



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

It is with considerable regret that we must report the passing of Tim Mills, VK2ZTM. Tim was well known within Amateur Radio circles and will be sorely missed. He was a Director of ARNSW but such a simple statement belies Tim's depth of involvement in Amateur Radio. Please see the separate article in this issue.

The COVID-19 coronavirus continues to have an impact on all sorts of community activities. The government have made recommendations with regards to public gatherings and activities and these impact on ARNSW as well. T & T days are an early victim with the next scheduled for Sun 31 May. Please note that this function is now cancelled. It is not known at this stage when the next T & T day will occur. And, it will almost certainly be in a different format to that which we are accustomed.

Education and training days are also on hold as is any activity involving a gathering of members.

At this stage the regular Monday evening Library work sessions continue as normal. However, the activities of the HF Interest Group are on hold. You can be assured the Board are examining all ideas that will allow our normal activities to proceed without risking the health of members and guests. These will almost certainly involve a complete rethink of some activities which may yet proceed but in an entirely different format.

Please listen to the Sunday Broadcasts and watch forthcoming issues of *All Access* for further news. And please heed government warnings and advice on health matters.

Ray – VK2ASE

2020 AGM and Elections

Our AGM for this year was scheduled for Sat 18 Apr 2020. Due to circumstances with regard to Covid-19 and public gatherings the planned meeting was necessarily cancelled. The AGM has now been rescheduled for Saturday 30 May 2020 at 11:00 am. However, it will not be a meeting in the normal sense. Rather, it will be a virtual meeting conducted across the Internet. By the time you read this you should have received your meeting notice which includes the

necessary instructions for joining the meeting. Should you have any queries please contact the ARNSW office for clarification on 9651-1489. Don't leave it to the last minute!

Ray – VK2ASE

Vale Tim Mills - VK2ZTM

Silent Key: Timothy Ian Mills VK2ZTM, VK2UJ

Tim passed away suddenly at Beecroft on the 8th of May 2020 aged 81 years. He was born on the 26th of April 1939 in Waverley Hospital, Sydney.

Tim was born to the land to a well-known rural family. In his formative years he grew up on the property Merrigal near Armatree to the North of Gilgandra in the Central West of NSW. He often spoke at length of growing up on the land with resourcefulness and the bounty of good seasons funding adoption of the emerging technology of the post-war era, but also recalled the effects of floods and poor seasons.



Tim's father Charles Dudley (Dud) Mills was an author and poet of note with several published works who after time as drover and stockman in south west Queensland enlisted in the army in 1942 and served 4 years in New Guinea. After the war he moved to the NSW Central West and retired to Mudgee after the property near Armatree that Tim grew up on was sold. In later years Tim spent a lot of time researching his family history and the family properties.

Tim was educated at The Scots College. He began at Bathurst but spent most of

his school years at Bellevue Hill in Sydney.

When Tim left school he joined James Watt Electrical where he had a long career. The company had a major contract with the Grain Board of NSW and Tim spent many years working on silo ventilation systems all over NSW. In Sydney he spent time at many interesting industrial and building sites including the Pymont Flour Mill in its later years. His ability to solve complex electrical system problems lead him to a second career working on strapping machines and associated equipment prior to finally retiring.

Tim joined the WIA NSW Division in 1958. He was licenced as VK2ZTM as one of the early holders of the still new Limited Licence which had only become available in 1954. In later years he also took out VK2UJ but was always known as VK2ZTM. Tim often remarked on the plush comfortable leather chairs In the main meeting hall of Science House in Gloucester Street in

the City of Sydney where the Division met on the fourth Friday of each month the days before the Division purchased its own premises at 14 Atchison Street, Crows Nest.

The WIA NSW Division raised substantial funds by selling Surplus Stores items to members for some years. Members were keen on obtaining a home for VK2WI and the property where ARNSW continues to operate from at 63 Quarry Road, Dural was purchased in 1955 for 300 Pounds. This was followed in 1959 by the purchase of a cottage at 14 Atchison Street at Crows Nest for 7,000 Pounds. The building was converted with a basement for the Surplus Store and the upstairs street level with a meeting hall together with a library and office and a classroom where Cec Bardwell VK2IR conducted personal classes and correspondence course for the Amateur Licence. Cec was the Principal of the Marconi School of Wireless which many Amateurs will remember well. The Atchison Street building was opened as the Wireless Institute Centre in March 1962 and the Division meetings transferred there from Science House.

Of interest is that for a period of time the neighbours of the Wireless Institute Centre included electronics shops operated by Keith Cunliffe VK2ZZO at 12 Atchison St and by Dick Smith VK2ZIP (now VK2DIK) at 10 Atchison St. Those with long memories will also remember Zig Zag Lane which was just a short distance away.

At the VK2WI property at 63 Quarry Road, Dural a brick building was erected with a transmitter hall and studio together with an amenities area which included a basic kitchen. It was intended that the building should be built as an H shape but only half of the building was built. Antennas were erected and HF and VHF transmitters and receivers were installed and the still running weekly Sunday broadcasts commenced. Over the years the VK2WI radio facilities were expanded and upgraded a considerable number of times.

