



All Access

A newsletter for members and friends of ARNSW, facilitating access to all areas of Amateur Radio.

Issue 26-02 March 2026

Editor Eric VK2VE

Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of All Access for 2026. By the time you read this, the 2026 AGM will have concluded.

Please note that there is a new 50km/h speed limit in Quarry Road starting and finishing a couple of hundred metres each end of the 40km/h school zone. You must slow to 50km/h within that zone and to 40km/h during school zone times.

Work is now almost completed on the new membership portal; we have a detailed report later in this edition on its progress. It will take away a lot of manual processes including sign-in at events and membership updates. A lot of work has gone into this new system, which has been designed from the ground up by Matt VK2FLY for which we thank him greatly.

The new system means that the old sign in books will disappear and will be replaced by a tablet onto which you enter your callsign and click the button to confirm – done!

In this issue we have another of Colin VK2JCC's excellent articles as well as some news from the Experimenters' group

To correspond with us, you can email editor@arnsw.org.au or write to The Editor, All Access, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, NSW 2158.

Eric - VK2VE – Editor

New members and Silent Keys

In the last two months we welcomed the following new members:

Jia Lin (Jack) Wang

Cherrybrook

Callsign Pending

We have not been notified about any Silent Keys.

2026 ARNSW AGM

On Saturday March 21st, the 2026 AGM took place at Dural and online.

Thirty-three members were in attendance with half being online, along with two proxies.

At the close of nominations for the half board elections in February, five nominations were received for five positions. Therefore, no ballot was required. Those elected for the next two years are:

Jaye Hennes VK2QRZ

Allan Hirschel VK2OK

Bradley Martin VK2NMZ

Stuart Walker VK2BMX

Eric van de Weyer VK2VE

All Access is a newsletter published by Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for distribution to members and friends of ARNSW. If you wish to comment on any item published, suggest further matters for publication, or submit an article, please contact the editor, Eric VK2VE, by email to editor@arnsw.org.au or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

All content of the newsletter is copyright ARNSW and may not be reproduced in any form without the written consent of the editor.

arnsw.org.au

We would like to welcome Jaye to the board.

A special resolution was also passed which reduces the number of members of the board from nine to seven. This had been discussed by the board for a while, and it was decided that the time was right to proceed.

Eric – VK2VE – Secretary

Member Meetup & Disposals

Next Sunday, March 29th, is the next Member Meetup and disposals day (Trash and Treasure) in the morning and the ARNSW Experimenters' Group meeting from midday. Members can also sell their own items on the day so bring along any items you'd like to sell and browse the items available for sale.

It starts at 9:00 am for buyers, with sellers allowed access from 8:30 am to set up their stalls. Buyers will be allowed in, to park to the north of the VK2WI building but only sellers will be allowed into the sales area to set up prior to 9am.

When parking, please have consideration for other members and park in a way that others can get access and as many cars as possible can be accommodated. We can easily accommodate 50+ cars if everyone parks sensibly. Also, please leave access to behind the Vertel compound so that vehicles can get around there if necessary.

The Experimenters' Group meeting will commence at midday. See elsewhere in this issue for details about the Experimenters' group.

Below are some items which will be for sale in the disposals room. Credit and Debit card facilities will be available.

All the following equipment has been tested and is in good working condition unless otherwise noted. Transmitting and RF amplifiers sold to licenced amateurs only.

Transceivers

Yaesu FT-920 working with power cable and microphone	Price \$800.00
Tait 2000 programmed for 2m	Price \$50.00
unprogrammed	Price \$25.00
Yaesu FT-102 with new PA valves includes TC-102 tuner	Price \$700.00
Icom IC-2821 UHF mobile P25 ready new old stock	Price \$200.00
Realistic HTX100 10m transceiver SSB and CW only	Price \$75.00
Elecraft K2/10 HF transceiver with SSB (KSB2), dual receive inputs, internal antenna tuner (KAT2) and RS232 interface. In excellent condition with microphone and power supply.	Price \$1000.00

Receivers

Uniden BC780XLT Scanner 25MHz to 1300MHz As New in box with power supply	Price \$100.00
--	----------------

