

## **VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST**

**FOR SUNDAY 4 JULY 2010**

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### **WIA CENTENARY**

Justin VK7TW will be interviewed about all things amateur radio and the Wireless Institute of Australia's centenary celebrations today on ABC local Tasmanian radio by Chris Wisbey on his "Weekends" program which runs from 6-11am on a Sunday.

[http://www.abc.net.au/hobart/programs/hobart\\_weekends/](http://www.abc.net.au/hobart/programs/hobart_weekends/)

The interview will take place after this broadcast from around 10:30am (local) on ABC 936kHz Hobart and 91.7MHz NE Tasmania.

This is a follow-up to the breakfast interview with Michael Veitch on Thursday 24th which was only heard in Hobart on 936.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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### **VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR**

A summary of the events across VK7 over the coming months:

REAST – July 7 – SGM & Constructors Night – Optical Transceiver starts 8pm in the Queen's Domain Clubrooms.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#constructornight>

NTARC – July 14 – Presentation on the Magic Band - 6 metres – 7:30pm at the Alanvale campus of the Tasmanian Skills Institute – Block B.

[www.ntarc.net](http://www.ntarc.net)

WICEN South – July 16 and 17 – Endurance ride – Cliftonvale Checkpoints and tracking for 20, 40 and 80km rides. Survey and set up Friday p.m. First riders away 0730 Saturday.

[http://tas.wicen.org.au/Diary/coming\\_events\\_1.htm](http://tas.wicen.org.au/Diary/coming_events_1.htm)

SMS – July 25 – Sorell Men's Shed Winter Ham Fest – Sorell Men's Shed – Station Lane – Sorell.

<http://www.sorellmensshed.org/>

REAST – August 4 – Homebrew/Construction - Show & Tell Night – starts 8pm in the Queen's Domain Clubrooms.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#showandtell>

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## **NON-COMMERCIAL FOR SALES AND WANTED**

### ***For Sale***

Neil VK7NT has a Diamond 2 metre base station antenna, model F-23. It's in excellent condition, comes in 3 sections, and when put together is 4.6 metres in length. Boasting a beefy 8dBi of gain, this would give your 2 metre signal a very pronounced lift.

Neil is asking for \$150 for this antenna.

If interested then give him a call on VK7RAA.

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## **NORTHERN NEWS**

### ***Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club***

[www.ntarc.net](http://www.ntarc.net)

Tony VK7YBG has been doing some wonderful things with WICEN in the North of Tasmania lately, and his next venture is to organise assistance with the next horse riders endurance event.

This event is to be held at Beaconsfield, and so is a little closer to home for many NTARC members. If you think you can help with this event, give Tony a call and he'd be glad to explain what is involved, and what you might be able to contribute.

Every operator has their favourite band to operate on. For those passionate about 6 metres, they call it 'the magic band'. It's certainly a mixed bag for newcomers to that band, with some characteristics of HF, some of VHF, and some unique little quirks all to itself.

If you'd like to find out just why 6 metres is so 'magic' then the next NTARC meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July should be put on your calendar. We'll announce more details in the coming weeks, but can confirm that the venue will be the usual place at Alanvale campus of the Tasmanian Skills Institute.

Thanks from

(Jason VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

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## **NORTH WEST NEWS**

### ***Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)***

#### ***CCARC News***

<http://www.my-x15.net/ccarc>

The last meeting of the CCARC on the 26th of June featured Vernon VK7VF giving a talk on the HP 8924C test set and the RF tools software package that can control it.

The 8924C is a CDMA mobile phone test set that also does FM and SSB transceiver testing to 1000MHz. With a bit of clever programming the device can also determine fault in coaxial cable and even pinpoint the position in the cable where the fault is. Many thanks to Vernon for taking the time and effort to do this presentation.

### ***Slow Scan TV***

The meeting also endorsed the use of SSTV or similar modes on the Lonah repeater 146.750mhz subject to the following conditions which are also available on the club website. –

While the repeater is licenced for various modes of transmission, voice will remain primary, SSTV or other modes will remain at all times the secondary mode of communication on the repeater, i.e. if someone is having a voice contact, then the SSTV users must wait until the repeater becomes clear.

