



2023 WICEN (ACT) State Co-ordinators report

2023 saw the level of activities supported by WICEN ACT continue at a reduced rate.

February	1 Day – SCSCC Mini Eden Rally (commercial equipment and some personnel)
May	1 Day – Narooma Rally (Narooma area, equipment only)
October	2 days – ANU Inwards Bound (southern NSW, equipment only)
October	1 day – Brookvale horse endurance event (Uriarra area)
October	1 day – Effervelo mountain bike event (Brindabellas, equipment only)
October	2 days – Bega Valley Rally (Bega area, commercial equipment and some personnel)
November	2 days – Rally of Canberra (various locations in the region)

Whether it is covid continuing to impact on general activity levels or some other factors, the type of events that we have historically been supporting have reduced in numbers. We remain on the lookout for other activities to support or other opportunities that may arise.

This year saw the main rally again switching up to the Rally of Canberra and was held at the end of the year which meant we enjoyed warmer (and dustier) weather than normally experienced earlier in the year. Overall a very successful event that the organisers (as usual) were very appreciative of our support.

Due to a variety of reasons including increased costs, reduced participant numbers and low volunteer numbers, Fitz’s Challenge was not held last year. If it is run in 2024, the format or course may be changed as the organisers seek to reinvent the event (they are hopeful that an event will be run this year – TBA).

The Brookvale endurance horse ride event returned to the Brookvale property and surrounding forests with a similar layout as previous years. Like a lot of events and activities, they are also seeing reduced numbers of participants, but have enough to continue, so we hope to assist with this event for years to come.

The Effervelo event was a mountain bike event held in the northern Brindabellas (first time supported and possibly the first time conducted). Due to the very short notice received, we only loaned equipment last year, but if it goes ahead again in 2024, we may end up increasing our assistance to include manned checkpoints with WICEN operators to enhance their communications.

We don’t have a huge number of events on the books for 2024 as yet, but expect there to be a similar number and type to last year. Events we do know about are the SCSCC Mini Eden Rally on March 9th and the **2024 Rally of Canberra** on the weekend after Easter on **April 6 and 7**, a call for assistance is about to be issued and as usual we will let members know once we know more about other events later on in the year.

The financial donations received by the club for WICEN supported activities assist the club to cover a significant portion of the club’s operating expenses and ability to maintain a number of services provided to club members and the wider amateur community across the region reducing the need for an otherwise significant membership subscription increase. However, it remains at times quite difficult to attract support for these events, often needing multiple calls for assistance and even

individual approaches to get sufficient people. If you have the time free, please put your hand up and join us in what can be quite enjoyable activities.

WICEN activities are an extension of CRARC, indeed we often state that “WICEN ACT is the Community Service arm of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club”, please continue to support your club and participate in at least one WICEN event each year, so please watch out for events on the club website and in email news.

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