

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

ARNSW members needing new or replacement name badges, can email the office with the details. The deadline for the next production run is the end of the month, and the email; [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au).

The last ARNSW Foundation Course for this year, is on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Licence examinations for other grades of licence are also available. Email [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au) for more details or to book a place.

JOTA 2017 – that's Jamboree on the Air – is coming up next weekend. VK2WI will be transmitting the opening address at the new time of 2pm on Saturday, through the usual VK2WI frequencies and automated relays.

## **JOTA 2017 Special Event Call Sign**

As we mentioned last week, the St George Amateur Radio Society will be operating one of the biggest Jamboree On The Air radio stations next weekend at Kurnell in Sydney, as part of the Endeavour Boree Regatta.

The SGARS JOTA team expect about 500 guides and scouts to take part in JOTA activity.

In recognition that this year is the 60th Jamboree On the Air, guides and scouts will be calling CQ JOTA from Kurnell in Sydney using the special event call sign VI2JOTA60.

Bands in use will be 80m, 40m, 20m, 2m, 70cm, with modes SSB, FM, Dstar, DMR and Echo Link, from 10.30 AM on Saturday morning until 2.00 PM Sunday, local time.

If you or your radio club will be participating in JOTA 2017, the SGARS team would like to make contact with you. You can leave details about your JOTA station on the special JOTA Australia web site [www.jota.sgars.org](http://www.jota.sgars.org).

Also there is a Facebook group, just search for JOTA at Boree Regatta.

The SGARS team would like to wish everyone a great and successful 60th Jamboree on the Air.

*Submitted by Paul VK2GX  
SGARS JOTA coordinator*

## QRP by the Harbour

If you aren't taking part in JOTA next weekend, in Sydney there is another activity that may be interesting to you...

Next Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Amateur Radio NSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group is holding another "QRP by the Harbour" event. The last event was well received, with about a dozen amateurs attending.

Its at the same location - Mcilwaine Park in Rhodes. The 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 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 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	84	80	77	72	71	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	5	3	2	13	21	25 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	3	2	1	1	17 est.	16 estimated
T index	34	11	13	15	18	22	-7

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 8<sup>th</sup>, quiet again on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, quiet to active with one isolated minor storm period on the 11<sup>th</sup>, then ranging from quiet to minor storm conditions on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were enhanced 20% on the 6<sup>th</sup>, near predicted during local day on the 7<sup>th</sup> and enhanced 15% during local night; near predicted again from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, and then depressed by 20% on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of October;

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

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, possible minor storm on the 13<sup>th</sup>, then quiet to unsettled conditions are expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may see minor depressions on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> but should be 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 September were;

Minimum 71      Average 92      Maximum 140  
Peak dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

The prediction for October;

Minimum 70      Average 78      Maximum 89  
Peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for November;

Minimum 74      Average 77      Maximum 80  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 27<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**

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Flavio, IW2NEF will be active as 3B8/IW2NEF from October 16 to 23. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

SWAZILAND, 3DA. A group of operators are active as 3DA0MB until October 18. This is an EME DXpedition, with activity on 6 and 2 metres, and 70, 23, 13, 9, 6, and 3 cm using CW and JT65.

UGANDA, 5X. Kazuo, 5X2B is active from Kampala until July 2019. Activity is on 30 to 12 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BHUTAN, A5. Steve, N6SJ is active as A52SJ from Paro until October 19. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on 160 metres.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Steve, KL7SB is active as E51RAT from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until October 18. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

SAINT BARTHELEMY, FJ. Damien, F4AZF is active as FJ/F4AZF until October 20, or possibly until October 27, while working here. Activity is on the HF bands in his spare time.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ will be active as JG8NQJ/JD1 beginning October 15 and will be there for two months. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and RTTY.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Look for OH0B to be active in the Scandinavian Activity SSB Contest.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event station OP36CLM will be active from October 16 to November 15 to commemorate the liberation of the town of Knokke by Canadian forces in November 1944.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Operators Vernon, NN5E and Jim, NT5V will be active as PJ4/NN5E and PJ4/NT5V, respectively, until October 22. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

BANGLADESH, S2. A group of operators are active as S21ZDC from Bhola Island, IOTA AS-140, until October 18. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9. Jose, EC5AC is active as S9CQ from Sao Tome, IOTA AF-023, until October 21. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and RTTY.

PALAU, T8. Operators JH7IPR, JA6EGL and JQ6FQI are active as T88UW, T88SM, and T88WM, respectively, until October 18. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Bill, W5JON will be active as V47JA from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until November 7. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ Word Wide DX SSB contest.

INDIA, VU. Special event stations AT1FI, AT2FI, AT3FI and AT4FI are active until October 28 during the FIFA U-17 World Cup. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. A group of operators are active as VU7T from Kavaratti, IOTA AS-011, until October 20. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes, with up to three stations active.

