

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

Next Sunday the 24th, is the CCARC's Wyong Field Day. As we have done for many years, instead of the normal morning bulletin, VK2WI News will have a special edition on Saturday evening the 23rd starting at 7:30pm. This will include National news, as well as club news and any last-minute Field Day updates. On the evening of the 24th, VK2WI News will on at 7:30pm as normal, and will include a brief report from the Field Day.

As with all our bulletins, if propagation is poor, they are streamed on our website, <http://arnsw.org.au/audio>.

Work continues here at the VK2WI Dural site on the construction of the new tower. With the new monopole up in the sky, attention now turns to fitout of antennas and cabling, along with site landscaping. There will be some site parking changes as a result of these works, visitors are reminded to look out for the temporary barriers and signage, while the work is being carried out.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 19th of February, the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions; the net may be on either 80m or 40m.

The 80m frequency will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 7159kHz. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

At next Sunday's Wyong Field Day, the group will have a table. Anyone interested in displaying their homebrew or experimental projects are invited to bring them along; print out an explanation and let others know all about it.

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

US Licence Exams at Wyong

The Oz-VE group will again run US licence exams at the Wyong field day next Sunday.

There are three papers, each integrating relevant rules questions, Technician, General, and Extra. For the mainly VHF+ licence, you need to pass the Technician paper; to add useful HF voice access you need to pass this, and the General; and for the "Access All Areas" Extra, all three. These are included in the single affordable fee.

Further information on the benefits of having a US licence, along with booking forms and links to study material, can be found on the Oz-VE group website, at veexams.com.

JOTA Conference at the Wyong Field Day

Anyone participating, or involved in the organisation, of an amateur radio station for Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) for a guide or scout group, is invited to attend a JOTA Conference at The Wyong Field Day.

The Office of the Children's Guardian has recently introduced changes to the Working with Children Check for adults working or volunteering with children.

Scouts NSW is trailing a new badge and award scheme; and the Communication proficiency badge maybe in for a makeover.

To find out more about these changes, as well as general information about JOTA, come along to the JOTA conference at the Wyong Field Day next Sunday, in Lecture Room 2 from noon until 1pm.

The JOTA Conference is sponsored by The St George Amateur Radio Society.

Item submitted by Paul VK2GX

ARNSW Elections

The next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 13th of April 2019.

At the AGM, a new management council is to be appointed. Nominations are open for members who wish to be on the council for the year 2019 and 2020. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website, arnsw.org.au or can be obtained from the office.

Nominations close at midday on Saturday 2nd of March 2019.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name, Amateur Radio New South Wales, to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon

ARNSW is holding a 40 metre antenna buildathon, on Sunday the 10th of March, here at VK2WI Dural. While primarily intended to be of interest to Foundation licensees, all members are of course welcome to attend.

The day will include a short presentation, as well as providing you with the materials and assistance in constructing the dipole antenna, a 1:1 balun kit, and optionally, some feedline with connectors.

Lunch will also be included on the day.

To confirm your place, please email events@arnsw.org.au – including your name, callsign, and a contact phone number. You will receive further information via email.

*AI VK2OK
Event Co-ordinator, ARNSW*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of February.
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 8 th | 9 th | 10 th | 11 th | 12 th | 13 th | 14 th |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm flux | 71 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 71 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 7 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 10 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 5 estimated |
| T index | -10 | -8 | -22 | -21 | -22 | -15 | -20 |

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 8th to the 10th, quiet to unsettled on the 11th, quiet on the 12th, quiet to active on the 13th then again quiet to unsettled on the 14th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started near predicted monthly values on the 8th and 9th. The 10th saw depressions of 20% during the day and 25% during the night, the 11th was depressed 15% throughout, the 12 was again depressed 20% during the day and 25% at night, the 13th was again near predicted; then the 14th showed depressions of up to 20% during the day and 25% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to show some active periods on the 19th and 20th of February, with quiet to unsettled conditions on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to range from near predicted monthly values, to depressions of up to 25%.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

The figures for January were;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 77
With peak dates between the 3rd and 4th, and the 27th to the 31st

So far for February, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 1st and 2nd, and the 23rd to the 26th

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

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 13th to the 25th.

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: 1m59s

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

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

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

ARRL DX news

MONACO; Philippe, EA4NF is active as 3A/EA4NF until February 18. Activity is on 20 metres, and mainly on various FM and SSB satellites.

