

## **Silent Key.**

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

The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club has informed us of the passing of George Collie VK2ZDC.

George was a founding member of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club and held life membership. He passed on the 22nd November peacefully following a year of worsening health, aged 83.

George is survived by his wife Helen, his sons David and Paul, and daughter Michele.

Please pause with us now, while we remember George.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] George Lionel Collie VK2ZDC.

*Advised by Victor VK2BTV  
on behalf of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

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**[Play Evening ID1]**

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

The 2018 ARNSW magnetic calendar is currently in production, and should arrive with members during December. There is still time to ensure your postal address is up to date; notify [membership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@arnsw.org.au) if it has changed. Also remember that membership renewals can be emailed, to that same address.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	74	74	76	74	72	73	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	4	2	4	6	4	10 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	7	2	6	7	4	9 estimated
T index	11	6	-3	7	-5	-17	-13

Solar flare activity, was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, started out quiet to unsettled on the 24<sup>th</sup>, then was quiet to active on 25<sup>th</sup>, quiet on the 26<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, quiet again on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and quiet to unsettled on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. The 29<sup>th</sup> saw depressions of 15% during local day, though at night returning to near predicted values. The 30<sup>th</sup> remained near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity may range from quiet to active between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, with possible minor storms on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, but is expected to be quiet to unsettled otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly to moderately depressed between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>, but otherwise should mostly remain 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 November were;

Minimum 66      Average 72      Maximum 76  
Peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

As we begin December, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 70      Average 73      Maximum 76  
Peak dates between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for January;

Minimum 70      Average 73      Maximum 75  
With peak dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 14<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**

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Olof, G0CKV is active as 3B9HA until December 12. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW and possibly FT8.

MAURITANIA, 5T. Operators Ahmad, 9K2AI, Obaid, A61M and Fawaz, A92AA are active as 5T5TI from Tida Island, IOTA AF-050, until December 7. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SAMOA, 5W. Katsu, JA1DXA will be active as 5W0DXA until December 6. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

MALTA, 9H. Kjell, SM6DQR and Kathrine, SM6AAF are active as 9H3DQR and 9H3AAF, respectively, from Gharb, Gozo Island until December 11. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Rich, PA0RRS is active as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015, until January 31, 2018. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and PSK.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andre, ON7YK is active as C5YK from Bijilo until January 30, 2018. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using FT8 and some CW.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. A group of operators are active as HC8LUT from San Cristobal Island, IOTA SA-004, until December 8. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using all modes.

SVALBARD, JW. Erik, LA2US is active as JW2US from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 2018. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Members of the Luxembourg Amateur Radio Union are active as LX2017TRAM from Luxembourg City during December to welcome their new tramway.

FINLAND, OH. Members of radio club OH2AP will be active as OH100FIN on December 6 to celebrate the 100th year of Finland's independence. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes.

FINLAND, OH. The traditional Santa Claus Land station OH9SCL will be active during December from Finnish Lapland. Activity will be mainly on 160 to 10 metres using all modes, including FT8.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Mike, NA9Q plans to be active as PJ4/NA9Q until December 10. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL 10 Metre contest.

NAMIBIA, V5. Ulmar, DK1CE is active as V5/DK1CE until December 15. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW.

CANADA, VE. Special event station CK100VDA will be active until December 10 to commemorate the December 6, 1917 explosion of the French munitions ship Mont Blanc.

LAOS, XW. Ken, K4ZW will be active as XW4ZW until December 8. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on the low bands.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Stan, K5GO is active as ZF9CW from Cayman Brac Island, IOTA NA-016, until December 16. Activity is on the HF bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Metre Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Brandenburg-Berlin-Contest, NCCC CW Sprint, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, TOPS Activity CW Contest, EPC Ukraine DX BPSK63 Contest, Ten-Meter RTTY Contest and SARL Digital Contest are all on this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for December 5. The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 6.