Accessories

CW MINI morse paddle, Japanese design and manufacture (Automatic CW Paddle Morse Code Key, CW-Mini CQOHM) eBay price US\$252, AU\$360)	our price \$280.00
Revex W540 SWR & Power meter 140 to 520MHz.	Price \$70.00
Revex W500 SWR & Power meter 1.8 to 30MHz.	Price \$70.00
Icom external speaker	Price \$50.00
Sidewinder M-10 RF signaliser.	Price \$10.00
Bencher Iambic Paddle in very good condition	Price \$100.00
Yaesu FTM-100D remote head	Price



\$25.00

OskerBlock SWR200 power and SWR meter with chart.	Price \$50.00
Sansei SE-405P SWR Meter	Price \$20.00
Behringer Xenyx Q502 USB Audio Mixer.	Price \$75.00
Emtron EAT 300A manual antenna tuner.	Price \$175.00
Kenwood AT-50 antenna tuner for TS-50	Price \$50.00
2 x MFJ1020 Active receiving antenna in good condition	Price \$50.00
2 x MFJ784 tuneable DSP audio filter to reduce receive interference such as heterodynes.	Price \$150.00

Test equipment

Wavetek 2502 500MHz signal generator not working, sold as is	Price \$75.00
Marconi 2019 Synthesised signal generator 100KHz to 1040MHz AM FM modulation with calibrated level attenuator in good working condition	Price \$300.00
Two x 240 to 110V transformer 200W	Price \$25.00 EACH
HeathKit LCR Meter as is in good physical condition	Price \$25.00
HeathKit signal tracer as is in good physical condition	Price \$25.00
Audio Impedance Meter EM480B	
<i>The ALLOSUN EM480B is a portable, battery-powered digital meter designed to measure the actual impedance of speaker systems, transformers, and PA lines at a frequency of 1kHz. It features three test ranges (20, 200 and 2000 ohms)</i>	Price \$75.00

Mark—VK2XOF—Disposals

Coming Soon - VK2Connect

A New Digital Front Door for ARNSW Members

We will soon be launching *VK2Connect*, a new online member engagement portal built to modernise the way members interact with the organisation and with each other.



This is more than just a visual refresh or a clever website publishing system. VK2Connect is an operational platform that brings together membership services, event workflows, payments, communications, and website content, into one integrated system.

For members, the practical result is clear: less friction, better visibility, and faster access to the services you need.

For many years, we have relied on a mix of emails, forms, manual processing, and separate systems to complete common tasks. VK2Connect provides a single portal where members can securely sign in and access a wide range of information in one place. Contact details, communication preferences, subscriptions, and member profile settings can be updated directly through the portal, reducing delays and improving record accuracy.

A key improvement is transparency around membership status and payments. Members can view financial status, check due dates, review outstanding invoices, and access payment history online. Where payments are needed, the workflow is clearly displayed, including invoice generation and online payment options. Members have immediate information about where they stand, and it gives ARNSW cleaner, more reliable accounting records.

VK2Connect also improves how we handle event notification and participation. All upcoming events are listed in one place, along with details, costs (where applicable), and booking requirements.

Members can register interest or book directly through the portal, and event-related payments can be managed in the same area. This end-to-end flow helps remove confusion around booking status and payment status, particularly for paid courses and structured activities.

Beyond member-facing services, VK2Connect supports core ARNSW operations through integrated management tools. Authorised users can manage member records, process payments, manage documents, coordinate events, and run operational workflows. This improves record-keeping and significantly reduces the time and effort that Board members and other volunteers need to spend on administrative tasks.

Governance capability has also been strengthened. The platform includes structured logging and role-based access controls, helping ensure the right people can access the right functions. Compliance review tools provide reference material and checks, to make sure that our operations maintain compliance with the regulations and requirements of the modern world in which we operate.

Security has been built in as a core requirement from the beginning. The platform includes modern authentication, audit logging, and access-level separation across functions and user roles. These controls will support ARNSW in growing its digital service footprint, and ensure protection of member data and operational systems.

Once VK2Connect is launched, we will also be introducing a new ARNSW membership card. Physical cards will be sent to all members – so, before dispatch begins, members will be asked to log in and check that their personal details are current and accurate, including name, callsign, postal address, email, and mobile number. This will help ensure cards are produced correctly and delivered to the right address.

