAVE I LET MYSELF IN FOR?

FIRST OF ALL I MUST THANK JOHN VK2XGJ FOR ALL HIS WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR AS CHAIRMAN, I HOPE I CAN MAINTAIN HIS EXCELLENT STANDARD. SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD. (SORRY, JOHNNIE BOY, ONLY JOSHIN').

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT GROUP FOR
THE REPEATER COMMITTEE THIS YEAR...
KHE PETER TOMLIN
XLA GRAHAM EAST
TKE KEN GOODHEW
XGJ JOHN SIMONS
KLO LES DAVIO
BIT PETER WOODS
THEO JEPSON

CURRENT STATUS FOR OUR CLUB'S
REPEATERS—
*VK2RAW 6850 - SITE BATTERY
VOLTAGE IS A "TAD" LOW AT THE
MOMENT. PERHAPS CONTRIBUTABLE TO
THE SHORTENED DAYS/LOW ANGLE OF THE
SUN ON THE SOLAR PANELS. NO
IMMEDIATE ACTION IS PLANNED, JUST
KEEP AN EAR ON THE TONE OF THE
IDENT. ALSO, THERE IS OCCASIONALLY
SOME "SCRATCHING" ON THE RPTS TX THE GUY WIRES NEED ATTENTION. ONCE
AGAIN, NOTHING IMMEDIATE, NEXT TIME
ONE OF US HAPPENS TO FIND
THEMSELVES AT MT MURRAY.

*VK2RAW 7575 PACKET RACKET DIGI - ALL O.K.

*VK2RIL 7275 - ALL O.K.

*VK2RUW 8225 - OCCASIONALLY SUFFERING FROM SOME KIND OF SIGNAL ON THE RX FREG OF UNKNOWN SOURCE. GENERALLY O.K. BUT IMPROVEMENTS POSSIBLE? WITH SUCH A SALTY LOCATION AS HILL 60, THE ANTENNA

YOU KNOW THE PLACE AND YOU KNOW THE NAME AND YOU KNOW WHAT WE DO SO WHY DO WE NEED TO ADVERTISE TO TELL YOU THAT BESIDES **ELECTRONIC** COMPONENTS AND BITS AND PIECES, WE HAVE A VERY LARGE RANGE OF MICROCHIPS TO HELP YOU BUILD THOSE PROJECTS. WE ADVERTISE TO ENABLE US TO PROVIDE AN EVEN BETTER SERVICE AND HELP YOUR CLUB. Call in and see us at:-131 Kenny St Wollongong (right down the southern end)

HARDWARE NEEDS MORE THAN THE OCCASIONAL CHECK-OVER.

*VK2RIL 8725 - STILL OFF AIR.
POSSIBLY WON'T BE ON THE AIR AGAIN
WITH THE CURRENT EQUIPMENT (WHICH
IS TECHNICALLY NOT UP TO SCRATCH).
AT THIS POINT IN TIME, REINSTALLATION AT SUBLIME POINT IS
PERHAPS TOO EXPENSIVE. THIS
REPEATER IS IN LIMBO BUT
DEFINITELY NOT FORGOTTEN.

*VK2RAH 29.620 - STILL SUFFERING FROM THE "MACHINE-GUN" NOISE ON THE LINK FREQUENCY. THE SOURCE OF THE PULSE HAS BEEN LOCATED & DEFINED WITH THE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE OF BARRY SULLIVAN FROM THE LOCAL DOTC. (BARRY HAS SPENT MANY, MANY HOURS HELPING US TO FIND THE PROBLEM). UNFORTUNATELY. THE OWNERS OF THE PULSE ARE THE PRIMARY USERS OF THIS BAND (420 - 450 MHZ) AND WE ARE SECONDARY USERS - HENCE WE HAVE TO SHIFT OUR LINK FREQ. ONCE AGAIN BARRY HELPED US BY PUSHING THROUGH A RE-ASSIGNMENT OF FREQUENCY IN DOUBLE-QUICK TIME, SAVING MONTHS OF WAITING. THANKS, BARRY.

TO ACCOMODATE THIS CHANGE OF FREQUENCY, WE'VE HAD TO CHANGE LINK RXERS DUE TO OUR PRESENT EQUIPMENT REQUIRING TOO MUCH MODIFICATION TO MOVE DOWN THE 20 MHZ. FORTUNATELY, GRAHAM CAG HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED A RXER THAT WILL DO THE JOB. NEW CRYSTALS FOR THE TXER AND RXER WILL HAVE ARRIVED BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS. ALSO, THE NEW RXER HAS TO BE CONNECTED IN WITH THE EXISTING EQUIPMENT.

FUTURE PLANS AND IDEAS FOR THE CLUB'S REPEATERS....

*VK2RAW - GET OUR OCCASIONAL POWER LICKED FOR GOOD. THERE ARE A FEW IDEAS ON THE TABLE FOR THIS. HAVE YOU GOT ANY? A GENERAL CLEAN-UP & MAINTENANCE OF SITE SO AS TO KEEP OUR MAIN RPTR SITE AS RELIABLE AS POSSIBLE.

