

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

After today's ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group meeting, the next event at VK2WI Dural is on Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. This will be on the topic of Antennas, with a number of speakers presenting various aspects of antennas, followed by lunch then some practical field work. More details in a later bulletin.

The next Foundation weekend at ARNSW is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July. Enquiries are best made by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	69	70	69	70	71	73	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	3	3	3	55	10	5
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	0	1	0	3	5	2 estimated
T index	9	6	2	1	5	11	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week, except on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, where some low level activity was observed, in the form of a C-class solar flare.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, then briefly quiet to unsettled on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, before returning to quiet levels on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, have remained near predicted monthly values during local daytime, but some significant enhancements have been observed at local night. Nighttime frequencies were enhanced by 40% on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 20% on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 15% on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 25% on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 35% on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 40% during the night of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of May;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should 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.

Having finished April, the figures were...

Minimum 66      Average 70      Maximum 77  
With peak dates between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>

Near the end of May, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 67      Average 70      Maximum 74  
With peak dates between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 68      Average 69      Maximum 72  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 7<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**

Several stations are active this weekend for the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest;

TUNISIA; Ash, KF5EYY will be active as 3V8SS as a Single Op entry.

AZERBAIJAN; Alim, 4K6FO will be a Single Op/All Band/Low Power Entry.

GEORGIA; Mamuka, 4L2M will be active as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 160 metres.

KUWAIT; Abdallah, 9K2GS will be active as 9K2K on all bands.

ECUADOR; Alexey, HC2AO plans to be active as HC2GRC as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

THAILAND; Champ, E21EIC will be active as E2A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

GUAM; Operators JI3ERV and JO1RUR will be active as AH2R as a Multi Op entry.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P44W as an All Band entry.

MACEDONIA; A group of operators will be active as Z3Y as a Multi/Single/Low Power entry.

In other activity this week;

MALTA, 9H. Thomas, SV2CLJ is active as 9H3SV until May 27. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Saty, JE1JKL is active as 9M6NA from Labuan Island, IOTA OC-133, until June 11. He will also be active in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

BOTSWANA, A2. Dave, VE7VR is active as A25VR until June 3. Activity is holiday style on 40, 30 and 20 metres.

PORTUGAL, CU. Members of the Clube Radioamadores do Entroncamento will be active with special call CS2JU from May 31 to June 2 from the Juromenha Fortification. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SVALBARD, JW. Karl, LA8DW will be active as JW8DW from Spitsbergen, IOTA EU-026, until May 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

SURINAME, PZ. Olli, OH0XX is active as PZ5XX from Lelydorp until May 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

GREECE; Laci, HA0HW is active as SW8WW from Thassos Island, IOTA EU-174, until June 5. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, some SSB, RTTY and PSK, and includes entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

SOMALIA; Baldur, DJ6SI is now active as 6OX from Hargeisa until June 6. Activity is on 20 metres.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Kevin, K6TOP is active as VP2V/K6TOP from Tortola until June 1. Activity is on 40, 30, 20, and 17 metres using only CW from 0000 to 0200UTC, and then from 1000 to 1200UTC.

MEXICO, XE. Members of the Radioclub Cancun are active as 6E6RM until June 1 in celebration of the Rally Maya Mexico 2018. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB, RTTY, FT8, along with some satellite activity.

KOSOVO, Z6. Joe, K7JOE will be active as Z6/K7JOE from May 28 to 30. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20 and 17 metres using CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint and the NCCC CW Sprint are all on this weekend.

The QRP ARCI Hootowl CW Shootout is scheduled for May 28.  
The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 30.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

## WICEN News

A new event is the GWT, or Glow Worm Tunnel Trail Running Weekend at Newnes, north of Lithgow, on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June. This will provide experience operating in a remote location.

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 on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>, both at Lower Portland, in north-west Sydney.

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Navshield bush navigation contest, is on June 23 and 24. The course is set in a secret location, approximately 2.5 hours from Sydney.

