

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

Last week saw some electrical upgrades at VK2WI Dural, but now, all services are back in operations. Further work is planned later in the year and we will provide details in future news bulletins.

With the Wyong Field Day in two weeks' time, there will not be a morning VK2WI News session on the 25th of February; in its place will be a Saturday evening bulletin at 7.30pm, with the morning format.

The ARNSW upgrade course starts in three weeks' time, on Monday the 5th of March, then the weekend of the 10th and 11th of March – is the first ARNSW Foundation weekend for 2018. Enquiries and bookings for the ARNSW courses are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

Wyong Field Day 2018

Coming up in two weeks is the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 25th of February, 2018.

The website, fieldday.org.au, is continually being updated with current information so its worthwhile checking to see what has been added. On the home page are details of the Raffle with significant prizes this year including the first prize of a HF/6m Transceiver.

Also on the homepage is a map showing you how to get to where you need be, with the changed set up this year.

All Traders, Exhibitors, Car boot sales and Lecturers should enter by the Howarth St entrance, near the railway. Traders ,exhibitors and Lecturers can collect their tickets at the gate. Car Boot sales can purchase their entry tickets also at the gate for entry of each person in the vehicle, that being the only cost to participate. Please follow the directions of the gate staff with HI-Vis Vests. This gate opens at 6am.

General admission is by the Rose Street car park entrance, also open from 6am – there are a lot of spaces in the public area with parking on the grass and bitumen car parks.

Disabled Car parking is near the new brick Pedestrian Entry gate; This is where you purchase you wrist bands. We will open this gate at 8.30 or as soon as the car-boot sales are set up.

The Bistro on the second floor of the Grandstand will be open from 8.30am to 2.30pm with a new menu, which has a link on the home page.

With the great lectures, activities and new facilities, the CCARC looks forward to seeing everyone at the 2018 Wyong Field Day.

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

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 of March 2018.

Peter VK2EMU
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 2nd to the 8th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
10cm flux	69	69	73	74	77	77	78
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	2	3	8	4	3	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	3	4	6	4	2	3 estimated
T index	-12	-11	-13	0	-3	+2	-7

Solar flare activity was very low on the 2nd and 3rd, low on the 4th, very low on the 5th, low on the 6th and 7th, and very low on the 8th.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 2nd and 3rd, quiet to unsettled on the 4th and 5th, then back to quiet again on the 6th through to the 8th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed 15% during local day on the 2nd and 3rd, but near predicted at night. The 4th saw depressions of 20% during local day, again recovering to near predicted at night, the 5th remained near predicted throughout, then 6th and 8th again saw frequencies depressed 15% during local days, recovering to near predicted at night, and the 7th remained near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 9th to the 15th of February;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate early on in the week, dropping back to low levels later.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet though at times may reach unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly remain near predicted.

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 January were;

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

For February, the figures so far;

Minimum 69 Average 72 Maximum 78
Peak dates between the 5th and the 15th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 69 Average 71 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 4th and the 15th

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 January 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

January was a very quiet month overall regarding space weather activity. Solar activity was at very low levels all month, with no M or X class flares observed. There was also no significant geomagnetic activity. Australian A indices remained below the active level of 16, all month.

As a result, there were no ionospheric depressions associated with geomagnetic activity observed this month. However, lower than normal maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were observed at times during the month, in particular for the northern Australian region, possibly in association with generally low solar flux levels.

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ARRL DX news

GEORGIA, 4L. Furkan, TA7AOF and Golkem, TA7AZC are active as 4L/TA7AOF and 4L/TA7AZC, respectively, until February 12. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on various digital modes. This includes entries in the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY contest.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Yuri, VE3DZ will be active as 6Y2T from February 13 to 20. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Alan, G4DJX, Jessica, M6LPJ, Polly, M6POG, Morgan, M6MXD and Stan, M6SQO are active as C5DX until February 16 while visiting the Senior High School in Farafenni.

MOROCCO, CN. A group of operators will be active as CN2DF and CN2FR from February 13 to 20. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 with two stations active.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Henning, OZ1BII will be active as D44EE from Praia Santa Maria, Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, from February 15 to 20. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using only CW. This includes being active in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Dindo, DU1UD is active as DX8TT from Tawi-Tawi, IOTA OC-174, and DX8MAP from Cagayan De Sulu Island, IOTA OC-105, during 2018. Activity is on the HF bands in his spare time, and on short notice.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Billy, GM0OBX, Jonathan, MM0OKG and Stevie, MM0VPY are active as MT0IXD from Scarlett Point on the Isle of Man, IOTA EU-116, until February 12. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY contest.

