

## Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

John Olding VK2CJO, of Greta in the Hunter Valley, passed away as a result of a heart attack on Sunday the 24th of June 2018. He was 69 years old.

John was an electronics technician who for a number of years operated a small TV and general electronics service business in the town of Branxton in the Hunter Valley.

John developed an interest in electronics later in life, completing the electronics trade course at Tighes Hill TAFE in Newcastle. John then completed the TV component of the course where he came Dux of the Radio and TV section for that year. John was a very popular student with the teachers in the electronics section because of his enthusiasm to be a high achiever in the trade.

John was very active at this time in Amateur Radio and continued with his interest in the hobby into his retirement. John also had an interest in music, especially guitar. He will be missed by his loving family, and all of the amateur radio friends he made over the years in our hobby.

Please pause with us now, while we remember John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]  
John Olding, VK2CJO.

*Our thanks to Grahame VK2FA, for advising us here at VK2WI news.*

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**[Play Evening ID1]**

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

Starting next week, the VK2WI Evening News will include episodes from the podcast series, "What use is an F-call?" written and produced by Onno, VK6FLAB. In this series, Onno, starting out as a newly licenced F-call, recounts some of his trials, thoughts and discoveries. Not only does the series contain some useful pointers for those new to the hobby, it has some thought-provoking ideas for more experienced amateurs as well.

The next Foundation course and assessment weekend at VK2WI is next month, on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July. The deadline for bookings is Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, and enquires are best made by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

The next event at VK2WI Dural will be the Trash and Treasure, and Radio Experimenter's Group meeting, on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	80	77	75	73	71	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	15	8	10	17	7	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	11	6	10	17	4	3 estimated
T index	4	13	20	9	20	6	2

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, quiet to active on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 24<sup>th</sup>, quiet to active on the 25<sup>th</sup>, quiet to minor storm levels on the 26<sup>th</sup>, then quiet on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> were near predicted during daytime, with enhancements of 40% during local night. The 25<sup>th</sup> was mostly near predicted, the 26<sup>th</sup> was near predicted during the day and enhanced 20% at night, but the 27<sup>th</sup> saw depressions of 20% during the day, recovering to near predicted at night. Then the 28<sup>th</sup> remained near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 29<sup>th</sup> of June to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to mostly be quiet to unsettled.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 June, the figures were...

Minimum 67      Average 73      Maximum 82  
With peak dates between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>

As we start July, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum 68      Average 72      Maximum 80  
With peak dates between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for August;

Minimum 68      Average 72      Maximum 77  
With peak dates between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<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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**[Play Evening ID2]**

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## **ARRL DX news**

AZERBAIJAN, 4K. Look for 4K6/DL7ZM and 4K28MAY to be active until July 10 from a mountaintop location at Nasir al-Din al-Tusi Shemakhi Astrophysical Observatory, grid square LN40hs. Activity will be on 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

MONTENEGRO, 4O. Bill, ON5JE is active as 4O/ON5JE until July 17. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres. This includes the activation of some flora and fauna areas.

ALGERIA; A group of operators will be active during July with special call 7V5ID in celebration of the 57th anniversary of Algeria's Independence, from Stidia, Mostaganem. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Daniel, SM0UDH is active as 8Q7DT from Horubadhoo, Baa Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until July 9. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB, JT9, JT65 and FT8.

CUBA, CO. Special event station CO0SCU will be active from July 2 to 4 to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Naval Battle during the Spanish, Cuban, American War. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP. Eric, KV1J will be active as FP/KV1J from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032, from July 3 to 7. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using some CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming IARU HF World Championship.

COLOMBIA; Members of amateur radio clubs Liga Radio Manizales, Liga Radio Medellin, and Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados are active with special event call 5K4CSA until July 2 to celebrate Scouts For The Peace Jamboree 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

BAKER AND HOWLAND ISLANDS, KH1. A large group of operators are active as KH1/KH7Z from Baker Island, IOTA OC-089, until July 7. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

BULGARIA, LZ. Special event station LZ25RRC is active until the end of July to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Russian Robinson Club.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Roly, ZL1BQD will be active as P29RR from Wewak, IOTA OC-034, until July 26. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on FT8.

GREECE, SV. Russell, G5XW is active as SV8/G5XW from Zakynthos, IOTA EU-052, until July 2. Activity is on 40, 30, 20 and 17 metres using slow CW.

