

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

Today was the first Trash & Treasure event at VK2WI Dural for the year; the next is on the 25th of March.

Education courses at ARNSW will commence in March; the upgrade course starts on Monday the 5th. Classes are at the VK2WI Dural site and start at 7pm through to about 9 pm. The course continues each Monday evening until November, except on public holidays. While the course is intended for those who already hold a Foundation license, it is suitable for anyone to undertake, as all required electronic and license topics are covered.

The following weekend - the 10th and 11th of March – is the first ARNSW Foundation weekend for 2018. This weekend is filling fast so book now if you wish to attend. This course uses the WIA Foundation Manual; copies are available from ARNSW or from the WIA Bookshop.

Enquiries and bookings for the ARNSW courses are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au, so that more information can be sent to you.

A reminder that ARNSW members can still place an order for a membership badge; this offer closes this Wednesday, the 31st of January.

QRP by the Harbour

Next Sunday, the 4th of February is “QRP by the Harbour” at Mcilwaine Park in Rhodes. The event starts around midday, and continues till late in the afternoon, retiring to the café a short stroll along the Kakoda Track Memorial Walkway.

People at the event will be monitoring both the Dural 2 metre repeater on 147MHz, and also 147.5MHz simplex.

For more information check out QRP by the Harbour on Facebook.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group.

ARNSW Elections

As previously announced, the next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 28th of April 2018.

At the AGM, a new management council is to be appointed. Nominations are now open for members who wish to be on the council for the year 2018 and 2019. Nomination forms can be found at the link on the front page of our website arnsw.org.au, or contact the office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 17th March 2018.

Peter VK2EMU
Divisional Returning Officer

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name Amateur Radio New South Wales to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of January.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm flux	71	70	68	70	71	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	5	8	8	3	6	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	7	8	7	4	7	9 estimated
T index	+1	-1	-5	-10	-4	-12	+3

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 19th, then quiet to unsettled from the 20th to the 22nd. The 23rd was quiet; then activity remained at quiet to unsettled levels on the 24th and 25th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region started out near predicted monthly values during daylight the 19th but became depressed 15% at local night. The 20th was near predicted all day, the 21st was near predicted during the day and 15% depressed at night. The 22nd was depressed 20% during the day and 15% at night, the 23rd and 24th were depressed 15% during the day but near predicted at night, then the 25th remained near predicted monthly values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of January to the first of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, to low. Sun is spotless at time of this report. Geomagnetic activity is expected to show quiet to unsettled conditions. Active periods are possible between 28th of January and 1st of February, due to coronal hole effects.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should range from near predicted to slightly depressed. Low levels of Extreme-UV ionising radiation due to very low solar activity, are offering no significant improvement to ionospheric support.

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 December were;

Minimum 68 Average 72 Maximum 76
Peak dates between the 21st and 26th

Nearing the end of January, the figures so far;

Minimum 68 Average 70 Maximum 71
Peak dates between the 10th and the 20th

And looking ahead to the prediction for February;

Minimum 68 Average 69 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 1st and the 17th

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

TANZANIA, 5H. Janusz, AK4JK is active as 5H0JK from Rungwa. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW and some SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

TOGO, 5V. John, N9MDH is active as 5V1JE from Lome until the end of May. Activity is on the HF bands, with a focus on the WARC bands, using mostly digital modes.

UGANDA, 5X. Dan, JA1PBV is active as 5X2S from Entebbe until January 29. Activity is on 20 and 17 metres using CW and FT8.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Johannes, PA5X and Gerben, PG5M will be active as C8X and C81G, respectively, from Ibu Island, IOTA AF-061, until February 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB and FT8.

COMOROS, D6. Giovanni, IK5BCM, Giuseppe, IK5CBE and Giovanni, IK5CRH will be active as D68I from January 29 to February 10. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Operator F6APE is active as FG4KH until February 13. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the REF CW contest.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Livio, IZ3BUR is active as J52EC until February 21 while on a mission to support a Books for High School of Cumara project. Activity is in his spare time.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Bill, K9HZ is active as J68HZ from Soufriere until February 3. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres between 1200 to 0600UT.

PERU, OA. Special event station OC4MS is active this weekend from the Mateo Salado Monumental Archaeological Complex. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

BELGIUM, ON. Javier, EA1HEO is active as OR4ESA from the European Space Agency Redu Ground Station until February 6. Activity is on 80, 40 and 20 metres using SSB, and mainly RTTY and PSK31, from 1700 to 2200UT.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND and Jim, W8WTS are active as PJ2ND and PJ2/W8WTS, respectively, from the Signal Point station until February 5. Activity is on the HF bands. They will be active as PJ2T as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Rafael, PY2NDX and Joao, PU2XDX will be active as PY0F/PY2NDX and PU0F/PU2XDX, respectively, until February 1. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and possibly FT8.

PALAU, T8. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ will be active as T88PB from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until January 31. Activity will be on the HF bands, with a focus on 80 metres using CW, and the CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

GABON, TR. Alain, TR8CA has been active using FT8 on 160 metres between 0200 and 0300UT, and 80 metres using CW after 0500UT.

