

## **Silent Key.**

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

Brendan Lloyd Hall, known as Ben VK2VEW, passed away on October 28, after a long illness.

Ben was born in Tamworth Base Hospital on 14th January 1946. He spent his childhood and teenage years in Manilla, NSW, attending school in a one-room school-house, located next to where the Manilla Museum is today.

In his adult life, Ben worked in various jobs, with the longest part of his career in telecommunications. His passion for electronics continued as a major part of his life.

His hobbies included gold panning, gold sluicing, exploring caves, fishing and playing guitars. He was a long time Amateur Radio operator, with a distinctive radio voice that was easily recognised.

Ben was interested in experimenting with various antenna systems, and was also successful at repairing radios of various types; often tackling jobs that would have been destined to the rubbish bin as uneconomical for commercial repair.

Ben was laid to rest in the Manilla Cemetery on Thursday 2nd November. He is survived by his wife and 2 daughters, as well as 2 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and one great grandson.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ben.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ben Hall, VK2VEW.

*Advised by John VK2YGV*

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**[Play Evening ID1]**

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

We would like to extend our thanks to Bob VK2NRC, who has been taking callbacks for VK2WI News, through the Mt Bindo Repeater VK2RDX, in the Western Blue Mountains. Thanks very much Bob and thank you to the listeners who provide the reports, keep them coming.

It appears there have been problems with the repeater dropping out or not starting up during the news transmission, which is being investigated by the St. George repeater maintenance team.

We have a request to listeners in the Western Blue Mountains; we would like you to check the 2 metre link frequency of 145.6MHz - as to signal level and whether there is any fade on the path. You can provide any reports or observations by an email to [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au).

On the Central coast, the CCARC also relays these news bulletins, and takes callbacks, on both 2 and 6 metres.

Some highlights of news from clubs around the state;

In the New England region - The Armidale and District ARC have a weekly get together at their club rooms on Saturday morning. A discussion topic next Saturday is to be a North Link Symposium.

The Summerland ARC are an active club and each week have a net on Digital Modes on Monday nights on various local repeaters. Last weekend some of their members provided communications to a Horse Endurance ride in the Bom Bom State Forest.

Westlakes ARC will be having their 10<sup>th</sup> annual car boot sale at their Teralba club rooms on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> November with a 9am start.

If your club has an event coming up, let us know; email us at [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au). We are also interested in reports on club events and activities.

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27<sup>th</sup> of October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm flux	76	75	75	76	75	73	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	5	3	1	2	2	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	5	1	0	0	2	7 estimated
T index	-11	6	3	9	11	8	10

Solar activity remained very low all week. Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed by 20% during local day on the 27<sup>th</sup>, but recovered at night to near predicted monthly values. The 28<sup>th</sup> was near predicted during the day, but then was depressed 20% during local night. This was a short lived depression however, and frequencies returned to predicted on the 29<sup>th</sup> and remained for the rest of the week, near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup>, with quiet to unsettled conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed up to 15% between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup>, but otherwise 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.

The figures for October were;

Minimum 69      Average 77      Maximum 89  
Peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>

As we start November, the prediction so far;

Minimum 70      Average 73      Maximum 75  
Peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for December;

Minimum 70      Average 71      Maximum 75  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<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>]

## Space Weather Summary for October 2017

*Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

October was a reasonably quiet month for space weather; especially compared to some of the spectacular solar activity in the previous couple of months.

Solar activity was predominately at very low levels with a single M1.1 flare observed on the 20<sup>th</sup>. High-speed wind streams from Coronal holes, were observed on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Moderately disturbed geomagnetic conditions were observed from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, with the Australian A index reaching a maximum of 21 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The disturbances were associated with those high speed coronal hole wind streams mentioned earlier.

There were a few depressions of Ionospheric maximum useable frequency in October; in the Southern Australian region, the deepest depressions were observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, with F2 critical frequencies being 30% below predicted monthly values. These depressions were due to the geomagnetic disturbances on those days.

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## **ARRL DX news**

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Jean-Paul, HB9ARY will be active as 3B8HC until November 18. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

GUINEA, 3X. Alain, F5OZC and Sebastien, F8DQZ are active as 3XY3D/p from Kassa Island, IOTA AF-051, throughout November. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW.

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Thomas, OZ1AA is active as 4W/OZ1AA until November 7. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and FT8.

TANZANIA, 5H. Charles, NK8O will be active as 5H3DX from Zinga until December 5. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 10 metres using CW, PSK and FT8.

CROATIA, 9A. Sergio, IZ3NXC will be active as 9A/IZ3NXC from Pag Island, IOTA EU-170, from November 7 to 9. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

BURUNDI, 9U. Members of the Mediterraneo DX Club will be active as 9U4M from November 6 to 17. Activity will be with five stations on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Bill, K2HVN will be active as TO2E until November 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and some SSB.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Manuel, HB9DQM is active as FK/HB9DQM/p. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB from some SOTA locations, and some FT8 from Noumea. His length of stay is unknown.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Axel, DK2AJ is active as OY/DK2AJ from Kivik until November 11. Activity is on the HF bands using RTTY and PSK.

NETHERLANDS, PA. The VRZA Zuid West Nederland Radio Club is active with special call PA25ZWN until November 28, to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary.

