

## Silent Keys.

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

It is with great sadness to inform the amateur radio community of the passing of Ken Nisbet VK2KP on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Ken was first licensed as VK3AKK and was a great supporter of the Moorabin and District Amateur Radio Club. He moved to VK2 for work with ACI Electronics as head of Communications and development of early SSB radios such as Acitron, Stingray, Sea Ranger.

Ken and XYL Sue formed their own company, Rad-Tel Systems, which pioneered early radio telemetry throughout Australia. The company was successful and known in country areas as far apart as rural areas in Victoria NSW and Queensland.

We have also recently learned of the passing earlier in the year, of John Matthews VK2ZDM, after an illness. John had been very active on HF nets and on VHF as well. He also kept involved with his local radio clubs, which had recently included the Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ken and John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]  
Ken Nisbet VK2KP, and  
John Matthews VK2ZDM.

*Our thanks to Peter VK2HC and Dave VK2AWZ for advising us here at VK2WI News.*

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

This weekend was this year's Remembrance Day Contest, which finished at 1pm this afternoon. Don't forget to submit a log entry if you took part, even if you only had a few contacts; All entries help your States' total.

It's that time of year again, and another run of ARNSW membership badges will be ordered soon. If you're a member, and haven't got yours already, you have until the end of the month to make your request. Email [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au) with your Given name and callsign. Delivery is expected towards the end of September.

## US Licence exams in Sydney

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 for a US licence, 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. You can find the question pools, and the FCC "Part 97" rules on the web, at: [ncvec.org](http://ncvec.org).

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

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of August.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	74	74	74	73	71	72	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	19	17	13	6	5	5	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	17	11	10	4	2	2	2 estimated
T index	18	16	13	4	4	-1	6

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to Active on the 4<sup>th</sup>, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 11nT, at 0333UT. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> saw quiet to unsettled conditions, which returned to quiet conditions from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted during local day on the 4<sup>th</sup>, with enhancement of 35% during local night. Similarly the 5<sup>th</sup> was near predicted during local day, and enhanced 30% during local night. Then from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, frequencies remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar flare activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with possible active periods on the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, and on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly 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, for July, the figures were;

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

Now, nearly halfway through August;

Minimum 69      Average 72      Maximum 75  
With peak dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for September;

Minimum 70      Average 72      Maximum 74  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<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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## Historical Feature

As we've just finished this year's Remembrance Day contest, we're taking a look back to World War II, and just one example of the contribution made to the war effort, by Radio Amateurs.

From this year's RD opening address, here is Justin VK7TW;

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***[Play File: E-rd-winnie.wav]***

*Duration: 2m08s*

*In: World War II saw the need...*

*Out: ...people doing extraordinary things.*

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## **ARRL DX news**

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Martti, OH2BH and Henri, OH3JR signing OJ0BH and OJ0JR, respectively, will be active from August 12 to 19, using the new FT8 digital mode. They will also be active in the Worked All Europe DX Contest as well as make appearances on the traditional modes during any audible propagation.

ALGERIA, 7X. Bodo, DF8DX is currently active as 7Y0A until August 26 from Bechar using SSB and CW.

ENGLAND, G. Special event station GB4RFR operates around the Flight Refueling Hamfest on August 13.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, K. K7I is the call of a special event station commemorating the birth of the first IBM-PC. They are active until August 14. This is one in a series of activities for marking historic milestones in air and spacecraft technology.

RUSSIA, UE. UE80AR draws attention to the founding of the Archangelsk Oblast 80 years ago and is active until the end of September. An award is available as well.

INDIA, VU. Madhukar, VU2MUD plans to use the call AT5M in the WAE contest from Bengaluru.

MALTA, 9H. Oliver, DF6MS will be operating holiday-style from Gozo as 9H3BW until August 19 on 40 to 15 metres, using CW only, running a QRP rig.

