

All Access

A newsletter for members and friends of ARNSW,
facilitating access to all areas of Amateur Radio.

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Editor: Eric VK2VE

Editorial

Welcome to 2025! What happened to 2024. I'm glad it's over! My wife, Megan VK2KUR, was in and out of hospital over a 15 month period ending in December 2024 due to problems in her knee. After five operations and four knee replacements, the final one went in in November and she was finally cleared to drive again in early December. That has taken some of the load off me, finally, as I don't have to drive her everywhere anymore.

With the AGM coming up soon,, preparations are now under way for that, getting everything ready for it as it's a little earlier this year. See below for details.

We are always looking for short articles to include in this newsletter. If you would like to put one out there to the other members, this is the place to do it. Pictures are also most welcome. This month we have an article from Colin VK2JCC on non-genuine Anderson like connectors.

The magnetic calendars for 2025 have been delayed a bit due to several issues, they should be going out this weekend so you should receive yours in the mail shortly. My apology for the lateness this year.

To correspond with us, you can just email editor@arnsw.org.au or write to The Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, NSW, 2158.

Eric - VK2VE – Editor

2025 AGM and Elections

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Amateur Radio NSW will be held this year in March, on the 22nd commencing at 11am in person at the Dural property or online on Zoom.

At the AGM, four members of the board are due to stand down and are eligible for re-election being: Mathew Magee VK2YAP, Matthew Perkins VK2FLY, Mark Blackmore VK2XOF and John Harper VK2LJ.

John was on the list last year but was beaten out by Brad Martin VK2NMZ at the election. However, upon the resignation of Ray Morris VK2ASE due to ill health, under Clause 63 of the Constitution, John was appointed to serve out the remainder of Ray's term, which ends at this year's AGM. All are eligible to stand for re-election.

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Consequently, nominations were called for late last year and they must be received at the office no later than Saturday February 8th or, if posted, by last mail Friday February 7th. A nomination form is available on the ARNSW website at www.arnsw.org.au/board_nomination_2025.pdf.

If you would like to nominate for the board for 2025/2026 please download the form, fill it in, have it nominated and seconded and then return it to the office by one of the methods listed on the form.

Cutoff dates are as follows:

AGM date – March 22nd

Board nominations close – February 8th

Close for Special Resolutions – February 8th

Proxys – Wednesday March 20th

Eric – VK2VE - Secretary

Expressions of interest - VK2WI News segment producers

The VK2WI news team is seeking volunteers to produce technical feature segments for our weekly news bulletins.

Production can be done entirely remotely – ideal for those who live outside of Sydney, or can't get to Dural for other reasons, to make a contribution. Editorial and production support will be provided by the VK2WI News team.

While we would prefer segments supplied with air-ready audio, raw recordings or copyonly o(ers will also be considered.

1. Space weather and propagation reports – we currently have three sets of material presented in VK2WI News. Currently data from NOAA and SWS is used but other sources can be considered subject to use right approval.

a. "Space Weather weekend" – A 72-hour propagation forecast similar to currently presented on VK2WI Morning News.

b. "Weekly propagation report" – currently a weekly report and forecast is presented with some forecast solar data on VK2WI Evening News. We are interested in consolidating this into a single report with more relevant information to propagation and radio operations.

c. "Monthly space weather report" – a monthly report and potentially some link term forecast material can be added.

2. Contest calendar – a proposed new monthly segment. Looking ahead to the coming months contest activity, with emphasis on contests in the Australasian region. Data source information should be provided.

3. One-off or continuing general features – these can be on any technical or historical topic consistent with our news guidelines and licence regulations. They can be formatted as stand-alone items, or for more detailed subjects, serialized into multiple parts.

To find out more, or to express your interest, please email news@arnsw.org.au by the 28th of February 2025.

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Do you have expertise in MS Access?

Are you able to help? The ARNSW membership database is currently managed on a Microsoft Access platform and I am seeking to make some improvements to it. There are many parts of it which are quite clunky and I would like to streamline it so that many operations can be performed by a single click or even automatically on a monthly basis, such as the issuing of membership renewal reminders which we currently cannot do easily. We currently rely on the yearly magnetic calendar mailout as the main renewal reminder.

If you have some expertise in Access, or maybe in some other database system which we could change to, then I would like to hear from you. I have been putting together a “wish list” of what I’d like to include and would like to discuss it with you if you are willing and able.

Eric - VK2VE - Secretary

Member Meetup & Disposals

Next Sunday, February 29th, is the next Member Meetup and disposals day (Trash and Treasure) in the morning and the ARNSW Experimenters’ Group meeting from midday. Members will also be able to sell their own items on the day so bring along any items you’d like to sell and browse the items available for sale.