SSTV users may then use the repeater unimpeded unless some-one has some urgent voice traffic that cannot be re-directed to another channel. For this reason, make sure to allow time between SSTV transmissions for other users to break in.

We require that voice identification is used immediately preceding, and immediately after every SSTV transmission. This should avoid anybody listening getting upset by anonymous transmissions, and may actually encourage others to participate.

There is currently no reason to impose any time restrictions on when the repeater may be used for SSTV, however should some problem arise this may have to be reviewed.

Should the Mt Duncan repeater unexpectedly fail, then SSTV activity would need to be suspended for the duration.

The use of SSTV, etc on VK7RNW is not restricted to CCARC members. It is available to all amateurs who hold the appropriate licence.

### ***Amateur Radio Assessments***

Prospective amateurs and amateurs wishing to upgrade can contact the learning facilitator Keith Winkler VK7KW who can help you along the path to a new licence. Contact details are available on the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club website, which is easily found by a Google search for CCARC Tasmania

Regards from  
(David, VK7DC, Secretary, CCARC)

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***North West Tasmania Amateur Television Group***

<http://www2.vk7ax.id.au/atvgroup/>

***Amateur Radio Licence Assessments and Training***

Persons in the N/West Area of VK7 interested in Training and Assessments for all classes of Amateur Radio are advised that the Club can provide all these requirements and in addition provision of Facilitators via the Radio and Electronics School if candidates so desire.

For more information regarding these facilities, please contact the Club's Learning Organizer Tony VK7AX, or the Club. Contact details can be found on the Club Web Site or the WIA site under VK7 Clubs.,

73's until next time

(Tony VK7AX, News Officer – NWTATVG)

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**SOUTHERN NEWS**

***Sorell Men's Shed Winter Ham Fest***

The Sorell Men's Shed will be holding a winter Ham Fest on Sunday the 25th of July.

There will be:

- Science and Technology displays,
- Wind turbines and charging systems,
- Home Brew competition,
- Antenna Construction workshops,
- VK7SMS Station will be on air,
- Show and Tell Table,
- Pre loved items for sale- Swap or Trade,
- Trade Table.
- Fresh Sausage making demonstration with Cabana Sausages, and Bratwurst. Why not try your hand at linking sausages. There will be a smoking sausages at home demonstration with tasting after the demonstration.

Gold coin donation with all proceeds going to Sorell Men's Shed.

Enquiries for the great day call or email [ken@sorellmensshed.org](mailto:ken@sorellmensshed.org)  
<http://www.sorellmensshed.org/>

(Ken, VK7DY)

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***WICEN South Invitation***

Saturday 17th July will see a Southern Tasmanian Endurance Riders (STER) event at Clifton Vale, only a short drive from Hobart's Northern suburbs. Why not come out and see why we keep doing these events? There are at least two checkpoints accessible by ordinary car and all you need is a pen and 2m tone capable radio. We can even lend you one for the day. If you want to bring some jelly beans to hand out to the passing riders, you'll go home with an even warmer inner glow from appreciative comments. If you eat them all yourself, you'll go home with different inner feelings!

The Clifton Vale property is on a terrific piece of mixed farming and forestry country 14 km along the Clifton Vale road from the Midlands Highway at Dysart. Just turn left almost at the top of the hill out of Bagdad. There will be signs.

Even better, come out on Friday afternoon and explore the country while we set up Base and survey the course. STER will run a basic BBQ all weekend with food/drink for sale. Hamburgers, chicken burgers & sausages in bread, egg & bacon rolls, cold & hot drink & chocolates will be available. Plenty of room for camping etc. at Base, or, if you want to be more adventurous, you might chose to camp at a Checkpoint and have a lie in on Saturday morning, so long as you're up and about before the clippity cloppers approach your location.

If you're not sure this is for you, just drop in on Saturday 17th July, see what it's all about and why we keep going back for more.

Further details and a Google map can be found on the email and internet editions of this broadcast.

[http://tas.wicen.org.au/Diary/coming\\_events\\_1.htm](http://tas.wicen.org.au/Diary/coming_events_1.htm)

(Roger VK7ARN, Secretary WICEN Tasmania (South))

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***Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania***

<http://reast.asn.au/>

***July Presentation***

***Constructor's Night – Optical Transceivers***

This Wednesday night the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 8:00pm we will be constructing simple light transceivers during the night and then testing and talking to each other via red LED light.