SVALBARD, JW. Look for Volkmar, DL4AOJ signing JW/DL4AOJ on the HF bands, using SSB and CW, until August 14.

MAYOTTE, FH. Heye, DJ9RR is active as FH/DJ9RR until August 14. Look for him using CW and RTTY on 80 to 10 metres.

FEDERAL STATES OF MICRONESIA, V6. Chusuke, JR1FKR will be operating as V63FKR while on vacation from September 27 to October 2, using SSB and RTTY on 40, 20, 17, 15, 10 and 6 metres.

VANUATU, YJ. Adam, K7ST will be active as YJ0ST from several different islands until mid October, before sailing on to Australia.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Tina, DL5YL and Fred, DL5YM will be active as HB0/home calls from September 21 to October 7. Look for them on 160 to 30 metres. Tina will be emphasizing low band activity towards JA, VK and ZL on the long path.

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Hans, PA3HGT will be active as 3B8/PA3HGT from September 5 to 22. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20 and 10 metres using mainly SSB and sometimes the digital modes.

GUINEA, 3YX. Operators Alain, F5OZC and Sebastien, F8DQZ will be active as 3XY3D from November 1 to 30. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Alex, F4GHS will be active as E51GHS from two of the South Cook Islands during August. He will be active from Aitutaki Island (OC-083) until August 16 and from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) from August 16 to 25. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands.

LIGHTHOUSE OPERATIONS. GB0BLH will operate from Berwick Lighthouse(ILLW UK0077) from August 14 to 21, including the ILL weekend on August 19 and 20. Operators Moses, CM2YV, Bob, CO2KL, Amed, CO2AME and possibly others will be active as T45FM from the Faro Puta Maya Lighthouse (ILLW CU-005) during the ILL weekend. They plan to have six stations active on all bands using CW, SSB and digital modes.

MELLISH REEF, VK9M. Operators Dietmar DL3DXX, Morten LB8DC, Robert N7QT, Brian N9ADG, Eric SM1ALH, Hawk SM5AQD, Lasse SM5GLC and David W5XU. will be active as VK9MA from November 3 to 16. They will be active on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to have five stations on the air.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The WAE DX Contest, CW, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and Maryland-DC QSO Party are on this weekend.



## 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. Members should have received their paperwork.

The Great North Walk 100s is a long distance race with 100 km and 160 km options, from Teralba near Lake Macquarie to Patonga Wharf. It runs from the 9th to 10th September, and will be a good event for new operators.

The VH-MDX SAREX is 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. While some checkpoints can be accessed by a regular car, others require a four wheel drive.

In 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 holds 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.

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. November 4 and 5 sees the group double up; the Light Car Club of Canberra's Monaro Stages event around Cooma on the Saturday, and the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood on Sunday. 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. The Stockman's Rally on September 17 is a non-competitive motorcycle event in Big River State Forest. December 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Alpine rally in the east of the state. 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 next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm, this Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Next Weekend, club station VK2BOR will participate in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, with the club's Communications Caravan in operation at the Tacking Point Lighthouse.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. Training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run once 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.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club Held its AGM last Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August and the following members were elected;

President	Bob Hudson	VK2AOR
Vice President	Rod Jarman	VK2LAX
Secretary	Mark Tate	VK2CCR
Treasurer	David Stephens	VK2DLS

Committee Members are Victor VK2BTV, Bob VK2PEP, Don VK2ZCZ, Bob VK2ZAR, Ian VK2HK, and Mark VK2MP.

Karen VK2AKB has volunteered to fill the role of lecture co-ordinator.

Saturday the 21st of October will be a lecture on the FT8 digital mode, presented by Karen VK2AKB.

The clubrooms are open every Saturday from 10am and are located at Dandaloo St Kariong, next to the RFS facility.

For more information on the club, visit the website at; [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au).

*Bob VK2AOR  
President CCARC*

## **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**

A reminder that the Club's Winterfest and Open Day is on next Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, from 9.00 am to 4pm, at the Clubhouse at 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook.