It starts at 9:00 am for buyers, with sellers allowed access from 8:00 am to set up their stalls. Buyers will be allowed in, to park to the north of the VK2WI building but only sellers will be allowed into the sales area to set up prior to 9am. When parking, please have consideration to other members and park in a way that others can get access and as many cars as possible can be accommodated. Also, please leave access to behind the Vertel compound so that vehicles can get around there if necessary.

The Experimenters’ Group meeting will commence at midday.

There won’t be a coffee cart on site and coffee and drinks will be available from the BBQ area after 9 am.

Picture shows some of our youth members at the November Member Meetup – L to R: Emmanuel VK2EMM, Alec VK2MV, Allan VK2COD, Pete VK2LP (trainer/assessor), Mat VK2YAP (ARNSW President), Oliver VK2OLC, Olivers Mum.

Below are some items which will be for sale in the disposals room. Credit card facilities will be available.



All the following equipment has been tested and is in good working condition unless otherwise noted.

Transceivers.

Kenwood TS120 transceiver with SP120 speaker, PS-30 power supply and VFO120 external VFO. In good working order. Some minor rust specs on the top of each unit.

Sold as a package \$350.00 FIRM

Icom IC-260 all mode (SSB FM CW) 2m transceiver. \$150.00

2 x Codan 8525 HF transceiver, local front panel, fitted for USB only, no microphone in working order \$200.00 each

2 x Codan 7727, local front panel, crystal locked 100W PEP HF transceiver, fitted with USB only, no microphone in working order \$50.00 each.

1 x Codan 7727 TB, remote front panel, crystal locked 100W PEP HF transceiver, fitted with USB only, no microphone in working order \$50.00.

1 x Codan 7727 TB, no remote front panel, crystal locked 100W PEP HF transceiver, fitted with USB only,

no microphone in working order \$25.00.

Accessories

Two 2 way coaxial switches SO239 \$30 each.

CS201 2 way coaxial switch Price \$30.00

CS401 4 way coaxial switch Price \$50.00

Wawasee JB-2000SW Power and SWR Meter. 3 ranges 20/200/2000W SO239 connectors. Price \$75.00

Midland 23-136 SWR meter good for 50W Price \$25.00

Autek Research WM1 computing power and SWR meter 20/200/2000W average and PEP., 1.5 to 30MHz. Runs from 12V 2 Price \$100.00

Dawia CN 620A power and SWR meter 20/200/1000W 2 to 150MHz. Price \$50.00

MFJ410 Morse trainer produces morse code numbers or letters at variable speed to help improve your morse receiving. Price \$50.00

Datong Morse trainer similar to the MFJ 410. Price \$40.00

Datong Automatic RF speech processor. Wired for Kenwood 4 pin microphones but can be rewired. Price \$50.00

Morse Keys.

Clipsal straight key. Price \$30.00

Straight Key on base. Price \$30.00

Bencher Iambic Paddle. We have 3 of these. Priced at \$90 each.

Power Supplies.

Codan 7113 13.5V 20A power supply. Price \$75.00

Power Amplifiers.

Mirage B1016 2m linear amplifier FM and SSB. 10W input to 160W output Price \$150.00

Microwave Modules 70cm 50W Linear amplifier.

Model 432/50 10W input to 50W output in good condition Price \$75.00

Test Equipment

HP 4342A Q Meter. Measures Q of inductors from 22KHz to 70MHz. Also can be configured to measure inductance directly at the frequencies specified in the user manual.

In good condition and fully working with one HP 5.2uH reference inductor.

This is a laboratory grade instrument Price \$200.00

Wandle and Goltermann SPM6 selective level meter and PSM 6 level generator.

6KHz to 18.6MHz signal generator and level meter Good for testing and aligning filters. SPM-6 manual on line. Price \$220.00

Anritsu MG714A microwave sweep generator 3.6 to 6.5GHz

Has output across the full frequency range. In good physical condition. Price \$275.00

Marconi TF2300B AM/FM modulation meter

8MHz to 1200MHz AM and FM modulation meter AM to 100% and FM to 200KHz in working condition after repair. All bands now work. Price \$200.00

Marconi TF2300A AM/FM modulation meter

8MHz to 1200MHz AM and FM modulation meter AM to 100% and FM to 200KHz in working condition after repair. All bands now work. Price \$150.00

Wandle and Goltermann SNA23 9KHz to 26.5GHz Spectrum analysers x 3

SOLD AS IS! it has been used to supply parts to repair another several years ago. These are PC Based (DOS Pentium 486) A copy of the software and PDF Manuals can be supplied. Price \$175.00.

