

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

The ARNSW Upgrade course commences Tomorrow night. The course is suitable for both Foundation licence holders and beginners with no prior experience. If you know of somebody interested in the course – let them know to come along on Monday night to sign up; there are still a few places available and registrations will be open between 6 and 7pm. The course starts at 7pm and runs every Monday night, except for Public holidays, until November.

The VK2WI site is at 63 Quarry Road Dural. Off Old Northern Road, we are about 3km from the intersection on the left hand side of the road – look for the large green shed in front of the tower. Parking is available on site in front of the shed.

The ARNSW library is also be open on Mondays between 4pm and 8 pm.

ARNSW, along with other Sydney based radio clubs offer Foundation course weekend and assessments for all license grades, several times a year. The next weekend with ARNSW is scheduled for May the 13th and 14th. Inquiries and bookings can be made by an email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au)

We invite clubs and groups - particularly those in regional areas throughout the state - who provide training courses and assessments to advise the amateur community of these activities. Please send details of future courses and assessments to VK2WI News by an email to [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au)

During March, ARNSW is inviting 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; PO Box 6044, Dural Delivery Centre NSW 2158.

## 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 next Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, at 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 24<sup>th</sup> of February to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.  
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 10cm flux                    | 82               | 80               | 79               | 82               | 82               | 81              | 79              |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr)   | 15               | 6                | 0                | 6                | 5                | 21              | 26<br>estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus)      | 13               | 3                | 0                | 4                | 5                | 21              | 17<br>estimated |
| T index                      | 27               | 19               | 14               | 13               | 20               | 14              | -6              |

Solar flare activity was low on the 24<sup>th</sup>, then very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to active on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the quiet from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> of March saw quiet to Minor Storm conditions, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> settled slightly, with quiet to active conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted on the 25<sup>th</sup>, then dropped to 15% depressed on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> remained near predicted values, and the 28<sup>th</sup> was depressed 15% during local day, though night frequencies returned to near predicted. The 1<sup>st</sup> saw some depression of 25% after local dawn, but was otherwise near predicted, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> saw depressions of 30% during local day, improving to 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of March;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to at active levels on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, then quiet to unsettled for the rest of the week.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to mildly depressed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>, before recovering to 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.

Firstly the figures for February were;

Minimum 72      Average 77      Maximum 83  
Peak dates from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

As we begin March, the figures so far...

Minimum 74      Average 78      Maximum 82  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to the prediction for April;

Minimum 72      Average 76      Maximum 82  
With peak dates between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<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**

Several stations are active in the ARRL International DX SSB contest running this weekend, UTC time – finishing 2359UT on Sunday;

BARBADOS; Tom, W2SC will be active as 8P5A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

ANDORRA; Members of the Andorran Amateur Radio Union will be active as C37NL as a Multi/2 entry.

FRENCH GUIANA, Look for FY5FY to be a Single Op/Single Band on 80 metres entry, and FY5KE to be a Single Op/Single Band on 15 metres.

KALININGRAD, Members of the UA2 Contest Club will be active as RW2F as a Multi/Multi entry

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, Alan, N3AD will be active as V26M as a Single Op/All Band entry.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, Yuriy, N2TTA will be active as NP2P as a Single Op/All Band entry.

In other activity;

TOGO, 5V. Franco, I1FQH will be active as 5V7V from the city of Kpalime until March 11. Activity is holiday style during his nights on 160 to 30 metres using mainly CW with some SSB on 40 metres.

MALDIVES, 8Q. A group of operators are active as 8Q7LH from Himandhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, until March 9. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

GHANA, 9G. Members of the Six G Team will be active as 9G5X from March 7 to 21. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with three stations active.

