

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

The May ARNSW Foundation course is fully booked. Bookings are now open for the next course, scheduled for the weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. Enquiries can be made by email to; [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

The next Trash & Treasure at ARNSW is at the end of this month, on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>.

There is another ARNSW TalkFest scheduled in a few months' time, and the organizer for these events is AI VK2OK. But, AI advises that he is finding it difficult to attract speakers.

The usual format for these events is to have three talks on a range of topics, each of about one hour duration. If you have previously given a talk at your local radio club, here is an opportunity to introduce a new audience to your special subject at the next ARNSW Talk Fest. As you have already done the preparation it will only need you to find your notes and the USB stick with the power point presentation and you can do it all again. Interested? Then let AI VK2OK know, or send an email via the office, at [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au). Share you knowledge with other Radio Amateurs. You even get lunch for your efforts.

A further production of ARNSW name badges has arrived and will be sent out in this coming week.

A reminder that the VK2WI morse transmission on 3699 kHz recently had more text added to its memory so some portions will be new and fresh to those who like using the service. You can report your interest by an email to [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au).

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## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 28<sup>th</sup> of April to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	78	77	77	75	77	75	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	6	6	5	4	2	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	4	2	2	2	3	2 estimated
T index	15	16	13	9	10	8	9

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet from the 28<sup>th</sup> of April to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, and became quiet to unsettled on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>, with enhancement of 15% during local night on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Frequencies then returned to near predicted monthly values for the rest of the week.

Now, the forecast for the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of May;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity will be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed up to 15 to 20% on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 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.

Firstly, the final figures for April ...

Minimum 71      Average 81      Maximum 112  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the prediction for May is;

Minimum 74      Average 77      Maximum 85  
With peak dates between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 73      Average 77      Maximum 88  
With peak dates between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<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**

LAOS, XW. Champ will be active as XW1IC on May 8, 9 and 10 with an emphasis on RTTY on 20, 17 and 15 metres.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Harald, DF2WO (XT2AW, 9X2AW) is active until June 8 as D44TWO. He is operating on 80 to 6 metres with a hex beam and vertical antennas.

NORTHERN IRELAND, GI. Special event call GB0GLS (Gilnahirk Listening Station) draws attention to this radio station's role in WWII. They will be active until May 13.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Luca, IK2PFL will be active as 9M2/IK2PFL from Perhentian Besar, IOTA AS-073, until May 8. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

QATAR, A7. Martin, MW0BRO will be active as A7/MW0BRO until May 18 on 80 to 10 metres using CW only.

RUSSIA, UA. More than 150 different stations will be active with the prefix RP72 until May 9 to commemorate the end of WWII.

UKRAINE, UR. EM2017UEV will operate around the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 from May 9 to 13.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Art, KZ5D plans to be active as VP5/KZ5D from May 25 to 31, including the CQ WPX CW Contest with special call VQ9D.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Doug, W6HB and Bruce, AD7MM will be active as E51DLD and E51BAS, respectively, from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until May 12. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using SSB.

MARQUESAS ISLAND, FO. Max, IZ2ZTQ is active as FO/IZ2ZTQ from Fatu Hiva, IOTA OC-027. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using SSB, RTTY, PSK and JT65 with solar panels and a wind generator. He will be active from other islands as well.

VIETNAM, 3W. Peter, DF7DQ will be active as 3W9DQ until May 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some digital modes. In addition, Yuri, RM0F will be active as 3W9FU from Nha Trang while on vacation until May 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. He also plans to be active as 3W9FU/p from IOTA AS-157 for two or three days.

JAPAN, JA. Special event stations 8J4VLP, 8J6VLP, 8J8VLP and 8J9VLP are active until June 30 to commemorate World QRP Day on June 17. All stations will be active on the HF bands using 5 watts.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Jan, PY4NY will be active as PY0NY until May 15 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Smoke Squadron, the Brazilian Air Force's Official Squadron. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Ivan, LZ1PJ will be active as S79J from Mahe, IOTA AF-024, until May 10. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres using only CW. He welcomes calls from SKCC members.

POLAND, SP. Special event station SN74GETTO is active until May 16 to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Christoph, DL1YAF plans to be active as DL1YAF/VK9L until May 8. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Spring Contest, CW, SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest, Microwave Spring Sprint, ARI International DX Contest, F9AA Cup, PSK, 7th Call Area QSO Party, Indiana QSO Party, FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint, Delaware QSO Party and the New England QSO Party are all on this weekend.

## WICEN News

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

June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> is True Grit, promoted as a "military inspired obstacle challenge", in Lower Portland, north-west of Sydney. As one of the competition classes in this event continues overnight, additional operators are needed, in order to work in shifts.

Navshield, a major bush navigation event, is on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, with WICEN setup the afternoon before.

Several training days are being planned, including a one-day First Aid qualification; Please express your interest to WICEN Operations.