There will be tables available and you can bring items to sell or give away; here is an opportunity to clean out the shack.

A sausage sizzle lunch will be available.

The clubhouse will be open on Saturday 19th August for set-up of tables, etc. Any help is appreciated from 10am.

Please contact the Secretary, Irene VK2VAN on 0438 606 740 for queries on any club events.

*73,  
Irene VK2VAN  
BMARC Secretary*

## **Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

This Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> is the club's next monthly meeting. This month we are having a "bring along your portable antennae, HF, VHF or UHF, and give a brief description of it and how you utilise it" night. Most people try different sorts of antennae for portable operations and this is a night to bring yours along and tell everyone about them and how well they work, or otherwise. As usual, tea, coffee and a chat will be available afterwards.

The next Shack night is on Wednesday September 6th, commencing at 7:30pm, a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with. There is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am to 4pm, on most Tuesdays. A quick call on one of the club repeaters will confirm that the club is open and the barista is working.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 2nd, starting around 1:30pm and usually finish around 4:30 to 5pm.

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 2000 on its VK2RBV Fusion repeater, in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, usually run by Richard, VK2XRC. All are welcome to join in. Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings, see the club website for details.

The next Foundation course and upgrade assessments run by the club, are scheduled over the weekend of September 16th and 17th. To book and reserve your place, see our website, under Education and Training, for details. The last training weekend for this year will be in November, on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. See the events calendar on the website for further details and bookings.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall, in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay, with parking normally 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 or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Club station VK2MB has been active in the Remembrance Day Contest this weekend. Good luck to all the other stations that have been taking part.

This Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> is lecture night, which will feature a talk on 3D printing by Malcom VK2TMF. At the time this goes to air, there is also the possibility of a presentation on DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) by Garry Cratt of Silicon Chip magazine and Av-Comm fame. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Next weekend, the 19th and 20th, is International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, when VK2MB portable will setup shop at Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach in northern Sydney. The station will be active from early on Saturday morning, right through the night, until early afternoon on Sunday. The lighthouse itself is usually open for tours on Sundays from 11am to 3pm. Hike up the Smugglers Track to visit the lighthouse and drop in to say hello at the station.

Then on Sunday the 26th, Sydney University will be hosting an Electrical Engineering Open Day, where VK2MB aims to operate a portable station. No doubt there will be other things to see!

To round off August, Wednesday the 30th is the club's "5th Wednesday theme night", where the theme will be "Cameras". If you have any unusual camera or photographic gear to show off, this will be the time to do it.

Next month, the "new and improved" Flagpole Challenge will take place on Saturday 16 September. The new rules will be on the club web site soon.

Finally, audio from the VK2RMB two metre repeater is now being streamed live to the internet, 24 hours a day. Go to the [Broadcastify.com](http://Broadcastify.com) web site, or get the free Scanner Radio app from your favourite app store, and search for "VK2RMB". Check how well you are getting into the repeater or keep an ear on activity when you don't have a radio nearby.

Visit the club web site at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au) for more information about the contest and other club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel **VK2MB-TV**, the club's Scouting program and much more.

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*



## **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 is on next weekend – that's Saturday the 19th and Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. 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) or check out the society's webpage [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 is the monthly meeting on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this meeting, Bob VK2ZRM, will give a talk on adding TFT displays to projects. The meeting starts at 8:00 pm at the Mount Colah Community Centre.

Next months mid-monthly meeting, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, will be a dinner at a club near Waitara station, with family members welcome.

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 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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society Lecture night on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
St George ARS Foundation weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation weekend, also on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
BMARC Winterfest, at the clubrooms on the 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>  
VK2MB at Sydney University Electrical Engineering Open Day on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Summerland SARCfest on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
MWRS Theme night – Cameras – on the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>

### September

St George ARS gathering 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 *Flagpole* 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>  
CCARC Lecture on the FT8 digital mode on the 21<sup>st</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>