

## VK2 Notes October 2009

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It is interesting the number of VK2 radio clubs celebrating anniversaries. This time it is the **Orange & District ARC** who turn 50 next year. Vice President Bruce VK2DEQ reports that at the recent AGM of the Club, two long serving members were presented with Honorary Life Memberships. Robert Alford [VK2ZRJ] attended the very first meeting of the Orange & District ARC in October 1960, nearly 50 years ago and is the only person to have maintained continuous membership from then to now. Robert was also elected club President at this years AGM. Peter Carter [VK2ETK] has been strong supporter of the Club since moving from Sydney some decades ago. Many Sydney "Old Timers" will remember Peter from his old call signs VK2ZPC and VK2TK and especially his interest in the VHF & TV Group. Congratulations to both these gentlemen for outstanding service to the Orange & District ARC.

Members and friends of the Orange & District ARC are encouraged to meet on the 2 metre FRED net conducted each Sunday morning following the VK2 broadcast. Operators are reminded that the new Fred frequency is 147.025 / 147.625 MHz.

The Orange & District ARC meet on the first Friday evening of the month at 7.30 pm at 64 Warrendine Street. All are welcome. Further information about the Club and its activities are available from the Secretary, PO Box 1065, Orange 2800 or at [www.odarc.org](http://www.odarc.org)

The **Blue Mountains ARC** conducted a very successful Winterfest at their new meeting location near Penrith in late August. Over 300 attended on a fine winters day. Several club members have also just completed a DXpedition to Poeppel Corner, the junction point of VK8, 5 and 4.

It is now about three months until Scouting Australia's next Jamboree which is being held at Cataract Scout Park. [South of Sydney]. The event is referred to as "AJ2010" The site has a permanent Amateur Radio facility and the **Fishers Ghost ARC** is its caretaker advises Wal VK2ZWK. They are preparing the site and making some modifications to the shack. Many clubs have already offered assistance for operating during the day. January 4 to the 14, 2010. The FGARC will provide the evening operation. If you can help during the day or need more information contact Wal at [vk2zwk@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2zwk@wia.org.au) or by telephone 02 4626 8423.

A reminder that the **Wyong Field Day** is getting closer on the 28 th February 2010 and provision has been made to fit in more "Flea Market Stall Holders" advises Ray VK2HAY. Contact the **Central Coast ARC** if you require to book a space. While on field days, there is the Radio Expo in Coffs Harbour on Sunday the 24 th January 2010 hosted by the **Mid North Coast ARG**. The **Hornsby & District ARC** will have exams at the end of this month at Waitara – Saturday the 31 st October. The **Manly Warringah Radio Society** have moved again to a new location. The 1 st Terrey Hills Guides Hall in Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. They meet on Wednesday evenings. **Waverley ARS** conducted exams last month, a regular event in Sydneys eastern suburbs. This year they are celebrating their 90 th. **Hunter Radio Group** paid a visit to the **Kurrajong Radio Museum** recently. The Museum's operator Ian VK2ZIO reports increased interest in the KRM is being shown after the exposure on the ABC Collectors program. Locals and visitors to Sydney should set aside a day on a weekend to pay a visit. You can also take Ian that piece of disposal equipment [ in good condition] rather than take it to the tip which may have been your

intention. **Summerland ARC** have concluded their month of celebrations, the final activity was an advanced license course with five starters, four of whom were successful. A Standard course is planned. They have also had a construction day of a UHF SWR meter, made available by Bruce VK2VA. Orders for this kit [\$35] can be directed to John VK2JWA at [treasurer@sarc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@sarc.org.au)

A VK2 operation is planned from **Mt. Kosciusko** for the mid summer field day next January. Details in a future AR. This month will be busy for **NSW WICEN** with the annual Barrington Tops search for a lost aircraft and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic. **ARNSW** have advised that work commitments has forced Norm VK2TOP to retire from his position on the committee, a trip to attend meetings from northern VK2 he made most months. Norm will continue to process membership renewals for ARNSW. The ARNSW membership register had continued on from when those WIA members in VK2 were through the NSW Division. Recently a post out was made to all unfinancials on the register. If you received a reminder letter please respond with your intentions so that the records can be adjusted accordingly. Anyone wishing to become a member of ARNSW can find a application form on the ARNSW web site – [www.arnsw.org.au](http://www.arnsw.org.au) The education team associated with ARNSW will again be conducting the full range of exams at the Wyong field day on February 28 th 2010 advises group leader Terry VK2UX. The last Trash & Treasure for the year at VK2WI is scheduled for Sunday the 29 th November.

In preparing these notes I rely for some of the material in the news items submitted to **VK2WI News**. What I have noticed is while many submitters advise several times leading up to the event or activity but rarely is there any follow up with the results. For example - it might be their AGM is to be held but nothing appears as to who was elected for the incoming year. Maybe its a field day and again no report on how it went. These 'after event' reports would inform listeners of the outcome as well as provide addition variety to the news bulletins and be a reference source for some future history. Please consider - as someone once said.

With next year being the centenary of the **WIA** - a bit of history. The 'Institute' resulted from a meeting held in Sydney in March 1910. When the NSW Division was celebrating its 50 years there were four Branches of the Division. In addition, the State as divided into zones. At this time there were only a few clubs. The four Branches were Illawarra, Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Hunter. The first to leave was the Central Coast who were seeking to acquire their Kariong club rooms and could not do so as a branch of a company. Then Illawarra and Blue Mountains left to form their respective clubs. The Hunter Branch remained until a new set of Articles for the Division removed the provision for Branches. They have since changed over to being the Hunter Radio Group. A sub group of the Division in the same era was the VHF Group, later to add '& TV' to their title. They were an active technical group with an evening broadcast, [now the evening VK2WI session]. Also each month there was a meeting, an evening Fox Hunt and a day field event. They faded out towards the end of the time the Division was at St. Leonards. Today the Home Brew and Experimenters Group is the equivalent. Also in the 1950's the Division was looking at securing a city property. Instead the funds and effort went into establishing the VK2WI station at Dural in 1955. Then in 1959 the 14 Atchison Street, St. Leonards property was purchased, made possible by the Division obtained and selling on to members the vast selection of WW2 radio / electronic surplus. Soon after the Atchison Street purchase the rear of the cottage was demolished and a hall and basement disposal area was built and opened in 1962. Until the opening of the hall, the Division had been meeting at Science House in the city. Monthly meetings were then conducted at Atchison St until changes in the Articles replaced them with Club Conferences. In the early 1980's the development of the St. Leonards area, the increasing high rise and parking difficulties

resulted in the sale of Atchison Street and the purchase of 109 Wigram Street, Harris Park. In 2004 when the changes occurred in the WIA structure the role of the NSW Division also changed. It went from being the NSW Division and became Amateur Radio New South Wales. It continues the role of being a State wide radio club. Currently its main activity is the Sunday VK2WI news bulletins and hosting the Home Brew and Experimenters Group. The Harris Park property was sold in 2006 with the intention of concentration all activities at the Dural site. Part of this operation was the construction of the multi purpose storage shed – something that is taking a little longer than first hoped. Last month some of the internal fitting out was started. If the timetable can be maintained - all will be ready for the centenary which is March 2010. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.