Farnell synthesised signal generator DSG2.

0.001Hz to 110KHz balanced and unbalanced outputs with output level meter. Price \$50.00.

Gould-Advance J35 low distortion (0.05%) sine wave signal generator

10Hz to 100KHz. In good condition and working Price \$50.00.

Dick Smith Q1810 100MHz dual channel oscilloscope with probes. Working. Price \$100.00

Kyoritsu K109 VSWR Meter 3 to 30MHz 100W Price \$50.00

3 x Chinese modules 35MHz to 4.4GHz synthesised signal sources around 1mW output. Price \$20 each

D-3000 small frequency counter Hz to 600MHz fits in one hand. Powered by 4 x AA cells or external 9V DC or AC. Price \$50.00

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Heathkit grid dip oscillator GD10 sold as is with 5 coils in good cosmetic condition not known if working.
Price \$25.00.

Microwave Links (All Untested)

Codan 5700 C band converter and 5720 20W power amplifier

5.8GHz Transmitter and power amplifier with 3.6GHz receiver. Installation and operation manuals online. RF input and output 70MHz IF to C Band the converter is one module and the 5720 PA is a second module both for outdoor use. Requires MS series military connectors and N coax to connect to and between the modules. No cables are supplied. Sold as is but have tested OK tags on them. 2 pairs at \$550 each

Commwave 04-134-02 2.0 to 2.2GHz power amplifier 50W module

Runs from 10V and negative bias supplies No data on line SMA Connectors Price \$170.00

NUCOMM Transmitter 130FT4 and NUCOMM Receiver 130FR4.

Currently tuned to 12GHz 2W output. Sold as is

Price is for the pair \$110.00

Farinon M2SD60515 2.4GHz 20W power amplifier

Sold as is untested Price \$110.00

Ex ABC 13GHZ 1W receiver and transmitter portable link

Sold as is untested. These are Continental Microwave VML120 D27/1 and VML120 DRI/1 "Photos on line in an Allbids auction of ABC gear," Price is for the pair \$110.00

NEC 6W 14GHz power amplifier

Sold as is untested 4RU box manis power Price \$55.00

HF Transceiver

Granger 174 HF Transceiver

This is a SSB Hybrid transceiver (valve RF output and driver) Crystal locked Pictures on the HF Radio sales web site

Sold as is untested Price \$55.00

Mark—VK2XOF—Disposals

Experimenters' group meeting.

The last gathering of the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group was on Sunday 24th November.

Coming up next weekend is the next get together of the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.

The planned presentation on Software Defined Radios has been held over to a future get together. On Australia Day, Peter AX2EMU will be giving a presentation on designing Printed Circuit Boards.

With the advance of automated production techniques, it is now easy to design a PCB and have it manufactured. For less than the cost of a six-pack of beer, it is possible to have 5 custom designed PCBs made and shipped to your door, arriving in about 10 days. Many amateurs have probably said to themselves - "if only I had a PCB, then I would build that project". Well now those projects can be realised.

There are many different computer software packages for designing PCB, from freeware to subscription software costing many thousands of dollars per year. The presentation will look at freeware KiCad [Ki Cad] software. Those interested are encouraged to bring along their lap-tops to download the software and assistance will be given to get in up and running.

Peter will take a small circuit and lay out the components to produce a PCB design. He will then show how easy it is to upload the files and start the manufacturing process.

As always, all those coming are invited to bring along an item for "show and tell". Some project that they have been working on that they think that others would be interested in.

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Non-Genuine Anderson Connectors: An Affordable and Quality Alternative

When it comes to electrical connections in various industries, Anderson Connectors have long been considered a reliable and high-quality option. However, as the prices for genuine Anderson Connectors continue to rise, many are turning to non-genuine alternatives that are far cheaper but offer comparable quality. This shift in purchasing trends is driven by the high cost of genuine connectors from local suppliers and the increasingly prohibitive shipping rates for international purchases.

Price Comparison: Genuine vs. Non-Genuine Anderson Connectors

For anyone who has purchased genuine Anderson Connectors locally, the price can be startling. For example, a single pair from a local supplier can cost around **\$3.39**. While this price may seem reasonable at first glance, it becomes significant when considering the need for multiple connectors or larger projects. Moreover, additional costs such as taxes and shipping can quickly add to the overall expense.

