

## **Silent Key.**

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

The Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and fellow club member Max Munro VK2FMRM, on Thursday morning 12th May, aged 83 years, following a long battle with ill health.

Max obtained his amateur radio licence in May 2009. He joined the club at the same time and was a member of the WIA. He was almost always heard on the club's weekly net when his health allowed and was known by all as a true gentleman. In his earlier years, Max was an aircraft pilot and flew out of Cootamundra and Temora doing crop dusting.

Max is survived by his 2 daughters and 3 sons.

It is anticipated his funeral will be held on Wednesday 18th May, 10:30am at St. John's Church, Campbelltown.

Please pause with us, while we remember Max.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Max Munro VK2FMRM.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR  
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

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## **In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;**

Next weekend is the May Foundation course and assessments at VK2WI. Its fully booked with 6 Foundation candidates and 2 upgrades.

The next available weekend is in July on the 23rd and 24th. Bookings by an email to; [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

Foundation manuals are available for collection from ARNSW on Sunday morning during broadcast times or by prior arrangement. You can also get them by mail by ordering through the WIA bookshop.

The Trash & Treasure is on Sunday the 29th May. Major items on offer can be viewed on the ARNSW website; go to Radio Equipment Sales from the home page.

## **ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group**

The next bi-monthly meeting of the group will be on Sunday the 29th of May, after the Trash and Treasure. It's here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

Last September, Roger VK2KXG gave a presentation on Smith Charts and this month, we will have a practical follow up.

One of the topics that Roger covered was matching to an antenna using a combination of stubs made from lengths of 50 Ohm and 75 Ohm coax. A 9.5m tall vertical, with a ground mat will be set up in the car park and impedance readings will be taken for a number of frequencies. Then back to the Smith Chart followed by hands on with the coax, tape measures, cutters and soldering irons.

The presentation will end with some testing, to see if the practical agrees with the theory.

The meeting will start with the usual "Show and Tell" segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on. All are welcome – noon on Sunday the 29th of May at 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU  
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group*

## **US licence exams in Sydney – an update**

Early on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of April, a group of 4 Volunteer Examiners, Tom WB2KLD, visiting from upstate New York, his son Craig KB2KDP, Brad AK2QQ, and Julian AG6LE, assembled in Campbelltown, joined by the candidates, Queenslanders John and James, plus David, a local.

All candidates passed the three exam elements, making three brand new Extra class licensees. Paperwork, including a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) and the licence application was completed for each candidate, to be forwarded to ARRL-VEC.

Given it was the first session for the three locals, it was great to have Tom involved, taking part in his 34th session.

Licences were issued on Thursday 21st with sequential callsigns. Two applied for vanity callsigns, now free, and these have recently been issued. Congratulations to John AC8WN, James KV4JY, and David AK2DM.

*Julian VK2YJS / AG6LE*

## Upcoming Hamventions

When you think about Hamventions, the obvious one that comes to mind is the annual Dayton Hamvention in the US. Its on next weekend, the 21st and 22nd of May.

There are some other events worldwide - In Europe, the 41st Exhibition runs from the 24th to 26th of June at Friedrichshafen.

In Great Britain, there are two events - The first is the National Hamfest on 30th September and 1st October, and the other is the RSGB 2016 Convention, which runs from the 7th to the 9th October.

And locally - the 45th Oxley Region at Port Macquarie is on the June Long Weekend, Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	90	88	84	89	89	94	92
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	12	9	32	21	15	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	14	4	38	15	12	2	2 estimated
T index	35	27	44	16	9	15	22

Solar activity was low on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and very low on other days. Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was Quiet to Active with isolated minor storm periods on the 6<sup>th</sup>. After quiet to unsettled conditions on the 7<sup>th</sup>, activity increased to minor storm, reaching major storm level on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Activity was quiet to active on the 9<sup>th</sup>, through to the 10<sup>th</sup> seeing some isolated Active conditions, before settling to quiet conditions on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bad news for F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region; They started out near predicted on the 6<sup>th</sup> then became depressed 20% on the 7<sup>th</sup>, worsening to 30% depressed after local dawn on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then returned to near predicted values. But the improvement was short lived; with the 9<sup>th</sup> seeing depressions of 30% after local dawn, worsening to 50% during the day, and hardly improving at 40% during the night. The 10<sup>th</sup> improved slightly to 35% depressed day and 30% night, then on the 11<sup>th</sup> depression of 25% and the 12<sup>th</sup>, depressions of 20% during day and 15% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of May; looking a bit better...

Solar activity should be very low to low. Geomagnetic conditions will be mostly quiet from the 13-15 May. However, by the 16<sup>th</sup> expect activity will increase to Unsettled with isolated periods of Active levels, before a gradual return to mostly Quiet conditions.