UKRAINE, UR. Special event station EM80I is active from Druzhkivka to celebrate the 80 years since the birth of poet, stage and film actor, author and singer Vladimir Vysotsky.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Bernie, W3UR will be active as V47UR from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from January 29 to February 12. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and some FT8 from grid square FK87.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. John, N9EAJ is active as VP5/N9EAJ from Grand Turk, IOTA NA-003, until February 4. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

INDONESIA, YB. Emmanuel, F5LIT will be active as YB9/F5LIT from Bali, IOTA OC-022, from January 30 to February 10. Activity will be on 20 to 15 metres using SSB.

KOSOVO, Z6. Station Z60A is active on the HF bands.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. A group of operators are active as ZC4A until January 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with a focus on the low bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. CQ 160-Metre CW Contest, Winter Field Day, NCCC RTTY Sprint, 80-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, REF CW Contest, BARTG RTTY Sprint and the UBA DX SSB Contest are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and 40-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for January 31.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

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

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 next meeting is Sunday, 11 February, at 10:00 am.

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. Easter Sunday, April 1st, is the National Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood, and the Canberra Two Day Walk is on the 7th and 8th. For more information visit: www.cracr.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. January 26th sees a Fun Run on Mornington Peninsula. The Queens Baton Relay passes through Warragul in Gippsland on Sunday, 11th February. Field Weekend at Yea runs for three days from Friday, March 2. Duncan's Run in the Tarra Bulga State Forest is listed tentatively for Saturday, March 24. 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 February monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2018 calendar is still available at club activities.

The club's annual Antenna Shootout is on Sunday the 11th of February, at the Tuffins Lane Sports fields in Port Macquarie. Facilities will be available to test both home brew and commercial antennas on 6 metres, 2 metres and 70 centimetres.

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 January 2018 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 first meeting of the group for 2018 is coming up on Friday the 9th February. It's at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

The first Hunter Radio Group Monday night broadcast will be on the 4th February, 2018. You can find this broadcast on the Groups Repeaters, which are on 146.9MHz on 2 metres, and 438.025 MHz in the 70 cm band. Starting time for the VK2AWX bulletin is 7.30 pm local.

*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 on the 13th of February. General meetings start at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are usually at Coniston Community Hall, however, due to repairs being done to the hall, the February and March meetings will instead be at the North Wollongong Scout Hall; its on the corner of Virginia Street and Squires Way at North Wollongong, opposite Stuart Park. For more information, check the IARS website at www.iars.net.au. That address again, is www.iars.net.au.

At the February meeting, long-term member Max VK2ARZ will be presenting an informative talk on the design, construction and testing of HF wire antennas. Max has decades of knowledge and experience in this area, so his presentation will be of great interest to all those attending.

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; so contact Ted by email, vk2ara@wia.org.au. That address again, is vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Sunday ARNSW News Bulletins are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio 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 cover 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, and overseas as well. 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, don't forget that the next two meetings of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society are at the North Wollongong Scout Hall, and the next meeting is on Tuesday the 13th of February.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club will be running a licence course and assessment weekend on the 17th and 18th of February 2018, in the Macarthur area, on the south-western edge of Sydney - near Campbelltown.

The Foundation Licence course is on the 17th, then all the examinations - Regulations, theory and practical – are on Sunday the 18th. Exams for Standard or Advanced theory and regulations, are also held on the 18th.

A minimum of 3 Foundation candidates are needed for Saturday, to cover costs, but the Sunday exams can run with a minimum of 1 candidate. For more information, including costs, or to book a place, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW, on (02) 4681 8334, or email vk2frw@wia.org.au.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday 31st of January at McDonald's Woodbine, 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 any of 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

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 7th of February and instead of the normal gathering, they will be holding "HF Portable by the Bay".

Bring along your HF portable setup to the picturesque shores of Kyle Bay. Setup and show others your portable HF equipment in operation, from 6.30pm.

Band pass filters will be available to facilitate simultaneous operation on different bands. Come along and see what your fellow amateur radio operators have created for great HF portable operation. This event would be a great introduction to the John Moyle contest in March.

After the meeting, there will be the usual refreshments. All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".
[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted \]](http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted)

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

On Tuesday the 13th February, in place of the mid-monthly meeting will be a dinner at Magpies.

February 27th will be the first general meeting for the year, as usual at the Mt Colah community centre in Pierre Close, on the eastern side of the railway station.

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 3608.5kHz, also from 8pm. Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays. The nets continue, right throughout the holiday period, including public holidays.

April 21 is International Marconi Day, so VK2IMD will be active.

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;

January

Fisher's Ghost ARC Meeting on the 31st

February

ORARC Monthly general meeting on the 3rd

QRP by the Harbour in Sydney, on Sunday the 4th

SGARS HF by the bay on the 7th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 9th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend 10th and 11th

Oxley Region antenna shootout on the 11th

Illawarra ARS Meeting, at North Wollongong Scout Hall, on the 13th

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society Meeting on the 21st

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

March

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 10th and 11th

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on the 11th

John Moyle Memorial Field Day, 17th and 18th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 25th