

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

The ARNSW Licence Upgrade course has been delayed by a week; it will now commence next Monday night, 12<sup>th</sup> of March. Those who have already signed up to attend have already been advised by email.

The March foundation weekend remains unchanged, next weekend the 10th and 11th of March.

Further electrical work is planned at the VK2WI Dural site this coming week, so VK2RWI repeaters, VK2RSY Beacons the VK2WI 80 metre morse transmission will be out of service at intervals. Details will be posted on our Facebook page.

## Wyong Field Day 2018

Following last weekend's 2018 Wyong Field Day, CCARC club president Bob VK2AOR advises us that nearly 800 attendees came through the gates last Sunday.

The Raffle prize winners were;

- 1st prize; Brian VK2WDK from Walcha IC-7300 prize
- 2nd prize; Max VK2XAM from Muswellbrook ID-51A plus2
- 3rd prize; Brian VK2NQ from Newtown TX3520s
- 4th prize; Lawrence VK4YN gift voucher from TET EMTRON.

There were big changes this year, with the car boot sales in the undercover Concourse and the traders in the air-conditioned Marquee. The lecture program was a big hit again this year and the club is looking to expand it for next year.

The satellite demo in the yard made a successful SSB satellite contact with Rob, VK3MQ on the CAS-4B Chinese satellite and lecture after. The workshops will also be revisited next year.

While exhibitors and traders were reduced from last year it was still a good showing.

To quote Bob VK2AOR;

*"I am very proud of our small team of volunteers who all performed well to get everything ready under some trying expectations. Thanks to all the participants, as we all have a part to play to improve the hobby of amateur radio."*

## **ARNSW Elections**

As previously announced, the next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://arnsw.org.au), or contact the office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
10cm flux	68	68	67	70	68	69	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	11	6	2	6	14	4	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	11	5	2	5	13	4	4 estimated
T index	-9	-10	-12	-1	+1	-4	-5

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started out at quiet to active levels on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then quiet to unsettled on the 24<sup>th</sup> and quiet on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The 27<sup>th</sup> ranged from quiet to minor storm levels, then the 28<sup>th</sup> remained quiet, and the 1<sup>st</sup> saw quiet to unsettled conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed 15% on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, depressed 25% during local day and 20% during night on the 24<sup>th</sup>, depressed 15% during the day and 20% during the night of the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 26<sup>th</sup> was near predicted during the day but depressed 15% at night, and then the rest of the week remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March;

Solar activity is expected to be very low all week.

Geomagnetic conditions are expected to be quiet to unsettled, with possible Active periods between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March due to coronal hole effects.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may see minor to moderate depressions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, but should otherwise 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 February were;

Minimum 67      Average 72      Maximum 79  
Peak dates between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>

At the start of March, the figures so far;

Minimum 68      Average 71      Maximum 77  
With peak dates between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>, and the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for April;

Minimum 68      Average 74      Maximum 78  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 9<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**

SPRATLY ISLANDS. A large group of operators will be active as 9M0W from Layang Layang Island, IOTA AS-051, from March 6 to 13. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 3C. Operators YL2GM, YL1ZF and YL2KL are active as 3C3W from Bioko, IOTA AF-010, until March 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

ANNOBON, 3C0. In addition to their Equatorial Guinea operation, operators YL2GM, YL1ZF and YL2KL are also active as 3C0W from Annobon, IOTA AF-039, until March 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

VIETNAM, 3W. Wolf, DL5MAE is active as 3W2MAE until March 6. He has been active on 30 metres using CW.

BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be active as 8P5A in the ARRL International DX SSB Contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

CROATIA, 9A Members of the Radio Club Croatian Flora Fauna are active as 9A200S throughout 2018, to commemorate the commissioning 200 years ago of the Savudrija Lighthouse, ARLHS CRO-134.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A group of operators are active as XR0YD until March 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ECUADOR, HC. Bill, W0OR is active as HC1DW from Cotacachi. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres. This includes an entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

ST. MAARTEN, PJ7. A group of operators are active as PJ0DX from Beacon Hill until March 5. This includes being an entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

SUDAN, ST. Members of the Khartoum Sea Scouts National Radio Club are active with special call ST60JOTA. Activity of late has been on 20 metres using SSB.

EGYPT, SU. Jovica, E78A is now active as SU9JT until the end of 2018. Activity is on the HF bands.

COSTA RICA, TI. Operators WJ1B, W6PNG, W6HFP and K0BBC are active as TI7/home calls from Las Villas del Guayabo until March 6. Activity is on the HF bands. They will be active as TI7/WJ1B in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4. John, G4IRN is active as VU4G from Lower Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, until March 5. Activity is mainly on 80 to 10 metres with an emphasis on CW.