ICELAND, TF. Michael, G0POT will be active as TF/G0POT from Vik Island, IOTA EU-021, from July 2 to 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using QRP power. He also plans to activate some SOTA references.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Pete, VE3IKV and Bill, W4TAA will be active as VQ5Z from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, until July 10. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, Battle of Carabobo International Contest and the RAC Canada Day Contest are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship is scheduled for July 2.

The IQRP Quarterly Marathon and 10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party runs from July 2 to 8.

The ARS Spartan Sprint is scheduled for July 3.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for July 4.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

## WICEN News

September is shaping up to be a busy month on the WICEN calendar. The Great North Walk Ultras, are a series of trail races from Teralba to Patonga Wharf, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Then the VH-MDX "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue EXercise is on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and the Hounslow Classic is a running event around Blackheath, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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 a new 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, 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. Saturday, July 21 is the BMSC Narooma Rally, and the Batemans Bay Rally is on August 11. The ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29th and 30th. 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. For details on future events, visit the 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 will be the July monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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 be run when 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 the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each 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. The July 2018 issue, which is a special edition reporting on the recent Field Day, will be published early in the month.

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

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society is currently celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and over this weekend, the Club's Special Event Call-sign of VI2AMW70 will be operational from the Anniversary Field weekend, located just south of Yass. The Anniversary's high-altitude balloon was hoped to have been launched from the site early this morning.

[updates if available]

As this ARNSW morning broadcast airs, listeners may wish to tune-in to the balloon's payload transmitter on 28.636MHz. The CW beacon is transmitting with the special event callsign of VI2AMW70, transmitting information such as temperature, battery voltage and altitude. It is expected that the balloon should reach a height of at least 20 kilometres, hopefully higher, before bursting and returning slowly to earth with the aid of a parachute. For more information on the balloon's progress, check out the Club's website at [www.iars.org.au](http://www.iars.org.au)

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday evening the 10th of July. 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, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station.

At this next meeting, there will be a report on this weekend's Anniversary Field Weekend, including lots of photos and videos. Additionally, a presentation on HF antenna designs is planned to create discussion and thinking on alternative designs.

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).

And don't forget about the Saturday morning chit-chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. If you're interested in joining-in, listen on either VK2RMP or VK2RUW 2m repeaters from 9.30am or alternatively, call-in on Echolink using either VK2BGL-R or VK2MT-R.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, which is 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*

## Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, in the Belmore function room at Adamstown bowling club , 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, Newcastle. The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

After General Business, the lecture for the evening will be presented by Rob, VK2ZWZ, on Portable HF Antennas.

There is parking available at the side of the Bowling Club.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a broadcast every Monday evening starting at 7:30pm on the Group Repeaters, 146.9MHz in the 2 metre band, and 438.025 MHZ in the 70 cm band. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Advised by Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary for the Hunter Radio Group.*

## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

The Westlakes car boot sale is on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, starting at around 8:30am. Its at the club grounds, 6a York Street, Teralba.

You can take along any items you wish to sell, not just radio related gear. There is no cost to set up, but bring your own table.

There will be a BBQ, and hot and cold drinks available.

Any enquiries please contact Barry VK2QG, by phone, 0478 228 983.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG  
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.*

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

The next gathering is on Wednesday evening, the 4th of July.

Instead of a normal presentation with one person standing up the front, lots of people will stand up and present a "show and tell". This is your opportunity to give a presentation on a project on which they have been working. Explain your reason for selecting the project. Share your design ideas or construction techniques you used to bring your project to life.

Bring along your project or just talk about your experience. A digital projector will be available should you wish to use a power-point style presentation aid.

After the gathering, 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 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 the informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, starting at 8pm. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September there will be centenary celebrations of the first message from Billy Hughes, sent via Ernest Fisk.

The event, including the operation of VK100MARCONI will take place between 11am and 4 pm, with formal commemorations at 1 pm.

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;

### 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>

ORARC Monthly general meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Auction on the 14<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>

Canberra Region ARC Foundation course & exams at Red Hill, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

Westlakes ARC car boot sale at Teralba, on the 28<sup>th</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>

### September

St George ARS gathering on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Barrington SAREX, a WICEN event, on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Centenary of the first direct message from the UK to Australia via radio, 22<sup>nd</sup>