*VK2RIL (VHF) - WELL... "WHEN YOU ARE ON A GOOD THING, STICK TO IT"! AS LONG AS THE SITE DOESN'T GET ANY MORE PAGER NEIGHBOURS, NOTHING IS PLANNED. OUR PRESENT PAGER NEIGHBOUR AND OUR REPEATER ARE HAPPILY WORKING TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE.

*VK2RUW - I'M KEEN TO IMPROVE THIS REPEATER. WE'VE ALL HEARD THE SAYING - "USE IT OR LOSE IT", WELL OUR SLAB OF 420 - 450 MHZ IS AN

EXTREMELY VALUABLE PIECE OF THE FREGENCY SPECTRUM. (THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED ON VK2RAH ON THE LINK FREQUENCY SHOULD GIVE SOME IDEA OF HOW WEAK OUR GRASP'IS ON THIS BAND). I URGE THOSE WHO CAN USE UHF TO DO SO AND THAT'S NOT JUST FM AND REPEATERS. ANYWAY, GETTING OFF MY SOAPBOX (WHEW. . ED) IN AN EFFORT TO HELP POPULATE UHF THE IMPROVING OF COVERAGE ON OUR UHF REPEATERS WOULD BE HELPFUL. EVEN IN A SMALL WAY, POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO RUW WOULD INCLUDE A BETTER ANTENNA SYSTEM, INCLUDING FULL DUPLEXING (IE, A BIG HILL), LINKED TO OTHER UHF REPEATERS? IDFAS?

*VK2RIL (UHF) - AS SAID BEFORE THE REPEATER HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN, THERE ARE IDEAS IN THE PIPEWORKS BUT ULTIMATELY MONEY IS THE RESTRICTING FACTOR. (HOW ABOUT SLINGING IT OFF THE IARS SPACE SHUTTLE?..ED) NOT WISHING TO CONTRADICT MYSELF REGARDING RUW AND UHF WORRIES, DO WE REALLY NEED 2 UHF REPEATERS IN WOLLONGONG??? WOULD ONE VERY WELL-SITED GOOD COVERAGE REPEATER BE PREFERABLE? OUR CLUB'S LIMITED FINANCE COULD BE CHANNELED INTO MAKING ONE EXCELLENT UHF REPEATER OF TWO GOOD ONES? THESE ARE MY THOUGHTS, TELL ME YOURS.

*VK2RAH - OBVIOUSLY GET RID OF OUR RESIDENT MACHINE-GUN ONCE AND FOR ALL (ANYONE GOT A SPARE BAZOOKA). IMPROVE OUR RX PERFORMANCE, A BETTER SQUELCH AND MORE TX POWER (BACK UP TO FULL POWER - WE ARE CURRENTLY ONLY RUNNING 3W OUTPUT, BUT STILL GETTING GREAT SIGNAL REPORTS FROM VK6, VK8, JA, ZL, KH6, 302). AT OUR FULL POWER, ANOTHER 10DB PLUS.

WELL THAT'S ABOUT IT. I PROMISE MY NEXT REPORT WON'T BE SO LONG. LUCKY MY TYPEWRITER DOESN'T TIME OUT LIKE A REPEATER...I'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF IT DID. IF YOU OR OTHER USERS HAVE IDEAS, CONTACT ME PSE.

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PRINCESS HWAY DAPTO

ZAPHOD'S HINT NO MJ2955

IF YOU EVER FIND THAT YOUR
KENWOOD OR YAESU RIG IS NOT PUTTING
OUT POWER WHEN TUNING UP ON CW, THE
FIRST STEP IS TO PANIC SEVERELY.
FOLLOWING THIS, CHECK THE FINALS,
POWER SUPPLY, IF AMPLIFIER, ZENERS,
CHECK THAT THE DISPLAY IS WORKING,
AND PANIC ONCE MORE. ONCE THIS IS
DONE, CHECK THAT THE KEY IS NOT
PLUGGED INTO THE SOCKET ON THE
BACK. A PERSON WHO SHALL REMAIN
NAMELESS (IS THAT OK SIMON?)
ADVISES THAT THIS PROCEDURE WORKED
FINE FOR HIM WHEN TUNING A RIG.

ALSO, MAX XMD HAS SOME HINTS ON REPAIRING DISHWASHERS THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SOMEONE OUT THERE (BUT YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED A BOX OF BAND-AIDS FOR YOUR FINGERS).

**** PAGE 6 ****

DOTC QUESTION

LAST MONTH, KEITH ASKED: WHY DO FREQUENCY MULTIPLIERS USUALLY OPERATE IN CLASS C FOR BOTH AM AND FM TRANSMITTERS???

THE ANSWER WAS C) IT IS THE MOST EFFICIENT AND WILL NOT AFFECT FM, WHILST IN AM THE AUDIO IS ADDED AFTER MULTIPLICATION.

