



All Access

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

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Editorial

Another two months have gone by and here we are back again. It's almost time to start thinking about the magnetic calendars for next year. This is also a busy time at home with grandkids' birthdays in May, June, July and August. No wonder the time seems to go so quickly.

With the AGM and elections behind us for another year other things go on. Below is a short item on the recent upgrades to the Centenary building and a selection of pictures from the site, All photos by me.

This month we have a bio on Vice President Al Hirschel VK2OK.

We also have a short article on the upgrades done to the Centenary Building over the last couple of years.

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

Have you changed address, callsign or other details?

Over time, people change address, 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 will no longer have 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 or 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.

Eric – VK2VE - Secretary

Member Meetup & Disposals

Next Sunday, July 28th, 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 9:30 am through to about midday and is followed by the Experimenters' Group from midday.

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

Please note heavier equipment such as HF transceivers and power supplies cannot be posted at this time, but can be collected by arrangement from the club rooms at Dural NSW. Please contact me (Mark VK2XOF) at disposals@arnsw.org.au.

Transceivers

Standard C5608D mobile 2m 50W and 70cm 40W FM Transceiver. With microphone and manual. In good condition Price \$200.00

Alinco DR130 2m 30W FM mobile transceiver with microphone and power cable Fully working Price \$110.00

Alinco DJ-G7E 2m/70cm and 23cm FM hand held transceiver with Antenna, Pouch, Plugpack charger, EDC 173 Charging cradle and programming kit In good condition. Price \$175.00

IC-706MKIIG HF, 2m and 70cm mobile Transceiver with microphone, user manual and power cable in good condition Price \$600.00

Receivers

Yupiteru MVT-7000 hand held wideband scanner 8-1300MHz AM FM wideband FM with AC power supply and telescopic antenna Runs four AA cells or external power Good \$50.00

Accessories

HF low pass filter 1500W SPX-30/DC 1.8 to 30MHz 1500W Price \$50.00

Power Amplifiers.

RM Italy HL-150. HF amplifier. 1.8 to 30MHz with automated low pass filters. 5W in = 120W out CW and SSB. In good condition and working Price \$440.00.

Tokyo HY-Power HL100BDX HF Amplifier. 1.8 to 50MHz power amplifier. 5W input to 100W output Price \$300.00.

Tokyo HY-Power HL62V 50W 2m amplifier. 1w to 10W input to 15W to 50W output 2m FM/SSB in good condition Price \$75.00

Andrews PA200V 200W 2m amplifier. 1w to 10W input to 200 output 2m FM/SSB in good condition Price \$250.00

Microwave Modules 70cm 50W Linear amplifier. Model 432/50 10W input to 50W output in good condition Price \$75.00

Power Supplies

WELTZ 13.8V 30A Linear supply Good condition and fully working \$110.00 Cannot Post

Yaseu FP-707 Power Supply 13.8V 25A DC supply for a 100W HF transceiver Price \$110.00 cannot post.

Test Equipment

Oskerbloc SWR/Powermeter Model SWR-145 300W Price \$40.00

AKIGAWA PM-5HP +PM5V power and SWR meter 1.8 to 300MHz 300W This is a power meter and sensor as two separate modules. Good \$75.00

MFJ 259A HF VHF Antenna analyser. In good condition and fully working. \$175.00

HP 331A Distortion Analyser. Fair cosmetic condition and fully working \$125.00

Tektronix 453 dual channel 50MHz oscilloscope. In fair condition Price \$55.00

Dick Smith Electronics PS1005 100MHz dual channel oscilloscope in good condition and working Price

All Access is a newsletter published by Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for distribution to members and friends of ARNSW. If you wish to comment on any item published or, perhaps, suggest further matters for publication or even submit an article, please contact the editor, Eric – VK2VE by email to editor@arnsw.org.au or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

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Vicor VC3165 2.4GHz Frequency Counter Price \$50.00

Trio AG-202A sine and square wave signal generator 20Hz to 200KHz Price \$50.00

Dick Smith Electronics Q1312 RF signal generator with AM modulation 100KHz to 150MHZ. In good condition and working Price \$75.00.

Gould-Advance J35 sine wave signal generator 10Hz to 100KHz . In good condition and working Price \$75.00.

