

VK2 notes December 2014

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Another year almost over and a brand new one coming up. Many clubs take a break with their meetings which they resume in January or February. A request to clubs to make use of VK2WI News to advise members and visitors of your activities. An email to news@arnsw.org.au will get that publicity. VK2WI News over the holiday period on December 28 th and January 4 th and 11 th will be morning only sessions.

The first of the ARNSW Foundation courses for 2015 will be the 17 th and 18 th January and then at two monthly intervals on the odd numbered months. On Sunday the 18 th there are assessments for all license upgrades. The numbers that can be handled are limited and bookings are required by email at education@arnsw.org.au. The next Trash & Treasure at the VK2WI site will be on Sunday the 25 th January from 0930 hours followed at 1200 by the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group gathering. For major equipment items available, check the ARNSW web site www.arnsw.org.au. The upgrade course for 2015 is scheduled to commence on Monday the 2 nd March and continue, except for public holidays, until mid November.

The VK2RSY beacons on 2 metres and 70 cm were recently restored on new antennas. However some reports so far have indicated that the range is limited like there is down tilt on the signal. Remote stations have advised of lower than previous signals from the old antennas.

The Oxley Region ARC have their annual Xmas function as part of the December meeting on Saturday the 6 th. The annual Central Coast Field Day at Wyong Racecourse is only weeks away on Sunday the 22 nd February. Operational times were listed in the October issue of AR. The HADARC club had their last formal meeting for the year in November and will resume in February. They have a lunch planned for December the 14 th. The Hunter Radio Group have their end of year function on Thursday evening the 4 th December.

Some clubs have on their committee a Historian to maintain records of their past great activities. Knowing what has gone on in the past is important for the hobby and the club as with the turn over of office bearers most facts are soon forgotten. What unfortunately happens sometime with a change of officer bearers is for records not being passed on and often dumped. In a similar way old records in a deceased estate are often sent to land fill in the clean out of all that 'radio junk'.

ARNSW has been fortunate with their former Librarian – Aub VK2AXT – now retired - assembling a considerable collection of historic material which is being checked over as the library collection is catalogued and displayed at the Dural site. One find has been a circular letter sent out to the Experimenters in 1926 inviting them to take part in the Trans Pacific tests in May and June of that year. This was a concerted effort to make regular contact with America and to see how the new [useless] short wave frequencies would work – those the commercial interests did not want at that time. For those taking part in the test there was a 500 word message to be sent in CW along with listening periods and detailed log keeping.

Next month {January} will be the annual Ross Hull contest in memory of Ross, an early Australian Experimenter. Ross is better known for his time in the USA and his involvement with the ARRL. In 1926 however Ross was back in Australia and was the Hon Federal Secretary of the recently formed Wireless Institute of Australia – Federal Executive Council, located at that time in Sydney. The letter that ARNSW has contains an original signature of Ross A. Hull. 73 - Tim VK2ZTM.