



All Access

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

ARNSW is an affiliate of the WIA.

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Editorial

The COVID-19 coronavirus is certainly having an impact on all sorts of community activities. The government have made recommendations with regards to public gatherings and activities and these impact on ARNSW as well. They mean it will be difficult to host some activities while maintaining a healthy environment for members and attendees.

The first victim is the next scheduled Trash and Treasure day which was scheduled for Sun 29 March. Please note that this activity **is now cancelled**. The next T & T day is scheduled for Sun 31 May but this will almost certainly not proceed either.

Other activities under threat include education and training days, the planned forthcoming antennae build-a-thon, and any activity involving a gathering of members.

At this stage the regular Monday evening Library work sessions will proceed as normal as will the activities of the HF Interest Group (see article in this issue). And, you can be assured the Board are examining all ideas that will allow our normal activities to proceed without risking the health of members and guests. These will probably involve a complete rethink of some activities which may yet proceed but in an entirely different format.

Please listen to the Sunday Broadcasts and watch forthcoming issues of *All Access* for further news. And please heed government warnings and advice on health matters.

Ray – VK2ASE

2020 AGM and Elections

Our AGM for this year is scheduled for Sat 18 Apr 2020. As you might recall at our last AGM we adopted a new Constitution. One of the changes introduced concerned the way in which directors are elected. Instead of all nine standing down and, possibly, being re-elected only half (50%) will stand down. Consequently, in the normal course of events, directors will now serve terms of two years, with half of them changing each year. This being the first year under this change the current Board needed to determine who stands down and who continues for a further 12 months. This was done by ballot.

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, please contact the editor, Ray – VK2ASE by email at editor@arnsw.org.au or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

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Following the ballot the following members will stand down at the AGM – Bob Yorston – VK2CAN, John Harper – VK2LJ, Eric van de Weyer – VK2VE and Allan Hirschel – VK2OK. All four have nominated for re-election.

At the time of printing it is determined that the AGM will proceed on the advertised date of Sat 18 Apr 2020, at 1:00 pm. But, we live in uncertain times. It remains possible that further changes in government advice could result in a change to the AGM schedule. The change may be required to fit in with safety requirements in holding gatherings or meetings.

Please listen up during the Sunday broadcasts and watch for news in forthcoming issues of *All Access*.

Ray – VK2ASE

Trash and Treasure

The next Trash and Treasure day was scheduled for Sun 29 March but, as advised in the editorial, **this is now cancelled**. It is not known at this stage when or in what format the next Trash and Treasure Day will be.

Mark – VK2XOF

HF Interest Group

Historically, and to many, Amateur Radio is embodied in HF communications, especially long range DX. Today, of course, our hobby embraces many modes and disciplines. But, HF still has its followers and enthusiasts. A new group, the HF Interest Group, is now formed within ARNSW. They meet every



Monday evening (at the same time as the Library) in the operations room at Dural (upstairs in the Centenary Building). When your editor dropped in on their first evening he overheard several QSOs with operators across VK as well as ZL.

If you have an interest in HF or just want to have a look at what's involved call in any Monday evening (except Public Holidays) and introduce yourself. And, you don't necessarily need to be licenced at this stage. Just have an interest.

The group use the call VK2AWI. At above can be seen Fred VK2WS operating the station on CW.

You can contact the group via email at "hfgroup@arnsw.org.au".

Ray – VK2ASE

Tower Project Nears Completion

The construction project for our new tower came a step closer to finalisation last week with the removal of the old steel lattice tower. This had served us well for some forty plus years but had reached its end of life (which is what promulgated the whole project to begin with).



In the pics above can be seen the “before and after”. On the left the old lattice tower is still in place. On the right it has been removed and the (base, at least) of the new tower can be seen. There is something else missing from the second photo. Can you see what it is?

Ray – VK2ASE

Do You Know Your Directors?

This issue we continue with our profile of our Directors. Bob – VK2CAN is a Director looking after important aspects of Membership, including handling Membership enquiries. Here is what Bob has to say.



I'm Bob Yorston – VK2CAN since the mid 70's. In those days, anyone with a “C” call kept it anywhere in VK. When I was in WA, I became VK6CAN. I've been an Associate Member of ARNSW (WIA NSW Division then) since the late 50's – the Science House days, but was too busy to get a Call until the early 70's.

I started work at AWA in the late 50's, and soon got enlisted in training Broadcast and Marine Operators at Marconi School of Wireless – continuing – whilst not working at AWA – until the School closed in the early 80's. Then onto Norton & Faviell – External Auditing – whilst studying at the Australian Accountancy College. After many years of

that, I drifted back to Electronics – Philips Labs – which meant I got transferred to any ailing Philips

subsidiary – Communications, Industrial & Medical, etc. During this, I gained the Electronics & Communications Certificate at TAFE. Eventually I was drafted to lecturing in Communications in Papua New Guinea – finally the Department of Health and EPA for the NSW Government.

I have been a member of the ARNSW Council – on-and-off since the late 70's – usually helping with Membership & Welfare. When the ARNSW “went off the rails” - the “A Team” vs the “B Team” - I stood up for the members, and I guess that I have the dubious distinction of being locked up at “The Bay” for my troubles. At least, those actions brought several resignations, and enabled ARNSW to function as it is today. I'm still on ARNSW Council now – the oldest – in my 80's - retired, in-and-out of hospital, but helping out where I can. The legal bills I incurred after the A Team fiasco cost me about \$2,800 – to get out of Gaol, etc – not much today, but back then that was 10 weeks wages.

After the day the Granville Train Disaster occurred I went back to work only to find out later that several work-mates had perished in it.

Back in the early days of 2 metre broadcasts, I relayed the broadcasts from Dural to Knights Hill for several years – enabling the broadcasts to be heard along the South Coast. Ultimately, alternative arrangements were made – giving me a break! Also – being a reasonably friendly & well known Ham – on the Welfare side of things, I've been to their Weddings, Christenings & Funerals. Having been a J.P. for almost half a century, I feel that it's almost time to give it away – the new regulations are just making it too hard for me!

Naturally, with a lot of my Ham mates becoming Silent Keys, several 2-letter calls have passed through my hands, but – thinking about those of my surviving Ham mates – a change of call from VK2CAN would cause confusion – so I'll always remain this way! – a small bit of history, anyway!

Last – but by no means least – I've found the time to get married to Bev.

I have two daughters and one grand-child. Like so many retirees, I don't know how I ever found the time to work for a living!

Bob – VK2CAN

Continue to look forward to further profiles in coming editions of *All Access*.

Balun and Antenna Day

A balun and/or antenna build-a-thon was being planned for the Sun 24 May 2020. However, due to concerns over the COVID-19 coronavirus the function has been postponed. A date has not yet been set and at this stage it is not known when it will be scheduled.

AI – VK2OK

Until next issue,
73, Ray – VK2ASE