



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

Here we are in a new year and a new decade, looking forward with 2020 vision (we hope). 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 or write to The Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, NSW, 2158.

Ray – VK2ASE

2020 AGM and Elections

Our AGM for this year is scheduled for Sat 18 Apr 2020. As you might recall at our last AGM we adopted a new Constitution. One of the changes introduced concerned the way in which directors are elected. Instead of all nine standing down and, possibly, being re-elected only half (50%) will stand down. Consequently, in the normal course of events, directors will now serve terms of two years, with half of them changing each year. This being the first year under this change the current Board will need to determine who stands down and who continues for a further 12 months, probably by ballot.

Talking of elections have you considered nominating for a position on the ARNSW Board? The only qualification required is that you have been a member of ARNSW for at least three years. I am sure that there are many members who could provide positive contribution to the running and organisation of ARNSW. Fresh blood in any organisation is always a good thing so don't leave it to the same team each year. Get hold of a nomination form from the Secretary and give it some consideration. Nominations close on 7 Mar 20 so there is no time to waste.

Ray – VK2ASE

Trash and Treasure

The first Trash and Treasure day for 2020 is on Sunday 26 Jan 2020, 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.

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Remember, this Trash and Treasure day is Australia Day and, apart from getting a great bargain, you can also use the AX prefix in lieu of VK.

Equipment on offer this month includes:-

Dentron MT-2000A ATU	\$200.00.
Lecroy 9000 400MHz oscilloscope	\$150.00 (pickup only).
Kenwood TK7180 VHF transceiver 134 to 175MHz	\$50.00.
Kenwood TK8180 UHF transceiver 450-500MHz	\$50.00.
Kenwood TMV71 current dual band 2m/70cm	\$250.00.
Kenwood TMV71 current dual band 2m/70cm	\$250.00.
Astorn 25A switching supply	\$100.00.
GME 11A linear supply	\$35.00.
Aoyue 860 Hot Air station	\$50.00.
Lutron LCR 9073 LCR Meter	\$50.00.
DSE Q-1335 TR Dip Meter	\$45.00.
SPID antenna rotator Big RAK (960eu new) with controller	\$350.00 (pickup only).
SPID antenna rotator and elevation unit Big RAK (960eu new) with dual controller	\$500.00 (pickup only).
MFJ934 ATU and artificial Ground	\$150.00.
MFJ949E ATU	\$150.00.
FP 757GX switching supply	\$75.00.
Diamond CR8900 10/6/2/70cm antenna SO239 Base as new	\$125.00.
Icom IC 475 H 432 Mhz CW/FM/SSB 75 w	\$450.00.
Bird 43 Wattmeter with 25 Watt slugs 25-60Mhz & 200-500Mhz	\$350.00.

Remember, Trash and Treasure days are on the last Sunday of odd numbered months, i.e. Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov.

Mark – VK2XOF

Foundation Course and Training

The next Foundation Course will be over the weekend of 14/15 Mar 2020. 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.

The following course will be on 16/17 May 2020, with applications closing at 5:00 pm on Fri 1 May 2020.

On this subject we often receive queries as to when training will be available. Paul, VK2APA, formerly ran training courses most Mon evenings. Unfortunately (but good for Paul) he has relocated to the Hunter Valley and is no longer able to run the course. Do you have an interest in this vocation? There is prepared material and a handbook available. It doesn't have to be on a Monday, either. It could also be run by more than one lecturer as well, which would spread the load. If you have an interest or want to know more, email office@arnsw.org.au and we'll get back to you.

Tim – VK2ZTM

A Member's Story

Following the December issue of *All Access* I received an interesting letter from a member, Neil - VK2NL. I found his story interesting and consequently Neil has given permission for it to be published. Here is his story:-

It began for me in the 1960's when I bought a small cabin cruiser *Pied a Terre*. and with Roslyn, explored the Hawkesbury and its tributaries.

Other boaties had marine radios and we bought a Vane Spindler transceiver that had a few marine channels – 2182 and 2524 ring a bell.

Mainly used ship to ship locally, I discovered that at night, I could hear and work other boats up and down the East Coast of Australia and I thought this was amazing.

To operate this radio, one needed a licence from the PMG and so my first radio licence was a 3rd Class Commercial Radio Operators Licence. The "exam" consisted of Regulations, and that I had the ability to turn the radio on and operate it – very simple stuff that was done when the Radio Inspector checked the installation on board.

Some years on, and along came 27MHz CB. I had one of the first 23 channel AM transceivers mounted in our car. The USA had recently changed their CB rules from 23 to 40 channels that made old 23 channel sets virtually unsaleable there so the 23 channel radios were "dumped" in Australia and were very cheap.

27MHz was then the 11 metre Amateur band and one of my first contacts was with a really nice bloke who told me all about AR – This bloke was Sam, VK2BVS who lived in an adjoining suburb in Sydney.

