

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

This weekend was the November Foundation weekend at ARNSW, as well as examinations for students from the licence upgrade course.

[report if available]

Further Foundation weekends are being run in November by some Clubs around Sydney, including next weekend at the St George Amateur Radio Society, and the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

ARNSW is planning Foundation weekends in 2019, with the first expected to be in March. For more information on this and other education activities at ARNSW, enquiries are best made by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

The ARNSW Library continues to operate on Monday in the late afternoon and the early evening, until mid-December. Enquiries can be emailed to [library@arnsw.org.au](mailto:library@arnsw.org.au).

## Invitation to an ARNSW special event

ARNSW is presenting a special guest speaker on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2018.

Our speaker will be Dick Smith, VK2DIK, on the topic, "radio and me".

The presentation will be here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural. The talk will start at 1pm local time.

There will be a BBQ available from 11am, and the site will be open from 9:30am.

As we are expecting a good turn up, we need numbers for catering purposes. Please register your attendance by email, to [events@arnsw.org.au](mailto:events@arnsw.org.au).

The address again, is [events@arnsw.org.au](mailto:events@arnsw.org.au).

Don't miss this opportunity to hear this great Australian and radio amateur, talking about his long and varied involvement in radio over the years.

*Advised by AI VK2OK  
Event Co-ordinator, ARNSW*

## **ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group**

A good afternoon was had at "QRP by the Harbour" at McILLWAIN Park in Rhodes last Saturday afternoon.

A total of eleven amateurs turned up and several radios were put on air. The most successful was Colin VK2JCC with his ex-military "Clansman" HF Radio, making contacts with VK2, VK4 & ZL on 40m and 20m. No luck was had on 80 metres - maybe later in the evening it would have worked.

A number of other portable activations were set up by amateurs who couldn't get to Rhodes.

The next meeting of the group is at noon on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of November at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

We are still looking for a presenter for this meeting; so if you have a topic that you think would be of interest to radio experimenters, then please contact group Co-ordinator Peter, VK2EMU, or let us know here at VK2WI News, and we will pass the message on.

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

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	68	67	67	68	69	69	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	3	7	22	9	8	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	1	10	14	6	6	5 estimated
T index	-23	-21	-20	-29	-36	-34	-32

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, becoming quiet to active on the 4<sup>th</sup> then reaching unsettled to minor storm levels on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Activity remained at quiet to unsettled levels from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, then was depressed 15% after local dawn on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, recovering to near predicted at local night. The 4<sup>th</sup> remained near predicted throughout, but the 5<sup>th</sup> was then 20% depressed. The 6<sup>th</sup> was depressed 25% during the day, improving slightly to 15% depressed at local night, but the 7<sup>th</sup> was depressed 20% throughout and the 8<sup>th</sup> was 20% depressed during the day, and 25% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>, then quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be depressed between 10% to 30%, below 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 October, the figures for the month were;

Minimum of 67, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72  
With peak dates between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>.

For November, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 10<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>]

## Space Weather Summary for October 2018

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Solar activity was again predominately at very low levels this month, with no M-class or X-class flares observed. The small amount of activity that was observed, was in the form of solar coronal holes. Due to the lack of active solar regions on the visible disk, the 10.7cm solar radio flux remained quite stable, with a value of about 70 SFU for most of the month.

Little geomagnetic activity was observed in October, the most disturbed day was the 8<sup>th</sup> – it reached minor storm levels, with the local Australian A index getting up to 16. The geomagnetic activity was associated with a coronal hole induced, high speed solar wind stream.

Ionospheric maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were slightly lower overall for the month, particularly at lower latitudes during local daylight hours, and toward the end of the month, probably in association with continued low solar flux levels. There were some depressions between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October, probably resulting from the increased geomagnetic activity. The largest depression in the Southern Australian region was on the 27<sup>th</sup>, where MUFs were 20% below the predicted monthly value.

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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: 2m21s*

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

*Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"*

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For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

SRI LANKA; Peter, DC0KK is active as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, IOTA AS-003, until April 1, 2019. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW and various digital modes.

MADAGASCAR; Andy, OE7AJH and Thomas, OE7KUT are active as 5R8UP from Antananarivo, IOTA AF-013, until November 13. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 80 metres, using CW and SSB, and mainly during their morning and evening hours. In addition, Eric, F6ICX is active as 5R8IC from Saint Marie Island, IOTA AF-090, until mid February 2019. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW, with some SSB, RTTY, and PSK63.

UGANDA; Alan, G3XAQ will be active as 5X1XA from November 15 to 27. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW Contest as a Single Band/Unassisted on 20 metres entry.

ALGERIA; Some members from the Algerian Radio Amateur Union are active with special event station 7V1N from Djelfa until November 20.

MALDIVES; Braco OE1EMS, will be active as 8Q7DX from South Male Atoll, IOTA AS-013, from November 10 to 25. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 10 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

FRANCE; Special event station TM100ARM is active until November 12 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

ENGLAND; Members of the Royal Navy Amateur Radio Society are active with special event station GB100ARM until November 28 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

ITALY; Members of the Amateur Radio Club at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi are active as 4U73B until November 23 to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS; John, KE4PLT and Ernesto, KN4PUD are active as KP2/home calls from St. John Island, IOTA NA-106, until November 16. Activity is on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 metres using mainly SSB with some FT8.

NETHERLANDS; Bob, PA5V is active as PA1918PAX until the end of November to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event stations R130ANT and R130TU are active until the end of November to celebrate the 130th birthday of pioneer aircraft designer Andrei Nikolayevich Tupolev.