BURUNDI; Shabu, M0KRI is active as 9U4RI until February 25. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and PSK31.

TAIWAN; Yosuke, JJ1DQR will be active on the HF bands, as BW/JJ1DQR from Taipei, IOTA AS-020, until February 19.

THE GAMBIA; Alan, G4DJX will be active as C5DX until February 23, while here with a group of students. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

CUBA; Members of the Group CW of Cuba will be active as CO9AAA from Pinar del Rio in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

CAPE VERDE; Philip, HB9HFD will be active as D44TAQ from Sao Vicente, IOTA AF-086, until February 22. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using various digital modes.

CEUTA AND MELILLA; Jorge, EA9LZ will be active as EF9Z from Ceuta during the ARRL International DX CW contest, as a Single Op entry.

HONDURAS; Dennis, W1UE is active as either HQ9X or W1UE/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until February 26. He will be active as HQ9X in the ARRL International DX CW contest and the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre SSB contest. Activity includes being on 160 and 80 metres during his evening hours, as well as 60 metres.

OGASAWARA; Nobu, JA0JHQ is active as JD1BOW from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until February 18, with a focus on the ARRL International DX CW contest.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5. Operators K4UEE, K5AC, NM1Y and WC4X are active as PJ6/home calls from Jolieville, Saba Island, IOTA NA-145, until February 18. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. They will be active as PJ6A in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Multi Single/Low Power entry.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; A group of operators are active as PY0F until February 18. Activity is mainly on the low bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

CENTRAL KIRIBATI [*pronounced kir-ah-BAS*]; A group of operators will be active as T31EU from Kanton Island, IOTA OC-043, until March 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes with three stations active.

VIETNAM; Andy, DL3YM plans to be active as XV9YM from Ho Chi Minh City until March 18. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

NEW ZEALAND; Jacky, ZL3CW will be active as ZM1A from Tauranga in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op entry.

SOUTH AFRICA; Uli, DM5EE plans to be active as ZR2A from Port Elizabeth in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL International DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, SARL Youth Day 40-Metre SSB Sprint, Russian PSK World Wide Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for February 18.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for February 20.

The AGCW 80-Metre Semi-Automatic CW Key Evening is scheduled for February 21.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event runs throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is once again supporting Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. The events are;

Illawarra - Stuart Park, North Wollongong, on March the 3rd
Hunter - Speers Point Park, Lake Macquarie on March the 31st
Western Sydney – at Tench Reserve, Penrith on April 7th
Sydney - Leichhardt Oval #3, Lilyfield (over the "Bay Run") on May 19th.

WICEN will be at next Sunday's Wyong Field Day; this is a good opportunity for members to renew their annual membership. Volunteers are sought, to staff the stand.

The 2nd and 3rd of March are planned as a training weekend at Newnes, near Lithgow. This is the site of the Glow Worm Marathon, which WICEN will again support, in mid-June.

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, 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. Dementia Australia is kicking off the 2019 Memory Walk & Jog season in Canberra, on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin, next Sunday the 24th of February, supported by WICEN ACT. The Canberra Two Day walk is March 30 and 31. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting Duncan's Run, an Ultra-Marathon on Saturday the 23rd of March. The Sunraysia 400, on the 27th and 28th of April, is an off-road motorsport event held at Keera station, in far north-west Victoria, just south of Wentworth NSW. The group runs a net on 3.6 MHz each Tuesday from 8:30pm local time. More information can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

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

The Wyong Field Day, organised by the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, is on next Sunday the 24th of February. It's the largest hamfest in the Southern Hemisphere and its held at Wyong Racecourse. Naturally, there will be a free bus service run by the CCARC to and from Wyong railway station.

There will be plenty of interesting parts and radio gear on offer – both new and pre-loved - as well as displays including an Outside Broadcast van from a local community station, along with a local communications company.

However, due to the recent changes in licencing administration, there will regrettably be no licence assessments held this year.

There are two presentation streams running again this year, covering a wide range of topics; “be there, or be square”, as they used to say in the 60s.

In lecture room 1, Ray Palmer will be discussing the Australian Touring HF Club, and digital HF; Ray VK2NO will talk about Historic Radio and "RAVEN"; Brian VK2GCE will discuss, “How Science Works”; do you really know why and how things work? Vickal Kumar will discuss Space Weather and how it affects aviation; and David VK5DGR will give a talk on FreeDV.