It is important to acknowledge that this is a living platform. VK2Connect is already delivering meaningful improvements, but it is also designed to evolve. Additional modules and refinements will continue to be introduced as workflows mature and member feedback is incorporated. The intention is long-term: build a reliable digital backbone for ARNSW that supports day-to-day member needs while improving organisational resilience and governance quality.

Most importantly, VK2Connect is being built for the ARNSW community. If you use the portal and see an opportunity to make something clearer, faster, or more useful, that feedback is valuable. Good systems are shaped by real users, and member input will continue to drive the next stages of improvement.

VK2Connect marks a major step forward for ARNSW. It creates a stronger digital front door for members today and a more capable operational foundation for the organisation tomorrow. The portal's final public URL will be at our regular website address, <https://arnsw.org.au>.

Matt – VK2FLY - Director

Experimenters' Group

The next gathering of the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group will be held at midday on Sunday 29th March 2026. The gathering will be after the members' meet up and trash and treasure at 63 Quarry Road Dural.

At the gathering, after the usual show and tell, Peter VK2EMU will give a presentation on "Making Frequency".

This will cover many different types of oscillators from relaxation oscillators such as bi-stables and 555, through free running RC and LC oscillators. Then progressing through crystal oscillators to frequency synthesisers such as crystal-plexing and phase locked loops, with short detours into dual modulus countering direct digital synthesis.

The presentation will end with a demonstration of one of the newest chips, available on eBay at for a few dollars that will generate ANY frequency from about 35MHz to 4.4GHz, with the ability to change frequency more than 100 times per second.

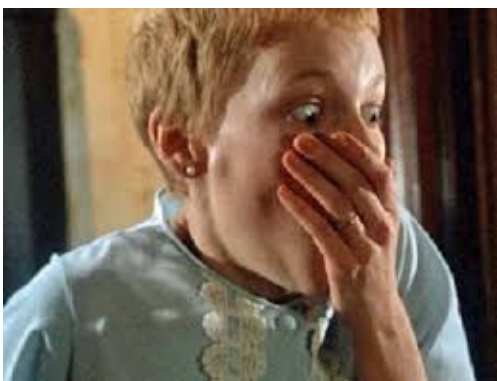
Before the main presentation, audience members are invited to present a show and tell of some piece of radio or electronic equipment that they have been working on and that others may find interesting. Show and tell presentations should be limited to 5 minutes and presenters are asked to arrive well before midday, so that if they wish to use a laptop computer that it be synced to the big television before they start.

As well as the frequency presentation, the Experimenters Group will also be running a "Flowerpot Antenna building workshop" from about 10am.

The 2 metre Flowerpot antenna was designed by the late John Bishop VK2ZOI. For a nominal cost (\$10), members with about 15 minutes to spare can build themselves a 2 metre vertical antenna.

Peter – VK2EMU - Convenor

The Case of the Mystery Curse on the 80m Antenna



About 5 years ago I put my ICOM AH4 ATU in the loft or roof space of my home and attached a long wire to it. The intention was to get onto a local 80m net. Reports from other stations said my signals were not great, but I persisted as I do not have enough space to erect a full size 80 dipole.

As many may well know, I operate 40m and 20m End Fed Half Wave antennas while out portable using my Military HF gear. They work very well and I have made many DX contacts using this type of antenna and 49:1 coupler.

Several weeks ago, I got thinking about producing a half wave end-fed antenna for 80m.

Researching the internet revealed a variety of designs and configurations. I finally settled on a potential design for my limited space. Reports from others who had constructed it were all positive and I ordered the FT 240-43 Toroids for the project and keenly waited for these to arrive.

In the mail ten days later, my goodies arrived.

