

VK2 news

Tim Mills VK2ZTM

vk2ztm@wia.org.au

The planned change next year of this magazine becoming bi-monthly will require some of the input material to be planned with longer lead times. Maintaining our print form magazine is, I believe, important for retaining a record of our history. Is long term storage and retrieval in the computer world as secure as the paper printed word? I recently came across this item in an Australian magazine that had a life span of fifteen years from 1935 to 1950. It was 'The 'Australasian Radio World' which was produced by A G Hull, the brother of the famous Ross Hull. It was produced in Victoria.

An editorial in December 1949 caught my eye. Many of our older readers will remember or have been involved with the surplus radio equipment which was released after WW2. The editorial noted that the Wireless Institute was heavily involved in the purchase of this surplus, ex-army, disposal gear which had turned over many thousand of pounds, then a lot of money. There was concern expressed that this money would have been better spent in buying the production output from the many struggling radio and component industries. The editorial concluded on the comment that the 'cream of the disposal business has now been skimmed' and it was expected that the industry trading conditions will be greatly improved during the coming year.

For the life of the magazine it had, along with contributors, been solely produced by Mr. Hull. In November 1950 it was advised that being a 'one man business' it had become too much and that it had been sold to a Sydney company, effective the 1 st December 1950. The new owner was a Mr. Lay W Cranch who held the call sign VK2XC [only during 1950] He also had VK3 calls of VK3CF and VK3T [an experimental one]. This was a short venture. The last issue was the 20 th December 1950. Copies of this magazine are held in the National Library in Canberra. More bits of history in future notes.

The Summerland ARC is an active club in the far north coast region of VK2, based at Lismore. They maintain a group of repeaters for the region. They are active in digital modes which are reported in their weekly internet newsletter. They have a Standard licensee course planned for the week 6 th to 11 th November – 9 am to 5 pm. Inquiries vk2src@gmail.com Their Xmas lunch is planned for Saturday the 9 th December.

This year's Trek for Timor event with WICEN NSW was cancelled due to the high bush fire danger at the planned event site.

ARNSW has this years final Foundation course weekend on the 18 th and 19 th November. Bookings and inquiries education@arnsw.org.au The Upgrade course on Monday evenings will conclude on the 14 th of November. The next will most likely be starting in March 2018. The final ARNSW Trash & Treasure for year on Sunday the 26 th November.

Manly Warringah RS were this year's recipients of the ARNSW Development Fund Grant to upgrade their field day and public display ability. The funds were presented to

the Project Leader, Greg VK2XE at the September ARNSW Home Brew gathering – a function of the bi-monthly Trash & Treasure – by ARNSW President, Mathew VK2YAP.

The VK2WI 80 metre morse code training facility has its transmitter held on frequency by a 3699 kHz crystal. Recently an interesting problem occurred when a signal also appeared on half the frequency on 160 metres. A high SWR was noted and traced to being with the antenna, which appeared visually OK. Replacing the antenna wires cleared the problem. So, even bits of copper seem to wear out.

On the mid north coast of VK2, the Coffs Harbour club recently commissioned a 6 metre repeater on 53.750 MHz VK2RCB located near Dorrigo - reports requested. The Chifley ARC in Western Sydney moved into their new club rooms, still at the same location in Plumpton but in a new building. They meet every Saturday afternoon. www.carc.org.au Waverley ARS have a Foundation weekend on the 25 th and 26 th November. St. George ARS have a Foundation weekend on the 18 th and 19 th November and then in February 2018 on the 17 th and 18 th. Fishers Ghost ARC have planned a Foundation and assessment weekend for the 11 th and 12 th November.

The Oxley Region ARC on the mid north coast has had various field activities including the RD Contest at the Camden Haven airfield, the Light House and Light Ship event at the Tacking Point Lighthouse and have the Xmas function planned for the December monthly meeting on Saturday the 2 nd. Their membership is kept up to date with a 12 or more page bi-monthly electronic newsletter –OxTales. ORARC are working towards establishing their 6 metre repeater. The recent three club picnic at Fitzroy Falls in the Southern Highlands with Illawarra, Mid South Coast and Goulburn attending attracted an attendance of over sixty. A report is elsewhere in this issue. Another gathering could occur in the near future.

Westlakes ARC is another club with an extensive informative 24 page monthly electronic newsletter. Obtaining a US license at exams held in Sydney has become a regular event with one successful candidate in September. HADARC had a fund raising auction night last month and have Xmas lunch planned for Saturday the 3 rd of December. They keep their members informed with a 6 page monthly electronic newsletter – QUA.

Where does one see the WW2 radio equipment mentioned at the start of this month's notes?. One location is the Kurrajong Radio Museum conducted by Ian VK2ZIO. Open over the weekend and also on week days by arrangement, it has something of interest for all the family. There was recent publicity in the Hills to Hawkesbury fortnightly magazine which helped increase attendances during the September school holidays. Visiting Sydney? Include the museum in your sightseeing. vk2zio@yahoo.com.au
02 4573 0601 73-Tim VK2ZTM.