

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

Since most of the formal ARNSW have concluded for the year, a reminder that VK2WI News will be morning only for three weeks across the holiday period; that is, on the 24th and 31st of December, and the 7th of January. The evening news will resume on the 14th of January 2018.

Activities resume in January, with the regular bi-monthly Trash and Treasure event, last Sunday of the month. Education activities begin in March with the Upgrade course; while this course is intended for those with a Foundation license to upgrade to either Standard or Advanced, it is equally suitable for those seeking to gain an Amateur Radio license with no prior experience. The first Foundation weekend and assessment will also be in March. All education enquiries are best handled by email – contact the team at education@arnsw.org.au.

The 2018 magnetic calendars are due to arrive this week and it is planned to conduct an enveloping day next Saturday the 16th - at VK2WI Dural commencing at noon. If you would like to attend to assist with this task, please email office@arnsw.org.au so we can advise of any changes in these plans.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1st to the 7th of December.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10cm flux	70	72	70	68	68	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	2	1	6	21	13	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	4	0	9	20	8	6 estimated
T index	-1	-8	-20	-21	-21	-17	-9

Solar flare activity, was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 1st and 2nd and quiet on the 3rd. The 4th was quiet to unsettled, with a weak impulse of 11nT observed on the SWS magnetometer at 1614UT. The 5th saw unsettled to minor storm conditions, continuing into the 6th which also saw some active periods, before the 7th returned to quiet to unsettled levels of activity.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were at near predicted monthly values on the 1st and the 2nd; the 3rd saw depressions of 15% during local day, returning to near predicted at night. The 4th saw depressions of 15% throughout and up to 20% after local dawn, the 5th was depressed 25% during local day but returned to near predicted at night, then the 6th and 7th were depressed up to 15% during local day but returning to near predicted monthly values during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 8th to the 14th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies 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 1st and the 4th, and the 15th to the 30th

For December, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 68 Average 71 Maximum 76
Peak dates between the 14th and the 25th

And looking ahead to the prediction for January;

Minimum 70 Average 72 Maximum 76
With peak dates between the 11th and the 21st

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 November 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was at very low levels last month, with no M or X class flares observed. Two coronal mass ejections were observed - the first on the 10th and the second on the 25th. These were related to erupting solar filaments and appeared to have very limited geoeffectiveness.

Several coronal holes produced moderately elevated solar wind speeds during the intervals the 2nd to the 3rd, 7th to the 10th, 14th to 16th, and 20th to 21st of November.

Moderately disturbed geomagnetic conditions were observed from the 7th to the 8th in association with the elevated solar wind speeds from a solar coronal hole. The most disturbed day for the month was the 7th, reaching a local A index of 22. The local K index reached 5 only for one isolated period; early in the UT day on the 7th. Very mildly disturbed conditions were observed on the 15th and 21st, again in association with coronal hole wind streams.

There were two periods of significantly depressed maximum usable frequencies; between the 8th and 13th, then again between the 15th and 16th. These were probably in association with geomagnetic activity, induced by those elevated solar wind speeds mentioned previously. The largest depression in the Southern Australia region was on the 11th, with Maximum usable frequencies 25% below predicted values.

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ARRL DX news

MADAGASCAR, 5R. Marco, ON8XB is active as 5R8XB. Activity is on 20 metres using SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Lester, W8YCM is active as 6Y6Y from the Westmoreland Parish from Negril, IOTA NA-097, until January 2018. Activity is holiday style on various HF bands.

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.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Luca, IK2NCJ, Massimo, IZ4DPV and Andrea, HB9DUR will be active as D4C in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest.

PALESTINE, E4. Elvira, IV3FSG is active as E44YL from Bethlehem until December 18. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes.

LIBERIA, EL. Eric, EL2EF is a new operator and is active at various times.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event station DT23WOP is active until February 2018 for the 23rd Olympic Winter Games.

SVALBARD, JW. Morten, LA4JSA is active as JW4JSA from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 1, 2018 during his six-month work assignment. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands.

AUSTRIA, OE. Stations 4Y1A, 4U1A and 4U1VIC are active from the Vienna International Centre until December 14 to celebrate International Civil Aviation Day.

