

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

The final ARNSW Foundation weekend for this year will be on the 10th and 11th of November. Enquiries are best made by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

The ARNSW office posted out another batch of membership batches late last month; if you were expecting one and have not yet seen it, please let us know. The next badge production is planned for early 2019 once we have sufficient requests for an economic production run.

## QRP by the Harbour

After a successful event earlier in the year, the ARNSW Radio and Experimenters Group is holding another QRP gathering on Saturday 3rd November.

The location is McILLWAIN Park in Rhodes. The location is by the water, on the site of the old Phillips Radio factory. Its next to Concord Road, and with ample parking, express buses and a 5 minute walk from Rhodes railway station, getting there couldn't be easier.

Activities start from 3pm, which coincides with QRP by the Bay in Melbourne. If it is raining, then the group will retire to the Kokoda Cafe in Rhodes Park about 300 metres south.

Look for QRP by the Harbour on Facebook and we will see you there or talk to you on the air.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU  
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group*

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	72	72	72	70	70	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	12	4	7	4	3	2 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	10	5	8	3	2	0 estimated
T index	-22	-18	-16	-15	-13	-15	-15

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and quiet to active on the 13<sup>th</sup>, before returning to quiet levels on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> saw mostly quiet, with some unsettled conditions, then quiet conditions returned from the 16<sup>th</sup> through to the 18<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed 15% from the 12<sup>th</sup> through to the 14<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> saw depressions of 15% during local day and 20% at night, but conditions then improved, and from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, frequencies remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, with quiet to unsettled conditions expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October, but otherwise 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.

Looking back at September, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Nearly halfway through October, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71  
With peak dates between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for November, we are now expecting a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72  
With peak dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 18<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. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

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*Duration: 3m48s*

*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**

SAMOA; Steve, WB2IQU is active as 5W2IQ from Apia until October 24. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

MALAWI; Dan, K6ZO will be active as 7Q6M from October 23 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

SPAIN; Members of the Cartagena Team are active with special call AM5BCP until October 21 to commemorate the Battle of Cabo de Palos, 80 years ago.

SAINT BARTHELEMY; Thierry, F6CUK plans to be active as F6CUK/FJ until November 1. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB. This may also include an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

OGASAWARA; Kazu, JD1BNA will be active from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from October 24 to 29. Activity will be focused on 160, 80 and 40 metres using CW.

AUSTRIA; Special event station OE100ES is active to commemorate the death of painter Egon Schiele 100 years ago.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA ; Members of the Noronha Contest Group will be active as PY0F from October 23 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

SURINAME; A group of operators will be active as PZ5K from October 23 to 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and RTTY. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE; Jorge, CT1BOL will be active as S9CT from Principe Island, IOTA AF-044, from October 24 to 29.

COTE D'IVOIRE; Bertrand, DF3FS will be active as TU5MH until October 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

CANADA; Members of the Eureka Amateur Radio Club are active as VY0ERC from Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, until November 10. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres, and possibly 80 metres, using SSB and various digital modes.

DUCIE ISLAND; A large group of operators will be active as VP6D until November 3. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes including FT8.

BURKINA FASO; A group of operators will be active as XT2SZZ from Bobo Dioulasso from October 22 to 30. Activity will be on the HF bands, including an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

ANTARCTICA; Adam, ZL4ASC is active as ZL5A from Scott Base, Ross Island, IOTA AN-011, during the 2018/2019 season while working as a communications technician. Activity is in his spare time.

CHATHAM ISLANDS; A group of operators are active as ZL7X until October 22. Activity is on the low bands using various digital modes, including FT8 in DXpedition mode.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 10-10 International Fall CW Contest, Jamboree On The Air, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Zombie CW Shuffle, JARTS World Wide RTTY Contest, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, Argentina National 7 MHz Contest, New York QSO Party, Worked All Germany Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Asia-Pacific Fall CW Sprint, UBA ON 2-Metre Contest, Illinois QSO Party and the RSGB RoLo CW will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for October 22.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 24.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

## WICEN News

Next weekend, October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> is one of the biggest operations of the WICEN calendar – providing communications support for the 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the 67km Wiseman's Dash. These events raise funds for ARROW, the bone marrow transplant foundation.

Sunday November the 18<sup>th</sup>, is a WICEN training day at ARNSW Dural. Topics covered include network design, message passing, and repeater trailer setup and operation. Please email [operations@nsw.wicen.org.au](mailto:operations@nsw.wicen.org.au) if you are attending.