BAHAMAS, C6. A group of operators will be active as C6APY from Little Harbour Cay, IOTA NA-054, until March 11. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB with three stations.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Frank, DJ5NQ is active as E51ANQ from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, until March 24. Activity is on 20 metres using mostly CW.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Mischa, HB9EMP is active as EA8/HB9EMP from Fuerteventura until March 8. He is active on the HF bands using SSB, RTTY, JT65 and other modes. He plans to be active in the ARRL DX SSB contest.

ANTARCTICA. Francois, F4HLT is active as FT3YL from the Dumont d'Urville Station, Terre Adelie, on Petrels Island, IOTA AN-017, until February 1, 2018. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes in his spare time from 0900 to 1100z and after his work duties.

SVALBARD, JW. Tom, LA6VDA is active as JW6VDA from Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, until March 22. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB.

LITHUANIA, LY. Special event station LY27W is active until March 31 to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the restored Independence of the State of Lithuania. QSL via LY5W. From March 11 to April 11, special event station LY27A will also be active.

BELGIUM, ON. A group of operators are active with special event call OR100LCI during March to support the work of Lions Clubs International.

ARUBA, P4. Robert, W5AJ is active as P40P until March 6. He will be a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest. Outside the contest, he is active on the WARC bands.

SURINAME, PZ. Operators G4BVY, G4CLA and G4XUM are active as PZ5K until March 7. This includes being a Multi Op entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest.

COSTA RICA. TI. Matt, K0BBC is active as TI7/K0BBC from Las Villas del Guayabo until March 7. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Glenn, W0GJ will be active as VP5H from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, in the ARRL DX SSB contest as a Single Op entry. He may be active as VP5/W0GJ before and after the contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, UBA Spring 80-Metre CW Contest, DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, NSARA 80-Metre Contest and the SARL Hamnet 40-Meter Simulated Emergency Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club Data Championship is scheduled for March 6.

The AGCW YL-CW 80-Meter CW Party and ARS Spartan CW Sprint are scheduled for March 7.



## WICEN News

The next event in Alzheimer's Australia NSW's Memory Walk and Jog events – is next Sunday, March 12th – it 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. Finally, the Port Macquarie one will be at Westport Park on 4th June. These are short events, and are suitable for new members.

Several training days are being planned. One is expected to be a day at Dural dedicated to a first aid qualification to satisfy the requirements of PUA21312. Please let WICEN know what dates are suitable for you to attend.

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. The Field Weekend at Yea in Central Victoria, has been postponed, to a date to be announced. Coming events include 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 Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

After last Sunday's Wyong Field Day, the club has setup a survey page to gather feedback and your comments. Just go to the website [fieldday.org.au](http://fieldday.org.au) and the link is on the home page, near the bottom of the text.

Your participation in this survey will be greatly appreciated, as the club needs to be aware of changing needs. Tell us what we did right and your thoughts how the club can improve the experience. There are boxes to tick and a space to write additional comments.

To all who attended the field day in 2017 - your attendance is greatly appreciated.

*Bob VK2AOR*

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

Club Station VK2BOR will participate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March. The station will operate for the full 24 hours on all HF bands. The caravan will be located in the carpark at Sancrox Reserve, mid-way between Port Macquarie and 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 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 later this week.

*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 this coming Friday, the 10<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*

## **Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

The second annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest is on next week! 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

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 14th March at the Mount Colah Community Centre, starting at 8:00pm.

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.

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.

The Club operates a dual mode FM - P25 repeater, located at Chatswood, on 438.350 MHz, with an LIPD-dodging -5.4 MHz offset; meaning users transmit on 432.950 MHz. A 91.5 HZ tone or the default NAC of 293 is required for access.

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;**

### **March**

ARNSW Upgrade course starts tomorrow, the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Summerland ARC Licence course this week, 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Summerland Foundation weekend, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation weekend - the new date is the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<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>  
HADARC Mod-monthly meeting on the 14<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>  
WICEN Northern Rivers AGM on the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14<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>

### **May**

ARNSW Foundation weekend, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
St. George Foundation weekend, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>