



# All Access

A newsletter for members and friends of ARNSW,  
facilitating access to all areas of Amateur Radio.

ARNSW is an affiliate of the WIA.

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Editor: Ray - VK2ASE

## ***Editorial***

Welcome once again to this edition of *All Access*. We hope you continue to derive benefit from your reading. Remember, if there is a topic or item for discussion you would like to see covered please contact the editor. Just email [editor@arnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@arnsw.org.au) or write to The Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, NSW, 2158.

Ray – VK2ASE

## ***Major Project – New Tower***

At last we can report the completion of our new monopole tower (well, almost anyway). I say almost as there are still some cosmetic tasks to complete, such as fitting a cover on the cable tray, etc.

The antennas were all mounted in the latter part of September with the attendant cables being installed in the early part of October. The various VHF and UHF repeaters were then connected to the new antennas in the latter part of October.

All of the repeaters (6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm) are now operational via their new antennas on the tower. 23cm was initially a worry, with little to no coverage. What could be wrong? Turns out the repeater decided that the time was right for a failure. The fault was rectified and now all is well.

The new antennas are:-

6m – ZCG Scalar B40 vertical dipole.

2m – RFI COL53 collinear vertical.

70cm – RFI BA80-67 multiple vertical dipole.

23cm – European Antennas VAO4-1270/0037.

There are three of each of the above antennas mounted on the tower. The uppermost in each case is the repeater receiving antenna. The second highest is the relevant transmit antenna while the lowest of each is a reserve.

We have some signal/performance reports from members, not all in complete agreement. It would be of significant interest to receive member signal reports now all repeaters are operational on the new tower. Of particular interest would be reports from members further afield or from known hitherto poor reception areas. Just send your report to the editor at [editor@arnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@arnsw.org.au).

John – VK2LJ

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*All Access* is a newsletter published by Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for distribution to members and friends of ARNSW. If you wish to comment on any item published or, perhaps, suggest further matters for publication, please contact the editor, Ray – VK2ASE by email at [editor@arnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@arnsw.org.au) or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

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## ***Trash and Treasure***

Next Sunday 24 Nov is the final Trash and Treasure day for 2019, at the Club rooms at Dural as usual. Gates open at 8:00 am and the sale commences around 9:00 am. There is a table of free items with bargain equipment and component bags on sale before the main sale starts.

As always sellers are welcome to set up a table undercover or from their car boot out on the grass on the road end of the Centenary building.

The Trash & Treasure organiser is Mark – VK2XOF. You can contact him with any queries at [disposals@arnsw.org.au](mailto:disposals@arnsw.org.au).

p.s. The following Trash and Treasure day will be Sun 26 Jan 20. This is Australia Day. Apart from getting a great bargain at Dural you can also use the AX prefix in lieu of VK.

Ray – VK2ASE

## ***Contest Shelter***

Have you noticed the shelter just inside the gate at Dural? It will soon also be fitted with a table and seats. It is for the use of members during functions such as Trash & Treasure, but at any time that the premises are open. One of the driving ideas in the provision of this shelter was its potential use as a “Contest Shed” (although not really a shed). Would you, perhaps with some friends, be interested in using the facility for your own outdoor radio activity? There is a little interference from the various HF/VHF/UHF transmitters on site but if you are keen just make arrangements with the Secretary. Email him at [secretary@arnsw.org.au](mailto:secretary@arnsw.org.au) to make arrangements.

Tim – VK2ZTM

## ***Do You Know Your Directors?***

This issue we continue with our profile of our Directors. Eric – VK2VE is a Director in the very important role of Secretary. Here is what Eric has to say.

I’m Eric van de Weyer, VK2VE, currently Secretary of ARNSW. I have been on the WIA, NSW Division Council twice previously for around 5 years each time, firstly in the late 70’s, and then again in the late 90’s and this time around since 2018.



I originally obtained my Amateur Radio licence in my last year of school finally receiving my first call, VK2ZUR, in early 1971. I progressed to the combined call, VK2KUR, in 1982 and then got my full call VK2VE, in the late 90’s. I recently sat for and got a US extra licence, AC3EY, just for fun.

I grew up in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, in Bondi, where my youth was spent in Scouting and the beaches and playing electronics and doing repairs for extra pocket money.

I married Megan (VK2FGGL) in 1979. We’ve just celebrated 40 years and have 3 daughters, Sharni

(VK2FGKC), Liesl and Fiona. Liesl and Fiona are twins.

I became a Grandfather for the first time in 2014 to Kenzey, who is starting school next year and whom I have been looking after one day per week since she was one. I recently became a Grandpa again to Sage, in July this year.

