

## **Silent Key.**

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of two silent keys.

We have been informed of the passing last week, of Ian Donald McKay VK2EYC, at the age of 89.

Also, From the Summerland Amateur Radio Club we have learned of the passing of long time member, Geoff Carmont VK2AGC. Geoff passed away peacefully in the Lismore Base Hospital on Friday evening 14th July, after a short illness.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Ian and Geoff.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]

Ian Donald McKay VK2EYC  
Geoff Carmont VK2AGC.

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**[Play Evening ID1]**

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

Today was the bi-monthly Trash and Treasure at VK2WI Dural; The next is in two months' time, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

Also coming up in September, is the next Foundation course provided by ARNSW. Enquiries and bookings are best made by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au). As places fill fast, early booking is recommended.

On the subject of education – if you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting an assessment session on the morning of Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, at Bankstown Airport.

Candidates need to study all grades up to the one, which they wish to obtain, but all the papers necessary can be sat for the one affordable fee. To aid this, there are a range of online, printed, and audio learning resources available.

For more information, contact Julian VK2YJS, or look up the Facebook group "USA Amateur Radio Licence Exams in Australia"  
[<https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/>]

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	69	70	71	70	70	69	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	13	18	16	13	0	15	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	8	12	9	8	7	7	3 estimated
T index	11	13	8	4	6	11	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet to unsettled on the 21<sup>st</sup>, quiet to active on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, quiet to active from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, then quiet on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted all week.

Now, the forecast for the 28<sup>th</sup> of July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August;

Solar flare activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, but otherwise quiet.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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, as we near the end of July, the figures are;

Minimum 68      Average 78      Maximum 95  
With peak dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>

Now, the prediction for August;

Minimum 70      Average 77      Maximum 82  
With peak dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for September;

Minimum 70      Average 80      Maximum 82  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 9<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**

FIJI, 3D2. Wes, ZL3TE plans to be active as 3D2SE from Viti Levu, IOTA OC-016. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW and RTTY, including an entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

CROATIA, 9A. Operators Brani, OM1BD, Branislav, OM2FY and Radovan, OM2ZZ will be active as 9A/OM2ZZ from Pag Island, IOTA EU-170, as a Low Power entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

RWANDA, 9X. Alan, KE4TA will be active as 9X0TA from Kimihurura, Kigali beginning August 5 for the next three years. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. He is currently active on 20 and 17 metres using SSB and digital modes as well as some CW.

CHINA, BY. Operators Dale, BA4TB, Yu, BG4TMC, Tao, BG4TRN and Zhou, BG4TVT will be active as BG4TMC from Chongming Island, IOTA AS-136, in the RSGB IOTA contest. QSL via BG4TMC. In addition, members of the Fuzhou Amateur Radio Club will be active as BG5UDN from Pingtan Island, IOTA AS-138, in the RSGB IOTA contest.

MOROCCO, CN. Rachid, CN8RAH will be active with special event call sign 5E4RAH until July 31, to commemorate the Feast of the Throne.

ESTONIA, ES. Members of the Radio Club V will be active as ES0V from Saaremaa Island, IOTA EU-034, as a Multi/Single entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO. Operators Didier, F6BCW, Dominique, F6DTZ, Le, F1TCV and David, K3EL will be active as TX5EG from Hiva Oa Island, IOTA OC-027, until August 6. Activity will be on 80 to 12 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK.

WALES, GW. Members of the Barry ARS will be active with special event station GB4RME until August 5 from the Royal Mint at Llantrisant. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65, and on various satellites.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Geoff, G8OFQ will be active as HC8/G8OFQ from Isabela Island, IOTA SA-004, from August 1 to October 30. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres.

THAILAND, HS. Operators E21IZC, E27EK and HS7UCQ are active as E29AU from Chang Island, IOTA AS-125, until August 1. Activity is on HF bands using CW. They will be active as E2T in the RSGB IOTA contest.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Koji, JI1LET will be active as JD1BOI from Komagari, Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from August 3 to 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

AUSTRIA, OE. Special event station OE17BEACH is active until August 6 during the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championship 2017.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Operators Doug, CO8DM and Pekka, OH2TA will be active as OH0X from Brando Island, IOTA EU-002, as a Multi/2 entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Members of the Secondary School of Electrical Engineering in Kosice are active with special event station OM50SPSEKE until the end of 2017 to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ is active as S79NH from Praslin Island, IOTA AF-024, until July 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and RTTY, and possibly SSB. This includes an entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

DODECANESE, SV5. Efsthios, SV5DKL will be active active as SX5R from Rhodes Island, IOTA EU-001. He will be a Single Op/Assisted/CW Mode/24 Hrs/High Power entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Vladimir, UA0LCZ is active as R66IOTA from Popov Island, IOTA AS-066, until July 31. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW. He will be active in the RSGB IOTA contest using CW and SSB.

CANADA, VE. Operators Martin, VA2AMH, Marc, VE2MBT, Jean-Pierre, VE2SSS, Pascal, VE2WHZ and Remi, VE2YAG will be active as VY0/VA2NDX from Nunavut, IOTA NA-173, in the RSGB IOTA contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The RSGB IOTA Contest, QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint and ARS CW Flight of the Bumblebees are on this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 2.