Maximum Usable frequencies should be near predicted monthly values but with possible periods of minor to mild depressions.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

First, the figures for April were;

Minimum 77      Average 93      Maximum 117  
Peak dates between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>

The figures so far for May;

Minimum 82      Average 90      Maximum 100  
Peak dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>

And the prediction for June;

Minimum 82      Average 88      Maximum 95  
With peak dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.*

[using daily data updates from :  
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

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## **ARRL DX news**

MALTA, 9H. Mek, SQ3RX is active as 9H3SQ from Marsalforn, Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, until May 19. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly 80 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Hrane, YT1AD and Acim, YT3M are active as 9M6/YT1AD and 9M6/YT3M, respectively, from the city of Kota Kinabalu on Sabah until May 19. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q. Fernando, EA4BB is active as 9Q6BB from Kinshasa for the next three years. QSL via operator's instructions.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Roly, ZL1BQD is active as H44RR from Honiara, IOTA OC-047, and then Munda, IOTA OC-149, until May 25. Activity is on HF bands using JT65, and possibly including 160 meters using CW as well. QSL direct to home call.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Gerd, DL7VOG is active as J68GU until May 22. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

CURACAO, PJ2. Ron, PB0AEX will be active as PJ2/PB0AEX from May 16 to June 6. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Godoi, PY4NY is active as PY0NY until May 23. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to home call.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO, TN. Phil, F5MVB and Joe, F5AOW will be active as TN2MP and TN2BJ, respectively, from Brazzaville until May 23. Activity will be on 20 to 10 meters, and possibly 40 and 30 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

INDONESIA, YB. Bob, PB5X will be active as YB9/PB5X from Bali, IOTA OC-022, from May 16 to June 1. Activity will be holiday style mostly on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB between 1500 to 1800z. QSL via PA1AW.

AUSTRALIA, VK. VK stations may use the AX prefix on May 17 during the celebration of International Telecommunications Day.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Libya, 5A1AL, all operations.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ-M International DX Contest, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, HPC World Wide DX BPSK63 Contest, Arkansas QSO Party, MARAC USA CW QSO Party, FISTS Spring Unlimited CW Sprint, 50 MHz Spring Sprint, WAB 7 MHz Phone and the UA2 QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for May 16. The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for May 18.

The ARRL National Parks on the Air event runs throughout 2016 to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

## WICEN News

WICEN is supporting a number of Alzheimer's Australia Memory Walk & Jog events. These are fairly short and ideal for new members. Albury-Wodonga's event is on May 22, and the Hunter event is May 29 at Warner's Bay.

Members should have received an email regarding the training day – its on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of June at VK2WI in Dural, but please note the correct start time; its 9am sharp!

True Grit is a military-inspired running and obstacle course event, on June 11 and 12 at Dargle Farm, Lower Portland. There is a requirement for shifts throughout the night, and it finishes mid-afternoon on Sunday. Camping is possible on site. If you wish to assist, please indicate what part of the weekend you are available.

The BWRS Navshield is over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd July, with set-up on Friday 1st. The location remains secret. As well as the support roles, there is the possibility of a WICEN Team.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) - includes contact details, useful links, and a printable membership form. WICEN has a twitter account: @wicennsw. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The website is [crarc.ampr.org](http://crarc.ampr.org). This now includes information on their DMR or Digital Mobile Radio project.

Their coming events include the BMSC National Capital Rally over the weekend of May 28 and 29. Foundation courses run bi-monthly; the next is on next weekend, May 21 and 22, with exams for all levels on the Sunday.

WICEN Victoria is supporting the Mallee Rally is on the weekend of 11 and 12 June at Sea Lake, south of Euston and Robinvale. The website is: [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS  
on behalf of the WICEN NSW State Management Committee.*

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## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next Friday Night gathering is this Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, from 7pm, at the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

It is now only four weeks until the club's annual Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. This year, the field day returns to the newly refurbished Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall, on Matthew Flinders Drive, Port Macquarie. All the usual field day attractions including fox hunts, trade displays, disposals and home brew competition will be there. The Field Day Dinner will be, as usual, at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. It is prudent to book accommodation early, as Port Macquarie is a popular destination for the June long weekend.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444.. The Advanced Licence classes are running on Friday nights.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week from 7:30 pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net takes place at 9 am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club visit the website, at [orarc.org](http://orarc.org). There you will find a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The newly published May 2016 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", and past issues are able to be viewed via the website. The 2016 Field Day programme is also available on the website.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE  
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

## Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday June the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Meetings are at the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle starting at 8pm local time. After general business there is a technical lecture, followed by supper.

The Group's Weekly Monday night broadcasts are made by VK2AWX from 7:30pm, through the 2 metre repeater VK2RNC on 146.9MHz and 438.025MHz.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. They operate on VHF 146.9 MHz, 146.975 MHz with Echo Link, UHF on 438.025MHz as well as a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

*Charlie VK2CLH for Rodney VK2CN secretary*

## **Waverley Amateur Society**

The next regular monthly meeting of the club is this Wednesday May 18th, at the Scout hall in Vickery Avenue at Rose Bay, right behind the Rose Bay RSL Club.