Megger insulation tester 625/1250/2500V DC in leather case good condition and working Price \$50.00.

Mark—VK2XOF—Disposals

Experimenters' group meeting.

The last gathering of the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group was on Sunday 26th May. The event started with the usual show and tell segment. This was followed by a presentation by Peter Foskett VK2KFP about the solid state VHF and UHF that he has or was currently building.

The presentation touched on such topics as system design and testing as well as tuning up and hard to get components. Of particular interest was the topic of counterfeit components. Building such amplifiers is not a simple procedure, but it can be very rewarding.

The next meeting of the Group is coming up at noon next Sunday the 28th of July.

The meeting starts with the usual "show and tell" where anyone can stand up and share what they have been working on. This may be a radio that they have been experimenting with, or built or repaired, or just something that they find interesting.

After the show and tell, Richard VK2VD will be sharing his experience building a 23cm narrow band FM transceiver.

There are not many options available for amateurs who want to get on 23cm. There are a few very expensive multiband radios that have 23cm built-in, or available as a plug-in option. Then there is the option of transverters from 2 metres or 10 metres.

The transceiver that Richard built is fully programmable from 1240MHz to 1300MHz with CTCSS tones and repeater off-sets at a fraction of the cost of commercial equipment, even if you can find any. Hopefully Richard's radio will drum up some more activity on this band.

For those who are looking for something new in Amateur Radio, the Radio Experimenters Group can be what you are looking for.

So come along to the members meet up and Trash and Treasure on Sunday the 26th of May, and stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting from noon.

Peter - VK2EMU - Experimenters Group.

We Need YOU!

ARNSW is still looking for more volunteers for the broadcast team! The broadcasts have been provided by ARNSW for many decades. I remember listening to them as a kid on my shortwave radio.



Pete VK2LP at the engineering panel

Lately we have lost a number of both presenters and engineers, which is making it more load on the rest of the team. There have been some new volunteers and a couple of old ones have returned but we still need more. The more we have, the less onerous the task for everyone. One father and son team who have been doing the broadcasts recently are Pete VK2LP



Alec VK2MV reading the news

and son Alec VK2MV, who is only 14. His younger son Alan VK2COD may soon be joining the team as well.

Alec is a regular correspondent on the VK1WIA news and Alan has also contributed a couple of times as well. It's great to see them getting involved.

If you are able to help in any way, including remotely doing preparation, editing etc. please drop a line to the team at news@arnsw.org.au. Even if you are unable to get to Dural or are unwilling to go on air live, you can still assist behind the scenes in other roles.

Dural Update.



40m concrete monopole

Over the last several years a lot of upgrades have happened at the Dural site. First, there was the addition of the new monopole to support VHF and UHF antennae. This consists of a 40 metre high concrete monopole and is approximately where the original 10 m steel tower was. Next the 30 m steel tower next to the steps into the VK2WI building was demolished and removed as it was getting beyond its service life. Stainless steel hand rails were also added to the steps.



New path on southern side

The next step was the improvement of the centenary building. The first stage was to remove the large roller shutter in the southern wall and continue the upper level to the eastern end of the building, thus extending the library facility and including a second set of stairs to the upper level. This has allowed the expansion of the library and the installation of more shelving to hold all the books and magazines. We have a dedicated team who continue to catalog the books and magazines in the library and include Ray VK2ASE, Greg VK2TEQ and Chris VK2VCG. The library is a reference library, not a lending one and provides a valuable service for members. If you are looking for a particular item or article, the library can probably supply a copy of it for you. Just send an email to library@arnsw.org.au with your request.



Work progressing

Following the library extensions, the next step was to improve the facilities downstairs and to seal the ingress of weather under the walls. To this end, a new concrete path and drainage was installed along the southern wall of the building. The internal improvements included insulating and lining the walls and ceiling, installing a second exit in the southern wall near the library stairs, cleaning and coating the concrete floor with a hard wearing, non-slip fiberglass, updating electrical and data cabling and relocating the lecture/training area. The original stairs were also replaced with a new, wider, welded steel staircase and included a chairlift to enable those less mobile to access the upper level. The main entry door was relocated to the other side of the pillar and the stage moved to the northern wall. There is still some work to be done but the area is now way more comfortable for training and meetings. The air conditioner removed from the library during its upgrade was installed downstairs. A new kitchen area is about to be installed at the eastern end, complete with plumbed in water and drainage, which will complete the major works. Then there will be some minor works, to be done to relocate the display cabinets and restock them with some memorabilia, reinstall various plaques and the first aid and defibrillator. BTW, if anyone is after a display cabinet, we will most likely have one narrow tall one and a long, low one available shortly. Contact the office office@arnsw.org.au if you are interested.