THIS MONTH KEITH VK20B ASKS US:

IF AN ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE HAS A SINGLE CYCLE DURATION OF 2.25NS, ITS FREQUENCY IS APPROXIMATELY:

- A) 28 MHZ
- B) 54 MHZ
- c) 144 MHz D) 444 MHz

WIDEBAND ANTENNA BALUNS

Few antennas are co-operative when it comes to feedpoint impedance. Matching them up or down to the required 50 ohms (occasionally 75 ohms) often proves awkward. Roger Harrison shows the easy way round.

IN ANY COMMUNICATIONS system the weakest link in the chain is always the antenna system. Even if the best antenna to suit the particular circumstances is chosen, it is necessary to provide efficient transfer of power to or from the antenna feedpoint. However, the antenna feedpoint impedance is not always conveniently the same as that of the feedline, the transmitter output impedance or the receiver input impedance. The latter are usually either 50 or 75 ohms to match the coaxial transmission lines normally employed. Coaxial transmission lines are, by nature unbalanced electrically, whereas many types of antennas have balanced feedpoints and thus require a balanced transmission line. To correct this a 'balun' is necessary - the word being derived from 'balanced - to - unbalanced'. Originally, the term applied to a device which only involved changing from the balanced to unbalanced condition without a change in impedance. Where a change in impedance is necessary the term transformer is, strictly speaking, the correct term. There are a wide variety of methods

of making antenna baluns and impedance matching devices. However, most techniques are suitable for use on a single, narrow frequency band. The most versatile technique, which results in baluns that may be used over a wide frequency range, employs sections of made-up transmission line wound on a ferrite core, usually in the form of a toroid or some other convenient shape. Sections of transmission line are wound together and connected in a series or parellel combination to effect the desired balanced-to-unbalanced transformation and/or an impedance transformation. Winding the transmission line sections on a ferrite core increases the inductance of the length of transmission line used. This article shows how to make the most useful types using locally available components.

High Power Transmitting Baluns The following baluns to be described all employ toroids and are for use

in transmitting applications at power levels up to 200 W, and up to 1 kW. CW or PEP output. Only two toroids are specified, both from the Neosid range. For applications up to 200 W. the toroid type 4328R/2/F14A/EC is employed, while that for powers up to 1 kW employ the type 4324 R/3/F14A. The first has an outside diameter of 25.4mm, an internal diameter of 19.05 mm and a thickness of 9.52 mm. It is coated in an enamel paint. The second, and larger toroid has an outside diameter of 38.1 mm, an inside diameter of 25.4 mm, is 19.05 mm thick and is uncoated. Both have bevelled edges and will not nick or cut the insulation of wire wound around them.

The smaller toroid may be used for purely receiving applications if desired, particularly for the higher transformation ratios of 9:1 and 16:1.

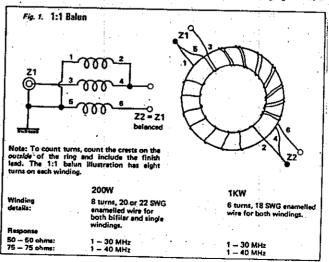
The baluns described are suitable for use from 2 MHz to 30 MHz and in some cases a wider range.

1:1 Balun

The circuit and connections for a 1:1 balun are given in Figure 1. This uses a bifilar winding wound around half the core and a single winding around the other half as illustrated. One wire in the bifilar winding is connected in series with the single winding. This balun is some times described with a trifilar winding but balance and bandwidth are not as good as with the method described.

This type of construction exhibits excellent balance at the Z2 termination and operates over a bandwidth of 1 MHz to 30 MHz in 50 ohm systems for assemblies on either toroid. The bandwidth is considerably better for 75 ohm systems constructed on either toroid, extending to 60 MHz for the 1 kW assembly but only 40 MHz for the 200 W assembly.

The exact gauge of the wire used is not very critical, a latitude of plus or minus one gauge being tolerated. When winding on the heavy gauge wires, a



neat winding can be obtained by carefully forming each bend, holding the already wound part firmly against the core.

Some confusion arises when counting turns of a winding on a toroid. To count turns, count the 'crests' on the outside of the ring and include the finish lead. The assembly illustrated in Figure 1 has sight turns on each winding.

4:1 Baluns

An unisolated balun has a dc connection between input and output, the isolated type is a true transformer.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate unisolated types. A 4:1 isolating balun is in Fig. 4. A single bifilar winding is used. The wires may be twisted together lightly or wound together around the core as illustrated. The latter method is preferable, Identify the ends and connect in series as shown. The bifilar winding is spread around most of the circumference. For the larger toroid, it is difficult to spread six turns around the circumference so the winding is

Balance of the high impedance is excellent. Bandwidth for both toroids is best for Z1 of 50 ohms. The 1 kW assembly in this case has the best bandwidth for either 50 or 75 ohm systems.

distributed around about two-thirds of

the circumference of the toroid.

