

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

There has been some backlog in sending out renewal notices to our members; we have had to bring in some new administration arrangements following the sad and unexpected passing of our previous membership officer, Norm VK2TOP late last year. Our volunteers are working to catch up the backlog as soon as possible.

You can see when your renewal is due, on your membership card, on the address label of the 2019 calendar post out, or enquire by email to [membership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@arnsw.org.au). Membership renewal forms are on the ARNSW website, [arnsw.org.au](http://arnsw.org.au), on the Membership page.

Renewals can be made by cheque, credit card or in person at the bi-monthly Trash & Treasure at VK2WI Dural. Direct Debit can be arranged by if you obtain the details by an email to [membership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@arnsw.org.au). Currently, it is not possible for us to accept renewals by phone or online.

Next Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> is the 40 metre dipole making day at VK2WI Dural. The cut off for further bookings will be at noon tomorrow, Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>. Please book by email to [events@arnsw.org.au](mailto:events@arnsw.org.au). If you have already booked, you will receive a confirmation email during the week. Activities will start at a little after 10 am. Also next Sunday afternoon, there is a dipole making day at the Oxley Region ARC.

With the landscaping underway at VK2WI Dural, there is no access for vehicles or foot traffic in front of the Centenary Building. For next Sunday, part of the adjacent car park, which is the dipole test range, will also be roped off. Parking will be available in the adjacent to the VK2WI transmitter building.

Still no word as yet on the future of license assessments; while the ARNSW magnetic calendar shows courses this month, these have been postponed until the new procedures are in place. However - you can register an interest in doing a Foundation or upgrade course, by advising ARNSW Education by an email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au), and you can be notified once the position is clarified.

Other clubs and groups are making similar arrangements, such as Waverley, St. George and Blue Mountains, who had all planned courses last month; we are all now waiting on the word.

The March ARNSW Trash & Treasure is on the last Sunday - the 31st. Note this is a five Sunday month.

From the Summerland Amateur Radio Club at Lismore, we learn that their member - Leith VK2EA, recently celebrated his 95th birthday. SARC believes that he is the oldest continuously licensed active Amateur in Australia. Birthday greetings, Leith!

## ARNSW Elections

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

At the close of nominations at noon yesterday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, there were 9 nominations for 9 positions, so there is no need for an election for members of the management Council.

The nominees are (in alphabetical order of Surname)

Mark Blackmore VK2XOF

John Harper VK2LJ

Allan Hirschel VK2OK

Mathew Magee VK2YAP

Tim Mills VK2ZTM

Raymond Morris VK2ASE

Eric van de Weyer VK2VE

John Vettters VK2JV

Bob Yorston VK2CAN

No motions or special resolutions had been received, at the close of nominations.

*Advised by 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.

## Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest

The fourth annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest will take place on Sydney Harbour, next Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10am until 4pm local time.

This unique contest aims to gather hams to Sydney Harbour and make VHF/UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and wharves.

This is a special year for the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, which is celebrating its centenary; Participants will be able to work the special event callsign, VI2BV100, and earn up to an additional 100 Centenary points to be added to their final score.

With all-day travel on the ferries for just \$2.70 using an Opal Card, this is a great way to spend a Sunday!

This event is run by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society; club station VK2BV will be operating at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf for the duration of the contest.

Full contest details are at the Waverley ARS website, [www.vk2bv.org](http://www.vk2bv.org).

*73 Rob VK2XRH*

*Secretary - Waverley Amateur Radio Society*

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	71	71	71	70	71	71	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	2	1	2	2	9	19 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	1	1	1	1	7	13 estimated
T index	-12	-13	-15	-11	-10	-8	-4

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 27<sup>th</sup>, then Quiet to Active on the 28<sup>th</sup> with an isolated Minor Storm period.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remaining near predicted monthly values from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, depressions of up to 15% were observed during local day, but conditions at night then improved, to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of March;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 1<sup>st</sup>, with a possible minor storm period. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly be near predicted monthly values, though mild to moderate depressions are possible.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## **Solar Flux Index update**

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

Having just finished February, the figures were;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>

At the beginning of March, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 71  
With peak dates between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>

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

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 71  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<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: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**

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO until March 24.

GHANA; Matteo, IZ4YGS is active as 9G5GS from Sanzule until March 13. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 60, 40, 30 and 20 metres using mostly FT8.

BHUTAN; Zorro, JH1AJT, Franz, DJ9ZB and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until March 9. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THE GAMBIA; Don, G3XTT will be active as C56DF from March 5 to 12. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on CW. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB Commonwealth Contest.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; A group of operators are active as HD8M from Santa Cruz Island, IOTA SA-004, until March 6. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, and FT8 in DXpedition mode. This includes being active in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

SAINT LUCIA; Operators K9HZ, WA4PGM and W0CN are active as J68HZ and J6/home calls, respectively, on the HF bands. They plan to be active as J68HZ as a Multi/Single entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

GUAM; Operators JI3ERV and JO1RUR will be active as AH2R as a Multi/Op entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS; Tony, N2TK will be active as KP2M as a Single/Op entry in the ARRL International DX SSB Contest.

LUXEMBOURG; A group of operators will be active as LX7I as a Multi/2 entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

ARUBA; Andy, AE6Y will be active as P49Y as a Single/Op entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

COSTA RICA; Operators AE0EE, K0BBC and W6PNG are active as TI7/AE0EE, TI7/K0BBC and TI7/W6PNG, respectively, until March 5. This includes being active as TI7/W6PNG as a Multi/Op entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.