The meeting will commence with the AGM, followed by a talk by a special guest, Mark Fahey. Mark is an expert in North Korean broadcast media, and will speak about his six visits to North Korea where he not only documented and photographed propaganda as a part of everyday life, but also, using clandestine recording devices, monitored and recorded North Korean radio and TV broadcast media signals. Mark has documented this project as an interactive media e-book, Behind the Curtain. Mark is well known in SWL circles for breaking the puzzle of the Chinese Firedrake Shortwave broadcast jammer. This is a not to be missed presentation including clandestine toilet breaks, the missing 5th floor of a Pyongyang hotel, MacGyvered radio intercept devices and sending SMS messages from the northern side of the Demilitarised Zone at Panmunjom.

The clubs new Yaesu Fusion repeater has been licenced and is now running full time as VK2RBV. Its a dual mode repeater; both analogue (normal FM) and digital Yaesu C4FM. It answers in the mode it is sent to in; that is, if you transmit to it in digital, it will answer in digital and if you transmit to it in FM it will transmit in FM. The frequency is 438.1125, currently with a negative 5.4MHz offset, and requires a 91.5Hz tone when using FM mode but no tone for digital. The repeater has no tail although a very short "tail" will be heard due to the processing delays through the repeater. Sometime in the next few months, the repeater will change to the new, WIA band plan split of 7MHz along with all the other repeaters at the GPT site. More news as it comes to hand. Reports on the new repeater can be sent to the club via the website contact pages.

The next "Shack night", is Wednesday June 1st, commencing at 7:30pm. Its a good time to bring along that new rig or to get some help to program it or learn how to use it.

Working bees are at the clubhouse most Tuesdays from around 10am to 4pm. It is recommended to call in first on the Paddington 2 metre repeater (147.025, +600kHz, 91.5Hz CTCSS) to make sure that someone will be there or to get the coffee on.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday June 4th commencing around 1:30pm usually running through to about 4:30 or 5:00pm.

Skip's Sunday Morse sessions at the club are currently in abeyance however he is running on air practice sessions on Sunday afternoons.

The club runs Foundation course and assessments; the next is scheduled over the weekend of September 24th and 25th 2016. See our website for details of how to reserve a place on the course or book other assessments.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay with parking available in the grounds. Visitors are always welcome at any of the club's activities.

There is full information about the club on its regularly updated website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). The website includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items, and book and pay for courses or assessments online.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> is lecture night at the Manly-Warringah Radio Society. This month, Erica Davies will give a talk on Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

Have you ever damaged your knee, or slipped a disc? Regardless of the specifics, many of us have had first-hand experience with Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or M R I. Few people are aware that this extremely pricey bit of kit is essentially a collection of amplifiers and transmit/receive coils operating at radio frequencies. In this brief introduction to magnetic resonance you will find out why this is, and what other applications exist for this insensitive yet incredibly powerful technique.

If you have missed past lectures at the club, check out the video archives on YouTube. Simply point your web browser at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), and search for the club callsign. The VK2MB-TV channel has had some renovation recently, to make videos easier to find. As well as club lectures, you can see videos of the club's lighthouse activation, the famous Flagpole Contest, club theme nights, home brewing, and more. Again, just go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for VK2MB.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society usually meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. for an 8 p.m. start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at [www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au) for more information.

Once again, the club lecture on Magnetic Resonance Imaging will be on this Wednesday 18 May. Be there!

*73 Richard VK2SKY, MWRS Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>. The venue is the Mount Colah Community Centre, in Pierre Close, Mount Colah, opposite the Mount Colah Railway Station, and just a few minutes from Wahroonga or Normanhurst via the M1.

HADARC runs three nets each week;  
Monday nights on the VK2RNS repeater - 147.25MHz starting at 8pm;  
Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8;  
And Morning Tea with HADARC – is on or near 7104kHz from 9:00 am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is at: [www.hadarc.org.au](http://www.hadarc.org.au)

The club has a group on Facebook which can be found by searching for VK2MA.

The Club's twitter feed is @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.*

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## **Summary of coming events;**

### **May**

International Telecommunications Day is the 17<sup>th</sup>, VK stations may use the AX prefix.

Homebrew group net is on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture night on Magnetic Resonance Imaging, on the 18<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW foundation course on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

HADARC AGM on the 24<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Homebrew group on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **June**

St George ARS Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> is also Waverley Shack Night

Waverley project day is the 4<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Field Day on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>

This weekend is also the VK Shires contest

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>

The VHF/UHF field day is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Homebrew group net is on the 21<sup>st</sup>

And the Manly-Warringah Radio Society "Test Gear" theme night is the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

BWRS NavShield – a WICEN event – on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with setup on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

St George ARS Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew group on the 31<sup>st</sup>