SARDINIA, IS0. Simone, IS0AFM is active with special call sign IR0FOC from Cagliari until December 31 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the First Class CW Operators' Club, or FOC.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Charles, KG9N will be active as J6/KG9N from Saint Lucia Island, IOTA NA-108, from February 13 to 27. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J3B is active until June 26 during the 100th anniversary of the Lake Biwa Rowing Song.

AUSTRIA, OE. The United Nations ARCDXC will be active as 4U0R on World Radio Day, which is February 13.

NETHERLANDS, PA. A group of operators are active as PA2018BP until March 9 to commemorate Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Scout Movement.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Paul, VA3ZC will be active as V26PE from Jolly Harbour on Antigua, IOTA NA-100, from February 13 to 27. Activity will be on 40, 30 and 20 metres using JT65, FT8, and some SSB.

BELIZE, V3. Torsten, DG7RO and Alexandra, DO5ALX are active as V31TF and V31RU, respectively, until February 25. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, RTTY and some FT8. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY contest, and the upcoming ARRL International DX CW and CQ World Wide 160 Metre SSB contests.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Pat, K0PC will be active as VP5/K0PC from Caicos, IOTA NA-002, from February 13 to 20. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being active as VP5K in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest.

VIETNAM, XV. BJ, WA7WJR is active as XV9WJR from Bien Hoa until February 14. Activity is mainly on 40 and 20 metres using primarily CW.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Palestine, E44WE, operation from March 23, 2017 to March 23, 2018.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, YLRL YL-OM Contest, SARL Field Day Contest, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, OMISS SSB QSO Party, FISTS Winter Unlimited CW

Sprint, RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz CW Contest and the Balkan HF Contest will certainly keep contesters this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from February 12 to 16.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, and CQC Winter QSO CW Party are scheduled for February 12.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, NAQCC CW Sprint and PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint are scheduled for February 14.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

A training day will be held on Sunday 18th February, from 9:30 am. This includes formal competencies on operating communications equipment, and assisting in rescue operations. Lunch will be provided.

WICEN will be at the CCARC Field Day on Sunday, 25th February. Membership renewals will be accepted on the day.

Saturday, May 5 is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley. Further info is available at: www.kvrp.net.au.

A planning meeting for Navshield will be on Tuesday the 27th of February; as well as providing communication support; there is the possibility of a WICEN team.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au includes a printable membership form, a web contact form, often the best way to contact WICEN, as well as other contact details and useful links. Logging in gives members access to further coming events, and various manuals.

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

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. Events include Field Weekend at Yea, which runs from Friday, March 2 to Sunday the 4th. The Eureka Rally around Ballarat is on the weekend of March 3 and 4. Duncan's Run in the Tarra Bulga State Forest is listed tentatively for Saturday, March 24. The Sunraysia Safari Rally will be held in the far north-west corner of Victoria, south of Wentworth, on April 21 and 22. 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 Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

The society meets on the second Tuesday of every month except for January, with the next meeting on this Tuesday, 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.*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on of Friday the 16th, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's annual Antenna Shootout was held today, at Tuffins Lane Sports fields in Port Macquarie. As well as testing antennas the day is always a great opportunity for socializing with a sausage sizzle lunch..

Last week it was announced that the Club's annual Field Day, on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of June would be in the hall of the Camden Haven High School; Unfortunately, the hall is not available so details of the new venue will be in next week's news. However, the Field Day dinner will still be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club, as in past years.

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 next meeting is the March general meeting, which will be on Friday the 9th. It's at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters from Mount Sugarloaf west of Newcastle. These repeaters are on 146.9MHz and 146.975MHz with ECHO Link and UHF on 438.025 MHz. The repeaters cover Newcastle and the lower Hunter Valley.

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

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 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.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

This Tuesday the 13th February, in place of the mid-monthly meeting will be a dinner at Magpies. Please RSVP to the Club.

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.

April 21 is International Marconi Day, so VK2IMD will be active on various HF bands.

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;

February

World Radio Day is on the 13th

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

ORARC Friday night gathering on the 16th

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

Fisher's Ghost training and assessment weekend, also on 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

Also in March - ARNSW celebrates the 108th year since its foundation, which was on the 11th March 1910.

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

April

International Marconi Day on the 21st

Westlakes ARC open day on the 21st

ARNSW AGM on the 28th