BELIZE; Victor, WB0TEV and Scott, K5PS are active as V31VP and V31CQ, respectively, until March 5 from the Maya Hill Lodge. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being active as V31VP as a Multi/Single entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

MONTSERAT; Charlie, K1XX is active as VP2MMF and will be a Single/Op entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Adrian, AA5UK is active as VP5/AA5UK from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, until March 8. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY, FT8 and on various satellites.

EAST KIRIBATI[kir-uh-BAS]; Ken, KH6QJ is active as T32AZ from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until March 5. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the ARRL International DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, The Wake-Up. QRP Sprint, Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, UBA Spring CW Contest, NSARA Contest and SARL Hamnet 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

The Novice Rig Roundup runs from March 2 to 10.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship is scheduled for March 4.

The AGCW YL-CW Party and ARS Spartan CW Sprint are scheduled for March 5.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, Phone Fray and 40-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 6.

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 Illawarra event was at Stuart Park North Wollongong, this morning. The upcoming events are;

In the hunter at Speers Point Park, Lake Macquarie on March the 31<sup>st</sup>;  
Western Sydney – at Tench Reserve, Penrith on April 7<sup>th</sup>;  
And Sydney - Leichhardt Oval #3, Lilyfield (over the "Bay Run") on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

This weekend also saw a WICEN training event at Newnes, near Lithgow. Activities included preparations for the Glow Worm Marathon, which WICEN will again support, on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

True Grit is an obstacle course running event, scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, and the OCR World Championship 24 hour is on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June. Both events are at Lower Portland, in outer NW Sydney.

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. The Canberra Two-Day walk is March 30 and 31, then Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> are the BMSC National Capital Rally. The SCSCC Bega Rally is June 8 & 9, while the NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" is at Bateman's Bay on the 29<sup>th</sup>. See the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria will be supporting Duncan's Run, an Ultra-Marathon on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. The Sunraysia 400, on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April, is an off-road motorsport event held at Keera station, in far north-west Victoria, just south of Wentworth NSW. Then the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event, is on Sunday, May 5, and the The Mallee Rally is on June the 8<sup>th</sup>.

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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

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## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting is the Club's Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

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

On Saturday and Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 March 2019 issue of Oxtales is in preparation and will be published soon. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As we reported here on VK2WI News, last Sunday was the CCARC's annual Wyong Field Day, and as Club Vice-President Jay VK2FOMG mentioned in that report, over 1000 people attended.

The first prize raffle draw was won by Peter VK2APS, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner was Richard VK2FKRO and third prize, Don VK2ICE. While technical difficulties prevented live streaming on the day, videos are available on the Club's Facebook page, and recording of all the lectures will be available on the website soon. If you have any stills or videos of the day you would like to share, please contact the club.

The next event on the Club calendar is a working bee, next Saturday. The Club rooms at Kariong will be spruced up first, then an entourage will head towards the Somersby repeater site; of course, all Club members are invited.

The next lecture will be by Mark VK2CCR on "Capacitors, inductors, and first order circuits", on Saturday 16th; he says that it will not be too technical.

Meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the Club rooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle (onions optional) run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, from 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 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library. The Club also conducts Foundation training on an as-required basis.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6 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; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving (unless you like listening to digital noise).

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

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for “centralcoastarc”, so be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [pronounced “At CC AR Club”], and a YouTube channel streaming world-wide via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with interstate visitors.

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

*Dave VK2KFU*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club*

## **Illawarra Amateur Radio Society**

The next meeting of the Society is coming up on Tuesday evening the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting which starts 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 located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting is a "Show and Tell" night, with members and visitors welcome to bring in projects or photos and videos, to proudly show to the gathered audience. Past "Show and Tells" have been very interesting, showing diverse interests contained with Amateur radio.

Additionally, there will be final discussion and planning for the upcoming John Moyle Field Day over the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March. The Committee have located a fantastic noise-free site for the Club's station, so come along and join-in the fun of the Field Day.

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

The IARS now has two weekly Nets, with the addition of an 80m Net on Friday nights from 8:30pm local time on 3.630MHz, plus or minus for usage. The very popular Saturday morning chit-chat Net continues to grow, ably run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in by either using one of the Club's 2 metre repeaters - VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, while out-of-towners can call in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

The Society's 70cm DMR repeater continues to get a lot of use. It is located 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.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 12<sup>th</sup> of March the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT*

*Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*



## St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this coming Wednesday evening, the 6th of March.

This meeting will be a "show and tell", where members and visitors can get up and explain a project that they have been working on. Explain your reason for selecting the project. Share your design ideas or construction techniques you used to bring your project to life.

Bring along your project or just talk about your experience. A digital projector will be available should you wish to use an power point style presentation aid.

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>]

For more information, the Society's website is [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be the informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, starting at 8pm. The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Railway Station.

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](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;**

### **March**

St George ARS gathering on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Westlakes ARC Special General Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon at ARNSW on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Also, 40 Metre Dipole antenna day at the Oxley Region ARC, on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest, Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 15<sup>th</sup>

CCARC lecture day on the 16<sup>th</sup>

The John Moyle Field day is on the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

Westlakes ARC car boot sale, from 9am on the 30<sup>th</sup>

### **April**

ARNSW AGM on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Urunga Convention on the Easter weekend, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

### **February**

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Fisher's Ghost ARC AGM on the 27<sup>th</sup> at Campbelltown