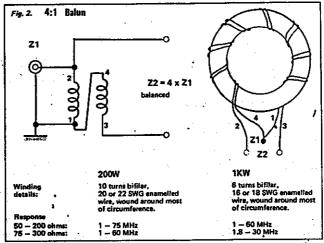
The same assembly can be connected as an unbalanced transformer. The arrangement is shown in Fig.3. Bandwidth is limited in this application but most vertical or loaded vertical antenna systems are used on the lower bands, below 15 MHz in any case. Best bandwidth is obtained for transformation from about 19 ohms to 75 ohm systems.

The isolated type is illustrated in Figure 4. This consists of a trifilar winding having two of the wires connected in series for the high impedance winding, the third wire being the low impedance, unbalanced winding.

The 1 kW assembly has the best bandwidth, when matching to 50 ohm systems. However, the full HF range is covered by both assemblies.

9:1 Balun

Baluns providing high impedance ratios are rarely described. Recently, wideband transformers for use in HF transistor linear power amplifiers, having impedance ratios as high as 36:1, have been described, but the techniques used



are not generally adaptable to the applications considered here.

Many types of HF beamantennae have high impedance feedpoints, such as the Lazy-H. Sterba curtain, V-beams and Rhombics, therefore presenting a matching problem that is usually solved by using resonant matching devices or 'match-boxes' involving tuned transformers. The wide bandwidth advantage of the V-beam and the Rhombic is compromised by such devices and a wideband balun provides a much better solution to the problem of matching the balanced, high impedance feedpoint to the unbalanced, low impedance transceiver antenna terminal. You don't have to tune up each time you change bands. Conversely, you lose the harmonic and spurious suppression advantages of the tuned matching system. However, it is always good practice to insert a low-pass filter in the transmission line immediately following the transceiver, regardless of the matching system used.

For antennas having a feedpoint impedance close to 600 ohms the balun illustrated in Figure 5 is applicable. It consists of three separate bifilar windings wound on the ferrite toroid as shown. One wire from each winding is connected so that each is in series, this forming the balanced high impedance winding. The remaining wires from each winding are all connected in

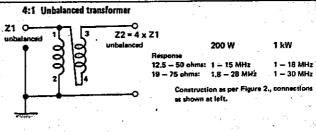


Fig. 3. Circuit for 4:1 unbalanced to unbalanced transformer. Construction is similar to that in Fig. 2. This type of transformer is suitable for matching to low impedance unbalanced antennas.

WIDEBAND ANTENNAT BALUNS

parallel for the unbalanced low

A single pair stripped from a length of suitable ribbon cable, or rainbow cable as it is also called, may be used for the windings on the small toroid specified for the 200 W assembly. For the1 kW assembly on the larger toroid, a type of 'figure - 8' flex that is sold as speaker cable is conveniently used. It has one lead marked with a dark-coloured stripe which helps to identify the separate wires in each bifilar winding. The different coloured insulation of the ribbon cable wires serves the same purpose. The figure-8 flex sold as 240 V lamp and appliance cord is too large to be used herè,

The assembly illustrated will cover the range 3 MHz to 25 MHz with eight turns per winding on the small toroid and six turns per winding on the larger toroid. More turns per winding are required if the balun is to be used at frequencies lower than 3 MHz. However, as the assembly only has a bandwidth of about 8:1 the upper frequency is then limited to about 45 MHz. The number of turns required barely fits on each core in this case.

Although the balun described is specified for matching 600 ohms to 75 ohms it can also be used to match antennas having impedances close to 450 or 500 ohms, to 50 ohms. The upper frequency limit is then reduced to about 20 MHz in this case. A slight impedance mismatch is readily tolerated by most equipment and there is little to be geined in trying to get an exact match.

16:1

For antennas having feedpoint impedances in the vicinity of 800 ohms the balun illustrated in Figure 6 is applicable for matching to 50 ohms. It is constructed in a similar manner to the previous one. Four bifilar windings are wound on the core. Four wires, one from each winding are connected in series to form the high impedance balanced winding. The other four wires are connected in parallel for the tow impedance unbalanced winding.

A single pair suripped from ribbon cable is also conveniently used for this balun on the small toroid, while figure-8 flex is convenient for the larger toroid, as discussed for the 9:1 balun.

This balun covers 3 to 25 MHz for assemblies wound on either toroid. Sufficient turns will not fit on the smaller toroid if you wish to go below 3 MHz. For purely receiving appli-

cations, use light gauge enamelled copper wire – such as 28 or 30 swg, and wind eight or nine turns per winding of bifilar pairs on the small toroid. As receivers are usually fairly tolerant of some degree of mismatch, a balun constructed in this manner may be used over the range 1 MHz to about 25 MHz.

The larger toroid will fit sufficient turns to cover the range down to 1.8 MHz but, as for the 9:1 balun, the upper frequency limit is about 15 MHz.

TOROIDS

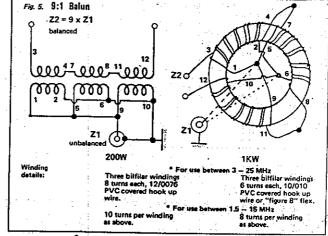
200W: 4328R/2/F14A/EC

14328/12/114A/CC Size: 25.4 mm x 19.05 mm x 9.52 mm (od, id, depth). Suitable up to 200 W and for receiving application. Also available from DAVID REID Electronics, 104-106 King Street, Newtown IPO Box 317) 2042.

