

VK2 news – September/October 2018

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Spring is here and the major activity about now is the Centenary of the reception of the first direct Wireless message from Great Britain to Australia. The original message was transmitted from Wales and received at Ernest Fisk's Wahroonga residence on the 22 nd September 1918. On Saturday the 22 nd September 2018 the Centenary is to be observed near the site in a joint operation by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and the Hornsby and District ARC. Included will be the special event call sign VK100MARCONI

About mid year the Illawarra ARS had a field day at Burrinjuck Dam near Yass in NSW and included in the activities was a balloon launch. The balloon had APRS and a 10 metre beacon. Once the balloon got into the high altitude wind it reached and passed over the east coast within a couple of hours when it was observed that it deflated and fell into the ocean. It was thought that it was lost. However - next morning it was found on a beach - having been washed ashore overnight.

August was a busy time for many VK2 clubs when they held their AGM's. These included Oxley Region, Hunter Region Group, CCARC, Illawarra, Waverley and WICEN. Also in August the Blue Mountains ARC held their annual Winter fest. Waverley ARS held their annual auction in July on the one weekend of the year when the hall at their club site becomes available. The Waverley ARS will celebrate their Centenary in 2019.

Also in August Jeff VK2BYY launched his sixth novel in his Barefeet series. It is the Rise of the Gomer. Jeff thinks this maybe the last in this series having exhausted the various themes. Jeff was the VK2WI station Engineer in the 1970's, a time of a lot of rebuilding to re-establish the site following extensive vandalism in the late 1960's.

On the first Sunday in October is when south east VK changes into Daylight saving. VK2WI News maintains the same local time of 10 am and 7.30 pm on Sunday. The short talks series created by Onno VK6FLAB 'What use is an F-Call' has been added to the evening VK2WI News. ARNSW will be holding the next Trash & Treasure event on Sunday the 25 th September and the November Foundation course is the weekend of the 10 th and 11 th. Approval finally council came through to install a 40 metre pole, to replace the existing 30 metre tower, for the VK2RWI repeater network at Dural.

The Oxley Region ARC recent AGM found the committee positions being filled by Henry VK2ZHE as President, Paul VK2ICQ as Vice President and Dennis VK2DAM as Treasurer. No one stepped up for Secretary - resulting in Henry VK2ZHE taking on the position until they find a 'volunteer'. The remaining committee positions are Larry VK2CLL, Arthur VK2ATM and Rob VK2CRF. The Oxley Region ARC worked the recent RD Contest from the Camden Haven Airfield using the club caravan on all bands.

The Central Coast ARC with their AGM in August saw a few new faces. President is Myles VK2ASS, Vice President Jaye VK2FOMG, Secretary Mark VK2CCR and

Treasurer Dave VK2DLS. The other committee positions are unchanged and Dave VK2KFU is the new Publicity Officer. All CCARC meetings are held at the Kariong club rooms in Dandaloo Street. Activity day is Saturday with a sausage sizzle at noon, followed by the meetings. There are activities on other days. Public transport is available with an hourly bus – route 34 – from Gosford railway station. The 2019 Field Day at Wyong is on again in February. More details at ccarc.org.au.

WICEN NSW has a lot of activities through September and the big one in late October with the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic. The Mid North Coast WICEN group meets at 3.30 pm on the first Saturday following the Oxley Region meeting.

The USA Amateur exams are available locally with the Oz-VE group who can be reached at veexams.com. The exam conducted on the 1 st July was before it was available in the US due to the time difference. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.