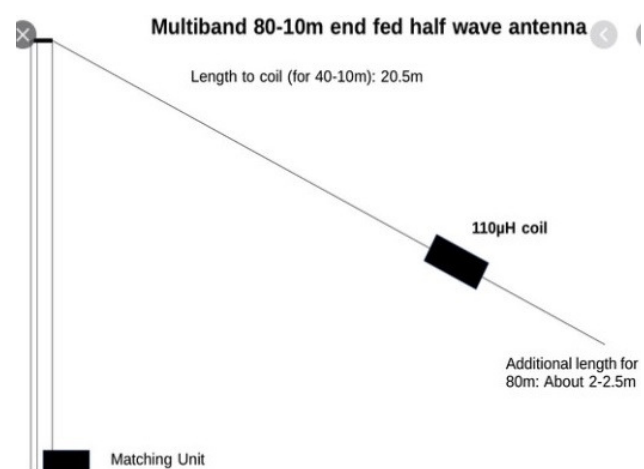
I followed the manufacturing specifications to the letter, lengths of good quality wire were ordered from the local automotive supplier, and I proceeded to wind the coupler. Excitedly, I attached a resistive load of 2450 ohms to act as an antenna load.

Using the antenna analyser, I found no resonance anywhere near on 3.5MHz or 7MHz... but on 33MHz. Scratching the head, I rechecked my results. *How could this be?*

Perhaps my antenna instrument had a flat battery, or does it have a fault? So, out came the Nano VNA and exactly the same results presented.

Perplexed, I sat back in my seat to reflect on my unexpected outcome. Could there be a break in the coax cable? It is a bit on the aged side!

I then proceeded to double check the toroid windings. Previous experience has shown me that the windings had to cover $\frac{3}{4}$ of the toroid and that the primary winding had to be twisted tightly wound to get the best results.



All this seemed ok and I then started to question my soldering and lastly the actual gauge of my wire. (A Ham friend in Scotland made that mistake in the production of his toroid by using a smaller gauge wire and spent weeks with little success. I did not want to have the same experience).

What could be wrong? I put the antenna down for a few days and while “on air”, made mention of my cursed 80m antenna.

Some local amateurs offered the loan of an 80m end-fed antenna for comparison to get me on the air. I figured the End fed Half Wave antenna on loan was going to give me a good side by side comparison.

I placed the antennas on the ground side by side and using my 20m tape measured up the “main run” of wire and the “tail”. They were within millimetres of each other.

Well, the only thing left which could be wrong was the inductance of the choke. That had to be the problem. Like most of my kit I decided to paint it green to match the surrounding gum trees. Antennas are not really allowed in our Townhouse complex. The green would help it blend away in the tree.

Perhaps the paint has affected the inductance of the choke?

I decided to eliminate all variables with the “cursed 80m Antenna”.

I ordered brand new wire, cut it to the required lengths, and rewound a new choke.

The choke construction detail was to wind on a 40mm PVC pipe using 1mm wire and 76 turns; the choke had to be 110 μ H. Its purpose was to isolate the tail section of the antennas when 7MHz and other higher frequencies were in use.



Another thought that crossed my mind was the possibility of the PVC I had used might have a high carbon content. Perhaps this was the issue?

Measurements concluded the choke was in fact 110 μ H.

Excitedly, I hooked up the new antenna (the only exception was I used the original 49:1 coupler) and started to take measurements. I slumped back in my chair. It too, was resonant at 33MHz.

I made a telephone call to my friend and gave him my disappointing results.

During the conversation he said, “I am happy if you want to take the top of the coupler and have a look.”

I thought to myself; *What am I doing, that is different to my friend’s antenna set up?*

I picked up a screwdriver and removed the lid of the coupler.

There was the answer. His toroids were larger and not painted red like mine.

The supplier had sent me the incorrect toroids!

I later found they were FT200-2 and were obviously incorrect.

Once the correct toroid was replaced, the windings constructed, a resistive load was applied and the resonance checked.

Bingo, there was the expected resonance dips for 3.5MHz, 7.2MHz, etc, that I had been chasing.

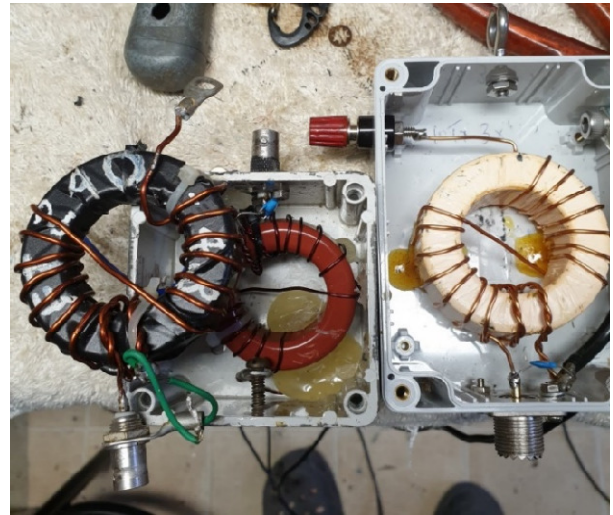
Sneaking away from the Mother’s Day celebrations at the time, I proceeded to the front yard to pull up the end fed antenna on the pulleys in my large gum tree.