After many years of operation from Atchison Street the NSW Division decided to sell it and buy a property at 109 Wigram Street, Parramatta in 1982 in order to be closer to the demographic centre of Sydney. The Division operated from Amateur Radio House at 109 Wigram Street until when another economic decision was taken to sell it and move operations to the VK2WI property at 63 Quarry Road at Dural in 2006. In 2004 a new single, national organisation "The National Wireless Institute of Australia" was formed and the NSW Division became a separate entity as Amateur Radio NSW. Building approval was finally obtained to erect a steel framed building at Dural to provide facilities for meetings and other activities This was opened as the Centenary Building in 2010 in the year that the Wireless Institute of Australia celebrated the 100th anniversary of its formation in 1910.

Tim was a tireless volunteer who contributed an enormous number of hours in both physical work at the VK2WI site at Dural and at Wireless Institute Centre at Crows Nest and at Amateur Radio House at Parramatta, as well as serving on WIA NSW Divisional Council as President, Secretary and Councillor, and latterly as a Board Member of ARNSW. For many years he attended the WIA Federal Conventions as alternate Federal Councillor for NSW. His continuous service spanned over 7 decades which is unsurpassed. Tim participated in the working bees at

Dural in the 1950s and was an active Member of the ARNSW board at the time of his passing in 2020.

Tim was made a Life Member of ARNSW in 2004 in recognition of his continuing outstanding contribution to Amateur Radio. The detail of the NSW Division of the WIA and ARNSW in the preceding paragraphs is included in this Silent Key as Tim was an inseparable part of every aspect of this history from 1958 until his untimely passing.

Tim Mills VK2ZTM is immediately recognised by several generations of Amateur Radio operators. He was committed to documenting Amateur Radio and began with the WIA NSW Bulletin which was created and printed at Atchison Street. He was hands on in all aspects of the legendary “Bulletin folding” throughout the 1960s and the early 1970s until the NSW Bulletin became an insert into Amateur Radio magazine. Those who participated in Bulletin folding will remember the incredible logistics of printing many hundreds of the foolscap sheet bulletins on a Gestetner duplicator, then collating and stapling the sheets before folding them to fit into the envelopes which had to be first pre-addressed to the members. In order to obtain the favourable postal rate the envelopes had to be sorted into postcode groups. All this was done with military precision. When the NSW Bulletin was discontinued in favour of including NSW notes in the printed pages of AR, Tim took on the task of compiling the notes and submitting them by the deadline for inclusion in each issue of the magazine, a task which he was still undertaking at the time of his passing.

Tim read countless VK2WI morning and evening broadcasts over 50 years and was still on the roster at his passing.

Tim’s commitment to the continuing upgrade of the VK2WI site facilities has always been outstanding but for the last 20 years in particular he attended the site almost every day.

Tim joined WICEN in 1978 when Howard Freeman VK2NL restructured and invigorated NSW WICEN. A surprising number of the amateurs who joined at the same time as Tim are still active in WICEN today. As well as very actively promoting WICEN, Tim participated in major training events such as the City to Surf and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, as well as the Car Rallies on the South Coast of NSW and around Canberra each year for several decades. His enthusiastic commitment to safety radio communications was well recognised. He could always be relied upon to go the extra distance.

Tim’s passion for recording and presenting Amateur Radio history resulted in many contributions to published articles and his being asked to deliver lectures on the subject. One such example is the History of Amateur Radio in NSW lecture that he presented to the Manly-Warringah Radio Society on the 25th of March 2016 which is available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T_APMx9vn8.

In addition to Tim’s continuous service to the WIA NSW Division and ARNSW, he was a long-standing active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. In the last 20 years he rarely missed attending the club’s annual Field Days. While ARNSW was still running the WIA bookshop he could be relied on to bring a selection of books for purchase at the Field Days. He

was a regular attendee at the Christmas Parties. He regularly attended the annual Urunga Conventions, as well as attending various meeting and events closer to Sydney.

Tim is survived by his two sons, Andrew and Bruce from his marriage to Sue. To Andrew and Rachel and their children Jack, Sam and Toby who live in Dubbo, and to Bruce and Cheryl and their children Julian and Adrian who live in Canada, the Amateur Radio community extends its deepest sympathy.

A private funeral service for Tim was held in the Chapel of the Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens in North Ryde on Monday the 18th of May 2010. The service was private due to the restrictions in force to reduce the spreading of COVID-19 infection. The funeral was streamed over the internet for the many people who were unable to attend in person. A recording of the service can be viewed from the ARNSW home page (*Ed.*).

Vale Tim Mills VK2ZTM

Kindly submitted by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Trash and Treasure

The next Trash and Treasure day was scheduled for Sun 31 May but, as advised in the editorial, this is now cancelled. It is not known at this stage when or in what format the next Trash and Treasure Day will be.

Mark – VK2XOF

Tower Project Nears Completion

As advised last issue the new tower came closer to completion with the removal of the old lattice tower. But, could you see what else was in the older photo (on the left)? Not only was the old tower in view but also the even older tower long decommissioned.



Ray – VK2ASE

Until next issue,
73, Ray – VK2ASE

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 or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

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