

The North West Amateur Radio Group (VK2) – Historical Information

The North West Amateur Group was formed at the first meeting in 1977, and was loosely based on the Northern area bounded by Tamworth NSW in the South, and the Queensland Border in the North.

The Group's first repeater was a 2 metre repeater VK2RAB (- on 146.850 MHz) and commenced operations at the Porcupine Reserve - Gunnedah on the 2nd December 1977.

Subsequent opportunities to upgrade the coverage area saw the repeater moved to other sites at "Blackjack Mountain" near Gunnedah, and also to "Mount Kaputar" near Narrabri

A group of Amateurs who worked at the OTC Earth Station Site at Moree had been worked on a second 2 Metre repeater to cover the Northern section of the Group's range. This repeater was eventually placed into service at "The Tops" which is located part-way between Moree and Inverell in Northern NSW. (The call-sign allocated was "VK2RMI" - with the "MI" representing "Moree-Inverell" area)

The VK2RMI Repeater at "The Tops" started operations on 2nd December 1978, initially running on the 146.950 MHz frequency. At a site visit and power upgrade on New Year's day 1979 , reception reports were received from base stations and mobiles from Moree, Bingara, Inverell, Ashford, Tenterfield, Black Mountain, Darling Downs , Tamworth, Gunnedah , Tambar Springs and Narrabri. These results were very good news the hard-working OTC team, and vindication of their efforts.

A later repeater installation in the area, (VK2RNE at Glen Innes), was allocated the operating frequency of 146.650 MHz, but this was found to have interference problems in its operational area. The frequencies at VK2RMI ("The Tops") and the new VK2RNE repeater were later swapped-over on 10th July 1982 to eliminate the problem. The VK2RMI (The Tops") repeater is now on the 146.650 MHz frequency, and the VK2RNE is on the frequency 146.925 MHz (NOTE : The call-sign VK2RNE . was chosen to represent "NE" as being in the "New England" region)

The North West Amateur club was the main club in the Northern Region for a long time before the other clubs and groups were spun-off and started in other centres. The repeater site at "The Governor" (- Mt Kaputar National Park) was kept active by the North West Amateur Group, and a 2 Metre repeater and 70cm repeater were later re-installed. The VK2RNW repeaters went on air in early 1990, and have been operating continuously at Mt Kaputar since that time. (The call-sign VK2RNW. was chosen to represent "NW" as being in the "North Western" region)

The North West Club currently has two repeater sites, namely:-

(i) the "Mt Kaputar" site VK2RNW 146.625 MHz / 438.575 MHz / 53.600 MHz, and a APRS repeater on 145.175 MHz Linking to other 2Metre repeaters in the Northern region has also been achieved by participation in the "North Link" project . Future projects include a 23cm repeater.

(ii) "The Tops" site VK2RMI which has its 2 Metre repeater on 146.650 MHz, and a APRS repeater operating on 145.175 MHz

(NOTE : Additional information (if available) can be provided on request from the "North West Amateur Radio Group")