The WICEN website at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) includes membership information, a web contact form, 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. This weekend, the Region is supporting its second horse endure for the month, at Spring Mountain near Brisbane.

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, now on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The National Capital Rally is on the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June then the following weekend, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, is the SCSCC Bega Rally. See the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. Their next event is the Mallee Rally is on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, Sealake. Visit their website at [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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club is the June monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, in the SES Building, Port Macquarie.

It's now only two weeks until the Club's annual Field Day on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June. The venue is the Wauchope High School hall, Nelson Street Wauchope. Come and enjoy all the usual Field Day activities. Remember to bring your projects along for the home brew display and competition. Don't miss the trade and special interest displays. Bring your surplus items for the disposals. There will be demonstrations of live HF, VHF and UHF digital voice and weak signal communications. Fox hunts will be run on both the Saturday and Sunday. Everyone will be well fed from the barbeque. The Field Day dinner will be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club, as in past years. It's a good idea to book accommodation well in advance, 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 session will be conducted, 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 these 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 club information. The May 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website.

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



## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall, in Bridge Street Coniston. It's just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong and right next door to Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

This year is the Society's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and several activities are planned to celebrate this milestone. Firstly, the Society has been allocated a special callsign of VI2AMW70 for the duration of the anniversary period. Secondly, the next meeting night on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June is coincidentally the actual date of the official formation of the Society, back in 1948.

On the Saturday following the meeting, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, an anniversary luncheon will be held at the Wollongong Golf Club. All past and present members, along with their partners, are most cordially invited to come along to the celebration luncheon.

Then lastly, on the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the Society is holding a Field Day weekend at the Good Hope Resort camping area on Burrinjuck Dam, located just south of Yass. Members and listeners alike are most welcome to come along and have fun with antennas, radios, telescopic masts, good food and great comradeship. The special event callsign will be activated over the weekend, but the big anniversary event will be on the Sunday with the launch of a high altitude balloon. The balloon's payload will contain APRS along with a CW beacon transmitting on 28.636MHz. The APRS transmission will be sending balloon height, location and general status.

For more information on all anniversary activities, please contact the Society's Secretary Keith VK2KQB, via email on [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com). That address again, is [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com).

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, the Society's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary night, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

## **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**

The Club will be holding its next Foundation Licence training weekend on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of June.

The course will be held at the Old Scout Hall, 9 Moore Street, Glenbrook.

Saturday is the training day, running from 8:30am through till 5:30pm, then examinations and practical assessment for all licence grades are on Sunday, also starting at 8:30am.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but BYO lunch. Candidates will also require some form of Photo ID.

Full details and contact information can be found on the website, [bmarc.org/education](http://bmarc.org/education).

*Irene van Ekris*  
*Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club*

## **Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club**

The next Meeting of the Club is coming up this Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The meeting is in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, 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 is on 438.65MHz with negative 7MHz input and 91.5Hz tone is required for access. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at, [fgarc.org.au](http://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 6th of June.

There will be a presentation by Dr. Brian Clarke VK2GCE on Antenna Couplers - often mistakenly called "antenna tuners".

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

There will be the usual tables full of disposal equipment looking for a new home.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville, and 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 next HADARC meeting is on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. This will be the informal mid-monthly meeting, consisting of discussions on all things radio, and beyond. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station. As this Tuesday is the 5th in May, there are two Tuesdays without a meeting.

Celebrations of the first direct message from UK to Australia, specifically north-west Wales to Wahroonga, are being planned for September, including a special callsign, VK100MARCONI.

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.

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;**

### **May**

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>  
MWRS Show and Tell Night - Crystals Galore! – on the 30<sup>th</sup>

### **June**

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
St George ARS gathering on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting, at Adamstown Bowling Club, on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Field Day, the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
The VK Shires Contest, also on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS meeting, at Coniston community hall, on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Talkfest - on antennas, on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Blue Mountains ARC Foundation course weekend, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
Navshield, a WICEN event, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

St George ARS gathering on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
Trans-Tasman Low-Band Contest on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>