

VK2 Notes – January/February 2016

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Greetings for 2016. The big VK2 event for this month – February – is the annual Central Coast Field Day at the Wyong Racecourse on Sunday the 28 th. On that Sunday there will be no morning VK2WI broadcast, in its place will be a transmission at 7.30 pm Saturday evening the 27 th. Sunday evening will be as normal.

The month of February is when many clubs have their first meetings after the summer break like HADARC with their informal meeting on Tuesday the 9 th and the main meeting two weeks later on the 23 rd. Also in February the Mid South Coast ARC have their quarterly meeting on the second Saturday.

It is generally a quiet month in February for ARNSW who had the first Foundation weekend and Trash & Treasure last month. There is more action in March with the next Foundation weekend on the 19 th and 20 th and assessments on the Sunday. The Trash & Treasure is on Sunday the 27 th. While this is a public holiday, the T&T are always held on the last Sunday of the odd numbered month. On Saturday the 19 th nominations for the ARNSW committee close. The 2016 AGM of ARNSW is scheduled for Saturday the 30 th April. Monday March the 7 th is the first night of the upgrade course at the VK2WI Dural site. Bookings for all courses and assessments require an email to education@arnsw.org.au

Each year ARNSW has a series of seminar talk fests which appear on the calendar as field days. The first of these is to be held on Sunday March the 6 th. The event commander would like to know what topics attendees would like to hear or whether they would like to be a presenter on a topic of their choice. If you will be attending you need to email fieldday@arnsw.org.au to register or to advise topics or presentation.

The Summerland ARC have courses proposed soon. These will be a Standard March 7 th to 10 th and Foundation 12 th and 13 th March. In November an Advanced is planned November 7 th to 11 th with Foundation 12 th and 13 th November. Contact Duncan VK2DLR.

Late in December financial members of ARNSW were sent their 2016 fridge magnet calendar which lists all the major activities. You can see a copy of the calendar if you go to the home page of ARNSW www.arnsw.org.au

For the past half century the VK2 region has had some on air morse practice provide by volunteer operators often under the call VK2BWI. In the early days it was a nightly transmission followed by VK5WI. More recently the service dropped back to weekly on a Thursday evening on 3550 kHz provided by Ross VK2ER at Orange with help from

Geoff VK2BGP. Ross was finding that interest was dropping and in the past year often there were no call ins after the session. In late November 2015 Ross terminated the operation when circumstances changed at his end. If anyone would like to resume the service please contact ARNSW by an email to office@arnsw.org.au The automated service from VK2WI on 3699 kHz continues.

For the past couple of years ARNSW has made available to VK2 clubs some development funds for projects that the club may be considering. As these notes were being prepared no word had come down from the ARNSW committee if this offer would be available this year.

A look at a bit of VK2 history. In the 1950's the NSW Division had two projects on the go. These were to develop a Home for VK2WI and the other was to obtain a headquarters property. Well the Home for VK2WI won and the Dural site purchased in 1955 and the transmitter building constructed and opened in May 1957. Disposal trading by the Division in the 1950's was good and funds were building up. This enable the NSW Division to purchase in 1959 the small cottage at 14 Atchison Street, St. Leonards. By 1962 the rear of the property had been demolished and a hall built over a basement store and radio room. The property was known at the Wireless Institute Centre. This was now the Headquarters of the NSW Division. The front of the original building contained an office, class room and library.

By the 1970's the area had started to develop some low rise buildings and it was suggested that the Division could join with others to build some more practical properties. Instead it was decided to sell Atchison Street and move west ward to the geographical centre of Sydney. In the early 1980's the Wigram Street property in Harris Park was purchased and named Amateur Radio House. After leaving Atchison Street the property of number 14 was replaced with a three story office building. The Division remained at Wigram Street until early 2000's when the change in the WIA National structure reduced the need for the property. It was decided that all the Divisions operations could be conducted from the VK2WI Dural site. This resulted in the construction of the Centenary Building, opened in 2010 and the renovations of the original VK2WI building.

About the same time the NSW Division decided on the name change to Amateur Radio New South Wales so there would be less confusion with the operation of the WIA as the National body.

In time Atchison Street and the surrounding area, being near a major transport hub, changed. Recently the strip from number 4 to 18 Atchison Street was demolished and in its place there is being developed a high rise apartment block for more than 25 floors.

Like many areas there is history in Atchison Street. In the beginning it was mainly small cottages which small business started to occupy. The neighbours to number 14 included Dick Smith with a early shop at number 10 and Keith [later VK2ZZO] with an electronic

business at number 12. In those days parking was easy in the street – just try it now. 73 –
Tim VK2ZTM.