

VK2 News

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Seasons greetings. Just got used to writing 2015 and the year is over. ARNSW had a busy month in November with an overflow of requests for Foundations and assessments. It all starts again in January 2016 with the Foundation and assessment weekend set down for the 23rd and 24th January at the VK2WI site. Inquiries and bookings by an email to education@arnsw.org.au The first Trash & Treasure for the new year will be on Sunday the 31st January. As has become the practice, VK2WI news will go into summer mode with three morning only transmissions on the 27th December and 3rd and 10th January. The evening sessions resume on the 17th January.

Improvements to the ARNSW Library have just been completed by lining the end walls and the ceiling. Air conditioners have been installed. New shelving with magazine holders replaces the original wooden units, most of which are in fair condition. An email to library@arnsw.org.au may secure some for your shack or storage. Cataloguing of the magazines continues. The area will also be available for larger Foundation courses and assessments.

The annual Central Coast field day at Wyong is set down for Sunday the 28th February 2016. The ARNSW AGM is on Saturday the 30th April 2016.

This month many clubs have their end of year celebrations - like the Oxley Region ARC Christmas function on Saturday morning the 5th, at the Settlement Point Reserve, Port Macquarie. Hunter Radio Group Ladies night on the 10th and Waverley ARS Christmas dinner on the 16th. The holiday break is when many clubs hibernate for a couple of months without meetings. You need activities like your weekly on air nets to keep members involved, lest they drift off to other pursuits. You can also keep them up to date and remind them of the first meeting in 2016 with a news item on VK2WI by an email to news@arnsw.org.au

Before the end of the year ARNSW members will be receiving, by post, their 2016 magnetic calendar. There will be some missing out because they have let their membership of ARNSW lapse. If in doubt as to membership status an email to membership@arnsw.org.au will get the answer. The expiry date is shown on the ARNSW membership card, most of which are in the American format of month, day and year.

Frank VK2BFC advises the Albury Wodonga Amateur Radio Club recently commissioned the first stage of their multi band / multi-mode repeaters system on the VK2 / VK3 Border. The VK2RAY Repeater is operational on 70 cm on a frequency of 438.575 MHz with – a minus 5 MHz offset. No CTCSS tone is required at this stage to access the device. The repeater site is at the Hume Weir, overlooking the Albury / Wodonga region and initial tests showed that coverage is excellent up and down the Hume Highway. The next stages of the AWARC project is the commissioning of a 2 metre Multi Mode repeater, with FM and DSTAR and later the commissioning a 6 metre repeater. It is expected that the 2M repeater will be operational by the end of the year and the 6M by early 2016. Once the 2M repeater is

commissioned, the VK1WIA Broadcast will be transmitted on the repeater every Sunday, At present VK1WIA is broadcast on 147.525 MHz from a site in Lavington which has a coverage of approximately 60 Km

The Oxley Region ARC for the period of Daylight saving have moved their Sunday morning net on 146.7 MHz to a 9 am start – a brief sleep in. The 2016 Jamboree is to be held in January to the south of Sydney at Cateract Scout Park.

The Armidale and District ARC – VK2IY - held their AGM in September with a good attendance. They now have 36 members and growing rapidly. They are well served with 4 Assessors at the moment. Several club members have developed an interest in 23 cm simplex modes, with plans for a repeater once they source some transceivers. They would welcome suitable equipment. If you can help, please contact Rick VK4HF / VK2RP at vk4hf@keylink.com.au 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.