

Omega Radio Club Inc

www.omegaradioclub.org

News Letter

Vol. IV Issue 7 August - September 2018

Missing issue:

If anyone has been wondering why they haven't seen a newsletter for a while it's because the secretary has been wandering around southern QLD and northern NSW. By the time he got back it was too late for an August edition so here we are with a combined one for Aug / Sept.

Sad News:

Most members would now be aware of the death of our long time member Brian Fleming (982). Brian joined Omega to further his involvement with car rallies which had been his life long passion. Brian was a founding member of the Melbourne University Car Club in the late 1950s which he remained active with until his death. He had also been involved with the Landrover Owners' Club which is where he met Omega members Dave 906, Wally 727 and Mike 220. Our deepest sympathy to Brian's wife Anthea and their family.

A memorial service was held for Brian at Heidelberg on Sunday 26th August. Omega was represented by Alex 510 and Mike & Lynne 220's

Rally Communication Events:

Our rally event calendar looks to be finalised for the rest of the year with 3 more events during October and November. The first two events are on consecutive weekends, Sunday 21st and Saturday 27th October and the last for the year on Saturday 24th November. While we would not expect all those who go to these rallies to be able to attend 2 events only 6 days apart, we certainly need to come up with 2 teams to cover these events. If you are able to assist us on any of these days please contact Len by email at events.omegaradioclub@gmail.com to have your name added to the lists. If you are able to assist on these dates but are concerned about times or have special requirements to maybe fit in around shift work or other activities, please let us know and we will do our best to meet any special requests.

Member of the month:

Once again we congratulate Dave 329 who takes out Member of the Month award for September. Dave takes out the award for travelling all the way from his home at Meredith to Toolangi for the Yarra Valley stages rally. Well done Dave and thank you for your commitment and support of club events.

See more information on the Valley Stages rally later in this issue.

New radios available:

A reminder to any members needing VHF club radios to contact Barry 671 via the club's email address omega.radio.club@gmail.com to order.

At the July Meeting:

At our July General Meeting we were finally able to catch up with Dick 808 to present his "Les VBW395" award. Dick receives this year's award for his ongoing support of our club's activities particularly assisting with car rallies, both at the rallies themselves and also field test days. Congratulations Dick and our thanks for all your good work.

We weren't able to present Dick's award at the AGM as that night he was celebrating his 80th birthday in South Australia. Not only couldn't we give Dick his award but we also lost an opportunity to have a good pig-out on cake. Fortunately at this meeting we could catch up with both. Happy birthday Dick and may the next 80 years be as good as the first.

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 or contact Mike 220 or any committee member to make other arrangements.



Donation of Equipment:

Recently we received a donation of 2 cavity filters and an RF circulator (a device used to reduce interference to others by our equipment) to use with repeater setups. Our thanks to Len 124's nephew John for making these items available to our club.

Thought for the day:

'I am' is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that 'I do' is the longest sentence??

Events Calendar—Club Diary 2018

September

Thursday 27th	General meeting	Carwatha College
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October

Tuesday 2nd	Committee Meeting	At Mike 220's home
Sunday 21st	Akados Rally	Alexandra / Blue Range area
Thursday 25th	General Meeting	Carwatha College
Saturday 27th	Daryl Tunbridge Rally	Ballarat

November

Tuesday 6th	Committee meeting	Location TBA
Thursday 22nd	General Meeting (Last for the year)	Carwatha College
Saturday 24th	George Derrick Rally	Heyfield / Seaton area

December

Saturday 1st	End of year Christmas Doo	Emerald Lake Park
Tuesday 4th	Committee meeting (last for the year)	Location TBA

News from the ACMA:

A recent press release from the ACMA reported the following.

OPTUS SCAM ALERT!

Emails claiming to be from Optus are circulating. They want your credit card information for what is claimed to be an unpaid bill. The ACMA has been receiving reports about emails with the subject line 'We are unable to process your last payment'.

The fake emails are sophisticated and use a web address that looks like the real Optus website. The email contains a link to a [fake 'pay your bill' page](#), which then asks for your credit card details.

The fake email and payment form are cunningly crafted to trick people. It's important you check the legitimacy of email links to protect your personal information—use contact details you find through a legitimate source and not those contained in the suspicious message.