## WICEN News

December 17 will be the WICEN Christmas BBQ, incorporating training sessions and equipment maintenance activities, here at Dural. More details will be sent to members shortly.

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

Saturday, May 5 is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley. Further info is available at: [www.kvrp.net.au](http://www.kvrp.net.au).

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. Their next meeting is Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> of December, starting at 10am.

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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, is the BMSC Rallye des Femme. 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. They are supporting the Alpine Rally, which concludes today. 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 Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

The Clubs Christmas Luncheon will be held Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Karing club rooms, starting at 11am.

The AMSAT-VK net on 12th December, will be connected to the clubs Somersby repeater via IRLP. The net starts at 8:30pm local time.

You can join in via the club's 70cm repeater, which is on 438.075MHz, with -7MHz split and 91.5Hz tone. If you want to join in via IRLP or EchoLink, connect to the conference server at VK3JED, or the Club's IRLP repeater node 6060.

The club recently received donation of a 2m and a 70cm Eggbeater antenna for satellite use, with thanks to Peter VK2HC. These antennas have been installed, and will be connected to the club's IC-910 transceiver and computer in the next couple of weeks.

If you are interested in Drones, then visit the club to hear a lecture on their construction and programming. Presented by Tom VK2VC on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, and the presentation will include a live practical demonstration.

And mark your diary now, for the Wyong Field Day, coming up on the 25th of February.

*Bob VK2AOR  
President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*



## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. This is the last formal activity before Christmas. The club's highly sought after 2018 calendar and a small number of 2018 WIA Callbooks will be available for purchase on the night.

The club's Christmas Party took place yesterday in the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery west of Lake Cathie.

The next monthly general meeting will be on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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 November 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.*

## Hunter Radio Group

The group is holding a Christmas Social Dinner, on Thursday evening the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, at the Windale Bowling Club. There will also be a raffle, so if you can, please bring a gift to add to it.

Bookings are required; so please contact the Social Secretary, Ardel, on 49 44 83 93 or club President, Len VK2ZFD, on 49 57 77 85, to advise if you are coming.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters in Newcastle and the Lower Hunter area. They are on 2 metres; 146.9MHz and 146.975MHz with ECHO Link, and 438.025MHZ in the 70cm band.

On the 6 metre band the group operates CW Beacon on 50.288MHz.

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

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 6th of December. This is the Annual General meeting as well as the annual Christmas BBQ.

The event will start at 6pm, with the BBQ for members and their family. There will also be a 2m fox-hunt with equipment supplied by various members. This will be a good opportunity for anyone who would like to give it a try.

Following this will be the AGM, which will include the presentation of the trophies for the societies' annual 80m and 2m contests.

After the meeting, 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> ]

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU*

*For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The club is planning a BBQ for late January, potentially Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, and further dinner at Magpies, on Tuesday 13 February, instead of the mid-monthly meeting. February 27th will be the first Mt Colah meeting for the 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. Morning Tea with HADARC is now on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays. The nets continue, right throughout the holiday period, including public holidays.

VK2RHT at Chatswood is now a DMR-only repeater, but still operating with 438.350MHz transmit frequency and -5.4 MHz split.

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;**

### **December**

St George ARS Christmas BBQ & Annual General Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
CCARC Club lunch at Kariong on the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
Summerland ARC Christmas lunch on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group Christmas Dinner, at Windale on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Christmas lunch on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC Christmas dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Last Evening VK2WI Bulletin for the year on the 17<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>  
Oxley Region ARC Monthly general meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
VK2WI Evening Bulletins resume on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
CCARC Lecture and Demonstration on drones on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **February 2018**

QRP by the Harbour on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>  
St. George Foundation training and assessment weekend, the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
BMSC Rallye des Femme, a WICEN ACT event, on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
CCARC Wyong Field day on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC Monthly general meeting at Mt Colah on the 27<sup>th</sup>