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

DENMARK, OZ. Volker, DJ8VW will be active as 5P8VW from Roemoe, IOTA EU-125, from December 13 to 23. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

BRAZIL, PY. John, PY2GTA will be active as ZZ2P in the ARRL 10 Meter contest.

SLOVENIA, S5. Special event station S510PMC is active until January 7, 2018 to draw attention to the Peace Messenger City.

MALI, TZ. Fox, PD0FOX is active as TZ/PD0FOX from Gao until January 2018 while working for the United Nations. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres.

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

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. Adrian, G0KOM is active as ZC4MK until December 12. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10-Meter Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, International Naval Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO CW Party, QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint and CQC Great Colorado 20-Meter CW Snowshoe Run are all on this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for December 11.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for December 13.

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.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at 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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Saturday the 24th of February, is the BMSC Rallye des Femme. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 15th 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 next monthly general meeting will be on Saturday the 6th of January 2018.

The club's Christmas Party took place last Saturday the 2nd of December in the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery west of Lake Cathie. It was a great success; despite the forecast, the weather remained fine all day. Perhaps the three gazebos on standby kept the rain away! 37 people enjoyed great company and great food, with bacon and egg muffins for breakfast, lots of nibbles followed by a sausage sizzle lunch topped off with trifle, fruit salad and ice cream dessert. The box of cherries provided by Arthur VK2ATM was a particularly popular treat.

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. 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 14th 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of every month except for January, with the next meeting being this coming Tuesday evening the 12th of December. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall located in 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.

The next meeting is a special Christmas dinner meeting, with the food specially prepared and cooked by IARS member, Vinnie VK2VIN. Vinnie is a professional chef and he is sure to impress the tastebuds of attendees. He will be ably assisted by Secretary Keith VK2KQB and his XYL to have the food arriving hot to the table. Both members and non-members are invited to come along, the only request being to RSVP to Keith via email on secretary@iars.org.au; that's secretary@iars.org.au.

For those interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven regions, the society has a 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 the email address of vk2ara@wia.org.au; that's vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Sunday ARNSW Broadcasts are relayed on three of the Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres 146.675MHz and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres 53.65MHz and 2 metres 146.85MHz. 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. 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.

So, for a great evening of entertainment and fun, combined with a terrific Christmas dinner, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting at 7:30pm on December the 12th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

To conclude, the Committee and Members of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society wish all broadcast listeners a joyous Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2018!

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This is just a reminder that the club's Christmas party will be a BBQ lunch on next Saturday, December 16th at the QTH of Eric VK2VE, commencing at 10am with a catered lunch at 12:30.

If you haven't notified Al, VK2OK, that you will be coming then please do so immediately as he needs the final numbers by tomorrow. All members, partners and families are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Also a reminder for those who attend the Tuesday "working bees" that this coming Tuesday, December 12th, there will be no parking within the grounds due to the sailing club having rented it for boat storage during their annual regatta week. The following Tuesday, the 19th, all should be back to normal.

The first Project Day for 2018 will be on Saturday, January 6th, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30 or 5pm.

The club's first Foundation course and assessments for 2018 will be over the weekend of February 10th & 11th.

Full information about the club can be found on its regularly updated website at <http://vk2bv.org>.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from the Waverley Amateur Radio Society.

73 from Eric VK2VE

Broadcast Publicity Officer

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The club is planning a BBQ for late January, potentially Tuesday 23rd, and dinner at Magpies, on Tuesday the 13th February, in place 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. 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

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 12th

Hunter Radio Group Christmas Dinner, at Windale on the 14th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 15th

Waverley ARS Christmas lunch on the 16th

Fishers Ghost ARC Christmas dinner on the 16th

Last Evening VK2WI Bulletin for the year on the 17th

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

January 2018

The Ross Hull contest – all month, from the 1st to the 31st

Oxley Region ARC Monthly general meeting on the 6th

VK2WI Evening Bulletins resume on the 14th

CCARC Lecture and Demonstration on drones on the 20th

Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 26th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew on the 28th

February 2018

QRP by the Harbour on Sunday the 4th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend 10th and 11th

St. George Foundation training and assessment weekend, the 17th and 18th

BMSC Rallye des Femme, a WICEN ACT event, on the 24th

CCARC Wyong Field day on the 25th

HADARC Monthly general meeting at Mt Colah on the 27th