

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

Ian Fyfe, VK2ZIF of Dudley in Newcastle, passed away on October 3 after a short but serious illness.

Ian was a pharmacist during his working life, but also studied Radio and TV courses at TAFE, and Electrical Engineering subjects at University, to broaden his knowledge. In the late 1970s, Ian was one of the first pharmacists in Australia to introduce computers into his pharmacy, having written his own software and mastered the hardware and system needs.

Ian was first licenced in 1960, and remained active since that time. He was mostly active on VHF and UHF, and was a regular user of the Sydney VHF and UHF repeaters from his Pharmacy at Whitebridge in Newcastle, during the infancy of UHF repeaters in Australia. He was an expert in digital electronics, and created his own phased locked loop 2m radio and then later channel scanning boards for the various other transceivers he had.

More recently, he became interested in software-defined radios, and built a software defined HF transceiver, which allowed him to start operating on HF, an experience that was new to him. Prior to the development of his software defined radio, Ian's main activities were on VHF and UHF.

Ian was bright, intelligent and had a warm heart. He was a loyal friend and he was the go to person if you wanted advice on just about any subject.

He will be missed by his wife Fay and family, as well as by his many friends in the Amateur Radio community in the Hunter Valley.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ian.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ian Fyfe VK2ZIF

Submitted by Grahame VK2FA and Jamie VK2YCJ.

[Play Evening ID1]

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

The Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society will be holding their Hamfest on the 5th of November.

In some news from the UK – the October 2017 issue of RadCom notes that, for the past 65 years His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KY has been Patron of the Radio Society of Great Britain. He has now retired from this position, along with many hundreds of other patron positions. He commenced being Patron of the RSGB on the 1st November 1952.

Jamboree on the Air 2017

Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA, is way for guides and scouts around the world to meet by communicating over the radio waves, using amateur radio equipment, without the organisation and expense of travelling long distances.

The first Jamboree On The Air was held in conjunction with 50th Anniversary of Scouting in 1957, after being devised by scout leader and amateur radio operator, Les Mitchell G3BHK.

This year, guides and scouts will be participating in the 50th JOTA, over the weekend of the 20th to the 22nd of October.

One of the largest and busiest JOTA stations in Australia is operated by the St George Amateur Radio Society, at Kurnell in Sydney - the landing place of Captain Cook.

About 500 guides and scouts will take part in JOTA activity, using 80m, 40m, 20m, 2m, 70cm, Dstar, DMR and Echo Link, from 10.30 AM on Saturday morning until 2.00 PM Sunday, local time.

The official Australian opening address for JOTA will be broadcast by VK2WI on Saturday morning at 11am, through the usual VK2WI frequencies and automated relays.

If you or your radio club will be participating in JOTA, please submit details of your station on the Scouts International website, which is at www.jotajoti.info, there you can click on the "Sign Up" menu tab and follow the directions.

For more information about Jamboree On The Air and the JOTA station operated by The St George Amateur Radio Society, the website is www.jota.sgars.org.

*Submitted by Paul VK2GX
SGARS JOTA coordinator*

QRP by the Harbour

In March this year, the Amateur Radio NSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group held an event called "QRP by the Harbour". It was well received, with about a dozen amateurs attending.

Well, it is on again in two weeks' time; Sunday the 22nd of October. Its at the same location - Mcilwaine Park in Rhodes. Mcilwaine Park is on the edge of Bray Bay, part of the Parramatta River and is conveniently located next to Concord Road and public transport, being on the M41 bus route and only 200 metres from Rhodes Rhodes station. From the Central Coast, change at Epping or from the Blue Mountains, change at Strathfield.

The park has grass and picnic tables, trees and shade, as well as water.

So bring along your radios, portable antennas and do a bit of operating.

Look for "QRP by the Harbour" on Facebook, and the what3 words address is "limes inform sung"

73 from Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29th of September to the 5th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
10cm flux	90	89	86	86	86	87	85
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	11	10	6	8	9	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	8	11	8	3	3	2	4 estimated
T index	16	17	14	16	18	23	29

Solar activity was very low from the 29th of September until the 4th of October, then low on the 5th.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 29th, quiet to active on the 30th, quiet to unsettled again on the 1st of October, then quiet from the 2nd to the 5th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted from the 29th until the 2nd of October. The 3rd saw frequencies mostly near predicted with some enhancements, of up to 20%, after local dawn. The 4th was enhanced 15% during the night and 25% right after dawn, returning to predicted during the day; then the 5th was near predicted during local day, but 25% enhanced during local night; and 30% just after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 6th to the 12th of October;

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

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 6th and 7th, and again on the 11th and 12th, but quiet to unsettled conditions are expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may see minor depressions on the 11th and 12th but should be near predicted monthly values on other days.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Space Weather Summary for September 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

While most of September saw solar activity at low to very low levels, there was some significant activity early in the month.

Solar region 2673 rotated onto the solar disk after 29th of August. This region then grew in size and magnetic complexity and produced significant solar flare activity between the 4th and 10th of September, accounting for most of the flares observed this month. In total, 31 flares were observed, with 27 M-class and 4-X class events. All of the X-class flares were from solar region 2673.