Please bring along your soldering iron, some solder and side cutters for a fun night of construction. Don't worry if you don't own a soldering iron there will be some spare irons, etc just in case you don't have one.

We have all the kits ready and accounted for so if you have ordered one or more the final cost is \$15ea and includes the 9v battery.

If you have some small lenses then bring them along and we can demonstrate how much gain you can get from a lens to increase the distance you can operate over.

Even if you don't want to put a kit together then you are most welcome to come along and help the novice kit constructors and have some fun with the finished kits talking to each other.

See you there.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#constructornight>

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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### ***Special General Meeting***

Please note there will be the quickest Special General Meeting in the history of the club just before the Constructor's night to present the audited 2009 accounts by the Treasurer.

(REAST Committee)

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### ***Licence Examinations***

If you are interested in sitting an amateur radio assessment and this can be for any of the assessments then contact Reg VK7KK on 0417 391 607, or email on [regemm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:regemm@ozemail.com.au).

(73, Reg VK7KK, REAST Education Officer and Assessor)

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### ***ATV Experimenters Night***

Last week we had a fantastic roll-up.

Warren VK7FEET was our anchor for the night and he took us through his trip to the Macquarie Island and then took questions from the studio audience.

Warren took us through a day in the life of a Communications Support Officer during the Pest Eradication Program along with his experiences on Macquarie Island.

Warren also took a great photo of the 1911-13 Expeditioners that went down to Macquarie Island as support for the 1911-13 Mawson Expedition to Antarctica. A reproduction of this picture now hangs in the Queen's Domain clubrooms as this was the station that the clubroom were originally built to communicate with.

Our video presentation for the night continued with the Antarctic theme with the presentation by Graham Denyer VK7JN about amateur radio and medicine in Antarctica.

Then we went inside for a hot cup of tea and a chat with the many people who came along.

We get back underway with our ATV nights in a fortnight time.

Hope to see you along.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#ATVnights>

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### *Elektor unveils DSP radio*

The Summer Circuits issue of Elektor magazine features a construction project for a world radio receiver using a digital signal processor (DSP). The DSP radio has a USB interface for connection to a PC, which enables the radio to be configured and controlled from the PC if desired and use the PC speakers for audio output, as well as drawing power from the USB port. The unit can receive and demodulate FM signals in the FM broadcast band and AM signals over a frequency range of 153 kHz to 21.85 MHz.

Many radio amateurs use two receivers in practice: one portable and the other fixed, with PC control capability. The Elektor DSP radio can operate in either capacity. To support stand-alone portable operation with power provided by a 6 V battery, the circuit also includes an audio amplifier for mono or stereo output. A backlit 2 x 16 LCD module provides the user interface.

[http://www.elektor.com/news/elektor-unveils-dsp-radio.1407708.lynkx?utm\\_source=UK&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=news](http://www.elektor.com/news/elektor-unveils-dsp-radio.1407708.lynkx?utm_source=UK&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news)

(Sourced from the Elektor E-Zine)

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## SATELLITE NEWS

### *ARISS-Built AIS Antenna Reports Good Performance On-Orbit*

SpaceDaily.com reported this week that ESA's Columbus module maritime Automatic Identification System (AIS) aboard the International Space Station was switched on. The AIS antenna, mounted externally on the Columbus module, was fabricated by AMSAT and ARISS member Lou McFadin, W5DID and the US ARISS team. The team has also fabricated a nearly-identical twin amateur band antenna for ARISS. The ARISS antenna will be used when the Ericsson amateur radio gear is activated in early 2011.

ESA reported receiving more than 90,000 Class A AIS messages during a 14 hour test between 1900 GMT on 2 June and 0900 GMT on 3 June. This generated a global view of maritime traffic as the ISS orbit crosses all major shipping lanes.

AIS is currently a terrestrial VHF system with an average range of 40 nautical miles (74 km). This makes it useful within coastal zones and on a ship-to-ship basis but open ocean traffic remains largely untracked. The Columbus AIS Experiment (COLAIS) detected these signals from orbit. All international vessels, cargo ships above certain weights and passenger carriers of all sizes must carry 'Class A' AIS transponders, broadcasting continually updated identification and navigation data.