REVILLAGIGEDO; Mark, XE1B is active as 4B4B from Socorro Island, IOTA NA-030, throughout March. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using only SSB.

VANUATU, YJ. Michael, G7VJR is active as YJ0GB from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until March 19. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. Rune, LA7THA, Arne, LA7WCA and Thor, LA9VPA are active as Z2LA until March 11. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

KOSOVO, Z6. Look for Z60A to be active in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Dan, N6MJ is active as ZF2MJ from Grand Cayman Island, IOTA NA-016, until March 5. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. This includes a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, UBA Spring CW Contest, NSARA 80-Metre Contest and SARL Hamnet 40-Metre Simulated Emergency SSB Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship is scheduled for March 5.

The AGCW 80-Metre YL-CW Party and ARS Spartan CW Sprint are scheduled for March 6.

The UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, NRAU 10-Metre Activity Contest, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are all scheduled for March 7.

AWA John Rollins Memorial DX CW Contest is scheduled for March 7 to 8, and March 10 to 11.

The Novice Rig Roundup runs from March 3 to 11.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.



## WICEN News

WICEN is supporting four Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. They are each held on a Sunday morning; first one was this morning at Stuart Park, North Wollongong; then Tench Reserve Penrith on the 25<sup>th</sup> March; Leichhardt Oval #3 at Lilyfield on the 6<sup>th</sup> May; and the Hunter event at Speers Point Park, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

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).

True Grit, on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June will be followed by the Obstacle Course Racing World Championship the next weekend, the 9th and 10th, both at Lower Portland, in north-west Sydney.

Navshield, held within 4 hours' drive of Sydney, is on June 23 and 24; there is the possibility of a WICEN team.

The WICEN website at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://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. Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, is the National Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood, and the Canberra Two Day Walk is on April the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The National Capital Rally will be the 1st to 3rd of June. 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. 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, as will a 4WD event at Toolangi State Forest. May 6<sup>th</sup> is the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle event. The Mallee Rally is 9 and 10 June at Sealake. 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 next meeting of the group is the AGM, on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

Tea, coffee & ragchew after the meeting.

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

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

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Members of the Club will be providing safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally at Herons Creek on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March; The club's Communications Caravan will be at Kew for the car rally. Club station VK2BOR will participate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day from the caravan on the Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The new venue for the Club's annual Field Day, on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, is the Wauchope High School hall in Nelson Street, Wauchope. The Field Day dinner will still be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club, as in past years. It is wise to book accommodation well before the Field Day as Port Macquarie is a very popular destination for the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; the next training courses and assessments 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 January 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, along with past issues as well. The March issue of Oxtales is in preparation and will be published soon.

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

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The society meets on the second Tuesday of every month except for January, with the next meeting on Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. 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 next meeting 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](http://www.iars.net.au).

At the March meeting, Mick VK2BZE will be presenting a most informative talk on the long distance propagation of VHF and UHF signals. Mick has previously written articles on the subject that were published in AR magazine with some different and thought provoking ideas that some may even consider controversial. His experience in this area will make for a very interesting presentation for 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](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au). That address again, is [vk2ara@wia.org.au](mailto: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.

To conclude, see you at the next meetings of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March – and don't forget, its at North Wollongong Scout Hall.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT  
Publicity Officer, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 7th of March.

At the gathering, there will be a presentation on amateur satellites by Bob VK2NRC and Roland VK2YAD, consisting of a practical demonstration and a theoretical presentation.

They will show how easy it is to work satellites without the need for a complicated or expensive setup; In other words, "satellites made easy" or "satellites for dummies".

As well as the presentation, there 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 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 next club meeting will be the informal mid monthly meeting, on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. It's at Mt Colah Community centre in Pierre Close, on the eastern side of the 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 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.

To celebrate the anniversary of Marconi's birthday, 25 April 1874, International Marconi Day, is an annual event held on the nearest UTC Saturday. VK2IMD will be active on various HF bands from 10am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, until 9.59am on Sunday 22nd.

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;**

### **March**

St George ARS gathering on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group AGM on the 9<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on the 11<sup>th</sup>

HADARC Mid monthly gathering on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 16<sup>th</sup>

John Moyle Memorial Field Day, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>

### **April**

Manly-Warringah Radio Society Training and Licensing Day on the 7<sup>th</sup>

International Marconi Day on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Westlakes ARC open day on the 21<sup>st</sup>

ARNSW AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **May**

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

Also, Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>