Halo coronal mass ejections (CMEs) were observed with the M5 flare on the 4th, the X9.3 flare on the 6th and the X8 flare on the 10th. The first two of these events, were geoeffective but the last event was very near the solar west limb, reducing geoeffectiveness.

The X9.3 flare on the 6th was the largest flare for not only the month, but in fact, this entire solar cycle so far – there hasn't been a flare of this magnitude since 2006!

Significant solar proton events were observed in association with these flares, and the events associated with the M5 and X9 events probably overlapped. The other moderately large solar region of interest, solar region 2674, appeared not to have produced significant flare activity as it transited the solar disk.

Late on the 6th a CME arrived, believed to be associated with the M5 solar flare, however, its geoeffectiveness was reduced. Post solar wind shock arrival, the north-south, or Bz, component of the interplanetary solar wind magnetic field (IMF) was predominately northward; and this orientation of the IMF is associated with reduced geomagnetic storm activity.

But then, on the 7th, a second CME solar wind shock arrived, and this time the Bz orientation was strongly southward for several hours following the solar wind shock arrival. This orientation of the IMF is associated with increased geomagnetic storm activity.

The subsequent geomagnetic storm reached major storm levels on the 8th and this was the most significant geomagnetic disturbance for the month, with the local geomagnetic A index reaching 35, and even stronger disturbance in the northern hemisphere.

Auroral Australis displays were observed in association with this event.

Isolated minor storm periods were observed from the 12th to 16th during local night hours, possibly in association with a glancing blow from a CME and activity induced by high-speed wind streams from coronal holes. Also, active to minor storm periods were observed at the end of the month from the 27th to the 30th, probably also due to coronal hole high speed wind streams.

The deepest ionospheric depression for the month was observed on the 19th, of up to 25% in the Southern Australian Region, following geomagnetic activity induced by coronal hole high-speed wind streams.

The ionosphere in the Australian region appeared to have an initial strong positive storm response early in the month, followed by a mild negative response to the significant geomagnetic storm activity. Enhancements of up to 90% were observed early in the UT day on the 8th, but ongoing geomagnetic activity led to degradation of HF communication, particularly during local night hours of the 8th. Maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) also became moderately depressed on the 9th in the southern Australia region.

Short wave fadeouts associated with increased solar flare activity were observed on the 5th and 7th in the Australian region.

Depressed MUFs were also observed between the 17th and 22nd, in particular on the 19th, probably due to moderately increased geomagnetic activity between the 14th and 16th.

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

TUNISIA, 3V. Mik, HB9FSA is active as 3V8TD from Djerba Island, IOTA AF-083. Activity is on various HF bands and his length of stay is unknown.

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Roly, ZL1BQD is active as 4W6RR from Dili, IOTA OC-148, until October 10. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using CW and JT9, JT65 and FT8.

RWANDA, 9X. Peter, HB9DVG is active as 9X9PJ, and possibly later as 9X9PJ/p, from Kigali for the next two years. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres using SSB.

BHUTAN, A5. Operators Zorro, JH1AJT, Kasu, VR2KF and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until October 8. The main purpose of this trip is to support the launch of the Paralympic Committee in Bhutan with the Bhutan Olympic Committee. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station AN92EXPO commemorates the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Seville Universal Exposition, operating in conjunction with the fifth centennial of the Discovery of America.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Gust, ON6KE is active as FR/ON6KE until October 10. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, JT65 and FT8.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Stan, LZ1GC is active as H40GC until October 20. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9. A group of operators are active as S9YY from Sao Tome, IOTA AF-023, until October 12. Activity is on the HF bands, possibly including 60 metres, using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Peter, DD1GG is active as S79PT from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024, until October 15. Activity is on various HF bands.

PALAU, T8. Operators JA6BMB, JA6KYU and JR6DRH are active as T88CS, T88HS and T88RH, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until October 11. In addition, operators JA6EGL, JQ6FQI and JH7IPR will be active as T88SM, T88WM and T88UW, respectively, from October 11 to 17. Both operations are expected to be active on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65, JT9 and FT8.

BRUNEI, V8. Special event station V84K50GJ is active until October 15 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebration of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne. Activity is on all bands and modes.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X. A group of operators are active as VK9XI until October 10. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY, with a beacon on 6 metres. This includes an entry in the Oceania DX SSB contest.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND, VK9C. After their Christmas Island operation, the group will be active as VK9CI from October 10 to 17. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY, with a beacon on 6 metres. This includes being an entry in the upcoming Oceania DX CW contest.

VIETNAM. XV. Laurent, F5TMJ is living in Ho Chi Minh City and is active as XV9JM. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres at various times.

MACEDONIA, Z3. Members of the Radio Club Nikola Tesla are active as Z370M until December 31 to celebrate the club's 70 years.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL EME Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest, TRC DX Contest, Microwave Fall Sprint, Oceania DX Phone Contest, The Russian World Wide Digital Contest SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, California QSO Party, International HELL-Contest, FISTS Fall Slow Speed CW Sprint, WAB HF Phone, RSGB DX Contest, UBA ON 80-Meter CW Contest and the UBA ON 6-metre Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Autumn CW Series and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for October 9.

