

## **Silent Key.**

It is with deep regret that we begin this week, with news of three silent keys.

It is with sadness that we report the passing last weekend of Mirel Cardoso VK2BOD of Bateau Bay. Mirel was a citizen of Uruguay before coming to Australia. He had lived in Cabramatta until moving to the Central Coast about 10 years ago.

Mirel had been an Amateur for over sixty years, first obtaining his license at the age of 17. He was known to have been active on many bands, with worldwide friends over the years until his retirement, when had to down size to mainly the 6 metre band.

We have also been advised by the Chifley ARC, of the passing this week of Dave Pack VK2GIO.

Dave emigrated to Australia from England in after retirement, in the early 1990's. He brought with him his wife Judy, and a wealth of ATV knowledge and technical skills. He was responsible for much of the construction installation and ongoing maintenance of the VK2RFM ATV repeater at Oakdale. He was also involved in the installation and maintenance of the VK2RTS ATV when it moved to its current site at Lawson.

Finally, we have been informed by the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, of the passing of Coralie Dawson, partner of the Late Bill VK2ZCV who - himself - only recently passed away. Both Bill and Coralie were active participants in many club activities.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Mirel, Dave and Coralie.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]

Mirel Cardoso VK2BOD  
Dave Pack VK2GIO  
Coralie Dawson

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**[Play Evening ID1]**

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

The November Foundation course at ARNSW is now fully booked. The WIA Foundation Manual is the text currently used in this course and can be collected in person from VK2WI at Dural on a Sunday morning or by mail from the WIA Bookshop.

Foundation courses run over a weekend; Coursework is presented on the Saturday, then on Sunday morning there is a period of revision followed by the exam, including a practical component, in the late morning.

On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> November, there are also assessments available. These are available for a current Foundation license holder to upgrade to either a Standard or Advanced, or for anyone with the knowledge to undertake the test to one of these grades. Booking are required for the assessments - again by an email to: [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

The 2016 Upgrade course at ARNSW runs on Monday evenings and will conclude in early November. The course will run again in 2017, and is scheduled to commence on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

## **6 Metre broadcast transmission**

We have a question to listeners who make use of our 6 metre broadcast transmission, on 52.525MHz simplex.

For many decades, the 6 metre service has been provided on this frequency – well before the time that any repeaters came into existence on this band. The frequency of 52.525 was chosen when operation in Sydney was almost exclusively on this single crystal locked channel, which also happened to be the international calling frequency.

These days, many operators have frequency agile stations, and there are a number of 6 metres repeaters – including our own VK2RWI on 53.85MHz.

So, we are considering transferring our 6 metre FM coverage to the VK2RWI repeater. This change would also reduce the problem of various stations not hearing each other as they call in.

The question for listeners - would a frequency change to a new frequency cause you any reception problems? The easiest way to let us know is in the callbacks at the end of this bulletin.

## **JOTA 2016**

This weekend saw the Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet – where Scouts around the world can communicate with one another using amateur radio and the internet.

Here is a replay of the National JOTA opening address, which first went to air at 1pm local time on Saturday.

***[Play file JOTA2016.wav 1m09s]***

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

This Tuesday evening the 18th, the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions, the net may be on either 80m or 40m. The 80m frequency will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 7159kHz – both of which are cheap crystal frequencies.

As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB. So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then please feel free to join the net.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU*

*Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group*

## Talkfest is Back!

Though it may seem like it never left.

The final ARNSW presentation day for the year is on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. As usual, the venue is here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

We undertook an exhaustive search for the best speakers in Australia, and we were exhausted by the time we got to HADARC. Nevertheless, the topics are;

Digital voice

Single Board Computers and their applications in Amateur Radio  
and “treasure trove on ebay”

Lunch is provided, with a sausage sizzle, followed by ice cream for dessert.  
BYO nuts.

Following the presentations and lunch, we will have a ‘world class’ magician to entertain you. He isn’t from HADARC, but he is still great fun.

All this is free to AR NSW members.

Gates open at 9am, with the first presentation at 10am sharp.

Registration is necessary for catering purposes; you can RSVP by email to: [fieldday@arnsw.org.au](mailto:fieldday@arnsw.org.au). Please advise your name, callsign and a contact number.