An ESA spokesman said, "We are currently testing the NORAIS receiver, built by the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment and Kongsberg Seatex. In three months' time the Station crew will switch it with a second receiver called LUXAIS, the work of Luxembourg companies Luxspace and Emtronix. For the next two years we will go on swapping between these receivers."

With commissioning completed, the experiment is run remotely and the results are routed via the Columbus Control Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany to COLAIS teams.

ARISS-International says the cable for operating the Ericsson system in the Columbus Module is in final preparation at Kennedy Space Center for launch to the ISS. Installation is planned for early 2011. At that time the twin ARISS amateur radio antenna on the Columbus module and the second amateur radio station aboard the ISS will be activated.

See the full story at SpaceDaily.com and the URL can be found on the broadcast and internet editions of this broadcast.

<http://tinyurl.com/263rkj7>

(AMSAT News Service)

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## **SATELLITE NEWS**

### ***SO-67 Operation Suspended***

Due to the erratic operation of the onboard computer, SO67 operations have been suspended while the ground station investigates the problem. It is expected that recent changes in the software that operates the amateur payload could be the cause.

SA AMSAT will advise the amateur world when operation will be resumed. Will let you know with any updates as they come in.

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/amsatvk/>

(Regards Mal Pizzey VK2MAL via the AMSAT-VK Mailing List)

Mal VK2MAL has volunteered to take over from Tony Langdon VK3JED to schedule SO-67 in our region.

(73 de VK3JED / VK3IRL)

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## **SPACE NEWS**

### ***Are Uranus & Neptune responsible for Solar Grand Minima and Solar Cycle Modulation?***

The following is an abstract of a paper from Geoff Sharp in the Solar and Stellar Astrophysics journal.

Detailed solar Angular Momentum (AM) graphs produced from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) DE405 ephemeris display cyclic perturbations that show a very strong correlation with prior solar activity slowdowns.

These same AM perturbations also occur simultaneously with known solar path changes about the Solar System Barycentre (SSB). The AM perturbations can be measured and quantified allowing analysis of past solar cycle modulations along with the 11,500 year solar proxy records (14C & 10Be).

The detailed AM information also displays a recurring wave of modulation that aligns very closely with the observed sunspot record since 1650. The AM perturbation and modulation is a direct product of the outer gas giants (Uranus & Neptune).

This information gives the opportunity to predict future grand minima along with normal solar cycle strength with some confidence. A proposed

mechanical link between solar activity and planetary influence via a discrepancy found in solar/planet AM along with current AM perturbations indicate solar cycle 24 & 25 will be heavily reduced in sunspot activity resembling a similar pattern to solar cycles 5 & 6 during the Dalton Minimum (1790-1830).

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1005.5303v3>

(Sourced from CG Communicator)

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## **HISTORY NEWS**

### ***A 1928 Description of Amateur Station 1AS***

The following article is sourced from the latest NZART InfoLine News bulletin.

(In New Zealand - OZ1AS in 1928 became ZL1AS after 1930)

The term "station" is used because the shack stands upon a high "platform"-also one hears of "signals" there. Having climbed to reach there you are welcomed by 1AS, and the first thing that strikes you (if you are not careful) is the door frame. The exertion of the climb encourages you to sink into one of the chesterfields, set along the whole length of the shack (no matter which you choose they're both alike). After resting you are escorted to the extreme end of the shack, and 1AS points out his set (you wouldn't recognise it otherwise). Whether the "set" is on him or not he's never explained.

There's neither anything out of the ordinary or anything in common with other sets of the same breed. The circuit is a "troubled harley." Now for constructional details: Secure two stout uprights and some threeply, nail them together and you have a frame. Obtain some air and wind on 'steen turns of wire, and you have a splendid "felix." Suspend this in the space between the two threeply panels, add a few other gadgets and a "bottle."

(The arrangement depending upon the amount of transformer oil in the rectifier). Having assembled the set as per instructions you squeeze the lemon, in other words turn on the juice, press the key, if your transmitter is not locked the ether is open, and QSL's will come rolling in from all continents.

From Break-In for March-1928 Vol 1 No. 3.