A quick tune up and I was able to give a call back to the Dural Sunday Morning Broadcast on 40m.

Further tests with my Nano VNA showed very low VSWR across ranges of the HF frequencies I planned to operate

I had defeated the “Mystery Curse of the 80m Antenna”!

73 - Colin - VK2JCC



A Reminder

Please notify us of any changes to your contact details. You can use the membership form on our website at arnsw.org.au/forms/ARNSW_Membership.pdf.

With the introduction of VK2Connect, this will become something you can update yourself by logging into VK2Connect, but it is still important that we have your correct details. Remember, if we don't have your correct details, you may not get important documents. *Ed.*

Help Shape ARNSW's Future

New Volunteer Roles Now Open

As published in the last *All Access*, there are many jobs which can be done by members without having to be on the board, and more volunteers are always welcomed and encouraged. The list of priority roles sought, is again published below.

Priority roles – Events and on-site support

- **BBQ & Food Safety Coordinator** – Oversees safe food handling and BBQ operations at events.
- **On-Site Event Supervisor** – Manages event setup, flow, and on-the-day coordination.
- **Parking & Traffic Flow Coordinator** – Directs vehicle movement and parking during on site events.
- **Audio-Visual Operator** – Runs sound, teleconference, and AV equipment for presentations and gatherings.

Priority Roles - VK2WI Broadcasts

- **VK2WI Broadcast Operators** – Serve as announcers or technical operators during broadcasts.
- **Audio Segment Producer** – Creates short audio features or interviews for broadcast. *Can be fully remote, flexible time commitment.*
- **VK2WI Operations Coordinator** – Manages the operational schedule and volunteer roster for VK2WI. *Can be fully remote, flexible time commitment.*

Priority Role – Operations Support

- **Equipment Sales & Support** – Assists with equipment sales and member enquiries.

Priority Role - Activity Group Co-ordination

- **Youth Engagement Coordinator** – Develops activities and outreach for younger members. *Partially remote.*

The roles outlined above are current priorities, but they are not the only opportunities available.

All Access is a newsletter published by Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for distribution to members and friends of ARNSW. If you wish to comment on any item published, suggest further matters for publication, or submit an article, please contact the editor, Eric VK2VE, by email to editor@arnsw.org.au or post to Editor, ARNSW, PO Box 6044, Dural DC, 2158.

All content of the newsletter is copyright ARNSW and may not be reproduced in any form without the written consent of the editor.

We welcome ideas for additional activities that align with members' skills and interests.

Whether you have an hour a week or a few hours a month, there is a role where you can contribute. If you would like to get involved, or if you'd simply like to learn more, we'd love to hear from you.

Mathew – VK2YAP - President

Shorts

Don't forget – Member Meetup, Trash and Treasure & Experimenters' Meeting:

- ❖ ***When: Sunday, 29th March***
- ❖ ***Where: 63 Quarry Road Dural***
- ❖ ***Starting: at 9:00 am for buyers***
- ❖ ***Gates open from 8:30 am for set up and parking***
- ❖ ***Don't forget the new 50km/h speed zone on Quarry Road.***
- ❖ ***If you are queueing to enter, please queue on the opposite side of Quarry Road.***
- ❖ ***Please do not queue on the property side – this is dangerous for approaching vehicles.***
- ❖ ***Sausage sizzle will **NOT** be running. We need volunteers to run them.***
- ❖ ***Drinks will be available – both tea/coffee and soft drinks – you can pay cash in the tin in the fridge or use the QR code on the fridge door to pay by card.***
- ❖ ***Experimenters' Group starting at Midday.***
- ❖ ***We look forward to seeing you there.***