Newtown (PO Box 317) : 1 kW: 4324R/3/F14A

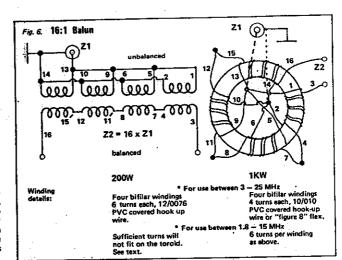
Size: 38,1 mm x 25,44 mm x 19.05 mm (od, id, depth)

The toroids specified are manufactured by Neosid (Aust.) Pty Ltd, 23-25 Percival St, Lityfield NSW 2040; phone (02) 660-4566.





Encapsulating Balun Assemblies Where necessary, to protect them from the weather, the balun assemblies may need to be encapsulated. A suitable mould may be fashioned from stiff paper or cardboard and the balun assembly potted in a suitable epoxy compound. The input and output terminations may be potted along with them, ensuring that no short circuits are possible in the process. Alternatively, they may be sealed in a suitable plastic moulding such as those produced for 240 V electric cable conduit. These are available as T-junctions etc., and are generally obtainable from hardware stores in sizes suitable to contain the toroids specified. A complete balun and dipole feedpoint termination can be encapsulated in an appropriate fitting. A suitable coax socket and eye-bolts to take the antenna strain are readily included also. The exact construction is left up to the individual to suit the circumstances, A little imagination boes a long way.







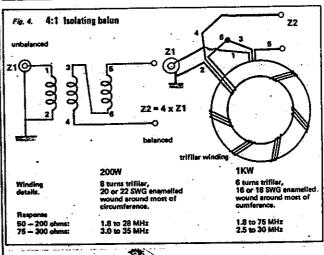
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THANKS FOR THE CREAT THANKS FOR THE CREAT PAGE CREAT PA

A GOOD CHEAP 2M ANTENNA

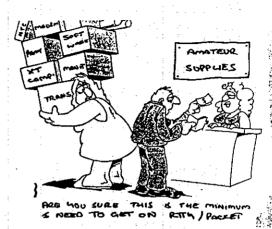
GRAHAM VK2JGI TELLS US ABOUT A
2M ANTENNA HE HAS MADE...RATHER
THAN MAKING A DIPOLE OF GROUND
PLANE ANTENNA, I MADE A ONE
WAVELENGTH SQUARE LOOP ANTENNA, IN
THE VERTICAL ORIENTATION AND
POLARIZED VERTICALLY. THIS GIVES
PERFORMANCE WHICH IS BETTER THAN A
DIPOLE OR GROUND PLANE.

THE ONLY MATERIALS USED WERE 2M OF 2MM ENAMELLED WINDING WIRE I HAD LYING AROUND, A LENGTH OF 20MM CONDUIT WHICH WAS PRETTY CHEAP, AND SOME CO-AX TO FEED IT WITH. FOR A MAST, I NEEDED SOMETHING WHICH WAS NON-CONDUCTIVE, BUT REASONABLY STRONG, I HAD 5 FT OF CONDUIT LEFT OVER, SO I JUST USED IT. IT'S A BIT FLEXIBLE, BUT IT WORKS OK AND HASN'T BLOWN DOWN YET.

I USE THIS ANTENNA ON THE ROOF OF MY HOUSE, AND IT SEEMS TO PERFORM QUITE WELL. NOT BAD FOR \$5.



THE TEMPERATURE GUAGE WAS NOT SHOWING STRENGTH 9.



SCOUT CAMP ANNIVERSARY

ON THE 10TH OF NOVEMBER, OUR LOCAL SCOUT CAMP TURNS FIFTY. THERE IS PLANNED TO BE A BIG CELEBRATION DAY AT THE MOUNT KEIRA SCOUT CAMP ON THE SATURDAY. ONE OF THE THINGS BEING DONE IS AN AMATEUR STATION DEMONSTRATION, WHICH IS BEING ORGANISED BY GRAHAM VK2JGI. GRAHAM ADVISES US THAT SOME HELP FOR THE WEEKEND IN THE FORM OF SOMEONE TO HELP WITH OPERATION, AND MAYBE ALSO BRING UP SOME GEAR (HE HAS 2M AND HF, BUT MAYBE SOME UHF OR 6M WOULD BE NICE TO SHOW OFF) WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

ALSO WITH THIS DEMONSTRATION
WILL BE A DISPLAY OF A HISTORICAL
NATURE. NO DOUBT SOMEONE OUT THERE
HAS SOME HISTORICAL-LOOKING RADIO
GEAR WHICH WOULD LOOK GOOD IN OUR
DISPLAY THAT THEY MIGHT LEND HIM
FOR THE WEEKEND (IT DOESN'T HAVE TO
WORK, AND PROBABLY WON'T BE
OPERATED). ANYTHING CIRCA 1940
WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT ANY SORT OF OLD
GEAR TO MAKE THE DISPLAY LOOK GOOD
WOULD BE VERY WELCOME.