The 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint is scheduled for October 10.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for October 11.

WICEN News

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October. This is a big event and WICEN has responsibility for checkpoint communications over a large portion of the course, so a good turnout of operators is required.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at 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.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, using the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.45MHz.

The Region will be supplying safety radio communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic on the 15th of October, and the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday, 28 October. They will also be setting up communications vans for JOTA, in Port Macquarie on 21st of October, and in Wauchope on the 21st and 22nd. The region is also supporting the White Ribbon Walk on 26th November.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The BMSC "Rallye des Femme", an event for Lady Drivers, is on Saturday, October 14th. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event on Sunday October 29. In November, the 4th is the LCCC Monaro Stages event around Cooma, then Sunday the 5th is the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. December 1st to 3rd is the Alpine Rally covering 700 km in East Gippsland. Their website is 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 October Monthly Meeting on the 13th October, 2017, will be the Anniversary of Hunter Radio Group's 94th year.

It will be our annual "Do It Yourself" night, so bring along a project that you have been working on; It does not have to be completed. There should be a short presentation to go with your project.

There are some interesting member's projects lined up already, so come along and have an informative time.

Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

Tea, Coffee and Ragchew after the meeting.

Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters serving Newcastle and the Lower Hunter. They are on 146.9MHz, 146.975 MHz with ECHO Link and 438.025 MHz in the 70cm band. There is also a 6 metre beacon, on 50.288 MHz.

*Submitted by Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is Friday night gathering, at 7pm on Friday the 20th of October, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

On Sunday the 15th of October, the club will be providing the safety communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic.

The club will be running two stations for the Jamboree on the Air again this year, on the weekend of 21st and 22nd of October; VK2BOR will operate from Port Macquarie and VK2SMI will operate from Wauchope.

The club will also be providing safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally in the Herons Creek area south of Port Macquarie on Saturday the 28th of October.

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 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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The September 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, along with past issues as well.

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

Chifley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings are held every Saturday at 1pm, in the clubrooms, 130 Hyatts Road Plumpton.

The club's 2m and 70cm repeaters are back online. Output frequencies are 147.075 MHz and 439.425 MHz respectively. Both repeaters require a 123 Hz access tone. IRLP, Echolink and Allstar facilities are available. For more information visit the club's website, www.carc.org.au.

Pay us a visit and enjoy a Saturday afternoon with a group of friendly amateurs.

*Submitted by Harry VK2BHT
For the Chifley Amateur Radio Club.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club is running a licence course and assessment weekend on the 11th and 12th of November. The Foundation course and practical exam is on the 11th, and exams for theory and regulations are on the 12th.

A minimum of 5 Foundation candidates for the Saturday course are needed to cover costs. Sunday exams can be run with a minimum of 1 candidate. The course and assessments will be conducted in the Macarthur area. For more information, including costs or to book your place, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW, on (02) 4681 8334, or email vk2frw@wia.org.au.

The July to September period of the 2017 Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge has now closed and log entries can be submitted until the 14th of October. It's a fun and relaxed challenge, where you work DX in your own time over a 3 month period - you don't need to be a serious DX'er. The objective is to work the most wanted DXCC entities based on their ranking in Clublog's "Most Wanted" list, which is published on the contest website.

All Australian amateurs are eligible, so if you've worked any DX during July to September, head over to vk2au.org and submit an entry. The website is tidy and easy to understand; scroll down to the "Entry Submission" section where you will find a number of simple ways to submit your entry. The website again is vk2au.org.

The next Monthly General Meeting of Club will be held on Wednesday 25th October in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

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

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 Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of November.

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 or check out the society's website at 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 mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday 10th. Its back at Mt Colah Community Centre and starts at 8pm.

The venue is near the northern end of Pierre Close, and 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 Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

Coming up at the monthly meeting on the 24th will be a Tash & Treasure.

The Club's Christmas party will be in Waitara on Sunday 3rd December, starting at noon. It is essential to book with Colin VK2JCC, as there will be no seats available for "walk-ins".

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. 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;

October

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 10th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 13th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend on the 14th and 15th

CCARC Lecture on the FT8 digital mode on the 21st

JOTA & JOTI on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd

“QRP by the Harbour” on the 22nd

HADARC Monthly general meeting on the 24th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 25th

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 28th and 29th

November

St. George ARS gathering on the 1st

Gold Coast ARS Hamfest on the 5th

CCARC Lecture and Workshop; antennas for Satellite operation on the 18th

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation and exam weekend the 11th and 12th

ARNSW Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18th and 19th

St. George ARS Foundation weekend as well.

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25th and 26th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew group, on the 26th

Manly-Warringah theme night, on Portable lights, on the 29th

December

HADARC Christmas party at Waitara on the 3rd

George ARS Christmas BBQ & Annual General Meeting on the 6th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9th and 10th

And don't forget... Christmas Day on the 25th