*From AI VK2OK*

*Event commander for ARNSW.*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	104	104	105	102	99	98	95
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	7	4	7	3	5	26 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	5	3	7	1	5	[n/a]
T index	25	34	35	26	34	37	45

Solar flare activity was very low from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, and low on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, before becoming quiet to active on the 12<sup>th</sup> and sometimes up to minor storm levels on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, except for some depressions of up to 20% during local day on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The 13<sup>th</sup> showed some large variations however, with depressions of 30% after local dawn, which recovered to near predicted during local day and then got even better, with enhancement of up to 25% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity to minor storm levels are expected on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and active levels on the 15<sup>th</sup>, but quiet to unsettled conditions expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely be depressed 20% to 30% on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, but otherwise near predicted monthly values.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

The figures for September were;

Minimum 80      Average 88      Maximum 99  
With the Peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>

So far the figures for October;

Minimum 80      Average 91      Maximum 105  
With the Peak dates between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to November;

Minimum 80      Average 94      Maximum 110  
With peak dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<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**

VIETNAM, 3W. Mike, N0ODK plans to be active as 3W2DK until November 5. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and some digital modes. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest. QSL to home call.

CYPRUS, 5B. Gordon, MM0GOR is active as 5B/MM0GOR from Cyprus, IOTA AS-004, until October 19. QSL via M0OXO.

LESOTHO, 7P. Pista, HA5AO will be active as 7P8AO until October 29 while working there on a humanitarian aid project and a new orphanage. Activity will be in his spare time on 80 to 6 metres using only CW. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N. Zenek, SP2GCJ, Bogdan, SP2FUD, Kazik, SP6AXW and Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as 9N7ZT, 9N7FD, 9N7XW and 9N7WE, respectively, until October 29. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on North and South America. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest. QSL 9N7ZT via SP2GCJ, 9N7FD via SP2FUD, 9N7XW via SP6AXW and 9N7WE via SP9FIH.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ is active as CE0Y/JA0JHQ until October 17. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

PANAMA, HP. Jacek, SP5APW is active as H84JK from Colon Island, IOTA NA-088, until October 18. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Steve, WF2S, Bob, WB2YQH and Norm, W3IZ will be active as J68SL, J6/WB2YQH and J6/W3IZ, respectively, from Gros Islet, IOTA NA-108, from October 18 to 27. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

GREECE, SV. Operators Yannis, SV8FCU, Isidoros, SV8GXQ, Christos, SV8GXT and Fotis, SV8GXW will be active as SX8HOMER from October 15 to December 15. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and PSK. QSL direct to SV8GXQ.

MICRONESIA, V6. Keith, GM4YXI and Chris, GM3WOJ will be active as V6Z from Chuuk Island, IOTA OC-011, from October 17 to November 1. This includes being a Multi/2 entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest. QSL via N3SL.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Jay, AA4FL will be active as VP5/AA4FL from Middle Caicos, IOTA NA-002, until November 2. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres, as well as various satellites. QSL to home call.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO is active as XT2AW until November 20. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes. In addition, Hermann, DL2NUD is active as XT2AFT and is active on 2 metres, 70cm, 23cm and 13cm using EME. QSL via operators' instructions.

INDONESIA, YB. Arfan, YB8UTI will be active from Miangas Island, IOTA OC-209, beginning October 15. His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW. QSL via operator's instructions.

ST. HELENA, ZD7. Bill, G0VDE will be active as ZD7VDE until October 30. QSL via G3SWH.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 59th Jamboree-On-The-Air, The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, JARTS World Wide RTTY Contest, 10-10 International Fall CW Contest, New York QSO Party, Iowa QSO Party, Worked All Germany Contest, South Dakota QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint, Asia-Pacific Fall CW Sprint, UBA ON 2-Meter Contest, Illinois QSO Party and the RSGB RoLo 80-Meter CW contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The Telephone Pioneers QSO Party and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for October 17. The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for October 19.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from October 17 to 21.

The ARRL National Parks on the Air event continues throughout 2016 to mark the 100th anniversary of the United States' National Park Service.

## WICEN News

The weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Cave Rescue Exercise at Jenolan Caves, in the western Blue Mountains.

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is a significant event in terms of the number of operators required and it runs overnight from Saturday, October 29th to Sunday 30th. Positions are available at on-shore and mid-river checkpoints, on shut-down vessels, at Finish, and at SES SYDWEST at Seven Hills.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) - includes contact details, a webform, which is typically the best way to ask questions; and membership information.

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).

Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event in the Brindabella Ranges on Sunday October 30. Then in December, the BMSC Rallye des Femme, a car rally for lady drivers, is on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Foundation courses are provided bi-monthly, with exams for all levels on the Sunday, with the next one being November 19 and 20.