ST. HELENA, ZD7. Bill, G0VDE plans to be active as ZD7VDE for one week beginning October 14. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Oceania DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Makrothen RTTY Contest, Scandinavian Activity SSB Contest, QRP ARCI Fall CW QSO Party, Pennsylvania QSO Party, Arizona QSO Party, FISTS Fall Unlimited CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club 160-Meter Great Pumpkin Sprint, Asia-Pacific Fall CW Sprint and the UBA ON 2-Meter Contest are all on this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from October 16 to 20.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for October 16.

The Telephone Pioneers QSO Party is scheduled for October 16. The Phone Fray, RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Data Series and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for October 18.

## WICEN News

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic runs overnight on the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

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 today, and the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October. They will also be setting up communications vans for JOTA next weekend and supporting the White Ribbon Walk on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event on Sunday October 29. In November, the 4<sup>th</sup> is the LCCC Monaro Stages event around Cooma, then Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> is the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood. 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. December 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Alpine Rally covering 700 km in East Gippsland. 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 on Friday the 20th of October, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Earlier today the club provided safety communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic.

Next weekend, the club will be running two stations for the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air. VK2BOR will operate on Saturday from the club's communications caravan at the 1<sup>st</sup> Port Macquarie Sea Scouts' boatshed at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River. Lyle Smith VK2SMI will set up his communications caravan at the Wauchope Scout Hall on Saturday for the weekend.

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 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

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 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. Visitors to the club are most welcome.

Coming up at the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, Len VK2CBL, will give a talk on soldering surface mounted components. This will be followed by a practical hands-on session using a reflow soldering oven. The talk will begin at 1pm, so come along to have a play and learn some new skills.

For more information visit the club's website, [www.carc.org.au](http://www.carc.org.au).

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

## **Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

The next club meeting is coming this Wednesday the 18th, starting at 7:30pm. At this meeting there will be a comprehensive report from members who participated in the Oceania DX contest last weekend, from Robertson in the Southern Highlands; how they were set up, and how it all went. Tea, coffee and a chat afterwards as normal. Many attendees meet in the RSL next door for dinner prior to the meeting. All are welcome to join us there.

The club's Christmas party is currently being organised and will most likely take the form of a BBQ lunch on Saturday, December 16th. Details will shortly be sent to members on the club email list.

The next Shack night is on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November starting at 7:30pm. Its a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with that new rig. Working bees are at the clubhouse from around 10am to 4pm, 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 November 4th, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30 or 5pm. The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 8pm on the VK2RBV 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 club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The clubs last course and assessment weekend for 2017 will be held over the weekend of November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. To reserve a place see the website, under Education and Training.

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). On the site you can renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

The club's recent Flagpole Challenge was very successful, with congratulations to Gerard VK2IO who won the contest, closely followed by club member Tim VK2BT. The Challenge will be back again next year!

This Wednesday the 18th, is lecture night at the club. Chris VK2HX will be speaking on the subject of "whatever I find in my shed"! Chris has a well-earned reputation for having a very interesting shed, so whatever he picks is bound to be worth coming to see. Unlike most club lectures, this one will not be recorded for YouTube, so be there or miss out!

Next weekend, over 200 Scouts and Guides will descend on the club rooms at Terrey Hills for 60th Jamboree on the Air. Listen out for VK2MB and VK2SNR on HF, VHF, UHF, and EchoLink.

The next Foundation licence training and exam day will be held at the clubhouse on 18 November. If you would like to get your Amateur licence in time for Christmas, or upgrade the one you have, email [education@mwrs.org.au](mailto:education@mwrs.org.au) to reserve your place.

After some technical difficulties, the live audio stream from the club's 2 metre repeater is back online, go to [Broadcastify.com](http://Broadcastify.com) or get the free Scanner Radio app from your favourite app store, and search for "VK2RMB". Check how well you're 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 [www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au) for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY,  
MWRS Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting, on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be a Trash & Treasure event, with the added rule that, if it is not sold it must be taken home. Venue is the Mt Colah Community Centre and starts at 8pm.

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

HADARC and the Kur-ring-gai Historical Society are planning celebrations for the Centenary of the Reception of the First Direct Wireless Message from the UK to Australia for next year, yet another reason to join HADARC!

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. Due to noise issues, Morning Tea with HADARC has moved up the band slightly, to be on or near 7106 kHz, but same time, 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;**

### **October**

MWRS Lecture night on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS meeting, also on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 20<sup>th</sup>

CCARC Lecture on the FT8 digital mode on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Chifley ARC lecture on Surface Mount components 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>

HADARC Monthly general meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>

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

### **November**

St. George ARS gathering on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Gold Coast ARS Hamfest on the 5<sup>th</sup>

CCARC Lecture and Workshop; antennas for Satellite operation on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation and exam weekend the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

St. George ARS Foundation weekend as well.

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew group, on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah theme night, on Portable lights, on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **December**

HADARC Christmas party at Waitara on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

George ARS Christmas BBQ & Annual General Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

And don't forget... Christmas Day on the 25<sup>th</sup>