

VK2 Notes June 2012

Tim VK2ZTM

The Illawarra ARS after six years of meeting at Industry World have moved down the road to the Figtree RSL Bowling Club at 120 The Avenue, Figtree. They have also changed the meeting night to the second Wednesday in the Northern Meeting room. www.iars.org.au Phil Wait VK2ASD WIA Vice President was a guest in April when he presented a cheque as part of the club grant scheme. The club plans to use the grant for an audio visual pack to take to high schools in the Illawarra to promote amateur radio as part of the science curriculum. Phil then talked about BPL.

On Saturday April 14th members of the Tamworth Radio Club were involved in the launch of two balloons carrying various payloads. Both were released from near Breeza and came down almost together near Nundle in the New England part of NSW. The first balloon – Helios – was lifted by Helium gas. The other – Loki – used Hydrogen. Helios was a project of two secondary school students from VK4, Liam and Ricardo. Using the callsign VK2BTW-12 it carried a SPOT tracker and a recording video camera. Loki was a project of the TRC. It was VK2BTW-11 and had a periodic still camera, 23 cm ATV transmitter and a Geiger counter. The only failure was that the still camera did not operate. Both balloons reached an altitude of over 32 Km, and both were tracked by APRS. Details are to be found on the TRC web site www.trci.com.au. This was the weekend of balloon flights with the successful operation of Project Horus VK5ARG-11 on Sunday in VK5.

Over the June long weekend the Oxley Region ARC have their annual field day at the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club hall in Port Macquarie. Details of the weekend appeared last month in AR on page 33. Check out their web site www.orarc.org come along and join the fun on the NSW mid north coast.

Hornsby & District ARC held their AGM last month. On April 21 they operated in the International Marconi Day when they activated VK2IMD. Web site www.hadarc.org.au

Another successful convention was held on the mid North Coast of NSW at Urunga over two days of Easter. Thought to be the oldest continuous fox hunting field day in Australia. Started in 1949.

NSW WICEN had a field operation at the VK2WI site in late April. Originally planned for a site in the Blue Mountains, uncertain weather conditions prompted the change. More than 50 attended from WICEN, along with other groups including VRA and CREST. There were several lectures and

demonstrations together with field set ups of antenna installations. Next month the annual Bushwalkers Nav Shield on the weekend 7th & 8th July. The Shahzada Horse enduro commencing Monday 27 th August and Trek for Timor in the Blue Mts on Saturday 15 th September. www.nsw.wicen.org.au

Waverley ARS set up a display at Bondi Beach as part of the WIA National Field day in April. Check them out at vk2bv.org or call Publicity Officer Simon VK2UA 02 9328 7141. Their repeater VK2ROT on 147.025 now requires at 91.5 Hz CTCSS access tone. The annual auction next month – Saturday 14 th July.

ARNSW conducted their AGM on the 21 st April at the VK2WI site. Thirty five members attended and quickly got through the business. They then had a most interesting talk from Jeff Johnson VK4XJJ about his two walks across Australia. The first from south to north through the centre. The second one last year was across Australia from east at Byron Bay in VK2 to west at Steep Point in VK6. Jeff has done these for NETS. *{{Photos of Jeff in seperate email}}*

This year an election was not required for ARNSW. Two of last years committee members did not stand, being Norm Partridge VK2TOP and Brian Kelly VK2WBK. Joining this year were Al Hirschell VK2VEC and Julian Sortland VK2YJS. President is Terry Ryeland VK2UX along with Education, Senior Vice President Mathew Magee VK2YAP with Broadcasts and Web services and Junior Vice President Peter Zielinski VK2VG with Security and Education. Secretary is Tim Mills VK2ZTM along with property. Al VK2VEC is Treasurer. Mark Blackmore VK2XOF looks after VK2WI Engineering and Disposals. Bob Yorston VK2CAN has Welfare and Membership. Julian VK2YJS has the library.

Included in the post out of the papers for the AGM a membership card was included. The date on the card indicates when renewal is due. With many Amateurs upgrading and changing callsigns there may have been some errors. Where these occurred those ARNSW members should email membership@arnsw.org.au or write to P. O. Box 6044 Dural Delivery Centre NSW 2158.

The next bi-monthly Trash & Treasure will be conducted at VK2WI on Sunday the 29 th July. There will be a Foundation training day on Sunday the 22 nd July. Assessments for all license grades on Sunday the 29 th.

In the early part of last century a famous Amateur was Mrs McKenzie VK2GA. Mrs Mac as she was known was an electrical engineer, opened a radio shop in Sydney and then as World War Two approached developed a school to train – first - women in the art of Morse Code. This was extended to men

across all services. The school continued after the war with morse training as this was the main means of communication of the day. An extensive report has been posted to Wikipedia about Mrs. Mac - search for Florence Violet Mc.Kenzie for the full story. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.