

Silent Key.

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

Anthony Dodds, VK2ABM, passed away on Friday morning, at his nursing home in Toronto, near Newcastle.

Details on funeral arrangements were not available at the time this news bulletin was being prepared, but a notice will be published in the Newcastle Herald, in the coming week.

Please pause with us, while we remember Tony.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Anthony Dodds VK2ABM.

Advised by Charlie VK2CLH

[Play ID File: EV ID1.wav]

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

With this weekend being the Labour Day long weekend, there will be no Library or Licence Upgrade class tomorrow evening, Monday the 1st of October. Activities will resume the Monday after, that's Monday the 8th.

Daylight Saving in southeastern Australia, starts on the first Sunday of October, which this year does coincide with the long weekend. So its next Sunday, the 7th of October, that the clocks go forward. Remember, VK2WI News stays on the same local times, at 10am and 7:30pm.

The Centenary of the First Direct Wireless Message

As you may have heard last week here on VK2WI news, The Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club in conjunction with the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, on Saturday the 22nd of September, celebrated the centenary of the first direct wireless message sent from the United Kingdom to Australia in 1918. The message was sent from the Marconi Trans-Atlantic Transmitting Station at Carnarvon in Wales and was received by Ernest Fisk at his experimental wireless station in Wahroonga, in the northern suburbs of Sydney.

Ernest Fisk, General Manager of AWA had been encouraged by then Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, to find a means to ensure reliable communications could be maintained between Australia and England. Fisk conducted a series of experiments with Marconi, culminating in the reception at Fisk's home in Wahroonga, of a message sent from Wales without the need for intermediate relay stations.

This demonstrated that wireless waves could actually propagate around the world, and direct communication by radio meant that Australia was no longer dependent on vulnerable undersea cable connections with the rest of the world. It also demonstrated Australia's skill in the development of wireless technology, and AWA went on to make further contributions to this development.

Billy Hughes later described wireless as a "miracle which had opened up a new world far more spacious than that discovered by Columbus".

The centenary celebration at Wahroonga, adjacent to Fisk Monument which stands outside the former home of Fisk and his experimental Wireless station, saw a re-enactment of the historical 1918 event, and was accompanied by many early wireless and historical displays.

The celebration attracted nearly 500 visitors and, in addition, the event was streamed live on the Internet, attracting 360 viewers. A copy of the live stream has been uploaded to Youtube, and can be found by searching for the "Centenary of the First Direct Wireless Message".

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb5r4qp3v0M>]

The celebration was a good opportunity to showcase amateur radio to the visiting public, with the Hornsby and Districts Amateur radio Club, the WIA and the Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) providing information displays which gave good exposure of the various facets of the hobby and attracting great interest. The event received coverage in both print and TV media.

In addition, HADARC ran a special event station with the callsign VK100MARCONI and was able to make contact and exchange celebratory messages with the Dragon Radio Club in Wales, our celebration counterpart in the UK who were operating from the Marconi Transmitting station site.

The VK100MARCONI callsign will continue to be active until 21 October and QSL details are on the Hornsby Club website at: hadarc.org.au.

Jamboree on the Air – October 2018

With just under a month to go before JOTA 2018, planning should be well underway for your Jamboree On The Air radio station. As Australia is one of the first countries to start the JOTA weekend, making contacts with other JOTA radio stations within Australia would give guide and scout youth members a great start to their JOTA weekend experience.

To assist radio operators in making contact with other JOTA Radio stations, The St George Amateur Radio Society has setup a database where you can register details of your JOTA radio station such as callsign, location, bands and frequencies, operating times and contact details. The information collected on the database, will only be shared with other users.

