

VK2 notes September 2014

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Welcome to spring. Later this month will be the next Foundation Course and assessments at ARNSW over the weekend 20th and 21st September. Bookings to be made by an email to education@arnsw.org.au. The following Sunday, the 28th is the bi-monthly Trash & Treasure and Home Brew gathering. All activities are held at the VK2WI site, 63 Quarry Road, Dural. ARNSW is establishing an Education Team to share knowledge and assist newcomers and amateurs advises Paul VK2APA, the class supervisor. Inquire via the education email address. The bi-monthly assessments could benefit the many VK2 assessors who may not be currently doing any assessments. Waverley ARS also have a Foundation course and assessments this month – 13 / 14th September – at their Rose Bay club rooms. Email them at education@vk2bv.org

Another month passed and VK2WI was still without its final roof. It was completed in early August and the suspended services are now back on line. What has been interesting was the inquiries about the absence of the 3699 kHz morse practice transmission. It should be back now with additional higher speeds of 20 and 25 wpm together with additional text. With several beacons and repeaters on the VK2WI site, the annual power bill is now well in the four figure range and it would be nice if Amateurs were to indicate if they are making any use of the services. Send an email to callbacks@arnsw.org.au to encourage the continuing operation of the morse and beacon services. Most antennas on site had overhead co-ax feeds and these had to be removed to allow the renovations to proceed. We had not planned for the extended delays. Work is proceeding to place most HF antenna feeds underground.

The next ARNSW technical event is scheduled for Sunday the 9th November with the theme of CW being planned. ARNSW almost gained a new neighbour in early July when a property at the rear went to auction. However it was passed in when interest did not reach the \$2.75M reserve.

Oxley Region ARC held their AGM early last month, a report later. The club was one who recently received Development Funds from ARNSW which enabled them to obtain and commission a dedicated Echo Link Node on VK2BOR to serve the region. Previously it was done with borrowed equipment. They have also been working on their planned 6 metre repeater which will operate from the VK2RCN site – 53.800 MHz – located between Wauchope and Kempsey. It is now only 9 months until the 40th annual field day – June - which will have to find a new venue as the popular Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club hall is scheduled for renovations from April until

September 2015. The club has already booked the hall for 2016.

Westlakes ARC will have their annual field day on Sunday the 14 th September with a 9 am start at their site in York St. Teralba. There is no cost to set up a stall, but take your own tables, ring and leave a message on 02 4958 1588, to book a spot. The October meeting of the Hunter Radio Group on Friday the 10 th will be a “Do It Yourself” technical project night. So get that technical project completed and bring it along to the October meeting advises Secretary Rodney VK2CN. They meet 8 pm at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle.

This month the Manly Warringah Radio Society have their second Flagpole Contest, right after the International Talk Like a Pirate Day. The club meets weekly on Wednesday evening at the 1 st Terrey Hills Guide Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. If you need directions, call in on the club’s two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz or visit the club’s web site at www.mwrs.org.au

WICEN NSW have the Trek for Timor on the 20 th September in the Blue Mountains. During September and October there are Alzheimer’s Australia Memory Walk and Jog events in the Hunter, Inner Western Sydney and North Wollongong. These are fairly short events. WICEN NSW are planning an Introduction day at ARNSW on Sunday the 7 th September. Details for all events to be found at www.nsw.wicen.org.au The annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is over Saturday night the 25 th October.

73 – Tim VK2ZTM.