As a "pirate" on 27MHz I again enjoyed the fun of HF and about that time, Australia introduced the Novice Amateur licence. Tandy sold a US study guide in Australia entitled *From 5 watts to 1000* and I used that to study.

The exam was scheduled to be held when we were on holidays in Noosa so I was up in the dark and drove to the PMG offices in Brisbane for the exam.

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I was chuffed to become VK2NBA and using at first, a 27MHz Pearce Simpson 40 channel SSB CB I converted to 10m, started my AR journey proper. A large group of Novices drove to work in Sydney chatting the drive away on 28.320. and regularly, a few ZLs joined in the net.

10 metres was my favourite band and a 3 element Yagi on a 6 metre length of water pipe in the back yard together with a great sunspot cycle, saw me covering the shack with wallpaper. I even won the VK-ZL Oceania contest one year, 10m Single Operator.

When early computers arrived, I wrote a few programs (logging for contests etc.) in Basic for the Commodore 64 that graced the pages of AR Magazine.

Along the way I upgraded with the help of Cec Bardwell's training and my callsign became VK2KCN after sitting the exam at Macquarie Uni. It was the last exam where you had to write essays as your answers prior to multi choice questions exams, so good expression was needed.

A couple of failed attempts at the "morse" followed but I was never that keen on CW and simply enjoyed 10, 15 and 80 metres for many years until the world recognised that I had been right all along and dropped CW from the Advanced Class licence. In the lottery that followed for the scarce 2 letter calls, I was lucky and snared my current VK2NL.

So what now? Well at nearly 80, a lot of my older mates have moved on – some are SK but like me, the challenges of the DXCC, WAS etc. have been met and won and unlike in my early days when the HF bands were bursting with activity, listening around even on contest weekends can be a bit of a non event.

Sadly, I'm not helping any too and there are plenty of devices that appeal to young people more than building their own antenna and, with only a few watts, talking to the world.

My grandchildren show no interest in acquiring my gear and all have their iPhones, iPads etc. that they use to talk to their mates here and all over the world so I guess that sadly, the world has moved on.

73

de Neil – VK2NL

I hope you enjoyed Neil's story. I am sure, for many, it would have brought back fond memories.

Ray – VK2ASE

Balun and Antenna Day

A balun and/or antenna build-a-thon is being planned for the near future. A date has not yet been set but will be within the first six months of the year. For further information listen to the Sunday broadcasts. Attendees can, for a small fee, learn how to make a balun and/or a wire antenna under supervision of experienced amateurs and then take it home with them. The entrance fee covers all materials. If interested please drop a line to either events@arnsw.org.au or balun@arnsw.org.au.

Please note that kevlar wire and kits for 1:1 and 4:1 baluns are available at ARNSW. Pickup can be at the Trash and Treasure days at Dural. They must be pre-ordered via balun@arnsw.org.au. If wanting to pickup at the forthcoming Trash and Treasure day (26 Jan 20) orders must be placed by Fri 24 Jan 20.

AI – VK2OK

Bits and Pieces

Happy Birthday to Us! On the 11 Mar 2020 ARNSW will celebrate 110 years in service to Amateur Radio. We can trace our first meeting back to 1910 as the Wireless Institute of NSW. We've had a couple of name changes since then but we are still the same organisation. Not a bad effort.

Poor Propagation? Does poor propagation prevent you from listening to the Sunday broadcasts. They are also available in streaming format. Go to www.arnsw.org.au/audio.

Battery Disposal. Are you aware that Aldi have a battery disposal bin in most if not all stores? They take AAA, AA, C, D and 9V batteries. This is most useful as such items should not be placed in your regular garbage or recycle bins. The bin is usually close to the store entrance.

Wyong Field Day. This popular event will be held on Sun 23 Feb 20. Yay! Please note that there will not be a Sunday morning broadcast on that day. Instead, there will be an extra broadcast on Sat 22 Feb at 7:30 pm.

Badge Orders. The current round of name/callsign badge orders will be completed early in Feb. If you are in need of one get your request in to membership@arnsw.org.au. They are normally ready for pickup at the Trash and Treasure days as are membership renewals and Foundation Manuals.

Tim – VK2ZTM

Topics for Functions. What topic or type of presentation would you, as a member, like to see at ARNSW. We have had a very successful presentation by Dick Smith. We have had a few balun build-a-thons. These have all been well attended and seemed to meet member needs. But, it is difficult to keep coming up with something new. So, over to you. We know you are just waiting your chance to say "why don't we run a XXXX day". Send your ideas to events@arnsw.org.au.

AI – VK2OK

ARNSW Library. The ARNSW Library team will also be back on the job Mon 20 Jan 2020. Pop in between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm and have a chat. The team can be reached at library@arnsw.org.au.

Until next issue,
73, Ray – VK2ASE