

## **Silent Key.**

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

The Hunter Radio Group has advised us, of the passing of long time club member Gordon Shearer, VK2DN.

His funeral is at St Peter's Anglican Church, Denison Street, Hamilton, this Thursday, 2nd August, at 10.30am

Please pause with us now, while we remember Gordon.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Gordon Shearer VK2DN.

*Advised by Rodney VK2CN  
on behalf of the Hunter Radio Group.*

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

Today here at VK2WI Dural, was the regular bi-monthly Trash and Treasure, and Radio Experimenter's Group meeting. The next event is at the end of September.

The annual RD contest is on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 of August. Subject to delivery, VK2WI is planning to relay the contest opening address on Saturday afternoon the 11<sup>th</sup> August, at about 12:45pm.

Looking back at our history; 50 years ago this month in 1968, the Australian Amateur Radio Service was granted official permission to establish repeaters.

A national planning meeting was arranged and held at Wodonga Victoria, in September of that year. Approval was a slow process and the Dural repeater finally went to air in December 1970. It was on 2 metres, the first band approved for repeaters.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	71	70	68	67	67	66	66
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	10	5	4	16	10	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	9	2	1	14	4	1 estimated
T index	11	14	4	1	8	-2	-2

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, quiet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, then reached active levels on the 24<sup>th</sup> before returning to quiet to unsettled conditions on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and quiet on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted monthly values, during daylight hours, all week. However, on some days, enhancements were observed during local nights – 15% on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 55% on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 25% on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 30% on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 27<sup>th</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly at quiet levels with the chance of some unsettled conditions on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of July, and the possibility of active conditions on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

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.

As we near the end of July, the figures for this month are a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 73  
With peak dates between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>

For August, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for September, we expect;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 17<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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## What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. In each episode, Onno looks at different aspect of the Amateur Radio – and how you as a beginner might fit in, and get the very best from the 1000 hobbies that Amateur Radio represents.

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**[Play File: E-FCAL006.wav]**

*Duration: 2m45s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"*

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For more information about this series, you can contact Onno via email, to [onno@itmaze.com.au](mailto:onno@itmaze.com.au), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

This week, several special stations are active especially for the RSGB IOTA contest;

CROATIA; Radovan, OM2ZZ will be active as 9A/OM2ZZ from Vir Island, IOTA EU-170.

WEST MALAYSIA; Luca, IK2PFL will be active as 9M2/IK2PFL from Perhentian Kecil Island, IOTA AS-073.

PHILIPPINES; Ireneo, DU9XL, Roldan, DU9XM and Ernesto, DU9CA will be active as DX9EVM from Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130.

ESTONIA; Toivo, ES2DJ will be active as ES8DJ from Ruhnu Island, IOTA EU-178.

GUERNSEY; Operators M0WJE and M0WUT plan to be active as GP6UW from Beaucette Marina, IOTA EU-114.

THAILAND; Members of the HSDXA team will be active as E2X from Si Chang Island, IOTA AS-107.

ITALY; Pippo, IT9PPG will be active as IF9A from Favignana Island, IOTA EU-054, as a Single Op/DXpedition/24Hrs/CW entry.

JAPAN; Jen, JE6HCL will be active as JE6HCL/6 from Iki Island, IOTA AS-036, as a Single Op/Mixed Mode entry. He is here until July 30.

BULGARIA; A large group of operators will be active as LZ0I from Sveti Ivan Island, IOTA EU-181, as a Multi/Single entry.

SWEDEN; Eric, SM1TDE will be active as SD1A from Gotland Island, IOTA EU-020, as a Single Op/All Band/CW Mode/24 Hrs/Island entry.

GREECE; Branislav, OM2FY will be active as SV8/OM2FY from Kefalonia, IOTA EU-052, as a CW QRP entry.

And in other DX activity this week;

MAURITIUS; Karel, OK2ZI is active as 3B8/OK2ZI until August 8. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

TAIWAN; A group of operators will be active as BV0WPX from Peng Chia-Yu Island, IOTA AS-155, in the RSGB IOTA contest. Before and after the contest they will be active as BW9W.

ENGLAND; Members of the Fort Purbrook ARC are active with special event station GB1PF until July 29 to represent the 19th century Palmerston Forts that encircle the City of Portsmouth. Activity is on 80 to 2 metres using CW, SSB and PSK.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA; Puiu, YO5BIM is active as P29VIM from Port Moresby, IOTA OC-034, and Vanimo, until August 13. He also plans to be active from Rabaul on New Britain Island, IOTA OC-008. Activity is on the low bands using mostly CW and some SSB.

NORWAY; Members of the Kirkenes Radio Amateur group are active with special call LM0POMOR in celebration of the Pomor Cultural Festival in Vardoe, IOTA EU-141, until July 29.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Operators Victor, R1NU and Dmitry, UA1NFA will be active as R1KRG/P from Bol'shoy Kimalishche Island, IOTA EU-147, in the RSGB IOTA contest. Before and after the contest, they are active as R25RRA.

ROMANIA; Members of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania will be active as YP27EKE during their hosting of the 27th Roaming Camp from July 30 until August 5. Activity will be on the HF bands. They may also activate WWFF sites YOFF-0177 and YO/MC-031.

KOSOVO; Members of the Kosovo International Friendship Consortium are active as Z66X until July 30. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Special event station ZM50MAUQ will be active during August to commemorate the naval accident in 1968 of the SS Gothic. Activity will be on 80, 40 and 20 metres using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The RSGB IOTA Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, YARC Summer QSO Party and the ARS CW Flight of the Bumblebees are all on this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are both scheduled for August 1.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.



