

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

Just a reminder that there will be no VK2WI News bulletin tomorrow morning – but the evening bulletin will start as usual at 7:30pm.

The ARNSW Upgrade course commences Monday week, the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. It runs every Monday night, except for Public holidays, until November. There are still vacancies available, so if you are interested in either upgrading from a Foundation license or starting from the basics - register your interest by an email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au). If you know anyone wishing to undertake a course – let them know to drop us an email, to register their interest.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change the dates for next month's ARNSW Foundation Weekend and license assessment days. The Foundation course will now take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March, with all assessments on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

As we mentioned last week, ARNSW will soon be seeking expressions of interest from duly constituted VK2 clubs and groups, to apply for Development Fund Grants. Application forms and guidelines will be sent to groups who register their interest, by either an email to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au) or by mail to; ARNSW, P. O. Box 6044, Dural Delivery Centre NSW 2158. The application period is open during the month of March.

Speaking of grants, earlier this month the Armidale and District Amateur Radio Club applied for a grant from one of their local financial organizations. The selection method was by the number of email votes that each group received, and the club was this month's successful group. Congratulations.

## Wyong Field Day News

To make the Field Day more pleasurable for visitors and minimise disruption to lectures and other activities, the club will be using the 2m frequency of 147.125Mhz simplex for most announcements and the PA for absolutely essential messages. Program the frequency in your favourite 2m hand held/portable rig before you leave home.

The 2 metre repeater VK2RAG, 146.725MHz will be available for talk-in and general use; please keep messages brief.

The program sheet has lots of details and a basic list of all the lectures, times, and lecturers on the rear page. For a more detailed version, you can print them out from the website [www.fieldday.org.au](http://www.fieldday.org.au) or access the site on your smartphone. The Website will be active after the field day with links and preparation for 2018 Field Day; the 60th event.

*From Bob VK2AOR  
For the CCARC*

## US Licence Exams at Wyong

For those interested in US licences; examinations under the ARRL/VEC will be held at the Wyong Field Day, commencing at 9:00 am.

There are three levels of licence available; Technician, General, and Extra. Candidates need to do all papers up to the level of the licence they desire. There is a range of books, websites, audio CDs, and 'phone or tablet applications, with both training material and practice examinations.

A fee will be payable on the day to cover one to three papers for examination, but licences are issued free of charge.

Candidates will need a US postal address, such as that of a friend, or a ShopMate address; and to use this address to obtain an FCC Registration Number, or FRN, from the FCC website.

Details are on the ARRL exams search page; while Facebook users can enter "USA Hams in Oz" as a single word into the search bar on the site.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (who is also AG6LE)*

[Exam details: [www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/australia-fg-00000-4](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/australia-fg-00000-4) ]

[Facebook: [facebook.com/usahamsinoz/](https://facebook.com/usahamsinoz/)]

[NCVEC: <http://www.ncvec.org/> ]

## **JOTA Forum at Field Day**

The NSW JOTA/JOTI team would like to invite any groups or persons with an interest in the scout and guide's Jamboree on the air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the internet (JOTI) program, and radio scouting in general, to an open forum about the Programs.

The forum will be held at the Wyong field Day tomorrow , in the conference room at 2pm. Bring your ideas, questions, suggestions and comments.

Chairing the discussions will be Karl "Buzz" Humphreys, the NSW JOTA/JOTI Coordinator for Scouts NSW.

*Advised By Karl VK2KFH  
For the NSW JOTA/JOTI Team*

## QRP by the Harbour

Following a recent visit to Melbourne, which included taking part in "QRP by the Bay", Peter VK2TPM is now organising a similar event in Sydney – "QRP by the Harbour".

Its on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, a 3pm. The location is Mcilwaine [Mac-ILL-Wayne] Park at Rhodes, on the edge of the Parramatta River. For those with a good memory, this used to be the site of the Phillips two-way radio factory.

The park is on the side of Concord Road and is serviced by the M41 express bus at 20 minute intervals and is 200 metres from the Rhodes Railway station, so easily accessible by both car and public transport.

Everyone is invited, to bring along their QRP rigs, either homebrewed or commercial and meet up with other like-minded amateurs. Look for "QRP by the Harbour" on Facebook or in your favourite search engine.

*Peter VK2EMU*

## Council Elections

The Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2017.

At the AGM a new council is to be appointed. Nominations will shortly be open for those members who wish to be on the council for the year 2017 and 2018. Nomination forms are now available for download from the website, [arnsw.org.au](http://arnsw.org.au), or from the divisional office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 18th March 2017.

*Peter VK2EMU*  
*Divisional Returning Officer*

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name Amateur Radio New South Wales to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
10cm flux	75	77	78	81	83	83	83
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	16	11	9	8	4	8	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	9	5	6	1	6	8 estimated
T index	29	6	18	19	13	32	21

Solar flare activity was very low from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, then low on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled, except for some isolated active periods on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and a slight increase of activity on the 21<sup>st</sup> reaching Quiet levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out 20% depressed after local dawn on the 17<sup>th</sup>, before recovering to near predicted values. Depressions during local night of 20% on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 15% on the 19<sup>th</sup> were observed, with daytime frequencies remaining near predicted. The 20<sup>th</sup> was near predicted throughout. The 21<sup>st</sup> saw depressions of 15% day and 20% night, before the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> returned to near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 24<sup>th</sup> of February to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active levels, except for some quiet to unsettled periods on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be mildly depressed in line with the increased geomagnetic activity.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Firstly the figures for January were;

Minimum 71      Average 77      Maximum 87  
Peak dates from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

As we near the end of February, the figures so far are...