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ILLAWARRA AMATEAR RADIO SOCIETY INCORPORATED.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING -TUESDAY 17 JULY, 1990 HELD AT SES HO, MONTAGUE STREET,

NORTH WOLLONGONG START: 19:30

PRESENT: VK2'S KWG (CHAIR), KLH, XLA, XSV, KEY, KCV, TKE, XGJ, MT. APOLOGIES: VK2KHE. VK2XCC

RUSTNESS:

- 1. CLUB RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP OF WIA MAY HAVE LAPSED. THE COMMITTEE RESOLVED THAT THE CLUB SHOULD APPLY (REAPPLY) FOR MEMBERSHIP. VK2KCV TO CLARIFY THE MATTER AND, IF NECESSARY, REQUEST AND COMPLETE RELEVANT FORMS.
- 2. THE CLUB IS TO FORMALLY REQUEST THE RETURN OF THE UHF REPEATER (VK2RIL) AND THE 9 CAVITIES LOANED TO VK2XNH FOR TESTING IN THE NOWRA AREA.
- 3. A LOCK IS REQUIRED FOR THE CLUB'S RADIO ROOM. VK2TKE TO LIAISE WITH VK2KHE RE INSURANCE ASPECTS, TYPE OF LOCK REQUIRED ETC.
- 4. TO ENCOURAGE USE OF SOME LESSER UTILISED BANDS, VK2KWG SUGGESTED THE CLUB UNDERTAKE A "6 METRE OPERATIONS DAY".
 THE COMMITTEE FURTHER DISCUSSED THE MATTER AND PROPOSED AN ALL BANDS OPERATIONS DAY INVOLVING THE CLUB STATION, SUBJECT TO D.O.T.C. APPROVAL AND THE LAWRENCE HARGRAVE AWARD POSSIBLE DATE PROPOSED 17/18 NOVEMBER, 1990.
 - 5. THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED HOLDING A FOX HUNT/CAR RALLY EVENT. VK2MT TO CONTACT VK2JBS RE AN ARTICLE IN THE "PROPAGATOR" FOR THE OPERATIONS DAY (WEEKEND) AND FOX HUNT.

****PAGE 12****

- 6. ROB, VK2MT, ADVISED THAT BOTH "CB ACTION" & "AMATEUR RADIO" HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST AND REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB'S 10 METRE REPEATER, VK2RAH. ROB ADVISED THAT AN ARTICLE WOULD BE PROVIDED ONCE THE CURRENT PROBLEMS
 AT THE SITE HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.
- 7. CRYSTALS FOR THE NEW LINK
 FOR VK2RAH HAVE BEEN ORDERED.
 ROB ADVISED THAT GRAEME, VK2CAG,
 HAS DONATED A RECEIVER AND
 CRYSTAL TO THE PROJECT.
 WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK GRAEME FOR
 HIS INTEREST AND SUPPORT.
- 8. KEN, VK2TKE VISITED THE VK2RAW SITE AND REMOVED SOME LOOSE WIRE FROM A TURNBUCKLE. THIS APPEARED TO SOLVE THE NOISE PROBLEM. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE BATTERIES WERE EITHER PARTIALLY DISCHARGED OR NOT ACCEPTING THE CHARGE. THIS MATTER TO BE EXAMINED AT THE NEXT VISIT.
- 9. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THAT KEITH, VK2OB, PURCHASE SUFFICIENT ALUMINIUM FOR A 20 METRE MONOBANDER FOR THE CLUB STATION.
- 10. TOWER PROJECT. A WORKING BEE TO BE HELD SATURDAY, 21 JULY TO CLEAN ANOTHER SECTION. THE HOLE FOR THE BASE TO BE DUG WHEN THE GROUND HAS DRIED OUT. VK2KHE TO PROVIDE DETAILS REGARDING COUNCIL APPROVALS. THE INCOMING COMMITTEE REQUESTED THAT DETAILS OF TOWER AND BASE DESIGN BE PROVIDED BY THE TOWER COMMITTEE FOR CLUB RECORDS.

11. THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED BY KEN, VK2TKE, THAT CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS APPROX 80 MEMBERS. IDEAS SUGGESTED FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND JOTA OPERATIONS, SHOPPING CENTRE AND SCHOOL DISPLAYS, OPERATING DAYS ETC. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE NEED TO BE WELL ORGANISED FOR EVENTS OF THIS TYPE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

12. THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE TOPICS AND THEMES FOR FORTHCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS. THESE INCLUDE. MICROWAVE BANDS, SATELLITE OPERATING PROCEDURES, PACKET, BROADCAST OFFICER DUTIES, OPERATING DAY REHEARSAL, CLUB AUCTION, HOME BREW NIGHT, DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICAL MATTERS BY DISTRICT RADIO INSPECTOR, WIA, DAVID VK2YKO ETC. FURTHER SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE WELCOMED.

