

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

The AGM for ARNSW will be on Saturday the 29th April here at VK2WI Dural. The meeting starts at 11am. If you are coming, please bring either your membership badge or membership card to help with your registration.

Members unable to attend are reminded that if you are submitting a proxy, it needs to arrive either by post by Friday, or hand delivery to the Dural site by 7am on Saturday morning, to observe the 4 hour requirement defined in the Articles. Returning Officer Peter VK2EMU will be on site at 7am on Saturday.

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, or have someone advise the meeting. For those staying on after the meeting there will be BBQ lunch and while this is being prepared you can browse the Trash & Treasure area. You should also - if required - bring your copy of the reports - there are very few spare copies available. If you don't have a membership badge, one can be ordered at the AGM - when you can also pay membership renewals.

Bookings are now being taken for the next ARNSW Foundation weekend which will be on the 13th and 14th May - a week earlier than that shown on the 2017 ARNSW calendar. Those bookings can be made by an email to; education@arnsw.org.au

St. George ARS have advised that their May Foundation weekend is going to change date; we will advise when the new date is known.

The AX prefix can be used in place of VK on ANZAC day - next Tuesday, the 25th.

A note from our News Editor.

VK2WI News is interested in a wide variety of activities relating to Amateur Radio. We ask that news items be submitted by the Friday night prior to the Sunday bulletins, so that our broadcast team volunteers can complete editing and production. Late contributions are only accepted where there is an urgent update.

As VK2WI News is primarily a radio news bulletin, items need to be written for our announcers to read, not just for the printed page. It is often helpful to write your item in the third person – and while we don't enforce an absolute cutoff on the length of an item, keeping under 400 words is a good guide. Longer items tend to test the concentration of listeners and announcers alike.

As a guide for the content of news items, it works best to include more detail on the immediate activities or items of interest – activities occurring later in the year can be mentioned briefly, with details provided in a future item. We will include the dates in our summary of coming events at the end of each bulletin.

Another point to consider is varying the content of regularly submitted items. We often hear promotion of forthcoming events and meetings, but we are also interested to hear reports after these events. Such reports provide a wider picture as well as greater interest, to promote the next activity.

VK2WI News can also accept audio items and we are especially interested in those reporting on events and activities - but please let our news team know in advance so that we can be prepared.

The email address for VK2WI News submissions and enquires is news@arnsw.org.au.

*Mathew VK2YAP
News Editor, VK2WI News.*

Meccano Exhibition

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

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 29th 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 14th to the 20th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm flux	73	73	75	75	80	81	81
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	5	4	3	6	12	24 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	2	2	1	3	6	17 estimated
T index	13	14	11	11	12	25	31

Solar flare activity was low from the 14th to the 16th, low from the 17th to 19th, then very low again on the 20th.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on 14th, quiet from the 15th to the 18th, quiet to unsettled on the 19th, and quiet to active on the 20th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 14th. The 15th was depressed 15% during the day but recovered to near predicted during local night. Frequencies then remained near predicted from the 16th to the 19th and during local day on the 20th, though local night on the 20th saw enhancement of 15%.

Now, the forecast for the 21st to the 27th of April;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity, will start out quiet to unsettled, then expecting a minor storm on the 23rd, Minor to Major storm levels on the 24th, and Active conditions from the 25th to the 27th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed from 15% to 30% on the 24th and 25th, but should remain near predicted monthly values on other days.

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 March were;

Minimum 70 Average 74 Maximum 86
Peak dates from the 1st to the 4th, and 28th to 31st

Now as we near the end of April ...

Minimum 71 Average 83 Maximum 112
With peak dates between the 1st and 6th, and the 22nd to the 29th.

And looking ahead, the prediction for May;

Minimum 73 Average 80 Maximum 90
With peak dates from the 16th to the 25th.

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>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

TOGO, 5V. David, OK6DJ and Petr, OK1FCJ are active as 5V7P until April 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with two stations active.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Mike, UA1QV is active as 8Q7QV from Fihalhohi Island, IOTA AS-013, until April 25. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. In addition, Jim, G3VDB will be active as 8Q7EJ from Vilamendhoo from April 24 to May 7. Activity will be on 20 metres, and possibly 30 and 17 metres using CW, and possibly SSB, RTTY and PSK.

BOTSWANA, A2. A group of operators will be active as A25UK from April 25 to May 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BELARUS, EU. Special event station EV145O [letter O not zero] is active until June 22 to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Belarusian Society of Rescue on the Waters.

SCOTLAND, GM. Mike, KI1U will be active from Scotland and from Iona Island for a day or two as MM/KI1U, IOTA EU-008, until April 29. Activity will be as time permits on 40 and 20 metres using CW.

SWITZERLAND, HB. Special event station HB600NVF is active until the end of 2017 to mark the 600 years since the birth of the patron saint of Switzerland, Niklaus von Flue.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Ari, OH3KAV will be active as OF0KA until April 27. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly 60 metres, using CW, JT9 and JT65.