WICEN Victoria's next event is the Australian 4 Day Enduro. Its a motorcycling event at Mansfield, on November 15. Their 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 Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.

Since weather events were unkind on the Club's recent field day, with the event being nearly washed out, the Club is holding a car boot sale.

Its on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November at the now dried out club grounds, in york street, Teralba.

The sale is a chance to sell your unwanted gear and get some cash for more radio gear for Christmas... Theres going to be a BBQ with hot and cold drinks available as well.

No cost to set up but bring your own table.

Hope to see you there,

*Barrie VK2QG*

*Vice President, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.*

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of October in the SES Building, Central Road Port Macquarie.

The club took part in JOTA this year from two locations. Club station VK2BOR operated from the club's communications caravan, which will be at the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts' boatshed at McInherney Park. auchope Scout Hall was also active, where Lyle VK2SMI set up his communications caravan for the weekend.

On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2016 the club will provide the safety communications for the 37th Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic. This event is run on the road down a long hill at Beechwood, which is west of Wauchope.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The Advanced Licence classes are already underway on Friday nights. The next training course and assessments for the Foundation licence will run as soon as sufficient candidates have registered.

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

Visitors are always made very welcome at monthly general meetings, at 2pm on the first Saturday of the month, as well as at Friday night gatherings, at 7pm on the third Friday of the month. The venue for all club 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 September 2016 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, are available on the website.

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

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Well, another successful JOTA is in the bag.

The club's JOTA station VK2SNR got many Scouts and Guides on the air for the first time, playing games of "Battleship" over the radio. There were also activities to set up a portable station, geocaching, Morse code and more!

This coming Wednesday is lecture night, and this month's speaker, Simon VK2TMS, will drone on about... drones, those little machines that aim to do everything from deliver pizza to drop bombs. Simon will talk about civilian applications and discuss how to build them. Come along for a great ride!

And just a reminder that the club's new Web-accessible Software Defined Radio is operational. This project has been generously sponsored by Amateur Radio New South Wales, and is proving to be very popular. Just go to the club web site, [www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au) and click on the WebSDR link in the top menu.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society usually meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm 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.

*73 Richard VK2SKY*

*Publicity Officer for the Manly-Warringah Radio Society*

[WebSDR direct link: <http://websdr.mwrs.org.au:8901/>]

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The meeting of the club is this Wednesday, October 19th, at the Scout hall in Vickery Avenue Rose Bay, right behind the Rose Bay RSL Club. As usual, there will be the show and tell segment as well as general discussion over a cuppa afterwards.

The next "Shack night", is on Wednesday November 2nd, commencing at 7:30pm, a good time to bring along that new rig or to get some help to program it or learn how to use it or test it on the club's antennae.

On most Tuesdays there is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am to 4pm. A quick call 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, is recommended.

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

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 8pm on our VK2RBV Fusion repeater in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, minus 5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz CTCSS tone. A listening watch is still kept on the Paddington 2m repeater as well.

Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings, initially on 20m, around 14.020MHz, from 2000 to about 2015, then moving to the Paddington 70cm repeater (438.575, -5MHz offset, 91.5Hz CTCSS) using AFSK.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The next scheduled Foundation course and upgrade assessments run by the club will be on the weekend of November 12th & 13th. To book and reserve your place, see our website for details under Education and Training.

There is full information about the club on its regularly updated website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). It includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items such as Powerpole kits or book and pay for courses or assessments, online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage.

*73 from Eric VK2VE*

*Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting and presentation evening, on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Mount Colah Community Centre, in Pierre Close, Mount Colah – just opposite the Mount Colah Railway Station.

If you are travelling by bus, the 598 bus stops on the Community Centre side of the line after the turn into Cowan Street, requiring a 200 metre walk north; and the 595 stop on the Highway opposite, allowing the station footbridge to be used. It is a few minutes' drive from Wahroonga or Normanhurst via the M1.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater 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. You can also see it on the web, at [twitter.com/VK2MA](https://twitter.com/VK2MA).

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.*

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## **Summary of coming events;**

### **October**

ARNSW Homebrew Group net on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture night – drones - on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS meeting also on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Region ARC Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

### **November**

VI4SEA activity, runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>

St George Amateur Radio Society meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Waverley Shack night also on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

ARNSW Talkfest at VK2WI Dural on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture night on the 16<sup>th</sup>

Foundation course weekend at ARNSW on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Westlakes ARC Car boot sale on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Trash & Treasure at ARNSW Dural on the 27<sup>th</sup>.