COMMITTEE MEETING CLOSED 21:30.

Presidents Report

I would like to thank the last committee for their fine effort during their term in office. As you can see from the back of the propagator we have a few new members in the committee with a few faithfuls from the old one.

The club station tower is progressing. A working bee was held on Saturday 21st with Vic VK2XSV (Extra Super Victor), Pat VK2KEY; and myself. It was a fine day for painting and the general consensus was that a Bar Bee Gue was the go for the next session on the tower.

Calling All Amateurs

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

METERS

A NTENNAMATERIAL

R ADIO PARTS

ITBITS AND PIECES

E LECTRONIC THINGAMMYS

RUE VALUE 4 MONEY

GAVIONS

11 Molloy St. Bulli

Our committee has got off to a good start with an enthusiastic inaugural meeting on the 17th. We have come up with plenty of good topics for the club meetings, these will be published as they are firmed up. I am looking forward to this months general meeting where Lyle VK2ALU (our resident microwave, eme etc expert) will talk on Microwave communications.

Ken Grimm VK2KW6

10 GHz Mountain top Dxpedition - Dale VK2DSH & Lyle VK2ALU

by VK2DSH

Over a period of some months I have been building some equipment for the 10 GHz band. The equipment is a simple wide band F.M system, built so that it is light weight and portable. With the kind assistance and guidance of Lyle VK2ALU, I have been able to get the equipment working.

The system consists of a Gunn diode oscillator in a simple wave guide cavity. The oscillator is the transmitter as well as the local osillator for the receiver. Frequency modulation is achieved by modulating the supply voltage (about 7 volts) of the Gunn diode. A deviation of about 100 Khz is used and a power output of up to 10 mW. The receiver consists of a diode mixer followed by a 30 MHz IF amplier followed by another conversion to 10.7 MHz where demodulation takes place. The whole lot being simple, easy to get going and light weight.

Our first QSO was on the 10th March of this year over about 30 m in Lyles (large) backyard! Following this successfull test, we decided to go futher afield.

Time went by until On the 11th July, I set out for the summit of Mt Kembla carrying a back pack of radio gear. 2 M equipment for a liason link, 10 GHz equipment, tripod, horn antenna, batteries and assorted bits and pieces were taken along. After tramping through the bush for about an hour the summit was reached - just in time for a shower of rain. A nice flat rock facing the correct direction was found and when the rain stopped the gear was set up.

Lyle was at his home with his wide band gear set up on his front lawn, communications was established on 2 M and Lyle starting transmitting on 10 Ghz and I picked up his signal with no difficulty but Lyle could not hear me. A noise free voice signal was heard by me, but Lyle could not hear me at all on 10 Ghz. A few adjustments were made but after about an hour we decided that we could only work one way. So after some lunch I started making my way back to Lyles place.

The problem turned out to be that my transmit power was too low, about 0.5 mW instead of 5 mW - some futher adjustments will be required before we try again. Despite the problem with one transmitter, lots of fun was had and a lot was learnt. The path distance in this experiment was about 6 Km, however even using this simple type of equipment links upto several 100 Km are possible, depending on the site of the equipment and atmospheric conditions.

Anyone else for 10 GHz? Its lots of fun and fairly easy to get going on!

TECHNICAL INFO

YOU WILL PROBABLY NOTICE THAT THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION IS FAIRLY SIMPLE IN THIS ISSUE. THIS IS MOSTLY BECAUSE THE EDITORS FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME TECHNICAL CONTENT IN THIS BOOK, BUT WE ARE NOT OVERLY INFORMED ABOUT THINGS. BEARING IN MIND WHAT AMATEUR RADIO IS ABOUT, AND WHAT ROB MCKNIGHT HAD TO SAY IN HIS REPEATER COLUMN (UH. OH, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME SOAP BUBBLES COMING FROM THAT BOX HE'S STANDING ON. . . ED) , MAYBE (JUST MAYBE) SOME OF YOU ARE CONDUCTING THE ODD EXPERIMENT OF A TECHNICAL NATURE, AND MAYBE YOU ARE DOING IT ON UHF. 'NUFF SAID, BUT NO DOUBT OTHERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR OF YOUR ENDEAVOURS. (WE HAD BETTER KICK THE BOX OUT FROM UNDER THIS GUY PRETTY SOON).

WHILE I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, AND I HOPE THAT YOU AREN'T EXPECTING ANYTHING TECHNICAL IN A COLUMN NAMED LIKE THIS ONE, IF YOU DO NOTICE THAT A LOT OF THE STUFF IN THIS ISSUE SEEMS TO BE NOT INTERESTING TO YOU, OR NOT RELATED TO WHAT YOU THINK AMATEUR RADIO IS ABOUT, THEN YOU ARE THE SORT OF CHARACTER WE NEED. IF ANYONE HAS ANYTHING THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN HERE, FEEL FREE TO SUGGEST OR CONTRIBUTE. ALSO....