## WICEN News

The WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held here at ARNSW in Quarry Road, Dural, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 3pm. AGM papers have been either emailed or posted to members. Please note that the WICEN Secretary has been advised, that some of the posted-out papers were missing a copy of the Appointment of Proxy Form. The printers inserted two Nomination Forms in error in some cases. If you require a form, it will be available shortly on the WICEN website; or contact the Secretary on 0408 397 217, and he will Express Post one to you.

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>, with the second recce concluding today, and the Hounslow Classic is a running event around Blackheath, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The next day of WICEN Induction will be held at VK2WI Dural on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

October the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> are the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the Wisemans Dash. These events raise funds for the ARROW Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

The WICEN website at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) includes membership information, a web contact form, other contact details and useful links. Members can login and access further information.

Facebook users will find an 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. Their next meeting is on Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10am at the SARC clubrooms.

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. The Batemans Bay Rally is on August 11 and the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. In October, the ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race, is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, are on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 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. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Lauriston Scout Camp in the Macedon Ranges, on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. For details, 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 is the AGM, which takes place at 2pm this coming Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. All positions will be declared vacant at the AGM, and elections will take place to fill the positions for the 2018-2019 year. The August monthly general meeting takes place after the conclusion of the AGM.

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 36 page, July 2018 special of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is now available to read on the website, and past issues can be viewed there as well.

*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 the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. General meetings start at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Meetings are held at the Coniston Community Hall located in Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is right next door to Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train, is very easy.

The next meeting is the Society's AGM, with all positions vacated and up for election. There is no need for thinking of visiting, to be concerned about being hijacked into a vacated position, as many of the current Committee and Executive are happy to volunteer again – if elected of course.

Following the AGM, Rob VK2MT will give a presentation on HF antennas - from balanced to unbalanced and resonant to non-resonant. Following which will be the usual ragchew and cuppa with chocky biscuits. Based on many past meeting nights, ragchewing continues until the hall lights are turned off, but then leads on into the carpark!

If you are interested in gaining your Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas, remember that there is 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 contacted Ted via email to; [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 you can call-in on Echolink, using VK2BGL-R.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 14th of August, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club will be held on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, following the usual business meeting at 1pm.

In the meantime, Club President Bob VK2AOR is thankful to Dave VK2KFU for taking over as Publicity Officer, and he has indicated that he will not contest any position other than Repeater Committee for the following year; so, there should be plenty of vacant positions to be filled.

Business meetings of the club are held on the first Saturday of every month, and naturally all are welcome, especially visitors.

Lectures are presented on the third Saturday of Every month; last week's talk on the LM317 regulator was well received. Next month's lecture, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, will be a practical demonstration of test equipment, presented by Graham VK2GRA.

The Club participated in the Trans-Tasman contest last week, with eight members activating club station VK2AFY, and making 150 contacts with our Kiwi cousins.

The Club also has an active Projects Group that meets frequently, with members discussing their latest projects. More information can be found on the Club's web site.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the club rooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station, at 1pm - just look for the big tower - preceded by a sausage sizzle starting at noon. The clubrooms are accessible by bus, with a bus stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford train Station, every hour. Dave apologises for referring to the "43" bus and hopes that not too many visitors got confused.

The Club also relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 2 metre repeater VK2RAG, on 146.725MHz.

There is a net held every Thursday on VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm. Please note that the repeater requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access.

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found over on the website, at [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au), which will have various interactive features soon.

*Submitted by Dave VK2KFU  
CCARC Assistant Publicity Officer.*

## **Hunter Radio Group**

The next monthly meeting of the Group will be on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> August. Please note that this meeting has been moved back a week, due to the RD Contest on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

The location is as usual; the Belmore Function Room at the Adamstown Bowling Club. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. Details in future broadcasts. You can have a light meal at the bar before the meeting.

The Group's mid-year Social Luncheon will be held on Saturday the 4th of August, at the Windale Bowling Club. Starting time is 11:30am, with a two course lunch provided.

Bookings are required, so please contact Len VK2ZFD, on 49 57 77 85 or Social Secretary, Ardel, on 49 44 83 93. Don't forget to bring a present for our raffle. So mark the date, the 4th of August, on your calendar.

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

## **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**

The Club is holding a “Winterfest” car boot sale, on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. Its at the BMARC Club rooms, 4 Moors Street, Glenbrook.

Planning is still underway, so there will be more details in future news bulletins – but mark your calendar now.

*Submitted by Daniel VK2DC  
President, BMARC.*



## **St. George Amateur Radio Society**

The next gathering of the Society is on this Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

Roland VK2YAD will be giving a presentation on Computer Aided Testing.

After 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, 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> ]

Next weekend, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of August, the Society will be holding another Foundation training and assessment weekend. For more information, visit the website, at [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU  
St. George Amateur Radio Society*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is the informal, mid-monthly meeting, with the presentation of a series of short talks. Its on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August and starts at 8pm. The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, is the centenary of the Marconi-Fisk message, including the operation of special event station 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;

### August

St George ARS gathering on the 1<sup>st</sup>

St George ARS foundation weekend, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group social luncheon on the 4<sup>th</sup>

ORARC AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup>

CCARC AGM, also on the 4<sup>th</sup>

WICEN NSW AGM at VK2WI Dural on the 11<sup>th</sup>

Remembrance Day Contest on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup>

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>

International Lighthouse & lightship weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC "Winterfest" on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### September

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

Great North Walk Ultra – A WICEN event – on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

Barrington SAREX, a WICEN event, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<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>

### October

St George ARS gathering on the 3<sup>th</sup>

JOTA and JOTI on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>