MICRONESIA; Toru, JH0CJH will be active as V63YAP from Yap Island, IOTA OC-012, from November 13 to 18. QSL to home call. In addition, Janusz, AK4JK is active as V6JBVS from Kolonia, Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010. Activity is on 20 metres using CW. His length of stay is unknown.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; Michael, DF8AN is active as VK9XQ until November 17. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, RTTY, various digital modes, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

BERMUDA; Georg, DK7LX is active as VP9/DK7LX from St. David's Island until November 20. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW.

SOUTH AFRICA; Special event station ZS100WWI is active until November 30 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Worked All Europe RTTY DX Contest, Japan International DX Phone Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, 10-10 International Fall Digital Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, OK/OM CW DX Contest, CQ-WE Contest and AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 CW QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Data Series and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for November 12.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for November 14.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

## WICEN News

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.

WICEN will be attending 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. 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. More information can be found on 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 Illawarra Amateur Radio Society. The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting this Tuesday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are held in the Coniston Community Hall, Bridge Street Coniston. It's just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong and located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train, is very easy.

The next meeting is the Society's very popular Annual Auction night. As usual, our Auctioneer is Simon VK2XQX who helps create both an entertaining night and an opportunity to pick-up a great bargain. Amongst the many items that will be up for auction, there are at least 5 different HF radios, antenna tuners, SWR meters and power supplies.

Following the Auction, there will be the usual enjoyable ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits. Based on past meeting nights, conversations will continue out in the carpark, long after the hall has been locked- up.

The Society now has two weekly Nets, with the addition of an 80 metre Net on Friday nights, starting at 8:30pm local time, on 3.630MHz, plus or minus existing usage. The very popular Saturday morning chit-chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL continues to grow; you can join in on the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP on 6850 and VK2RUW on 6675, while out-of-towners can call in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

The Society's new 70cm DMR repeater is getting lots of use. It's at the VK2RMP Maddens Plains site and is on 438.725MHz, with a 5MHz negative offset. On Slot 1 it is presently connected to World Wide Talk Group 91 and on Slot 2, it is connected to the Australian and NSW Talk Groups of 505 and 5052. All listeners in the Wollongong and Sydney region are invited to use the repeater, and any reports can be sent to the Society's Secretary Keith VK2KQB on [iars.keithb@gmail.com](mailto:iars.keithb@gmail.com)

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).

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm, this coming Tuesday evening the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday Night gathering at 7pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

On the morning of Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, club members will be providing safety communications for the Port Macquarie 2018 White Ribbon Coastal Walk, which starts at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finishes this year, in West Port Park. Radio communications between the checkpoints is challenging due to the steep coastal topography along the route.

The club's Christmas Party is on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, in the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. Members and their families and visitors are all cordially invited. Starting time is 10am. As usual, there will be a sausage sizzle lunch followed by a delicious home-made dessert. There will not be a December monthly general meeting; the next general meeting will be on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 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 assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will 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 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. The November issue is currently in preparation and will be published soon.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Members may have noticed a brief outage of the Club's online services recently; this was due to a change of ISPs, and hopefully things will have settled down by now.

For those unlucky souls who missed last week's business meeting, attendees were served delicious home-made (well, club-made) pancakes with jam and cream by Karen VK2AKB; thank you Karen!

The next event on the Club calendar is a lecture on the MMDVM digital network and the conversion of a Tait 800 transceiver by Ian VK2HK and Lindsay VK2AMV, to be held on Saturday 17th November.

There will be a combined CCARC/WICEN Christmas luncheon on 8th December, at 11am for 12 noon, and is free to members (BYOG and soft drinks); this will be followed by the regular WICEN meeting at 2pm, so it's best to stay clear-headed. RSVP to Karen VK2AKB by email to [vk2akb@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2akb@wia.org.au) by the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

Don't forget the next Wyong Field Day, organised by the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, is on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019. It's held at Wyong Racecourse, and it's the biggest hamfest in the Southern Hemisphere.

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 master chef Steve VK2SKC, starting at noon. The Club rooms are accessible by bus, with a 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 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 91.5 Hz.

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

There is a net every Thursday evening 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). Club news is happily accepted at [publicity@ccarc.org.au](mailto:publicity@ccarc.org.au), preferably by 12 noon on Friday. Listeners may “join” the net by email to [netmaster@ccarc.org.au](mailto:netmaster@ccarc.org.au) and their comments will be read out.

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for “centralcoastarc”. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [*announcer: pronounced “At CC AR Club”*].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, including coming events, can be found on the web site, [www.ccarc.org.au](http://www.ccarc.org.au).

*Dave VK2KFU*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the informal mid-monthly meeting this Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, 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 final Tuesday meeting for the year will be on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Club's Christmas lunch is on December the 8<sup>th</sup> at Magpies; RSVP to Colin VK2JCC.

January the 8<sup>th</sup> will be a BBQ at Hornsby Riffle Range, this being the second Tuesday in January.

The Club runs three nets each week, which continue over the holiday period. Monday's net starts at 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 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;**

### **November**

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 16<sup>th</sup>

CCARC Lecture afternoon on the 17<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>

HADARC general meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>

### **December**

Oxley Region ARC Christmas party on the 1<sup>st</sup>

ARNSW Special Presentation with Dick VK2DIK on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup>

CCARC/WICEN Christmas luncheon on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group Christmas Lunch on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Christmas Party on the 15<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day is the 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Events for 2019**

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January

HADARC BBQ evening in Hornsby, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January

Then in February;

St George ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

And CCARC's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>.