WICEN hard stand area.

Another improvement on the property was the installation of a new concrete slab and container for WICEN to store and work on their equipment and communications trailers. They are also about to commence setting up a WICEN base station upstairs in



New library extension



Empty ready for work to begin



Antenna Day Feb 2024

the Centenary Building in what used to be the training room. This will be especially usefou for larger exercises and activations such as the Hawkesbury canoe classic.

Eric – VK2VE – Secretary

Do You Know Your Directors?

As promised in our last issue we continue with a profile of another of our directors.



Al Hirschel– VK2OK is a director in the role of Vice-President. He is also our very capable events coordinator and is a regular announcer on the morning and evening Sunday broadcasts from Dural. He enjoys the opportunity to support the hobby he discovered a few decades ago. Here is what he has to say. “I am currently a retired real estate agent who specialised in property investment for nearly three decades and can now concentrate on the many aspects of amateur radio namely DXpeditions and field exercises.

Not having a technical background, my role on the board of Amateur Radio New South Wales as vice president, where I organise functions and events for members.”

He is active in his home club the Waverley Amateur Radio Society where he is vice president.

One of his other hobbies is conjuring and he is a member of the Newcastle Society of Magicians where they perform around the Newcastle area, mainly at smaller clubs.

“A relatively recent entrant into Amateur Radio, I obtained my ‘F’ call in 2006 and gradually upgraded to standard and then advanced, to my current callsign VK2OK.”

Born and raised in Sydney, he was fortunate to live by the water and his youth was spent in canoes, tinnies and small sailing boats.

“After completion of my higher school certificate, I started work in a small Insurance brokers office in Pitt Street. There I acquired letters after my name which mean little to anyone, and qualifications that I’ll never use. Called up for National Service I was selected for officer training and had postings primarily at Singleton and Kapooka, outside Wagga. As a junior lieutenant, one is reliant on those who have the experience and, hopefully, guide you. Thankfully I had such a sergeant and subsequently kept in contact with him for over 30 years. Following National Service, I started with a larger firm of insurance brokers and then decided it wasn’t for me. Changing careers, I was on the road for many years representing a company specialising in engineering supplies. This took me to most towns in New South Wales and into the Eyre and York Peninsulas in South Australia for up to 6 weeks at a time. One learns to be independent and self-reliant.”

Al – VK2OK – Vice President

Events

On Sunday 13th October 2024, we’ll be having a ‘balun build-a-thon’ for ARNSW members. Participants will assemble their own 1:1 or 4:1 balun from a kit. Provided we have sufficient candidates, the event will be catered, for registered participants. Although limited solder stations will be available, attendees are encouraged to bring their own, together with small tools such as cutters, screwdrivers and strippers. Kevlar wire will be available at half price to registered participants only and will need to be ordered prior to the day. Registrations, by email only will open from Sunday 18th August 2024 to events@arnsw.org.au.

Al – VK2OK – Events co-ordinator.

Don't forget—

:- Member Meetup and Trash and Treasure

:- When: next Sunday, July 28th

:- Where: 63 Quarry Road Dural

:- Starting at 9:30 am

:- Experimenters' Group starting from Midday

And the Balun Build-a-thon in October

We hope to see you there.

Below are a few more photos from the site.



Display cabinets



New kitchen area.



South wall with new exit door.



1That's where it's going!



New handrails on VK2WI steps



A more unusual local visitor!



Monopole with 6/2/70/23 antennas.



Library extension with new stairs.



Another local.



Getting there slowly.



Outdoor operating position.

All Access is a newsletter published by Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for distribution to members and friends of ARNSW. If you wish to comment on any item published or, perhaps, suggest further matters for publication or even submit an article, please contact the editor, Eric – VK2VE by email to editor@arnsw.org.au or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

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