

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

A reminder that with this being the Queen's Birthday long weekend, there will be no upgrade course at VK2WI Dural tomorrow night the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the ARNSW Library will also be closed. Classes and library will be back to normal next week, Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **ARNSW Antenna Day**

Coming up next Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of June is the ARNSW Antenna Day. At the VK2WI site, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

Starting at 10am, there will be six presentations on antenna topics, covering types of antennas such as dipoles, buddipoles and inverted V's, G5RV's, screwdrivers plus a flowerpot antenna.

There will also be a presentation on feedlines, and antenna analysis, with a practical field component - where members may bring along their own 'quick erect' antenna for testing.

There is also a raffle, with the first prize of a 160 to 2 metre antenna analyser, plus second, third and fourth prizes as well.

No RSVP, just turn up, with the presentations starting at 10 am and the usual sumptuous barbeque lunch.

Note that due to the field activities, there will be some changes to onsite parking for the event – but there will be plenty of space on the east side of the property, beyond the VK2WI brick building. Signs and volunteers will guide visitors on the day.

*73 from AI VK2OK  
Event Co-ordinator*

## **US Licence exams in Sydney**

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting an assessment session on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> July, at Bankstown Airport, starting at 8am.

The examinations will use the new Technician question pool. Candidates for higher level licences need to do all papers up to the level they desire, but all papers are included in the single affordable session fee.

Information, and forms for questions and bookings can be found on the new website: [veexams.com](http://veexams.com).

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	1 <sup>st</sup>	Nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	75	74	74	71	71	71	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	19	14	9	5	6	9	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	11	11	7	3	5	4	3 estimated
T index	20	4	0	3	5	6	15

Solar flare activity was very low all week, except on the 6<sup>th</sup> where some low level activity was observed, in the form of one C-class solar flare.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was active on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, quiet on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 6<sup>th</sup> with an isolated active period, then quiet to unsettled on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during local daytime all week, however some enhancements were observed at local night; nighttime frequencies were enhanced by 55% on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 20% on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 15% on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Space Weather Summary for May 2018

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

As we are approaching the lowest part of the current solar cycle, May was a quiet month overall for space weather.

Solar activity was at very low levels all month and no M-class or X-class solar flares were observed.

There was only one geomagnetic disturbance of note – this was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, where the A-index reached 19. This activity was associated with the Earth's entry into a high-speed solar wind stream induced by a coronal hole.

While the ionosphere was relatively stable, there were several broad periods of lower than normal MUFs particularly in the northern region of Australia, probably in association with lower solar flux levels. In the Southern Australian region, the largest depression was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, with MUF 20% below the predicted monthly value.

## Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished May, the figures were...

Minimum 67      Average 71      Maximum 77  
With peak dates between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

At the start of June, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum 69      Average 72      Maximum 77  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>; and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for July;

Minimum 70      Average 72      Maximum 74  
With peak dates between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</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**

VIETNAM, 3W. Nobu, JA0JHQ plans to be active as 3W9NH from Hoi An from June 14 to 18. Activity will be on the HF bands, and possibly 6 metres, using CW and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming All Asian DX CW contest.

RWANDA, 9X. Harald, DF2WO is now active as 9X2AW from Kigali. Activity is on various HF bands using slow CW, SSB and various digital modes.

GERMANY; Special event station DK6GEO will be active during the Geoparks Communication Weekend from Unicorn Cave.

IRELAND, EI. Members of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will be active as EI2GEO from the Copper Coast European Geopark during the Geoparks Communication Weekend.

ESTONIA, ES. Operators Henrik, DG0LFF, Steffen, DH1DM, Fred, DH5FS and Uwe, DL3BQA will be active as ES0/home calls and ES0UG/8 from various islands from June 11 to 15. Their first stop will be Kihnu Island, IOTA EU-178. Activity will be on the HF bands, including 6 metres, 4 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 3 centimetres using various modes.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Walter, HB9XBG is active as FO/HB9XBG from Bora Bora Island, IOTA OC-067, until June 17. Activity is on 20 metres using SSB.

ENGLAND, G. Special event station GB6GEO will be active on June 9 and 10 from Kent's Cavern, Torbay, as part of the Geoparks Communication Weekend. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 metres, in addition to 6 metres using SSB, and 2 metres using FM.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0W while on work assignment until June 16. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Lauren, W0LD and Jon, N0JK are active as PJ4/home calls until June 11. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. They plan to be active as PJ4V in the ARRL June VHF contest.

GREECE; Special event station J48GEO will be active from Lesvos Island, IOTA EU-049, from the Natural History Museum at the Lesvos Petrified Forest during the Geoparks Communication Weekend.

DODECANESE, SV5. Marcel, OK2QQ will be active as SV5/OK2QQ from Kalymnos and Telendos, IOTA EU-001, from June 12 to 22. Activity will be on 40 to 2 metres using CW, SSB and FM.

COSTA RICA, TI. A group of operators are active as TE6DX from Unita Island, IOTA NA-155, until June 11. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

CORSICA, TK. Arnoud, PE2USA will be active as TK/PE2USA near Sari-Solenzara, IOTA EU-014, until June 15. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 10 metres, and possibly 80 metres, using SSB and RTTY.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Will, KW4WZ plans to be active as V73/KW4WZ from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, until June 18. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using some SSB, and JT65 and FT8.

BERMUDA, VP9. Kyle, WA4PGM is active as VP9/WA4PGM until June 16. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using mostly CW.

ROMANIA, YO. Look for special event station YP2GEO to be active during the Geopark Communication Weekend from Tara Hateulul.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL June VHF Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, Geoparks Communication Weekend, NCCC CW Sprint, DRCCG World Wide RTTY Contest, VK Shires Contest, Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Portugal Day Contest, GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, REF DDFM 6-Metre Contest and Cookie Crumble QRP Contest are all on this weekend.

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

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship, NAQCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 13.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.



## WICEN News

A new event to the WICEN calendar 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.

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 2.5hours 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. A meeting is planned for Sunday, 10 June at 10am, at the SARC club site.

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. This weekend was the SCSCC Bega Rally. Saturday, July 21 is the BMSC Narooma Rally, and the Batemans Bay Rally is on August 11. 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. The Mallee Rally is on this weekend, 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.

This weekend is the Club's annual Field Day weekend, and yesterday there were 52 registrations at the Wauchope High School hall by 5pm. Despite some intermittent light rain, the Saturday foxhunts were keenly contested. There was a lot of interest in the digital radio displays. The hot food from the barbeque was very popular.

Last night's Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club was enjoyed by 37 attendees. After a delicious meal there was a lot of animated discussion on a wide range of subjects. It was also a great opportunity for everyone to socialize in a very comfortable environment.

Today was the second day of Field Day weekend, at Wauchope High School hall in Nelson Street, Wauchope.

There will be a more detailed report on the entire Field Day weekend, in next week's VK2WI news.

The next meeting of the club will be the Friday night gathering, 7pm on the evening of Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June in the SES Building in Port Macquarie, and as always, visitors are welcome.

The club's VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre repeater at Telegraph Point is now operational. No CTCSS is required and the offset is minus 1MHz.

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.

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 coming up this Tuesday, 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 join in the celebration.

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 with the special event callsign being active all weekend.

Finally, the big anniversary event will be at the Field Day weekend on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 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).

For those interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas, 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](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au).

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.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is on this 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 radio message from UK to Australia 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;**

### **June**

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**

US Amateur Licence exams at Bankstown Airport, on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
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>

### **August**

St George ARS gathering on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Remembrance Day Contest on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
International Lighthouse & lightship weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>