## WICEN News

The WICEN AGM is on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, starting at 2pm, here at ARNSW, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

The VH-MDX SAREX is held over the weekend of 15th to 17th September. SAREX is a search and rescue exercise built around the search a light aircraft missing since 1981, in the rugged Barrington Tops, north of Newcastle. Some checkpoints can be accessed by a regular car, others require a four wheel drive.

Looking ahead to October, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley is on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, for more details visit the website, [kvrp.net.au](http://kvrp.net.au). VRA Memorial Day is Sunday, October 15, and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight on the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) - includes a printable membership form, a web contact form, other contact details, and some useful links. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers is providing communications for the Jackadgery Horse Enduro. There is a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR. Sunday 13th August is a group meeting starting at 10am.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> is the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Enduro on the north-west border of the Territory. Fitz's Challenge is a cycling event on Sunday October 29. For more information visit: [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August is the Rainbow Desert Rally, an off-road buggy event in the state's west, and the Stockman's Rally on September 17 is a non-competitive motorcycle event in Big River State Forest. 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 club's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The August Monthly General Meeting will be held immediately after the AGM.

Club membership is now due and members are asked to please renew promptly.

The club station VK2BOR will participate in the RD Contest on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of August, and in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. The club's Communications Caravan will be located at the Camden Haven Airfield for the RD Contest, and at the Tacking Point Lighthouse for the ILLW.

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 courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be 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 Club, visit the website at [orarc.org](http://orarc.org). The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The July 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, 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**

Tomorrow morning at 6.50am, there will be an interview on ABC Illawarra about Amateur Radio. Breakfast presenter Melinda James interviewed the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's Secretary, Keith VK2KQB and Vice President Rob VK2MT last Friday afternoon, in Keith's shack.

The many diverse and exciting facets of Amateur Radio were discussed and then Keith showed Melinda how easy it was to make a contact, establishing a conversation on 20 metres.

Hopefully this interview will help to convey to the Breakfast Show listeners how much enjoyment can be had on Amateur Radio. So if you're up and about tomorrow morning at 6.50am and in the Wollongong, Shoalhaven or Sydney regions, tune in to 97.3MHz ABC Illawarra for the interview.

The next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society is on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are held at Coniston Community Hall in 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 is the Society's Annual General Meeting, but attendees need not be concerned about unexpectedly being appointed a position as many of the current executive, are happy to stand again. At the conclusion of the AGM there will be a short radio-related video followed by the usual enjoyable rag chew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

Sunday News Broadcasts from VK2WI are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres, and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 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.

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 connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, and overseas as well. So put the time of 9.30am in your diary and call-in next Saturday morning on either 2m repeater, or on Echolink via VK2BGL-R or VK2MT-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 August the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT*

*Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this coming Wednesday evening, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.

Cameron, VK2CKP, will be presenting on the past, present and possible future of Amateur Television. The presentation will look at the history of Amateur Television dating back to the early experiments of the 1920s moving through to the introduction of analogue television and onto the digital revolution, finishing with some commentary on where this aspect of the hobby may move to in the near future.

Some operating equipment will be displayed, demonstrating both the 'home brew' nature of this mode and how to get involved.

As well as the presentation, there will be the usual 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".

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

The Society's VK2RLE 70cm UHF repeater in southern Sydney, has been upgraded to the DMR Plus network, providing worldwide interconnection between DMR Tier 2 repeaters.

Information about the new DMR Plus talk groups can be found at [www.vkdmr.info](http://www.vkdmr.info) and follow the USING DMR link.

The VK2RLE DMR repeater can be accessed using a DMR Tier 2 compatible UHF transceiver on 438.425 MHz with a minus 5 MHz offset.

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be an informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 8:00pm.

Then, at the monthly meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a talk on adding TFT displays to projects.

Meetings are held at Mount Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station. Additionally, two buses from Hornsby can be used: the 595 straight up the original Pacific Highway, or the 598 via the backstreets of Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

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 second repeater is VK2RHT at Chatswood. The user listens on 438.350 MHz, and transmits on 432.950 MHz, due to the -5.4 MHz offset, needed to avoid so-called LIPDs. FM users need to send a 91.5Hz tone, and P25 users a NAC of 293.

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, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS  
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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## **Summary of coming events;**

### **August**

St George ARS gathering on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Oxley Region ARC AGM is on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Central Coast ARC AGM also on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS AGM on the 8<sup>th</sup>

HARARC Mid-monthly meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>

2017 RD contest, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

St George ARS Foundation weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, also on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Shahzada Horse Enduro, 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

WICEN NSW AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Summerland SARCfest on the 27<sup>th</sup>

### **September**

St George ARS meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>

SAREX for VH-MDX in the Barrington Tops, 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah Postcode Challenge on the 16<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

Waverley AR Society Foundation weekend, also 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 24<sup>th</sup>

### **October**

St. George ARS gathering on the 4<sup>th</sup>

JOTA & JOTI on the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

“QRP by the Harbour” on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>