

VK2 Notes March 2013

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ARNSW wishes to remind members that nominations for the 2013/2014 committee close at 12 noon on Saturday the 9 th March 2013 at 63 Quarry Road. Dural. Refer to the Home page of www.arnsw.org.au for forms. The AGM will be held on Saturday the 20 th April 2013 at the VK2WI site.

The ARNSW upgrade class for this year commences Monday evening the 4 th March at the VK2WI site. Classes each Monday except public holiday until years end. The next Foundation weekend is on 23 / 24 th March. All license grade assessments on Sunday the 24 th at 0900. Registrations required to education@arnsw.org.au or telephone 02 9651 1490 and leave contact details. The March Trash & Treasure will be on Sunday the 31 st. An anniversary BBQ has been scheduled for Sunday the 10 th March. It should be noted that license assessments are no longer conducted on Trash & Treasure days. They will be on the Sunday before the T&T in the odd numbered months.

The NSW trader Amateur Radio Transceiver Centre at Girraween ceased operations early this year.

During January transmission tests of FreeDV were conducted by Ed VK2JI on the Central Coast using the VK2WI news session as the signal source. The tests were on 40 metres, first in the morning and later in the month in the evening. The January Home Brew meeting had a talk by Peter VK2TPM on FreeDV. The tests helped some gain an understanding of this new mode.

With Easter at the end of the month it is the annual Urunga Convention on the NSW mid North Coast. Starting Friday evening, the event is across Saturday and Sunday in the Seniors Citizens Hall in Bowra Street. Ken VK2DGT has the details. Billed as the longest running fox hunt events in the country.

In late January the Tamworth Radio Club was involved in assisting in the locating a group of young persons on a bike hike in the Guy Fawkes National Park advised John VK2YGV. A locating system known as SPOT was used in conjunction with other rescue services.

Lord Howe Island is a popular spot for both holidays and Amateurs to set up DX operations. The Island has two resident Amateurs, Dick VK9LH and Des VK9FLHI. In January a group of JA Amateurs used the accommodation facilities at Des's Blue Lagoon Lodge to spend a week of operation and

enjoying the Island.

Lord Howe Island was also the last Australian location that used telegrams. While they stopped on the mainland in 1962 they continued on the Island until about 1974. In those early days LHI had very limited communication systems and telegrams were sent to and from the Island via the DCA network and morse code was used. They then gained an HF independant sideband circuit with a telex on one sideband and a telephone on the other. The telex produced telegrams. The Island only had two telephones, one public and the other with the Administrator. These days there is an automatic telephone network but no mobile service.

The Oxley Region ARC have started the year with a series of lectures about Software Defined Radio [SDR] using the DVB-T USB and FUNcube dongles. It is not too early to remind readers that the annual Oxley Region field day will be held on Saturday and Sunday of the June long weekend. The venue will again be the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving hall at the southern end of Port Macquarie township.

St. George ARS resumed meetings last month with the AGM. They have also set up a range of digital nets on Monday nights that will give amateur radio operators in the Sydney region, both new and experienced, the opportunity to experiment with various digital modes. Net control is Cameron VK2CKP using the club call VK2LE advises Peter VK2EMU.

To partake, you need to have a "Standard License" or "Advanced", a computer running windows, an appropriate audio interface between the PC sound card and the rig and appropriate software [Ham Radio Deluxe and F L digi recommended]. Operation is check in on VK2RLE 146.800 before moving to a simplex frequency depending on band conditions and the mode. Most likely on 2m and 20m. In January they looked at PSK and last month it was Hellschreiber. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.