

VK2 Notes – August 2009

It is anniversary time in the far north of VK2 with the **Summerland ARC** turning 50 this month. For the month they have the special callsign VI2SRC50. On Saturday evening the 8th the 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Goonellabah Tavern at 1800. On Sunday the 9th SARCFEST from 0800 at the club rooms at Richmond Hill. Work proceeded throughout last month on the tower, antennas and other work at the Clubrooms. This month is also busy with education. A Foundation course on 15 / 16th. Advanced Theory on the weekends of 22 / 23 & 29 / 30th. Inquiries to vk2dlr@sarc.org.au. There has also been many WICEN exercises with local horse enduros.

HADARC has exams on the 8th. Contact Tony VK2BTL on 02 9487 3383 or check the web site www.hadarc.org.au

Note the change of date and venue for the **Blue Mountains ARC** Winterfest this month. Details changed after last months deadline. Winterfest will now be on Saturday the 22nd August at the Penrith Rescue Organisation [VRA] in Simeon Road, Orchard Hills. This is also the venue for BMARC meetings. The move was brought about due to renovations being undertaken at the former Glenbrook site.

FRED changes frequency. Australia's oldest 2 metre repeater – it was established [well] before the formal start to VK repeaters in 1968. FRED operated by the **Orange District ARC** on Mt. Canoblas, has changed to 147.025 / 147.625 MHz. The former channel 6700 is maintained and will be established as an "in town repeater". FRED started life 'under test' on the old frequencies of 145.854 and 146.000 MHz. An early intermod on the mountain top was resolved by moving the repeater receive frequency from 146 to 146.100 MHz. When the first repeater planning meeting was held at Wodonga in September 1968 FRED was assigned the channel 1 split of 146.100 in and 145.600 out. When the next generation of repeater channels were developed in Albury in July 1972 the input remained on 146.100 with the new output on 146.700. In the beginning FRED operated with antennas above and below an elevated platform between a couple of wooden poles in the middle of the mountain top. Next move was to place the receiver at the southern end in one of the communication complexes and the transmitter at the northern end at a TV Tx site. There was several hundred metres of separation interconnected with a 2 pair cable – just buried – across the rocky terrain. This intermittently failed due to the rabbits having a taste for the PVC. The Club then moved the receiver to the transmitter end and for a while had the advantage of vertical separation provided by the host tower. Then the two TV channels were joined by additional services of some of the highest output powers in use in Australia along with the many FM services - again of considerable power - and the mountain top became intermod city. For the past 8 to 10 years FRED has had either been off air or severely down graded on the receive side. Hopefully, the frequency change will give Australia's oldest repeater a new lease of life.

The **Orange District ARC** meet on the first Friday evening at 64 Warrendine Road at 7.30 pm. This month is their AGM. Contact address is P. O. Box 1065 Orange 2800.

The **Mid North Coast ARG** will be the first Field Day in the 2010 celebration year. The Expo is being held at the regular site in Coffs Harbour on Sunday the 24th January. A VIP guest has been lined up to open the Expo, advised the President of MNCARG, Gary VK2ZKT. The following month the **Central Coast ARC** will have their Field Day at the Wyong Race Course on Sunday the 28th February.

The **Oxley Region ARC** have moved their weekly evening 2 metre net back to

Wednesday to take advantage of recently installed equipment at their meeting location – the SES building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. Club members attend SES activities on Wednesday evening. The other weekly net is on Sunday morning. Both nets are conducted on VK2RPM 6700.

A reminder that the **Manly Warringah Radio Society** now meet at the Terrey Hills Seniors and Youth Centre, Yulong Avenue, Terrey Hills. Check out the map on www.mwrs.org.au . For the moment the club telephone may not be operational due to the relocation.

VK2 WICEN in conjunction with HADARC are to re-establish the former WICEN repeater to a new site back at Chatswood. This month the major exercise will be the week long Shahzada Horse Enduro 17 to 21 st. The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic – 24 / 25 th October – has a change in that the former major check point “Echo” is downgraded and “Delta” becomes a major maritime -water- checkpoint. Register your offers of help for this event now. Also in October will be the annual Barrington Tops Search and Rescue Exercise for the search for the missing Cessna 210 VH-MDX over the weekend 17 / 18 th. WICEN is always on the lookout photos of activities and exercises for publicity purposes. Contact via 0408 397 217 or email to “operations@nsw.wicen.org.au”

This is month of both the RD Contest and the Lighthouse event on the same weekend. Plan now to take part in both and help the State score in the RD and have a good time with the Lighthouses. **VK2WI** will transmit the opening address of the RD at 1730 Saturday via the normal broadcast channels.

Sydney amateur Syd Griffith VK2AHF was recently recognised in the Queen's Birthday honours list. He was awarded the Public Service medal ... for outstanding public service, particularly in innovative and sustained contribution to the enhancement and improvement of the technical capabilities of the New South Wales Police.

73 – Tim VK2ZTM.