BSAR, Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, are running first aid training; "Provide First Aid", which is also day one of "Remote First Aid", is on Sunday 21 May, with days two and three of the latter on 27-28 May 2017. Registrations close on May 11<sup>th</sup>, for details click the First Aid link at: [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 to see meeting Agendas and events throughout the year.

Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group. On Twitter, look for @wicennsw.

WICEN Northern Rivers has a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8:00pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring 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. Coming events include the BMSC National Capital Rally, May 26th to 28th, and the SCSCC Bega Rally on the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and the BMSC Rallye des Femmes on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

At the CRARC club meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, there will be 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](http://crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. The Mallee Rally is on the weekend of the 10th and 11th June, at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, near Sealake. 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 Hunter Radio Group.

The next monthly meeting is 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; the Lecture for the evening will be presented by Phil, VK2FGBR, on Morse Code Keys. Phil has acquired a number of Morse Code Keys over the years, and this promises to be a very interesting presentation.

Tea, coffee and ragchew after the meeting.

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



## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

It is now only 5 weeks to the club's annual Field Day 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. Don't forget to book accommodation early; as Port Macquarie is a popular destination during the June Long Weekend.

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 May 2017 issue of Oxtales is almost ready and will be published early in the coming week, and past issues are available on the website as well.

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

## **Illawarra Amateur Radio Society**

The next meeting of the Society is on this Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee meeting at 6:30pm.

The Society's meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall, Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting will have a presentation and video from Club member Ned VK2AGV. Ned's had a varied career of past professions, at one stage being the radio operator on merchant vessels out of Australia. On one voyage he was docked in the South Pacific when a volcano erupted close by, creating a downfall of ashes with amazing sights. Ned videoed the voyage and edited a video which he has called "Out of the Ashes", giving a fascinating insight into merchant shipping, bulk carriers and an erupting volcano. As Ned is a passionate speaker with an in-depth understanding of his topic, this presentation should prove to be very interesting.

After Ned's presentation, raffle tickets will be available for purchase for the chance to win a full-featured soldering/desoldering reworking station, followed by the usual ragchew over a hot cuppa' and biscuits.

The VK2RUW repeater at Knights Hill on 146.675MHz, has returned to service after an extensive refit - from the repeater, through the duplexer, the feedline and antenna system, all on a new tower. The coverage appears to have improved greatly in all directions, with access from Narooma in the south, Goulburn to the south-west and Lithgow to the north west. The installation took considerable time and co-ordination as it had to be done to the professional required of the tower's owner.

ARNSW News Bulletins are now being relayed on three of the Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill as well as VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres, 53.65MHz and 2 metres on 146.85MHz. These three repeaters provide coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

The Society is also trialling a Yaesu Fusion repeater on 438.725MHz at VK2RMP Maddens Plains. This 70 centimetre repeater operates with the usual 5MHz negative offset, with a 123Hz CTCSS access tone necessary for FM users. The repeater is operating in Auto Mode, so analogue FM transmissions are retransmitted in FM and digital C4FM signals retransmitted in C4FM. Any users of this new digital mode are invited to make use of this UHF repeater on 438.725.

Additionally, if you're interested in having a bit of a chinwag on Saturday mornings, Steve VK2BGL runs a very popular net on the VK2RMP and VK2RUW 2m repeaters, starting at 9.30am local. As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, as well as many different other countries. So put the time of 9.30am in your diary & call-in next Saturday morning on either 2m repeater or on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

To conclude, for a great evening of entertainment, fun and information, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting at 7:30pm on May the 9th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT - Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

Do you know someone who would like to obtain an amateur radio licence or upgrade their existing licence?

The St George Amateur Radio Society has a team of educators dedicated to assisting new comers to amateur radio in obtain their licence, and for existing licensees to upgrade to a higher licence category.

The next training and assessment weekend on the first weekend in June – that's Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>. The classes and assessment will be in Sutherland, a short walk from the railway station.

For more information, or to reserve a place, send an email to [education@sgars.org](mailto:education@sgars.org).

The Society's 2m repeater VK2RYL is back in operation, after being taken out of service by a lightning strike. Thanks are due to the hard work by Tom VK2TB and the team.

The VK2RYL repeater is located near Rylstone, in the Central Tablelands of NSW, about 3 hours north-west of Sydney.

The repeater utilises 16 kHz (wide band) FM, with an output frequency of 147.225 MHz, and a plus 600 kHz input. A CTCSS tone is not required.

For more information about the Society's events, repeaters, and activities, please see our website, [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of HADARC is the informal mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday 9th May at the Mount Colah Community Centre, starting at 8:00pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, very close to Mount Colah Railway Station.

The Club's AGM is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May.

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 438.35 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset, meaning users transmit on 432.95MHz. 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).

A reminder for those looking to send QSL cards for VK2IMD - the club's postal address, is PO BOX 362, HORNSBY NSW 1630.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.*

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## **Summary of coming events;**

### **May**

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

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

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

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

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 28<sup>th</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>

St George ARS Foundation and assessment weekend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</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>

BWRS Navshield 2017, a WICEN event, on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

St George ARS meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 30<sup>th</sup>