The group will be at the CCARC Wyong Field Day, confirmed as Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019.

The WICEN website is at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://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, 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, and on the South Coast of NSW. Continuing a busy October, both Fitz's Challenge, and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event are next Sunday, 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 Stockmans Rally at Big River next Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, and the Peninsula Shire Communications Exercise in Mornington on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. For details, visit the website at [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au), which also includes some reports on recent events.



*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS,  
on behalf of the WICEN State Management Committee.*

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## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

There will be a Working Bee at the Clubrooms next Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October to spruce the place up, and all are invited.

A report on yesterday's technical lecture will appear next week.

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, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by Steve VK2SKC, starting at noon.

The clubrooms are accessible by bus, with a stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station, every hour. The Clubrooms are usually open from 10.30 every Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club 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 146.725 MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require the standard sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

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

There is a net every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm; 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". There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [*Pron. "At CC AR Club"*].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, at; [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au).

*Dave VK2KFU*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club*

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the November general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Yesterday, club station VK2BOR participated in JOTA; the station was set up in the club's communications caravan at McInherney Park in Port Macquarie, alongside the Scouts and Guides District Camp. Participants included Scouts and Guides from the area between Camden Haven and Coffs Harbour. It was a busy day.

This morning, club members provided safety communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, west of Wauchope. This is the longest downhill billycart road course in Australia.

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 shortly, 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](http://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  
F6or the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

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

The next meeting of Club is on Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 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, on 438.65MHz. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

To find out more about the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club's activities, visit the website, [fgarc.org.au](http://fgarc.org.au).

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR  
For the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

The Society has been busy this weekend, with Scouts, Guides and others, descending on the clubrooms at Terrey Hills in Sydney's North. Among the radio activities on offer, have been operating on HF and VHF of course; assembling a portable Amateur radio station; an introduction to Morse code; and playing Battleships via radio. Down at the main campground at Narrabeen, the kids have been soldering together a simple electronics project, as well as enjoying the more conventional scouting activities.

Next Wednesday the 31st, is Show and Tell night; being Halloween, the theme will be of spookiness, horror, gore, and the like. Do you have a radio set that's had some bloody repair work done to it? Perhaps some gear that came to an horrific untimely end through misuse? Maybe a vintage set that would have been at home at 1313 Mockingbird Lane...?

If you are not quite old enough to get that reference, one episode of the 1960s horror comedy series, The Munsters, featured a ham radio set. [PRINT ONLY clip at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-8RItOZE30>]  
As usual, voting will be by gold coin, with a prize for the best display, and possibly for the most horrific story.

If you are interested in gaining an Amateur licence, or upgrading your existing one, the next education and licensing day is on Saturday, 10th November. To book a place, email Mark VK2MP as soon as possible, by email to: [education@mwrs.org.au](mailto:education@mwrs.org.au), that's [education@mwrs.org.au](mailto:education@mwrs.org.au).

As mentioned last week, the November lecture will be given by former politician Andrew Tink, on the subject of the Honeysuckle Creek tracking station, and satellite communications. More details in coming weeks.

The WebSDR is still off air, pending replacement audio hardware, but the VHF repeater audio stream is back online: the receiver is currently scanning several repeaters, so there's a bit more to listen to.

There's more information on the Society's website, [www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au); you will also find information about the Society's YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the Scouting program, and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the web site at [www.mwrs.org.au](http://www.mwrs.org.au) for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY*

*Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, 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 Club runs three nets each week; Monday from 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, 147.250MHz No tone is required, but a 91.5 Hz tone is sent. The 80 metre net is on Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm, and Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz from 9am on Fridays.

HADARC's website, which includes the address for VK100MARCONI QSLs, and details on other club activities, can be found 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;

### October

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Armidale & District ARC AGM on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Hawkesbury Canoe Race, a WICEN event, on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
Westlakes ARC field day on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Manly-Warringah Halloween Horror show and tell, on the 31<sup>st</sup>  
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 31<sup>st</sup>

### November

QRP By the Harbour, and QRP by the Bay, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
St George ARS gathering on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Manly-Warringah Education and Assessment Day on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation Licence and Assessment weekend, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>  
St George Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
Manly-Warringah lecture night; on Honeysuckle creek, on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Spring VHF & UHF contest, on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25<sup>th</sup>

### December

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Christmas Party on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day is the 25<sup>th</sup>