AT THE REQUEST OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE, WE JUST DECIDED THAT WE HAD BETTER KNOCK THIS GUY ON THE HEAD BEFORE HE STARTS SOMETHING WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR. WE WOULDN'T WANT ANOTHER FORD PREFECT (PERFECT???) OR ANYTHING, WOULD WE. HE DISAPPEARED WITH THE GOING OF THE OLD EDITOR, DIDN'T HE???

BUT LIKE THE MAN SAYS, IF YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING, TELL ONE OF US (BILL, SIMON, GRAHAM), AND WE WILL SEE IF WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOU. (THINKS...ANOTHER PAGE OUT OF THE WAY.....)



IOU'RE LUCKY, I CAN'T EVEN JET A OSL CARD

WANTER

INFORMATION OR SCEMATIC DIAGRAMS ON PHILLIPS FM1680C/25N , FM1680A/25N OR SIMILAR VHF FM TRANSCEIVERS.

KEN VK2KWG. PHONE 28-8218



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- ALL MAIL CAN BE SENT TO "THE ILLAWARRA AMATEUR
POST BOX
                       RADIO SOCIETY AT P.O. BOX 1838 WOLLONGONG 2500.
                                                            VHF MT MURRAY
                                          VOICE
                       -VK2RAW - 146.850
REPEATERS
                                             PACKET VHF MT MURRAY
VOICE/RTTY VHF SUBLIME PT
                       -VK2RAW - 147.575
                       -VK2RIL - 147.275
                                                VOICE UHF HILL 60
                       -VK2RUW - 438.225
                                                VOICE/RTTY UHF SUBLIME PT
                       -VK2RIL - 438.725
          (OFF AIR)
                                                             HF
                       -VK2RAH - 29.520/.620 VOICE
                       -IS ON SUNDAY EVENING AT 6.45PM. RTTY MODE
BROADCAST
                        TRANSMITTED ON 147.275 AND RELAY ON 3.618 MHz +/-
                        ORM. CALL BACKS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER. VOICE
                        BROADCAST HELD AFTER WIA BROADCAST ON 146.850 MHz
                        (VK2RAW) AND 3.618 MHz +/- QRM.
                        -IS ON 146.850 MHZ AT 10.45 AM AND 7.15 PM EACH
WIA RELAY
                        SUNDAY.
                        -IS PUBLISHED EACH MONTHLY TO REACH ALL FINANCIAL
NEWS LETTER
                        MEMBERS IN THE WEEK PRECEDING THE CLUB MEETINGS.
                        ARTICLES AND LETTERS ARE VERY WELCOME.
                       -$15.00 P.A. CONCESSIONS $12.00 P.A.
MEMBERSHIP
                        -VK STATIONS REQUIRE 10 CONTACTS WITH TARS MEMBERS.
LAWRENCE
                      OVERSEAS STATIONS REQUIRE 5 CONTACTS. ONE CONTACT WITH THE CLUB STATION VK2AMW IS SUITABLE. DETAILS
HARGREAVE
AWARD
                       OF CONTACTS ARE TO BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY.
                        -THE CLUB STORE IS OPEN AT EACH MEETING.
STORE
                            -VK2KWG - KEN GRIMM
PRESIDENT
                        -VK2KEY - PAT JORDAN
VICE PRES
SECRETARY
                        -VK2KCV - PAT KENNEDY
                        -VK2XSV - VIC HEE
-VK2TKE - KEN GOODHEW
ASSIS SEC
TREASURER
                        -VK2KHE - PETER TOMLIN
ASST TRES
                        -VK2MT - ROB MCKNIGHT -VK2XSV - VIC HEE
COMMITTEE
                                                   -VK2XGJ - JOHN SIMONS
                        -VK2FPN - PETER READ
                        -VK2KCH - BRIAN CLARKE
                                                  -VK2KHE - PETER TOMLING
                        -VK2MT - ROB MCKNIGHT
REPEATER PRES
                                                   -VK2XLA - GRAHAM EAST
-VK2XGJ - JOHN SIMONS
                        -VK2KHE - PETER TOMLIN
REPEATER COMM
                        -VK2TKE - KEN GOODHEW
                         - TOM JEPSON
                                                   -VK2KLD - LES DAVID
                        -VK2JGI - GRAHAM DENNEY
-VK2JBS - BILL STONE
QSL. CARDS OUT
OSL. CARDS IN
                        222
PUBLICITY ·
                        222
 BROADCAST
                        -VK2AXI - BRIAN WADE
-ZAPHOD (VK2XQX VK2JGI VK2JBS)
 CARTOONIST
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-VK2DSH - DALE HUGHES VK2XCC - RAY BALL

-VK2XSV - VIC HEE -VK2OB - KEITH CURLE -VK2CAG - GRAEME DOWSE -VK2OB - KEITH CURLE

-- VK2XCC - RAY BALL

-VK2XSV - VIC HEE

-VK2ALU - LYLE PATISON

-VK2DYU - BILL CHADBURN

PROPAGATOR ED

PRINTERS

STORE

SOCIAL DIR

CANTEEN

TOWER CO-ORD DOTC LIASON LIFE MEMBERS