CRETE, SV9. Seppo, OH1VR will be active as SV9/OH1VR from April 27 to May 3. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using mainly CW.

MALI, TZ. Denis, F8DAK is active on 20 metres as TZ6BB from Bamako and is there for about 18 months. In addition, Jeff, TZ4AM is active from Bamako, on the HF bands and possibly 6 metres as well.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event stations R1961GP and R1961AG are active until April 30 to commemorate the first manned space flight by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961.

NAMIBIA, V5. Stefan, HB9JAB is active as V51/HB9JAP until May 8 while caravanning around Namibia. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Randy, WW6RG will be active as V73/WW6RG from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, on April 26. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres using SSB at various times.

BRUNEI, V8. Special event station V84SWA is active until April 24 to commemorate the 92nd World Amateur Radio Day. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

VIETNAM, XV. Jesus, WP4JBG is active as XV9G from Ho Chi Minh City until May 9. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres using CW and SSB.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, XW4XR has been active on 20 metres using RTTY around 1400z.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, QRP to the Field, SP DX RTTY Contest, UK/EI DX CW Contest, Nebraska QSO Party and the BARTG Sprint 75 are all on this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, CWops Mini-CW Test, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for April 26.

WICEN News

Next weekend, WICEN Northern Rivers is providing communications assistance for the Tenterfield Endurance Riders Club 2017 event in the Girard State Forest, west of Drake.

The next Memory Walk and Jog, run by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, is the Sydney walk on May 7th, at Leichhardt Oval #3. The 21st of May is the Hunter event, at Tulkaba Park in Teralba, then in Port Macquarie at Westport Park, on the 4th of June. These are short events, and are suitable for new members.

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

BWRS has changed its name to BSAR; Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, Incorporated. They have resumed first aid training, with the next course in May. Registrations close on May 11th, for details click the First Aid link at: bwrs.org.au.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at 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. Two upcoming club meetings are of interest to WICEN members; Wednesday 26th of April, on the Correct usage of DMR (Digital Mobile Radio); and Wednesday 2nd May, which is WICEN Training and preparation for the NatCap Rally. Doors open at 7:30 pm at the Mount Mugga Scout Hall, 17 Astrolabe Street, Red Hill. Their website is: crarc.ampr.org.

ACT WICEN events include; Sunday, May 7th is a Carriage Driving event at Witwood, a property at Braidwood, while the 26th to 28th are the BMSC National Capital Rally. The weekend of June 10th and 11th is the SCSCC Bega Rally, and June 17th is the BMSC Rallye des Femmes.

*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 Hunter Radio Group.

The next monthly meeting is on Friday 12th 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.*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of May.

The club's annual Field Day is on the weekend of the 10th and 11th 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. 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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next monthly General Meeting of the Club is this Wednesday, 26th of April at McDonald's Woodbine, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly VHF net on 147.5MHz simplex, is on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at; www.fgarc.net.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 3rd of May.

This month there will be a presentation by John VK2BBC on antenna modelling - using software to design an antenna.

Antenna modelling software is very useful to amateurs who want to build their own antennas, or to get an indication of how antennas may perform. Software can show how the feed point impedance changes when a dipole is hung as an "inverted V" and how it differs with the angle of the V. Also, how impedance and gain pattern of a Yagi antenna changes with different element separation.

If you want to see how it is done, then come along to the gathering.

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 – which is near South Hurstville. The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".

[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted\]](http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted)

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

If you worked the International Marconi Day station VK2IMD this weekend, QSL cards can be sent to PO BOX 362, HORNSBY NSW 1630.

There is no monthly meeting this month due to the public holiday; the next meetings are on Tuesday 9th May followed by the AGM on the 23rd. Both meetings are at the Mount Colah Community Centre and start at 8:00pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, very close to Mount Colah Railway Station.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights (tomorrow night) 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. 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.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.

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Summary of coming events;

April

ANZAC day is the 25th – Australian amateurs can use the AX prefix
ARNSW AGM on the 29th
Manly-Warringah Foundation Revision and Assessments Day, on the 29th
Meccano Modellers Association annual also on the 29th

May

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 3rd
Waverley Shack night, also on the 3rd
Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 5th
Waverley Project Day on the 6th
Illawarra ARS meeting on the 9th
HADARC Monthly meeting on the 9th
ARNSW Foundation weekend, 13th and 14th
Manly-Warringah lecture on the 17th
HADARC AGM on the 23rd
ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 28th
Manly-Warringah theme night – Microphones - ends the month, on the 31st

June

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 2nd
Port Macquarie Field Day, on the weekend of the 10th and 11th
Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, also on the 10th and 11th
Waverley ARS Foundation weekend is the 17th and 18th
Manly-Warringah lecture night - Foxhunting – on the 21st
BWRS Navshield 2017, a WICEN event, on the weekend of the 24th and 25th