In Lecture Room 2, Lindsay VK2AMV will talk about the Multi-Mode Digital Voice Modem (MMDVM), and how easy it is to cross various digital borders; Cameron McKay will talk about satellite telemetry and CubeSats; And there will be a Scouting and JOTA conference, run by Greg VK2GX.

Regular listeners will have already heard that CCARC Vice-President, Jaye VK2FOMG, has recently joined the VK2WI News team and is training in both announcing and engineering.

Well, Jaye is also put together some more historical information about the Field Day, and the CCARC in general; If you have any information about the early history of the Club, especially any photographs of old Field Days, then Jaye would love to hear from you.

Further information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, including more detail on the Field day program, and other club activities, can be found on the website, www.ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The meeting of the Club is the monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of March, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Last Sunday the 10th of February, was the club's annual Antenna Shootout at the Tuffins Lane Sportsfields in Port Macquarie. The barbeque provided a bacon and egg breakfast and a sausage sizzle lunch. The weather was perfect with a cooling south-east seabreeze. A collection of home-made and commercial antennas for 2 metres and 70 centimetres were tested; the outstanding antenna, was a home-made dual band J Pole. Full results will appear in March 2019 Oxtales.

The club will be conducting a 40 metre dipole antenna building and testing day at Port Macquarie, on Sunday the 10th of March, in conjunction with the ARNSW 40 metre dipole Buildathon at Dural.

Then, on Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of March, club station VK2BOR will participate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day, from the club's Communications Caravan at Camden Haven Airfield.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 regarding training and assessments.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 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 January 2019 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The Society is celebrating its centenary this year, and is currently using the special event callsigns of VI2BV100 and VI2BV on digital modes. The callsigns are also being used for the Monday night nets, so they are regularly on air at present. Club members are also able to use the callsign, Edwin VK2VEL has organised a roster for doing this.

This coming Wednesday, February 20th, commencing at 7:30pm, is the first monthly general meeting of the Society, for our centenary year. As always, tea and coffee will be available during the meeting, though many also gather in the RSL next door from about 6:00pm, for some dinner prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

The club has regular get-togethers on the first Sunday of each month at Rose Bay for those interested in playing Morse code. The group welcomes everyone interested in finding out more about Morse, or CW – whether you're a beginner, want to brush up or re-learn Morse code. CW enthusiasts of all skill levels meet to swap ideas and experiences and learn about operating and contesting. The group meets 11am on the first Sunday of every month at the Rose Bay club rooms and everyone is invited, even if you aren't yet licensed. Contact the group via email to morsecode@vk2bv.org, or just drop in when we meet on a Sunday morning.

The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday March 6th, starting at 7:30pm. The next project day is on Saturday March 2nd, starting at 1:30pm and going through to about 4:00 or 5:00pm.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays for all the retirees, idle rich, those just skipping work for the day or any others who can make it along, from about 10:00am to about 3:00pm.

Due to the changes currently happening with Amateur assessments, the Foundation course and assessments weekend over the weekend of February 9th and 10th have been cancelled. Once the new system and procedures are in effect, courses will proceed. The next planned dates are in May. Details and how to book can be found on the Society's website in the Education and Training section.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125MHz with - 5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone from 8:00pm every Monday, currently using the special callsign VI2BV100.

For full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, visit the regularly updated website at, vk2bv.org. The site includes the capability to renew membership, and to purchase items online. There is also an enquiry form on the site, which is normally actioned within a day or two.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be on the 26th of February and will feature a number of short talks. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Railway Station.

The Club will have a stand at the Wyong field day, shared with ALARA, in the air-conditioned grandstand.

The Club runs three nets each week. 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. 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;

February

ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group net on the 19th

Special pre-field day News from VK2WI, on Saturday evening the 23rd

The CCARC's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th

At Wyong on the 24th, there is also the Oz-VE group US licence exams and the JOTA conference.

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 26th

March

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 2nd

ARNSW Council nominations close on the 2nd

WICEN training weekend at Newnes on the 2nd and 3rd

Westlakes ARC Special General Meeting on the 9th

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon at ARNSW on the 10th

Also, 40 Metre Dipole antenna day at the Oxley Region ARC, on the 10th

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest, Sunday the 10th

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 12th

The John Moyle Field day is on the weekend of the 16th and 17th

Westlakes ARC car boot sale, from 9am on the 30th

April

ARNSW AGM on the 13th

Urunga Convention on the Easter weekend, 20th and 21st