Text for this issue of Break-In can be found at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/breakin/breakin-archive.html>

(sourced from the NZART HQ InfoLine)

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## **WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS! !**

North American QRP CW Club July Challenge

<http://home.windstream.net/yoel/challenges201007.html>

Driving and Dementia

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/thepulse/stories/2010/07/01/2941229.htm>

Economic System for Rotating Antennas (in Spanish)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yM13ODdAt0U&feature=digest>

That interesting dig in Hobart

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2010/06/30/2941267.htm?site=hobart>

Science Fiction by Decade

<http://www.vivzizi.com/sciencefictionbythedecade.html>

The best music hourly

<http://www.vivzizi.com/thebestmusichourly.html>

Daily hurricane satellite and weather images

[www.GlobalBoiling.com](http://www.GlobalBoiling.com)

Daily earthquake, sun and more

[www.ElectricQuakes.com](http://www.ElectricQuakes.com)

Flying Pigs QRP Club – Run for the Bacon

<http://www.fpqrp.com/fpqrprun.php>

The French and D-Star (Thanks to Paul VK7PAH)

<http://draf.asso.fr/index.php?post/2010/06/28/D-STAR-situation-in-France>

New Versions of Field Strength Meter Released

<http://www.vk1od.net/>

Download your July Skymap

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/starhunt/tour/outdoor/>

The following links are courtesy of CG Communicators:

Interim tower processing standards proposed to protect birds from colliding with tall towers: <http://www.rwonline.com/article/100526>

Video of a falling Loran tower. More than just spectacular, this video is educational in the way the tower collapses:

<http://www.rwonline.com/article/100502>

A brief (5 min.) history of batteries: <http://tinyurl.com/BattHistory>

RFI, probably military in nature, impacts San Diego coastal folks:

<http://tinyurl.com/Military-RFI>

"Hams may save us when the Big One hits:"

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/ham-252779-radio-spencer.html>

How some enemy aircraft were detected before the invention of Radar:

<http://tinyurl.com/BigAcousticEars>

Modern Russian trucking: <http://www.flixy.com/ural-4320-off-road-6x6-truck.htm>

Israeli fire escape video, something you won't soon forget:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w1h12UfhA>

Repairing satellites and even exploring outer space may one day be done by robots called Justin: <http://tinyurl.com/RobotsInSpace>

Moving the 200-inch mirror from Caltech in Pasadena to the top of Palomar Mountain -- Part One of a two part series:

<http://tinyurl.com/MovingTheGiantEye>

Automated weather reports are now available from the High Point Fire Lookout Tower on Palomar Mountain: <http://aprs.fi/weather/KF6ILA-10>  
(Weather station data) <http://www.socalfirelookouts.org/page3.html>  
(Lookout info)

Do you have some interesting internet sites you have some across in the last week – send them in to [justingc@ozemail.com.au](mailto:justingc@ozemail.com.au)

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### ***VK7 Regional News Group Email Addresses***

Post message: [vk7regionalnews@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews@yahoogroups.com)

Subscribe: [vk7regionalnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Unsubscribe: [vk7regionalnews-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

List owner: [vk7regionalnews-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews-owner@yahoogroups.com)

### ***VK7 Virtual BPL Tours***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdcY0Eetvsw> - Mt Nelson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gsxpya3CnQ> - North Hobart

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7DfdxjRkpU> - RU ready for BPL?

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If you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator or upgrading your licence then we suggest you contact your local club for details and/or take a look at what the Radio and Electronics School has to offer.

They have a range of courses that can be delivered through a variety of methods.

They can be found at: [www.radioelectronicschool.com](http://www.radioelectronicschool.com)

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Finally today, a reminder to those people rostered for next week's broadcasts:

Newsreader: VK7FB

80m: VK7EM

40m: VK7JGD

20m: VK7AR

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7HGO

HF CB: VK7TED

Thanks to all people and organisations who assisted with this broadcast.

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THAT CONCLUDES OUR VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST FOR THIS WEEK.

YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO OR JUST MISSED VK7WI. NEXT WEEK THE NATIONAL WIA NEWS CAN BE HEARD AT 0900 FOLLOWED BY THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS AT 0930 HOURS.

DETAILS TO SEND NEWS FOR THIS BROADCAST CAN BE FOUND AT [REAST.ASN.AU](http://REAST.ASN.AU) AND THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.