If you receive this scam

email, delete it immediately.

The image shows a screenshot of a fraudulent Optus website. At the top, it says 'OPTUS FAKE EMAIL'. Below this is a message: 'Dear customer, Our billing system was unable to process your last payment. Please verify & submit your correct billing information to avoid interruption of your OPTUS services.' There is a 'CONTINUE' button. Below that is a link: 'Need help? Get helpful tips about your phone, payment options and more.' At the bottom of this section is a copyright notice: '© 2018 Singtel Optus Pty Limited'. A large red circular stamp with the words 'SCAM ALERT' in bold, slanted letters is overlaid on the right side of the page. Below the stamp is the 'OPTUS' logo. Underneath the logo is the heading 'Pay My Bill FAKE FORM'. Below this is a sub-header: 'Optus accepts all major credit cards' followed by logos for VISA, Mastercard, and American Express. The main section is titled 'PAYMENT INFORMATION' and contains several input fields: 'Customer Account Number*', 'Card Holder Name*', 'Digital Checkout' (with a 'VISA Checkout' button), 'OR Card Number' (with a field for the card number), 'Credit Expiry Date' (with MM and YY dropdowns), and 'Card ID' (with a (cvv) label). At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'CLEAR FORM' and 'PAY BILL'. Below the buttons is a small note: '* Services for personal mobile customers. SMS "Maver" to 9999 for fast self-service from your Optus Mobile (24x7). Options include: account balance and account number, unbilled usage, last payment details, contact status and more.' At the very bottom, there is a small text: 'If you wish to check a previous Pay my bill payment visit here'.



Western Vic. Crane Trucks Valley Stages Rally 16th September 2018

Very early on Sunday morning 16th September 20 of us headed out to the Valley Stages rally. Following a very nice day on the Friday the weather turned extremely stormy on Saturday which led to a very cold night before the rally on Sunday.

A number of members camped out on the Saturday night and reported snow and temperatures well below zero. Dave 329 and Chris 338 both arrived to find snow at their control location. Geoff 305 reported minus 2 deg where he and some others camped. Len 124 had minus 4 deg at Mt St Leonard when he arrived to set up our repeater. Lynne and I had a balmy 1deg at Mt Despair which sounds quite warm compared with the others.

Having seen the rapidly deteriorating weather forecast for the weekend I decided we would visit Mt Despair on Friday to set up the antennas for the translator radios. As there is reasonable security there it was possible to leave the antennas setup thus reducing our setup time on Sunday morning. This worked out very well for a couple of reasons, one of which we wouldn't know about until Sunday morning.

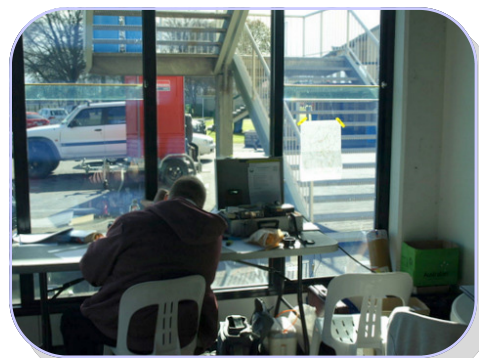
On Sunday we left home at 5am heading for Mt Despair. We arrived at the gate to the summit at 6.30am to find the people manning a Road Closure point had set up their camp over the gate preventing us getting through. The two guys were still asleep in their swags and weren't terribly impressed when we woke them up and broke the bad news that they were going to have to pack up their camp "very quickly" or risk the wrath of the event organisers for holding up the 1st half because there was no communications. They soon found that moving their camp was made even more uncomfortable as the top of their tarp was a frozen solid sheet of ice.

Fortunately, once through the gate the rest of the trip was quite uneventful other than the cold.

Mike 220



Very cold at Mt St Leonard in the early morning light. -4° at the bottom of the mast!



Much more comfortable at Yarra Glen race course HQ. However this turned out to be one of the busiest rallies yet for HQ operators as the cars were running with only 1 minute intervals.

Dave 329 found it very cold outside the car window at stage 5 finish. Looks like he took the sensible approach and stayed inside.



Probably more comfortable at Mt Despair by the fire
A very nice sunset at the end of the day



Photos: Alex 510, Len 124, Dave 329, Lynne & Mike 220s