

# 50th Anniversary - Lake Eyre Dx-pedition



Bill Rice calling the world from the Red Baron yacht



View from the campsite at Lake Eyre in 1975, from the south end of Madigan Gulf

This year is the 50th anniversary of the DxExpedition undertaken by Bill Rice [VK3ABP - SK] to the shores of Lake Eyre [Madigan Gulf] in 1975. Also now known by its indigenous name of Kati Thanda, the lake had recently filled with water and had around 1.5m to 2m of water in it at the time [at 'level post bay'], which is where the expedition camped.

The intention was to sail maritime mobile from the lake and make contact with as many amateurs as possible, both within and outside Australia. This achievement has been documented and referenced in articles in Amateur Radio and also OTN<sup>(1),(2)</sup>.

A film was made of the event ['On Eyre'] and has now been accepted for inclusion in the National Film & Sound Archive [NFSA]. A recognition of the efforts of the people involved and an encouragement to others to do the same.

The details about the film can be accessed at:

<https://www.collection.nfsa.gov.au/title/1816863>.

The NFSA does not provide a direct link to view the film [you will need to ask them]. RAOTC members can go to my website and use the link provided on the "On Eyre" page to view a low resolution preview MP4 of the film if they wish. A digital download is available of the film, details are also on my website. The film has also been

screened on a number of ATV channels.

A short audio piece was made by Peter Rice VK3ABP, son of Bill Rice, about one of the contacts Bill made while the yacht circumnavigated Madigan Gulf which was broadcast over the VK3OTN August broadcast and can be



On the lake

downloaded from the broadcast page of the new RAOTC website<sup>(3)</sup>. The Rice family has organised a private screening of the film to celebrate the occasion.

In addition the film has now been shown on the South Australian ATV network and the Victorian ATV network. It seems that the 50th anniversary has piqued some interest from radio amateurs as it appears

that there have been no other attempts of a similar expedition since. I know Bill Rice would be chuffed that his legacy is still being talked about such a long time after the event, and that his son Peter has assisted with the production of a number of retrospective articles and podcasts of the expedition. If there are any amateur ATV channels that wish to use this film they should get in contact with me directly. There is also information about the film on my website<sup>(4)</sup>.

A private screening of On Eyre is also being organised by the Rice family due to the intense interest from their extended family.

*All photos are taken from the documentary film "On Eyre" by Tim Robinson VK3YBP.*

## References

- 1) The active life of Bill Rice OTN Issue 70 [September 2022]
- 2) My Radio Life OTN Issue 73 [September 2024]
- 3) <https://www.raotc.org.au/broadcast-recordings/>
- 4) Art Media Services website: <https://www.artmediaservices.com.au/>