In contrast, non-genuine Anderson Connectors can be found at a fraction of the price. A popular online supplier offers **10 pairs** for just **\$6.66**, including **free postage**. This represents a cost of just **\$0.67 per pair**, which is significantly less than the local price of \$3.39 for one pair. But the affordability doesn't stop at the connectors themselves. These non-genuine connectors often come with **rubber boots** included, ensuring that you're getting a complete product for a lower overall cost.

Quality Comparison: Are Non-Genuine Connectors as Good?

Many may be hesitant to switch to non-genuine connectors, fearing that they may sacrifice quality for savings. However, a closer look reveals that these alternatives often meet or exceed the performance standards of their genuine counterparts.

Non-genuine Anderson Connectors are typically produced in factories that adhere to similar manufacturing standards as the original, using comparable materials. Many of these connectors have the same current rating, voltage capacity, and robust design that makes Anderson Connectors a go-to choice for power connections. Rubber boots that come with the non-genuine versions are also of high quality and perform similarly to those sold with the genuine connectors.

Consumer feedback and product reviews for non-genuine alternatives suggest that they provide similar durability and reliability. Users report no noticeable difference in performance, whether the connectors are used in automotive, industrial, or solar power applications.

Rising Costs of Genuine Anderson Connectors: The Impact of Currency Exchange and Shipping

The increased cost of genuine Anderson Connectors is also influenced by factors beyond the connectors themselves. The exchange rates between currencies like the US Dollar, the British Pound, and other international currencies have made it significantly more expensive to purchase Anderson Connectors from suppliers in the USA and UK.

On top of that, international shipping fees have become prohibitively high. For example, purchasing connectors from the USA or UK often involves paying substantial shipping fees that can sometimes be more expensive than the items themselves. The combination of unfavourable currency exchange rates and soaring shipping costs has led many to rethink the value of buying genuine products internationally.

The Benefits of Non-Genuine Connectors: Cost-Effectiveness and Accessibility

With the skyrocketing costs of international purchases, many have turned to non-genuine Anderson Connectors as a cost-effective solution. These alternatives not only offer savings but also provide a level of accessibility that is difficult to match when ordering from overseas. The online suppliers of non-genuine connectors are typically located in regions with lower overhead costs, allowing them to pass these savings onto consumers. Additionally, the inclusion of free shipping helps make these non-genuine connectors even more affordable.

For those who need to purchase large quantities for projects or businesses, the price difference between genuine and non-genuine connectors becomes even more pronounced. A purchase of 10 pairs of non-genuine connectors at **\$6.66** (including shipping and rubber boots) can save consumers a significant amount of money, especially if a large volume is needed.

Conclusion: Non-Genuine Alternatives Are a Smart Choice

Given the significant price difference, the comparable quality, and the increasing challenges of purchasing genuine Anderson Connectors from international suppliers, non-genuine alternatives have emerged as a smart choice for many. They provide

the same functionality and reliability at a fraction of the cost, making them an ideal option for those who want to keep costs down without compromising on performance.

As the market for Anderson Connectors evolves, consumers are embracing the opportunity to save without sacrificing quality. With cheaper options available that deliver the same performance, it's clear that non-genuine connectors are becoming a popular, cost-effective solution for a variety of applications.

*Cheers - Colin - VK2JCC
Aka Professor Portable*

(Note: I have been using genuine PowerPoles for about 25 years now and have heard, anecdotally, that there are sometimes issues using the non-genuine ones with the genuine ones. I have never played with the non-genuine ones so cannot confirm or deny it. The connectors supplied in the WARS PowerPole distribution kits are always the genuine Anderson ones. Ed.)

Dural Update.

The new kitchen is currently awaiting installation and may be done in the next week or two.

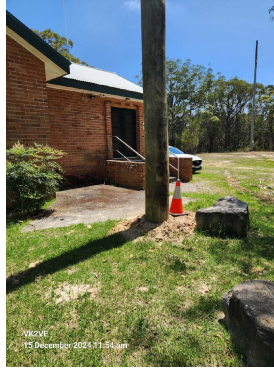
A few weeks ago, two new 20m wooden poles were installed at the Dural site. One, down behind the commercial tower compound is for better supporting many of our wire antennas for HF, whilst the other is just in front of the concrete slab outside the VK2WI transmitter building where the previous 30m tower stood. It will be supporting all our VHF/UHF beacon antennas. It will have a cable tray at eaves level to bring in the cables directly to the beacon rack via the existing cable entry point.



HF Antenna Support Pol



Beacon Pole Overall View



Beacon Pole in the Ground



Antenna Mounts for Poles

Eric – VK2VE – Secretary.