In my working life, after finishing my HSC, I started out working for a small public address firm in Rushcutters Bay, Sydney for about 2 years. This was followed by a short stint in Dick Smith's two-way radio section and then I moved into the computer industry working for Burroughs, which later became Unisys, for the next almost 29 years as a field engineer working on mechanical and electronic business equipment and computers. After being retrenched from there in 2001, I moved into the casino supply industry where I was involved in building, designing, installing and maintaining casino table gaming electronics. This took me on quite a bit of travel to several parts of the world, especially Asia.

I was retrenched again in 2014, shortly after having downsized and moved to Denistone so turned it into retirement, which I have found to be even busier than when I was working full time.

I took 2 months long service leave in 2000 to work as a volunteer at both the Olympics and Paralympics in Sydney working as a communications centre operator at the Beach Volleyball during the Olympics and at Stadium Australia during the Paralympics. It was such a great experience.

Amateur Radio wise, I have dabbled in many aspects over the years including digital modes such as packet, PSK31 and SSTV, HF, VHF/UHF and some space stuff as well. I have spoken to a number of Shuttles over the years as well as a number of contacts on both voice and packet with the MIR and ISS space stations. I have had my ups and downs over the years but, for the most part it's been a 'middle of the road' journey, never stopping and never going so out there that I burn out.

I have been a long term member of the Waverley club having held many different positions within it over the years. I'm also a long term member of WICEN and have been an Assessor since the devolvement of examinations in the mid 80's.

*Eric – VK2VE*

Continue to look forward to further profiles in future issues of *All Access*.

## ***What Is Amateur Radio? - Revisited***

In the first edition of *All Access* the question was asked "What Does Amateur Radio Mean to You?". The answer was not expected to be simple and your responses were eagerly awaited. Unfortunately there were none. Subsequently I read a feature article in the RSGB Journal, Radcom, in the October 2019 edition. The article was titled "Refreshing the RSGB Organisation". In it they asked the very same question. I quote the opening paragraphs.

*"Perhaps you are a keen contester or maybe you are happy with a casual chat on air? If you have a shelf full of books you clearly like learning new things. Maybe you enjoy teaching others, too. Perhaps you like the challenge of experimenting in ways that haven't been tried before? Or could it be you are one of the group who watch our spectrum and the pressures on it from others?"*

*These four examples can be generalised to Operating, Learning, Innovation and Representation. Almost everything we do as amateurs fits into one or more of these categories."*

The article goes on from there to discuss at length these matters and the RSGB 2022 Strategy. I largely agree with the statements made but feel they have omitted an important aspect, being service to community. Amateur operators assist in many community based activities, most notably in such times as we are experiencing now with widespread bush fires.

I believe it is a question we need to understand. When asked by acquaintances about my interests I quote Amateur Radio. I am often met with “oh, does that still exist?” or some other statement of ignorance of what we do. Then, when asked, “what do you do, then?” I feel compelled to provide a complete answer that shows us in a good light. But, as I said in the beginning, it is a question with a complex answer. I, for one, would very much like to see our pastime continue into the future for my children and grandchildren to enjoy. This will only be the case if we are recognised as being a valuable part of the community in which we live.

What do you think?

Oh, and if you would like to read the whole Radcom article it can, of course, be found in the very comprehensive ARNSW Library.

Ray – VK2ASE

## ***Foundation Course***

The next Foundation Course will be over the weekend of 14/15 Mar 2020. There will be no further course in the remainder of 2019. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming an Amateur give them a gentle reminder for next March.

Bookings for this course close at 5:00 pm on Fri 28 Feb 2020. Note that closing dates for all courses and assessments, including Foundation, are firm as assessment documents must be pre-ordered. Inquiries can be made to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

Tim – VK2ZTM

## ***Calendar Mailout***

The 2020 magnetic calendar is about to be mailed out to all members this week. Keep an eye on your mailbox. Hopefully you have already provided your correct mailing address, especially if you have moved in the past 12 months. Email any address changes to [membership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@arnsw.org.au) or write to The Secretary, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, NSW, 2158.

Ray – VK2ASE

## ***Christmas and New Year***

Well, it has come to that time of the year again. So, a timely reminder that the VK2WI Broadcasts will be morning only, as usual, on Sun 29 Dec 2019, Sun 5 Jan 2020 and Sun 12 Jan 2020. Evening broadcasts will resume on Sun 19 Jan 2020.

The ARNSW Library team will also be taking a break. The final library evening for 2019 will be Mon 16 Dec. Activities will recommence on Mon 20 Jan 2020. But, the library team are tragics so, if you have an urgent query, email it to [library@arnsw.org.au](mailto:library@arnsw.org.au). It's possible that someone will reply.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Board of ARNSW, we wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and New Year break. May the DX be great and the QRM minimal.

Until next issue,  
73, Ray – VK2ASE