

# Omega Radio Club Inc

## News Letter

Vol. III Issue 2 - March 2017

### **New date for Annual General Meeting:**

It has become necessary to change the date of this year's annual general meeting as we will not be able to access the school on the usual 4th Thursday in June. This year's AGM will now be on **Thursday 27th July** at the school as usual. The new date will be circulated with the formal notice of meeting in the coming weeks.

### **Car Rally events:**

As I am sure most members are now aware our first car rally event is on Saturday 1st April. This will be the George Woods trial based at Powelltown and extending through the forest toward Noojee. This event runs at night only and unfortunately has quite a late finish. This is however made a little easier as it is the night daylight saving finishes so an hour is gained after the event. A test day has been conducted and communications look to be good at all control sites. All members involved will be contacted in the coming week or so with further information.

Following that we have the Cooper Memorial Rally on Saturday 29th April. This event is based at Noojee and runs back toward Powelltown. This event runs in 2 divisions, the first time through in daylight and the second at night. The good news is the night division finishes quite early so no one should have too late a night. If you are available for either of these events and have not already replied to Len, it would assist if this was done as soon as possible.

There are a number of other events on the horizon however the only confirmed date is the Spring 200 on 16th September.

### **Membership renewal:**

Annual memberships are due to be renewed on 31st March. All members who have sufficient money in their fuel accounts will be automatically renewed. Those who don't have funds available will receive renewal notices by email during the coming week. If you receive a renewal notice it would assist us if you would reply to it as soon as possible. If any members have questions about their renewal, please contact either the secretary or treasurer via the club's email address.

### **Melbourne repeater site:**

In an effort to restore coverage of our Melbourne repeater to its former standard we have purchased a new antenna. The new antenna will be installed higher and in a more favourable position on the tower so our coverage should be improved over what we have now. As the repeater is located at a commercial site we are required to use a professional rigger to work on the tower. Fortunately one of the other users at the site is also in need of some antenna work so we have arranged for their work and ours to be done at the same time. This enables us to share the cost of the work making it possible for us to have our antenna and cable updated for an affordable price. At the time of writing we are not sure of the exact date the work will be done but are hoping it will not be too far away.

Late last year Len 124 was able to arrange a Motorola repeater system suitable for club use. The unit is designed for rack mounting and is very heavy so not good for portable applications.

Recently Derek 742 and Alex 510 were able to obtain an Imark 20Amp power supply with battery backup that will be most suitable to power the Motorola repeater. It is planned to install both of these in the Melbourne site which will free up the Kenwood unit for use at events as it is far more suited to portable applications.

### **Contributions for eNews:**

If you have anything you think would be of interest to members that could be included in eNews please send to us at [omega.radio.club@gmail.com](mailto:omega.radio.club@gmail.com) or contact Mike 220 or any committee member to make other arrangements.

## Powelltown Test Day

### Lynne 220½

One of the things I like best about being a “hanger on” in the Omega Radio Club is being involved in Rally Test days. Never the navigator, (although I can read a map) always the driver because I enjoy driving off the bitumen. We joined other Omega members on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to test communications in the Powelltown/Noojee area for the George Woods Rally and the Cooper Memorial Rally being held in April. Apart from Len 124 and Katie who managed to avoid the friendly tiger snakes on Mt Toorongo to set up the repeater, Dave 906, Bill 367 and Marj, Dick 808, Charlie 341 and Margaret and Mike 220 and I met up at the picnic area in Powelltown to have a cuppa and check of maps and routes before heading off. It's an interesting forestry area and the picnic ground contains some original machinery with interesting information boards.

It was a lovely day weatherwise to drive through tall ash forests, keeping an eye out for log trucks hurtling down dusty roads driven by kamikaze drivers, (and my navigator didn't get us lost once). Len 124, also had to pull over and wait for log truck dust to clear before continuing on up Mt Toorongo, where he set up the repeater using the pneumatic mast attached to his car. All but one area worked very well through the repeater.

We stopped for lunch at one of the Trail Bike areas that are scattered throughout the forest also watching log trucks pass in horrendous clouds of dust. Mike was even able to talk to Len with his hand



held radio while there. The others were able to get good comms as they travelled around the event areas. Finally we met up again at Powelltown to compare notes at the end of the course. Mike was very pleased with the results for the day with only one area for the Cooper Rally course that may need to be improved. As usual Mike and I found lots of interesting things to photograph in between radio calls and map checking. Margaret and Charlie 341 reported



lunching at the Tarago Reservoir before heading home to Hazelwood North.

Thanks to those members and hangers on who helped out on the day.



## For Sale, Swap or just plain Free.

### For sale this month:

#### Radios:

**Kenwood TK-7180K** – VHF Commercial Radio. \$200.00 – Upgrade to DTMF Mic extra \$25

Fully programed for use on Omega Radio Club Frequencies

Can also be reprogramed for use on 2m Amateur if you have appropriate license.

**Kenwood TK-8180K** – UHF Commercial Radio. \$190.00 – Upgrade to DTMF Mic extra \$25

Fully programed for use on Australian UHF 40 & 80 Channel CB Frequencies

Can also be reprogramed for use between 450 & 520Mhz with proof of License.

5w Low & 25w Hi Power (5w Low power set for legal use on CB channels)

Fully programmable CTCSS encode decode features.

Displays Rally Event Vehicle ID's when signal received. (VHF club version)

Up to 512 programmable channel memories.

Front panel buttons programmable for multiple functions

Can be connected to other TK7180 & TK8180 for translator purposes. Cable required.

Special Offer – Buy 2 radios for \$350.00 – YES That's 1 VHF & 1 UHF for \$350.00

Make your own in-car translator and still be able to walk around when the comms are not so great at rallies with your UHF handheld linked to your car.



NOTE: The necessary Link cable is available from Alex 510.

Kenwood Features & Specifications are viewable from the Kenwood Site [here](#).

Downloadable Kenwood PDF Manual is available from [here](#).

REMOTE HEAD KITS can be purchase online. Search for KRK-10 Remote

Local Kenwood dealers also sell this current model remote kit. Compare the price before you buy.

Each radio is supplied with – 1 x Radio already programmed for either ORC Frequencies or UHF CB.

1 x Standard Microphone

1 x Mounting Bracket

1 x Power lead

For more details or to arrange a purchase please email 483 Frank at [VBX483@moshari.net](mailto:VBX483@moshari.net)

#### Laptop Computer Bags:

Chris 338 has a quantity of pre loved laptop computer bags and some similar but larger bags designed for carrying 19" Rack mount switches available. If you would like to obtain one or more of these **free** bags please drop an email to [omega.radio.club@gmail.com](mailto:omega.radio.club@gmail.com) to order.



## Events Calendar—Club Diary

2017

23rd March	General Meeting	At the School
<b>1st April</b>	<b>George Wood Rally</b>	<b>Powelltown area</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Committee Meeting	Mike 220's home.
27th April	General Meeting	At the School
<b>29th April</b>	<b>Cooper Memorial Rally</b>	<b>Noojee area</b>
<b>27th July</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>At the School</b>