Education

Our dedicated education team consists of a team of ACMA assessors and a couple of non-assessors who provide regular foundation courses at Dural, usually on the second weekends of March, May, July, September and November. They also provide upgrade assessments for those wanting to upgrade to Standard or Advanced level.

The next course weekend will be March 8th & 9th, 2025. If you know anyone wanting to do the foundation course, or upgrades, they should contact education@arnsw.org.au for details and to reserve a place.

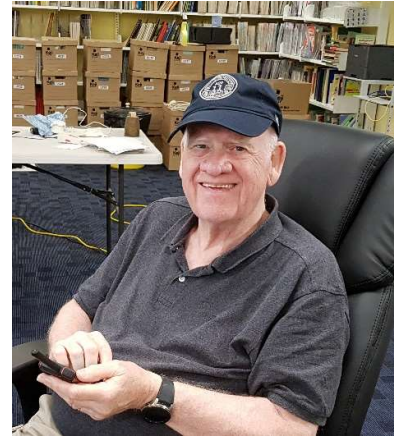
Eric – VK2VE – Education Team

Know your Board

John Harper VK2LJ

Like many others listening to “The Air Adventures of Biggles” and “Hop Harrigan” I was attracted to communications. I have a vague recollection of building a Crystal Set in my early teens, although I have no idea where I obtained the parts and the knowledge to build it.

I had hoped to become a radio technician, but the RAAF had other ideas, and I was “volunteered” into a career of being a firefighter. As a firefighter I always carried a communications device on my belt: pagers with voice over and handhelds. I went on to becoming a fire safety consultant and having my own business.



Life got in my way to becoming an amateur until 2010 when I was encouraged by others to obtain my licence and became VK2FCOM. At that time, I joined ARNSW, Waverley Amateur Radio Society (WARS) and WICEN. I was keen to make use of my skills and experience by contributing to amateur radio which is enjoyable together with learning more about amateur radio and communications generally. I became a life member of WARS and am a director of ARNSW.

As a Council member I have been able to assist in re-establishing the ARNSW library. This has been a very large task with over 10,000 (that’s right 10,000 magazines!) sorted and catalogued, with magazines dating back to 1920!

About 10 years ago, the board appointed me to be responsible for special projects. The brief was to carry out improvements at Dural and ensure that the facilities are being maintained in accordance with relevant standards and suitable for the use of members in the many and various activities connected with Amateur Radio. These projects included:

- the non-technical upgrade of the transmitter building
- erection of the monopole
- upgrade of feeds to the antenna farm
- the transformation of the shed into the Centenary Building with offices, library and training rooms. The building of the kitchen is underway.

I now live in North East Victoria experiencing the various stages of retirement. I am the recipient of the Defence Medal, the National Medal, the National Emergency Medal and the Queensland Police Commissioner's Commendation for Service.

John – VK2LJ – Board Member

A reminder

Over time, people change addresses, emails, phone numbers, callsigns and so on. This often results in our correspondence being returned. **PLEASE**, if any of your details change, remember to let us know your new details otherwise you are likely to miss out. Now that the ACMA database no longer has your details for us to check against, this is going to be even more important into the future because if you don't tell us, no one else is going to.

All Access goes out to all members who have an email address, it is NOT sent by post. So, if you don't keep us up to date you won't receive it, nor other correspondence from us.

To notify any changes to your details, you can use the membership form on our website at https://www.arnsw.org.au/forms/ARNSW_Membership_23.pdf. The one form can be used for new applications, renewals, updates or badge requests—just tick the appropriate box(es) at the top of the form and mail it to PO Box 6044, Dural DC 2158, or email to membership@arnsw.org.au. If you are making a payment, our preferred method is direct deposit, remembering to send us the details of your payment so we know what to attribute the payment to. Preferably, do not send credit card details in emails.

Remember, if we don't have your correct details, you won't get important documents.

Eric – VK2VE - Secretary

From other Clubs

The Peal Amateur Radio Group (PARG) in WA has notified us that they are once again holding their raffle. Details can be found on their website at <https://www.parg.org.au/>

Eric – VK2VE - Editor

Don't forget— Member Meetup, Trash and Treasure & Experimenters' Meeting

:- When: next Sunday, February 29th

:- Where: 63 Quarry Road Dural

:- Starting: at 9:00 am for buyers

:- Sellers admitted: from 8:00 am to set up

:- Sausage sizzle will be running – Funding Youth Activities

:- There will be no coffee cart. Drinks will be available at the BBQ and in the Centenary Building.

:- Experimenters' Group starting from Midday

We hope to see you there