Please consider registering your JOTA station at www.jota.sgars.org and follow the menu link. For more information email jota@sgars.org

Submitted by Paul VK2GX

JOTA coordinator for The St George Amateur Radio Society

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21st to the 27th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
10cm flux	67	68	68	69	68	69	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	20	9	5	7	6	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	15	8	6	13	5	5 estimated
T index	-6	+5	-7	-16	-9	-9	-12

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 21st and 22nd, becoming quiet to unsettled on the 23rd and 24th, and ranging from quiet to active conditions on the 25th. The 26th remained quiet and the 27th saw some quiet to unsettled conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 21st and 22nd. The 23rd was depressed 15% during local day, recovering to near predicted values at night. The 24th was depressed 25% during the day and 15% at night, and the 25th was depressed 15% during the day but recovered at night to near predicted. The 26th was mostly near predicted with some depressions of up to 20% just after local dawn, then the 27th was again depressed 20% during local day, recovering at night, to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 28th of September to the 4th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be low, Geomagnetic activity may reach unsettled levels on the 1st and 2nd of October, with quiet conditions expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly 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.

At the end of September, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 9th and the 17th

Just about to start October, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 4th and the 11th.

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 1st and the 7th.

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. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: E-FCAL017.wav]

Duration: 5m04s

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

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

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

ARRL DX news

SAMOA; Stan, LZ1GC is active as 5W0GC from Upolu Island, IOTA OC-097, until October 14. Activity is on the HF bands, with a focus on 160 and 80 metres, using CW, SSB and RTTY.

RWANDA; Members of the Italian DX Team are active as 9X0T until October 10. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. They are also active as 9X0Y using FT8 only in DXpedition mode on 40 to 10 metres.

NAURU; Lance, W7GJ is active as C21GJ until October 14. Activity is on 6 metres with a focus on EME, but will also use CW, SSB and FT8 as well.

MADEIRA ISLAND; A large group of operators will be active as CR3DX in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest as a Multi/2 entry.

PHILIPPINES ; Brian, AI6US is active as DU7/AI6US from Negros Island, IOTA OC-129, until October 21. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

CANARY ISLANDS; Ewe, SM7BHM, Vaeinoe, OH9GIT, Kari, OH2BP and Vilnis, YL2KF will be active as EA8DED from Puerto de la Cruz, IOTA AF-004, as a Multi/Single/Low Power entry in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

JERSEY; Kazu, M0CFW will be active as MJ5Z in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest as a Low Power entry.

SCOTLAND; Special call sign GR150NIB will be active from October 1 to 28 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB.

PANAMA; Operator 3E1JT will be active from October 1 to 31 for the Scouts JOTA event.

AUSTRIA; Operator HB9RB will be active as 4U1A as a Single Op/Single Band on 40 metre entry in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

GREECE; Sigg, DL7DF will be active as SV8/DL7DF from Zakynthos Island, IOTA EU-052, from October 1 to 15. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

TURKEY; Operator YM1KE will be active as TC6EKM from October 1 to 7 during the annual celebration of the liberation of Istanbul. Activity will be on the HF bands using various digital modes.

BELIZE; Victor, WB0TEV and Scott, K5PS are active as V31VP and V31CQ, respectively, until October 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being active as V31VP in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

MICRONESIA; Operators Yutaka, JH1MLO and Chouse, JR1FKR are active as V63MLO and V63FKR respectively, from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, until October 1. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and RTTY.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; A group of operators will be active as VK9XT until October 6. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS; Steve, AA7V is active as VP2V/AA7V until October 1. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and FT8. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

VIETNAM; Operator WA7WJR will be active as XV9WJR from October 3 to 27 from Con Son Island, IOTA AS-130, and Phu Quoc Island, IOTA AS-128. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 metres using primarily CW with some SSB and PSK31.

ALBANIA; A large group of operators will be active as ZA5V from Lake Shkodra from October 1 to 12. Activity will be on the HF bands using all modes. They will also be active using EME on 6 and 2 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL EME Contest, CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Feld Hell Sprint, Texas QSO Party and the Classic Phone Exchange will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The IQRP Quarterly Marathon runs from October 1 to 7.

The ARS Spartan Sprint is scheduled for October 2.

The UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, 432 MHz Fall Sprint, CWops Mini-CWT Test, German Telegraphy CW Contest and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 3.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

October 27th and 28th are the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the shorter Wisemans Dash. These are amongst WICEN's largest events, in terms of number of operators required, and they raise funds for the ARROW Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

October 14th is Volunteer Memorial Day.

