

VK2 news - 2018 – March – April

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As we move into autumn, activity increases at ARNSW. In March the Upgrade course got under way on a Monday evening and there is still time to join. It continues until November. Then there was the first of the Foundation weekends for the year. Nominations for the ARNSW committee closed on the 17 th March 2018 and the bi-monthly Trash & Treasure is on Sunday the 25 th. In April there is an antenna Talk Fest planned for a Sunday and the date will be advised on VK2WI News bulletins. The ARNSW AGM is on Saturday the 28 th April at the VK2WI site with a start at 11 am. In May there is another Foundation weekend – 12 / 13 th - and the Trash & Treasure on Sunday the 27 th. Details on the various courses can be obtained by an email to education@arnsw.org.au

The long weekend in June will see the Port Macquarie - Oxley Region ARC annual two day field day held on Saturday the 9 th and Sunday the 10 th of June 2018. It should be noted that there has been a venue change to earlier advice given in media releases. It was to have been at the usual location of the surf lifesaving hall but this venue is scheduled for renovations. One of the high school's then looked a likely venue until it was discovered it had a [unknown] prior booking. After much looking, the Wauchope High School hall, in Nelson Street, has been secured. The Saturday evening dinner is at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. Visitors for the weekend should acquire their accommodation early in this popular holiday destination. There will be further details in the May - June issue of AR. In the mean time - remember to mark up your calendar with the field day in Wauchope.

While on field day activities don't forget the annual Urunga Convention over Easter on the VK2 mid north coast. It is a long running event which commenced after WW2 in the late 1940's. Other activities in April include an open day at Westlakes on Saturday the 21 st. This day is also the International Marconi Day and HADARC will be activating VK2IMD. Later this year is the Centenary of the first wireless message to Australia.

The 60 th Central Coast field day has just been held at the upgraded Wyong Race course. The Illawarra ARS will be back at their usual meeting location after its renovation. Waverley ARS conducted another Ferry Contest on the 11 th March and this day was also the 108 th anniversary of that first meeting of Experimenters "trying to get a better deal" to which both ARNSW and the WIA can trace their origins.

ARNSW has spent the past several months planning and seeking permission for a new support to replace the ageing tower which carries the antennas for the VK2RWI repeaters. It will be in the form of a concrete pole of a third greater height than the present triangular tower.

The Summerland A R C in its present form commenced on the 31 st July 1959 with a meeting in a shelter shed at Brunswick Heads. Its name then was the Far Northern Radio Club. Before that there was some activity in 1900 to 1920. In 1924 there is reference to

the Lismore and District Radio Club. In the period 1933 to 1939 there is reference to the Richmond River Listeners League. After 1959 there were many changes of meeting locations before arriving at the present club rooms at Richmond Hill. In 1975 there was a name change to the Summerland Radio Club with a further change in 1978 - up to the present - to the Summerland Amateur Radio Club. There is a good history report to be found on their web site.

The Summerland ARC had their AGM in February with a couple of minor changes of personal. They have an extensive library at the club rooms with a wide range of magazines and technical books which you read on site – no borrowing. They have a digital net with an interesting report in the weekly electronic newsletter. There is a new repeater in the region on 70 cm, VK2RTH at Terronora, 438.400 MHz, -7 MHz offset and a 91.5 CTCSS. Currently its a FM / Fusion machine with plans for expansion into additional modes.

Here is a reminder that I am always on the look out for news for this column, which can be emailed to the address listed at the top. In the new bi-monthly format, a long lead time on event planning is required and next cut off is mid April. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.