Minimum 72      Average 77      Maximum 85  
Peak dates between the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>

And the prediction for March;

Minimum 72      Average 77      Maximum 85  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<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>]



## WICEN News

WICEN will be represented at the Wyong Field Day tomorrow; its an opportunity for members to renew their membership, and for others to join.

Tomorrow is also the first of a series of Alzheimer's Australia NSW's Memory Walk and Jog events –at Stuart Park North Wollongong. March 12th is the Western Sydney walk at Tench Reserve, Penrith. May 7 is the Sydney walk, commencing at Leichhardt Oval #3, on the waterfront at Lilyfield, while the 13th is the Hunter event at the northern end of Lake Macquarie. These are short events, and are suitable for new members.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region has their next monthly meeting on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, at SES HQ Central Road, Port Macquarie, starting at 3:30pm.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) - includes contact details, a web contact form, and membership information. WICEN members can log in on the site and then see meeting Agendas on the main page. WICEN has a twitter account: @wicennsw. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers Region will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The venue is the Summerland ARC at 412 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill. The weekly net is on Tuesdays at 8:00pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz which requires a 123 Hz tone; Listen for VK2WIR.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The weekend of April 1st and 2nd is the Canberra Two Day Walk. The website is [crarc.ampr.org](http://crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Yea on March 3rd to 5th, a 4 wheel drive event on March 25th & 26th, Duncan's Run on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Sunraysia 600 on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the Club is the monthly general meeting; 2pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. Assessments for the Advanced licence will take place on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. The next training course and assessments for the Foundation licence will run when 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 sub-audible 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 January 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website, and lookout for the March edition which will be published soon.

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

## Hunter Radio Group

Meetings are at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm. After general business, a technical lecture is presented, followed by supper. The next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

The Group's weekly Monday night broadcasts are at 7:30pm, through the 2 metre repeater VK2RNC on 146.9MHz and 438.025MHz; listen out for VK2AWX.

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

*Charlie VK2CLH for Rodney VK2CN secretary*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 1st of March.

This month there will be a presentation by Peter VK2EMU about WSPR [Whisper] and the proposed installation of a multi band WSPR station at the Mt. Bindo repeater site.

WSPR is Weak Signal Propagation Reporter, a very low powered digital transmission and associated receiver system that automatically posts information to the internet, to show real time information about propagation paths. See what the system will do and how it will work. Also see what has been done so far and what still needs to be done – and how you can help.

As well as the presentation, there will be the usual free refreshments.

All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend. The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point (near South Hurstville).

The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".  
[<http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted>]

Members are also reminded of the club's 2 metre contest over summer. It runs until the last day of February – check the club's webpage for details.

The Society's "training and assessment" weekend is on the 4th and 5th of March. Location will be Sutherland and so is suitable for people in the southern half of Sydney and Wollongong. For more details, see the website [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU*

## **Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

The second annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest is just two weeks away!

It takes place on Sydney Harbour on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm local time.

This unique contest hopes to attract hams from all over the nation to make VHF/UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and 36 wharves.

With all-day travel for just \$2.50 using an Opal Card, this is a great way to spend a Sunday!

Operation is restricted to hand-held radios (any mode) and can include repeater, simplex or "eyeball" (a handshake and an exchange of QSL cards) contacts.

Multipliers are gained by working multiple ferries and/or wharves. A number of awards, including the prestigious "Worked All Ferries Award" are available.

The event is run by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society (VK2BV) and we will be running a club station at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf for the duration of the contest. We hope to eyeball as many contestants as we can during the day. This is a fun contest for the amateur radio community, but also a great way to promote amateur radio to the community at large.

Full contest details and rules can be found at the club website, [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org).

There is also a "Sydney AR Ferry Contest" Facebook group. Please join the group and join the conversation.

If you have any questions prior to the event, please contact the Contest Manager, Laurie VK2GZ.

Hoping to see you on the Harbour,

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

HADARC will share a table with ALARA at tomorrow's Wyong Field Day; this is expected to be on the first floor of the grandstand, in lovely air-conditioning.

The first formal meeting of HADARC for the year, will be at Mount Colah Community Centre at 8:00pm on 28<sup>th</sup> of February. The Centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station. Suitable buses are the 598 to Cowan Road, or the 595, stopping on the Highway. March meetings are also on the 14th and 28th, both at Mt Colah.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Its on 147.25MHz, No tone is required, but a 91.5Hz tone is sent. The Wednesday evening net is on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm; 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;**

### **February**

CCARC Wyong Field Day tomorrow, gates open at 8:30am

St George ARS Summer Contest concludes on the 28<sup>th</sup>

HADARC Monthly general Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **March**

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

St George Foundation training and assessment weekend on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on the 12<sup>th</sup>

QRP by the Harbour, also on the 12<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation weekend - the new date is the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Council nominations close on the 18<sup>th</sup>

John Moyle Field Day Contest also, on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

HADARC Monthly Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **April**

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Urunga Convention on the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

ANZAC day is the 25<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup>