

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

The AGM for ARNSW will be on Saturday week, the 29th April here at the VK2WI Dural site. Early last week, the printed and email copies of the annual reports were sent to members.

A reminder to those attending the AGM to bring either your membership badge or membership card to help with your registration. If you are submitting a proxy, allow time for its delivery by post. Hand delivery can be made to the Dural site - the cut off is 7am on the Saturday morning.

Apologies can be submitted by all communication means – by telephone to the office on 02 9651 1490 and leave a message, by email to: [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au) or have someone advise at the meeting. A BBQ lunch will be provided to those staying on after the meeting and while it is being prepared you can browse the Trash & Treasure area.

The next Foundation and assessment weekend at ARNSW is the 13th and 14th of May. Bookings can be made by an email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au). Also in May there is a foundation weekend with the St. George Amateur Radio Society, on the 20th and 21st. If there are any other exams planned in May – please let us know here at VK2WI News.

As this is a holiday weekend, there is no upgrade class or library at the VK2WI site on Monday night.

Coming up on Tuesday - the 18th is World Radio Day, celebrating the formation of the International Amateur Radio Union in 1925. This is only a few months older than the callsign VK2WI, which was issued at the direction of the Australian PMG in August 1925, so that the NSW Division could communicate with their membership. This callsign has remained active continuously, to this day.

## **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 join the net.

*Peter VK2EMU*

*Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group*

## **Meccano Exhibition**

If you are not a member of ARNSW, you may wish to find something different to do on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Well, the Meccano Modellers Association is holding its annual exhibition at Forestville. On display will be a wide range of models, including a large scale model of the Garden Island Hammerhead Crane, and a printing machine controlled by an Arduino controller. Get your call sign printed by Meccano! So come along and re-live your childhood Meccano days.

It's the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at the Frenchs Forest Baptist Church, 615 Warringah Rd, Forestville, doors are open 10am to 4pm.

A modest admission fee is charged.

*Submitted by Peter VK2BEU*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.  
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	74	73	74	74	75	71	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	14	16	5	10	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	8	8	3	7	2	3 estimated
T index	9	13	9	11	13	10	8

Solar flare activity was low on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, then very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>, but remained at quiet levels otherwise.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed 15% during local day on the 7<sup>th</sup>, though returning to near predicted at night. The 8<sup>th</sup> was near predicted throughout, then the 9<sup>th</sup> again saw depressions of 15% during local day. The 9<sup>th</sup> recovered to near predicted monthly values during the local night, which then remained for the rest of the week.

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

Solar flare activity should be very low from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, but then low to moderate from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity will possibly see unsettled to active conditions between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and quiet to unsettled conditions on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be briefly depressed after local dawn on the the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, then near predicted monthly values with the possibility of minor depressions on other days.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Space Weather Summary for March 2017

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Solar activity was predominately at very low levels this month, with no significant flares observed and no proton alerts.

The deepest ionospheric depression for the month was observed on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March; with Southern Australian MUFs depressed by up to 35%. This was part of a broad period of lower than normal MUFs between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March, in association with coronal hole induced geomagnetic activity.

The strongest geomagnetic disturbance for the month was observed on the 27<sup>th</sup>, reaching a local A-index of 26. On this UT day, geomagnetic activity reached Minor Storm levels across the Australian region and Major Storm levels in the Antarctic region due to the effect of the high-speed solar wind stream from a negative polarity recurrent coronal hole.

Furthermore, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Australian DST index dipped to a minimum of approximately -120 nT at about 1000UT following the period of significant southward IMF Bz. All other disturbed days were also associated with high-speed solar wind streams induced by coronal holes. Auroral observations were reported in Tasmania on the night of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and in New Zealand on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

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## **ARRL DX news**

MAURITANIA, 5T. Jean, 5T0JL will be active as 5T3MM until April 18, including in the CQMM DX Contest.

MOROCCO, CN. Special event station 5C12SIA will be operating around the 12<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Agriculture in Meknes, from April 18 to 23.

ALGERIA, 7X. Toufik, 7X2DE who is now a member of the CWJF group, plans to participate in the CQMM DX Contest.

PALESTINE, E4. Janusz, SP9FIH will be active from Bethlehem during the second half of April with the call E44WE. He will be active on 17, 10 and 6 metres.

FRANCE, F. Special event station TM17CV from Chatelaillon-Plage will be active until April 17 to celebrate the Festival de Cerf-Volant et du Vent (Kite and Wind Festival).

ST LUCIA, J6. Steve, WF2S and Ralph, K1ZZI will be operating with calls J68SL and J6/K1ZZI from Gros Islet (NA-108) from April 17 to 28.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Brian, GW4DVB will be back on the air as J88PI from Palm Island (NA-025, WW Loc. FK92ho) until April 23. He will be active on 40, 20, 17, 15, and 10 metres.

JAPAN, JA. The Japan Ladies Radio Society (JLRS) celebrates its 60th anniversary with the call 8N60JLRS until the end of March 2018.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, K. N7S commemorates the first launch of the Space Shuttle, with operations until April 17. This is one in a series of activities for marking historic milestones in air and spacecraft technology.

BULGARIA, LZ. LZ38GI, LZ38NR, and LZ38SATURN commemorate the first flight of a Bulgarian cosmonaut (Georgi Ivanov) into space 38 years ago. They are active until the end of April. An award is also available.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Jim, K3NK and Joe, W3HNC will be active as VP5/K3NK and VP5/W3HNC from Providenciales Island (NA-002) until April 18, on 80 to 10 metres.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Dirk, DM1DZ is active as FG/DM1DZ until April 24. Listen for him on the HF bands, using SSB and possibly PSK31. He will be posting his logs to Club Log.

ERITREA, E3. Zorro, JH1AJT will be joined by DJ9ZB, E21EIC and RA9USU, from May 19 to 29, on the air with the call signs E31AA and E39DI. Look for them on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

VIETNAM, XV. Jesus, WP4JBG/JP7MBO will be active as XV9G from April 19 to May 9 on 40, 20 and 15 metres, using mostly CW and occasionally SSB.

CORSICA, TK. Alex, TK/F4GHS plans to be on the air from the west coast of the main island, on the HF bands, from May 23 to 28. Look for him on 40 and 20 meter SSB.

MONTENEGRO, 4O. Giuseppe, IK5WWA will be active as 4O7GD from June 18 to 28. Look for him on 80 to 6 metres using SSB, and possibly 2 metres.

CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9. Ten ops from the Tortugas CW Group will be active as EG9TOR from Melilla May 18 to 22, switching to the ED9T call sign for the King of Spain CW 2017 Contest, May 21 and 22. Most of their activity will be on CW though they will do some SSB and digital mode operating as well, on all HF bands.

TOGO, 5V. Operators David, OK6DJ and Petr, OK1FCJ will be active as 5V7P from April 21 to 28. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Tim, LW9EOC will be active as HC8/LW9EOC from May 15 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres, with a focus on 30, 17 and 12 metres, using CW, SSB and RTTY.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0W on May 6 and 7. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. Pasi will try 60 metres on both CW and SSB, on 5354 kHz.

SAN MARINO, T7. Mike, DF8AN will be active as T7/DF8AN/P until April 18. Activity will be VHF/UHF only using mainly JT65 and CW/SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Holyland DX Contest, ES Open HF Championship, Worked All Provinces of China, YU DX Contest, CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest, Michigan QSO Party, EA-QRP CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Ontario QSO Party, North Dakota QSO Party, WAB 3.5/7/14 Data Modes, and the ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB will keep contesters very busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, Low Power Spring Sprint and the 144 MHz Spring Sprint are on April 17.



## WICEN News

The BWRS Navshield, a major bush navigation event, is on June 24th and 25th, with WICEN setup the afternoon before. Its typically held within a few hours' drive of Sydney, with the location only disclosed publicly, closer to the event. The recce and radio survey is planned next Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.

On the weekend of April 29 and 30, WICEN Northern Rivers will be providing communications assistance for the Tenterfield Endurance Riders Club 2017 event. The location is Girard State Forest, west of Drake.

The next Memory Walk and Jog, run by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, is the Sydney walk on May 7<sup>th</sup>, at Leichhardt Oval #3, on the waterfront at Lilyfield. Then, May 13<sup>th</sup> is the Hunter event at the northern end of Lake Macquarie and the 4<sup>th</sup> of June is at Westport Park, Port Macquarie. These are short events, and are suitable for new members.

True Grit, promoted as a "military inspired obstacle challenge", is on June 10 and 11 in Lower Portland, north-west of Sydney.

Several training days are being planned, including a one-day first aid course in Sydney, to satisfy the requirements of PUA21312. Please let WICEN know what dates are suitable for you to attend. The Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad also has first aid training available; for details check the website, [bwrs.org.au](http://bwrs.org.au).

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 ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Their website, which includes the coming year's WICEN events is [crarc.ampr.org](http://crarc.ampr.org). Events include, Carriage Driving at Witwood on Sunday May 7, while the 26th to 28th are the BMSC - National Capital Rally. Their website, which includes the coming year's WICEN events is at: [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

*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 Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April.

The club's annual Field Day is on the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. It's at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall, Matthew Flinders Drive, Port Macquarie.

The next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run when sufficient candidates have registered; contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible, to register your interest.

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). The March 2017 issue of "Oxtales" as well as past issues, are available on the website.

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

## Hunter Radio Group

The next monthly meeting of the Hunter Radio Group will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of May. The meeting is at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

After general business, a technical lecture is presented, followed by supper.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. In the 2 metre band they are on 146.9MHz, which is best suited for mobile use; and 146.975MHz which is on Echolink, node 1474. On UHF the repeater is on 438.025MHz, for general use. There is also a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

## **Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

The second annual Sydney Harbour Ferry Contest was last month, and saw a few more participants than last year. This included one Ham from New Zealand, who specially arranged his schedule to be here for the contest. Full details are on the club website – and the highest score was achieved by the youngest participant on the day, Patrick, VK2FPAT. Congratulations, Patrick.

The club's excursion to Tooraweenah for the annual John Moyle Field Day was a great success, with some 16 or so members and friends attending. Despite the weather being a bit blowy up on the hilltop, we managed to have a great time without any of the tents getting blown away. Thanks also to the Landrover Owners club for the loan of their excellent tent.

The next monthly meeting of the club is this coming Wednesday, April 19th. This meeting will incorporate the Annual General Meeting of the club as well as some general discussion and show and tell as our planned lecturer for the meeting is unable to be there this month, so bring along your latest projects to talk about.

The next "Shack night", is Wednesday May 3rd, commencing at 7:30pm, a good time to bring along that new rig, get some help to program, learn how to use it, or test it on the club's antennae. Some improvements have been done in the shack and we now have some new tools available at the bench.

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 will confirm that it is open. The next Project Day is Saturday, May 6th, commencing around 1:30pm usually running through to about 4:30 or 5:00pm.

The next space special interest group get together is on Tuesday, April 25th, from 7:00pm. Check on the club repeaters as this is also ANZAC day.

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 repeaters 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 using AFSK.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The next scheduled course and upgrade assessments run by the club, will be over the weekend of June 17th and 18th. To book and reserve your place, see our website, under Education and Training, for details.

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). 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*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday the 19th, is lecture night at the Society, and Malcolm VK2TMF will be speaking about “The Outernet”. Now, what is the Outernet? The Wikipedia page on the subject might enlighten you, but we can’t guarantee it, so you’d be better off coming to the club to find out!

The club’s next Foundation Revision and Assessments Day will be on Saturday the 29th of April. If you’re in the Sydney area and you’re ready to take your first step into this great hobby, this is a great opportunity! Just email Mark VK2MP, at; [vk2mp@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2mp@wia.org.au). That’s Victor Kilo 2 Mike Papa at [wia.org.au](http://wia.org.au).

Finally, a reminder that the club’s new Web-accessible Software Defined Radio is now operational. Any time, from anywhere, you can tune your computer or mobile device into any of five HF bands and hear what signals are audible in Sydney. 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 direct link, <http://websdr.mwrs.org.au:8901> ]

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society 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 [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au) for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY  
MWRS Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Next Saturday, April 22 is International Marconi Day. IMD takes place on the UTC day, meaning that HADARC will be activating VK2IMD from 10:00 am Sydney time on Saturday, until 10:00 am on Sunday 23rd, on a range of HF bands.

The link to Marconi is that Fisk received the first official message from the UK to Australia, sent from North-West Wales by Marconi on behalf of PM Billy Hughes and his Minister for Navy, Joseph Cook, from his house in Wahroonga. There will also be dozens of other IMD stations on air in that 24 hour period. For more information visit [GB4IMD.co.uk](http://GB4IMD.co.uk), or search for GB4IMD on Facebook.

As the next monthly meeting would fall on the 25th, it will not be held, but remember the AX prefix is available. The next meetings will be Tuesday 9th May, and the AGM on the 23rd, both at the Mount Colah Community Centre at 8:00pm. This is near the northern end of Pierre Close, very close to Mount Colah Railway Station.

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 also has a dual mode FM - P25 repeater, located at Chatswood, on 438.350 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset, meaning users transmit on 432.950 MHz. A 91.5Hz tone on FM, or NAC of 293 for P25, 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;**

### **April**

Waverley ARS meeting and AGM is on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture night – ‘the outernet’ – also on the 19<sup>th</sup>

International Marconi Day is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

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

Manly-Warringah Foundation Revision and Assessments Day, on the 29<sup>th</sup>

Meccano Modellers Association annual also on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **May**

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Waverley Shack night, also on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Waverley Project Day on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation weekend, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture on the 17<sup>th</sup>

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

HADARC AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Manly-Warringah theme night – Microphones - ends the month, on the 31<sup>st</sup>

### **June**

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Port Macquarie Field Day, on the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, also on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend is the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture night - Foxhunting – on the 21<sup>st</sup>