

VK2 Notes – April 2009

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Notes like these have to be written a few weeks ahead of publication and often clubs and groups make changes in the mean time. This happened when reporting on the **Oxley Region ARC** and their meeting arrangements - last month. As reported, the club has returned to meeting at Port Macquarie's SES facilities. Many club members have now joined the SES to assist in communication and similar roles. Training nights with SES are on Wednesday so the Club has moved the Wednesday club net to Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm on repeater 6700. The monthly meeting remains on the first Saturday afternoon at 2 pm and the informal evening gatherings have been reduced to one a month - the fourth Friday at 7 pm. All these meetings occur at the new SES location in Central Road, Port Macquarie. It is now a couple of months [June long weekend] until the annual Oxley Region Field Day – plan to attend now.

Over Easter - the annual **Urunga Convention** at the Senior Citizens hall in Bowra Street, Urunga. Details from Ken VK2DGT 02 6652 3177 or krgolden46@hotmail.com or do a web search on Urunga Radio convention or check out page 34 in last months [March] issue of Amateur Radio.

St. George ARS have just had their AGM with Paul VK2EPH giving Brian VK2GCE a well earned rest from being the President. St George ARC meet on the first Wednesday in the 1 st Kyle Bay Scout Hall at Connells Point in southern Sydney.

NSW WICEN held a special general meeting last month at the Dural VK2WI site. There are several regional AGM's taking place this month. There is Northern Rivers on the 5 th. Central Coast have moved theirs from the 11 th to the 18 th and Hunter Region is on the 21 st.

Waverlay ARS normally have their annual auction mid June. Plans for this year have still to be advised as the hall at their club rooms is in almost constant use by others.

ANARTS - the Australian teleprinter group have an annual worldwide contest mid year. They are seeking a contest manager to take over from Patrica VK2JPA who wishes to retire from the position.

Liverpool and District ARC have just held a workshop to construct a Flower Pot antenna for 2 metres to a design developed by John VK2ZIO from HADARC. Contact point - Garry VK2BR 02 9896 5763 or vk2tsr@bigpond.com

Taree and District ARC held their AGM last month with all the officer bearers from the previous year getting another shift in the same positions. Their April meeting, on the 7 th, will be - as usual - at the TAFE College, Montgomery Crescent, Taree. Local area repeaters 6825 and 6675 are linked and used on Monday night for the club net. Repeater 8325 is stand alone. A contact point is via Mark VK2AMS 02 6551 0126 or vk2fre@wia.org.au. Mark is also the contact point for local exams.

Ray VK2HAY on behalf of the **Central Coast ARC** thanks everybody who attended the recent Wyong field day for their support. He said in a recent news item ... We stage this event to help Amateur Radio show-case our hobby. It entails over nine month of hard work before the Day, plus great economic risks ... We would like your comments about the Day and any views or improvements you would like to see at Wyong ... contact point for Ray 02 4325 2182. This year exams were conducted at the Wyong field day. Terry VK2UX advised that the 8 candidates were successful on the day, by undertaking 18 assignments.

Hunter Radio Group conducted their AGM last month. They meet on the second Friday evening at the NBN TV studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle. Contact point is Rodney VK2CN. Their news net – VK2AWX - on Monday at 1930 covers VK1WIA and VK2WI highlights for that week, along with local news.

The **Blue Mountains ARC** have beacons planned for 2 metres, 70 and 23 cms - a

recent news item advised. Details are to be found in the beacon portion of the current Callbook and WIA web site. The allocated frequencies are those ending xxx.424 MHz on the respective bands.

This month the **NSW Division** will conduct their AGM on Saturday the 18 th at their VK2WI Dural site. At the close of nominations on the 7 th March, the Returning Officer – Peter VK2EMU – advised that 13 candidates had offered for the 9 Council positions. The ballot papers and other meeting material is currently being sent to members. The 'shed' by early last month had been constructed. As it is intended that some of the building will be used as a training centre, this requires additional regulations to be addressed under various building codes and standards. As part of earthworks carried out by Peter VK2JBP with the shed, early this year he turned his talents to reconstructing and sealing the entry driveway to the VK2WI site.

On the last Sunday of the odd months - the Trash and Treasure morning and Home Brew and Experimenters afternoon gathering is conducted at the VK2WI Dural site – 63 Quarry Rd.- This years dates are May 31 st, July 26 th, September 27 th and November 29 th.

As mentioned last month, ABC TV 'Collectors' program is scheduled to carry a segment about Ian VK2ZIO's **Kurrajong Radio Museum**, on Friday the 10 th of April, at 8 pm.

The **VK2BWI** operator provided morse training sessions has lost a valuable contributor when Alan VK2ADB became a SK in late February. The service is being maintained by Ross VK2ER on Thursday at 2000 hours – 3550 kHz -. Ross would like to hear from anyone who might like to join the operation. This can be from anywhere in south east VK. Give him a call after the session.

Late February the Sydney **VK2RSY** 2 metre beacon was restored to service when a new transmitter was commissioned by Station Engineer Mark VK2XOF at the VK2WI Dural site. This purpose built transmitter continues the service first established in the early 1970's. It is on 144.420 MHz, CW mode, with 20 watts into the existing 2 bay crossed dipoles, currently on the roof of the VK2WI building. New antennas, yet to be obtained, will be placed on an elevated location at the Dural site. For operational reasons the beacon is off line during the Sunday broadcast periods. Within the first day of its return the beacon produced many reports - extending to Port Macquarie in the north to Wagga in the south. Further reports are most welcome, one submission method is via the news email - arnews@tpg.com.au – with 'beacon report' in the address header. At the same time a new transmitter was placed in service on 6 metre – 50.289 MHz – 20 watts CW to a dipole - to free up a transceiver that had been providing the service. A transmitter for 70 cm – 432.420 MHz - is in the course of construction to restore this service. Later, a new transmitter will also be constructed for 10 metres – 28.262 MHz – as a replacement for the current ageing unit. The 23 cm beacon – 1296.420 MHz - was replaced last year with a 20 watt unit. Updated details of the VK2RSY and VK2RWI systems appear on the WIA web site for beacons and repeaters.

In closing – the find of the month -. One of the VK2WI broadcast team travelling up for an evening session was scanning a road side 'Council clean up' when something caught his eye, resulting in a rapid stop and back up. There, on the kerb side was a pre WARC HF transceiver, complete with microphone and other bits. Condition not advised by the finder as I prepared these notes but it would still be something too good for 'landfill'.