

## VK2 Notes – December 2016

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Well it's summer and another year almost exhausted. This is the time when some clubs take an extended break from meetings and general activities. Everybody should plan to remain active with the various nets and other on air activities - lest some members drift off into other pursuits.

In recent times Westlakes held their rescheduled car boot sale which was washed out in September. They also had the misfortune earlier in the year to have one of their repeaters put out of action by lightning. HADARC are towards the end of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. One activity was to have members download a small flyer about the club for a letter box drop. The Mid South Coast ARC is another club who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November advises Secretary David VK2LDW. ARNSW held a Talk Fest early November, along with a Foundation course weekend and a Trash & Treasure. The 2016 ARNSW Upgrade course ended mid month. The driveway crossing from Quarry Road into VK2WI has been upgraded.

There is still much happening this month. The Oxley Region ARC have their annual Xmas party on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. They continue working on establishing the region's 6 metre repeater. WICEN NSW will have a training day on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> at the VK2WI site. There are exams for obtaining an American Amateur license in Oberon NSW on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, seek details from Julian VK2YJS or check the Exam locations on the ARRL web site. VK2WI News continues over the holiday period with morning only sessions on Xmas Day, New Years Day and January the 8<sup>th</sup>. The evening sessions resume on the 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Manly Warringah RS recently commissioned their Software Defined Radio project. It covers 200kHz portions of five HF bands, being 160, 80, 40, 20 & 15 metres. Go to their web site [www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au) and click on the - WebSDR - link in the top menu. This project was in part funded by a Development Grant from ARNSW.

ARNSW is sending out the 2017 fridge calendar with all the general activities listed. In January the major event is the Trash & Treasure on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>. In February there is another in the Talk Fest series on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the Central Coast field day on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. In March, the evening upgrade course commences on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>. The first of the Foundation weekends will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and a Trash & Treasure on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The ARNSW AGM is scheduled for Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

As many readers will know, ARNSW operates an equipment disposal service as part of the Trash & Treasure operation with major items on offer listed on the web site [www.arnsw.org.au](http://www.arnsw.org.au). It should be noted that the only way to make an offer on items listed or any other request is by an email to [disposals@arnsw.org.au](mailto:disposals@arnsw.org.au). The incoming email is time stamped as well as being a recorded message. Nothing is achieved by telephoning the unmanned ARNSW office as the answering machine is only checked every couple of days.

The Illawarra ARS are currently trialing a Yaesu Fusion C4FM repeater at the VK2RMP Maddens Plains site on 438.725 MHz. In FM mode it is in the usual 5 MHz negative offset with a 123 Hz CTCSS access tone required. The repeater is operating in the Auto Mode, so analogue FM transmissions are retransmitted in FM, while digital C4FM are retransmitted in C4FM. They would like reports on this UHF repeater on 8725. Illawarra ARS provide retransmission of VK2WI News through their repeater network on 6 & 2 metres. They also provide Echolink coverage through VK2MT-R and VK2BGL-R.

Since the days of crystal locked car phones, the 6 metre news coverage from VK2WI has been on the FM simplex channel of 52.525. This will change in the future to the 53.850 MHz VK2RWI repeater when an interface module is completed.

There is no need to tell you that HF propagation is poor at present and noticeable on the various HF broadcasts. While VK2WI has a range of frequencies in operation plus the 5 MHz VKE580 signal on 5425 kHz USB and linking to several repeaters beyond Sydney, it is still a struggle. At VK2WI some recent equipment upgrades have enabled a trial of live streaming of VK2WI News bulletins. The web stream is live during both Morning and Evening news bulletins as well as special broadcasts. There is some delay in the encoding and transmission over the internet, but the system uses a service 'in the cloud' with capacity for a large number of simultaneous listeners. It might be a helpful alternative when HF conditions are not co-operative. We are also working on a method to serve recorded bulletins and other audio items 'on demand'. Both can be found on the ARNSW website or [arnsw.org.au/audio](http://arnsw.org.au/audio)

The VK2WI station has surplus to present requirements an older style 70 cm FM repeater. While not the latest technology, it may be suitable for use in some part of VK2. It is a rack mounted Philips 815 with a separate receiver and transmitter and a set of mobile cavities. It is currently has crystals for 8600. This channel would be useable within VK2 - beyond the Sydney region, subject to band plan availability. It does not have an interface controller. Expressions of interest will be considered from any duly constituted club or group within VK2 – its free - if they are prepared to get it operational within six months. Offers – indicating how they would utilize it - will be accepted by email to [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au) , before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

At intervals ARNSW provides some Development Fund Grants and while none were made this year, consideration is being made to offer some in 2017 to duly constituted VK2 clubs and groups. More details will be given in the February notes. The ARNSW Library team has just about completed the massive sorting of magazines. Currently there are no requirements for more magazines. Next year there may be a call to fill the gaps. It is planned to have the Library open on the Monday evenings of the 2017 upgrade course.

Seasons Greetings – see you again in the February issue. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.