SWEDEN, SM. The Helsingens Radio Club Goeteborg is active with special event call 7S50AW during November to celebrate the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

POLAND, SP. Special event station SN145BRAIL is active during November to mark the founding 145 years ago of the Louis Braille Special Educational Centre for Blind and Visually Impaired Children and Youth.

TURKEY, TA. Nuri, TA3X is active with special event call TC630MECCA until January 14, 2018. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK63.

MELLISH REEF, VK9M. A group of operators are active as VK9MA until November 16. Activity is with five stations on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N. Rob, M0VFC plans to be active as VK9/M0VFC until November 6. Activity is on 30 and 20 metres, and possibly 40 and 17 metres using CW and SSB. He may also be active as VK9/M0VFC/P from SOTA VK9/NO-001 using QRP power.

HONG KONG, VR2. Tom, KC0W is active as VR2/KC0W from Cheung Chau Island, IOTA AS-006, until November 15. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and FT8.

INDONESIA, YB. Look for stations YB8RW/P and YE8XBN/P to be active from Zum-Zum MacArthur Island, IOTA OC-145, until November 8. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes.

VANUATU, YJ. Michael, VK2BXE and Chris, VK2YUS are active as YJ0MB and YJ0CA, respectively, from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until November 7. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest, ARRL EME Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, IPARC CW Contest, Ukrainian DX Contest, IPARC SSB Contest, EANET Sprint and High Speed Club CW Contest will keep contesters busy this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for November 7. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for November 8.

## WICEN News

Saturday, May 5 is the proposed date for Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley.

WICEN will be at the CCARC Field Day on Sunday, 25 February 2018.

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 which is the best way to contact WICEN as well as 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 is 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. Today saw 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 Hunter Radio Group.

The group's last meeting for the year, is coming up this Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

After general business, Barry VK2AHE will present a lecture on Cinema Projector Systems.

Tea, Coffee and Ragchew as usual, after the meeting.

The Group's Christmas Social Dinner is on Thursday evening the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, at the Windale Bowling Club. It starts at 6pm local time and bookings are essential; please contact the Social Secretary or our President, Len, VK2ZFC.

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

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the evening of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of November, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Last Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> saw club members providing safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally in the Herons Creek area south of Port Macquarie. The rally was held in perfect weather. The communications worked very well and contributed to the overall success of the event.

On the morning of Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, club members will be providing safety communications for the White Ribbon Coastal Walk, which starts at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finishes on the Port Macquarie Town Green. Radio communications between the checkpoints is challenging due to the high steep coastal topography along the route.

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 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 September 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online and past issues are on the website as well. Look for the November 2017 issue of Oxtales, early in the month.

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

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at 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.

This coming meeting is the Society's Annual Auction, where there will be lots of pre-loved equipment and accessories available to be bid upon and taken home with pride. Listeners are also invited to avail themselves of the opportunity to bring along any unused radio gear that may be taking up space in the shack and put it up for auction. The booking-in of gear for the auction will start at 7pm.

As well as the opportunity to sell or buy something, the auction itself will be very entertaining, with Simon VK2XQX bringing his unique style as auctioneer. At the conclusion of the auction, there will be the usual fun rag-chew over a hot cup of tea or coffee, with a bunch of friendly, like-minded individuals.

Listeners who are interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas can contact our team of enthusiastic Amateurs led by Ted VK2ARA to assist, mentor, teach and then examine for your licence. The team runs learning programs for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses and can be contacted via email to [vk2ara@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au). That address again is, [vk2ara@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au).

Sunday News broadcasts from ARNSW Broadcasts are relayed via three of the Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres 146.675MHz and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres 53.650MHz and 2 metres 146.850MHz. These three repeaters provide Broadcast 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 time.

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 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 Annual Auction at 7:30pm on November the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT*

*Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

## Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club's has changed the dates for their November licence course and assessment weekend; it's now on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Foundation licence course and practical exam is on Saturday, with Foundation regulations and theory exams on Sunday. Exams for Standard and Advanced theory and regulations, are also on Sunday.

A minimum of 5 Foundation candidates are needed for the Saturday course to cover costs, but Sunday exams can be run with 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](mailto:vk2frw@wia.org.au).

The next Meeting of the Club is on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 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, [fgarc.org.au](http://fgarc.org.au).

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR  
For the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of November, at Mt Colah Community Centre, from 8:00 pm. 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.

The year's last Mt Colah meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

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.

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.

VK2RHT at Chatswood is now a DMR-only repeater, operating with 438.350MHz transmit frequency and -5.4 MHz split. The P25 - FM dual mod unit will be moved to Hornsby.

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;**

### **November**

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC Mid-monthly meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Westlakes ARC Car Boot Sale at the club rooms in Teralba, on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
CCARC Lecture and Workshop; antennas for Satellite operation on the 18<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.  
Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation and exam weekend, the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
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>  
HADARC Monthly meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Manly-Warringah theme night, on Portable lights, on the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting 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>  
Hunter Radio Group Christmas Dinner, at Windale on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
And don't forget... Christmas Day on the 25<sup>th</sup>

### **January 2018**

The Ross Hull contest – all month, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>  
Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 26<sup>th</sup>