On Sunday November the 18th, there is a WICEN training day at ARNSW Dural. Topics covered include network design, message passing, and repeater trailer setup and operation. More details will be given closer to the day. Please email operations@nsw.wicen.org.au if you are attending.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. 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 Sunday the 14th of October at 10am.

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, and on the South Coast of NSW. The ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is next weekend, crossing the north-west border of the Territory, concluded today. The ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race is on the 5th and 6th of October, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, are on the 28th. See the WICEN and Events pages on 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 5th to the 7th of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28th. The Peninsula Shire Communications Exercise in Mornington, is on Saturday the 10th of November.

For details, visit the website at vic.wicen.org.au, which also includes some reports on recent events.

*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. Their next meeting is the October general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of October, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. The next training course for upgrade to the Advanced licence will commence soon, and courses and assessments for Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences, 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 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The September 2018 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, along with past issues, are available on the website.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Dave VK2KFU is grateful to Bob VK2AOR, for filling in at the last moment with a lecture on Amateur Satellites. Dave is looking forward to presenting his lecture on the GPS system, early next year.

The next Club lecture, on the 20th of October, will be by Allan VK2EFM on Radiation Hazards. It will involve a practical demonstration and a talk on field strength readings of Electromagnetic Radiation, and the acceptable levels of exposure on the human body in accordance with ARPANSA regulations. Compliance with these regulations is not only a requirement of your Amateur Radio licence, but it's a good idea to protect your vital organs; so it would be wise to turn up and learn more.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the club rooms in Dandaloo Street Kariong, just past the fire station, at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by Steve VK2KSC, starting at noon. The club rooms are accessible by bus, with a bus stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station, every hour. The club rooms are usually open from 10.30 every Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the workshop and library.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6m and 2m repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require a sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

The club also runs a mixed-mode repeater VK2RAG on 439.950MHz, which is connected to the P25 network; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving (unless you like hearing digital noise).

There is a net held every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm, and all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved).

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for centralcoastarc, and a Twitter account, @ccarclub [pronounced "at CC AR Club"].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, at ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer for the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Hunter Radio Group

The October Monthly Meeting of the group will be held on Friday the 12th. The meeting is in The Belmore Function Room of Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, and starts at 7:30pm.

The presentation at this meeting will take the form of our Annual Technical Member Projects, where members bring their items and give a short presentation.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. They are on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink Node 1474, and 438.025MHz in the 70cm band. All welcome.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary for the Hunter Radio Group.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this Wednesday, the 3rd of October. This month there will be a presentation by Roland VK2YAD, on CAT Control.

For the last 20 or so years, many amateur radios have come with a CAT interface. This will allow control of the radio from a desktop computer, laptop computer or even a tablet. With the appropriate interface and software, most or all of the functions of the radio can be controlled by the keyboard, mouse or even your fingers.

Roland will explain how the interface works, what software to use and he will demonstrate its operation.

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>]

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

If you made contact with the special event station VK100MARCONI, please QSL with an SASE to;

HADARC
PO Box 362
HORNSBY NSW 1630

The next HADARC meeting will be the September monthly meeting, this Tuesday the 25th, starting at 8:00pm. The venue is the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of Mt Colah railway station. The meeting will feature a series of short talks on projects, or other topics, by members of the club.

HADARC's website, which includes details on club nets and other activities, can be found at: 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;

October

St George ARS gathering on the 3rd
Oxley Region ARC General Meeting on the 6th
Daylight Saving begins in NSW at 2am on the 7th
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 9th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 12th
Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 19th
CCARC Lecture afternoon on the 20th
JOTA and JOTI on the 20th and 21st
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 23rd
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Woodbine on the 26th
Armidale & District ARC AGM on the 27th
Hawkesbury Canoe Race, a WICEN event, on the 27th and 28th

November

QRP By the Harbour, and QRP by the Bay, on the 3rd
St George ARS gathering on the 7th
MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 10th
St George Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 17th and 18th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25th

December

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5th
Christmas Day is the 25th