

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

Easter Greetings.

An update to our item on the VK2RSY beacons from last week - the 23cm beacon is back in service with a new oscillator, to encourage it to remain on frequency. The 6 metre beacon is still off air pending a replacement antenna.

If you would like to see what the new pole looks like - go to the ARNSW home page where a view of the pole works in progress, has become the background wallpaper.

With this being a long weekend, the ARNSW Library is closed tomorrow, Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Normal operations will resume the following Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Remember also on this long weekend, that demerit points double; mobile phone operation can cost you ten points. This also applies from Thursday, due to Anzac Day. It is wise to be careful even holding a microphone while mobile; the law is not exactly clear. With the increasing number of cameras and humans watching out, it might be a good time to develop a hands-free system.

The May ARNSW Trash and Treasure on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> will be held in-conjunction with the WIA AGM and Conference, being held in Sydney this year. ARNSW will be hosting visitors to the WIA Convention, with exhibits from a number of groups, including our own Radio Experimenters Group, ALARA, CREST and Radio clubs from around Sydney, including BMARC, HADARC, Manly Warringah and St. George. ARNSW members planning on attending are requested to wear their badges. Lunch will also be available on the day.

With the extra activities on the say, T&T boot sellers are requested to contact the ARNSW office, to book their space in advance. If you are downsizing or cleaning out and there is something you would like to dispose of, you can advise our T & T team by email, to [disposals@arnsw.org.au](mailto:disposals@arnsw.org.au).

With Anzac Day coming up on Thursday, a reminder that, like Australia Day, you can use the AX prefix with your usual callsign.

## Education Update

Licence training and assessments are recommencing at ARNSW, now that the new arrangements for assessments are in place.

The first Foundation course and assessment weekend at ARNSW will be in May, on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Candidates wishing to undertake the course and examination on this weekend should submit their Registration forms no later than next Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Late entries cannot be accepted under the new system, so any registrations received after this date must be held over to the next exam session – currently scheduled for July.

Enquiries and bookings can be made by email to the education team, at [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

## **Billet arrangements — WIA Conference and AGM 2019**

Waverley Amateur Radio Society is calling all Sydney based radio amateurs, to consider billeting visiting delegates during the WIA Conference.

The WIA Conference and AGM will be held at the ParkRoyal Hotel in Darling Harbour between 24th and 26th of May. Details are available on the WIA website; Now is an excellent time to register.

If you have a spare bed or two, why not help fellow hams come to Sydney by offering two or three nights free accommodation.

For those who are able to help, and also for those who are seeking accommodation, visit the Waverley Amateur Radio Society web site, at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org) and click on the billeting link to fill in the form.

We can't guarantee we'll find you a spot, but we'll try very hard to do so.

We also remind interstate Seniors Card holders to register for an NSW Gold Opal card for heavily discounted bus, train & ferry travel. For details, type "Gold Opal for Interstate Seniors" into your favourite search engine.

Once again, if you can offer accommodation for the conference, or need some, please visit [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org) and fill in the billeting form.

We look forward to seeing you in Sydney.

*Submitted by Raffy VK2RF  
on behalf of the Waverley Amateur Radio Society*

## **Meccano Exhibition**

Amateurs with memories of building Meccano models in their youth, will be interested in the annual exhibition of the Meccano Modellers Association, on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> April.

On show will be over 100 models large and small, with many models powered and some models controlled by microcontrollers. It is hoped to have a very large model of the Garden Island Crane, which dominated Sydney Harbour for decades, on display and working.

The exhibition is at Frenchs Forest Baptist Church, 615 Warringah Rd, Forestville. Doors will be open from 10am to 4pm and there is a modest admission charge.

*Submitted by Peter, VK2BEU*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of April.

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	77	78	75	75	74	76	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	7	3	8	6	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	4	1	5	4	1	0 estimated
T index	5	4	2	0	5	2	-1

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 16<sup>th</sup>, then returned to quiet levels on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> were near predicted during local day and 15% enhanced during local night. The 15<sup>th</sup> was 15% depressed during the day, but then 15% enhanced at night; the 16<sup>th</sup> again was 15% depressed during the day, but then 35% enhanced at night; the 17<sup>th</sup> managed 20% enhancement at night and just after local dawn, with near predicted conditions during local daytime hours; and the 18<sup>th</sup> remained near predicted throughout.

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

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be near predicted monthly values.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

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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:2m25s*

*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**

MAURITIUS; Rachid, 3B8FQ plans to be active in the CQ Manchester Mineira DX CW contest.

UGANDA; Anders, SM0HPL is active as 5X7W from Kampala until April 27. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 metres, and possibly 30 metres, using CW, JT65 and FT8.

GHANA; Matteo, IZ4YGS is active as 9G5GS from Sanzule, West Takoradi until May 7. Activity is in his spare time on 160, 80, 60, 40, 30 and 20 metres using mostly SSB and FT8.

MALTA; Sorin, YO7CKQ is active as 9H3YO from Qawra-Bugibba until April 21. Activity is on 20 and 17 metres using FT8 during his morning and evening hours.

CUBA; A group of operators from the Federacion de Radio Aficionados de Cuba will be active with special event station CO0HK from Cayo Jutias, Pinar del Rio province until April 21, in celebration of the IARU's 94th anniversary. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15, 20 and 2 metres.

PHILIPPINES; Chris, VK3FY and Dindo, DU1UD are active as 4E8T from Tawi-Tawi Island, IOTA OC-174, until April 23. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 metres using FT8.

FRANCE; Members of the Radio Club du Val d'Issole are active with special event call TM500LDV until July 20 to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, PSK and FT8.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Rich, KE1B and Anna, W6NN will be active as FO/KE1B from Bora-Bora from April 22 to 27, and then from Mo'orea from April 27 to May 3. Activity is mostly on 20 metres using FT8 with 10 watts.

SAUDI ARABIA; Samir, HZ1SK will be active in the CQ Manchester Mineira DX CW contest.

ALAND ISLANDS; Marco, OH2LGW and Anne, OH2YL are active as OH0/OH2LGW and OG0YL, respectively, until April 23. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

CRETE; Sepp, OH1VR will be active as SV9/OH1VR from April 25 to May 1. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some SSB.

EAST KIRIBATI[**kir-uh-BAS**]; Ken, KH6QJ is active as T32AZ from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until April 23. Activity is on 80, 40, 20 and 15 metres, with a focus on 40 metres, using CW and SSB.

UKRAINE; Special event station EN185UNIV is active until the end of 2019 to celebrate the 185th anniversary of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

BRUNEI; Tamat, V85T plans to be active in the CQ Manchester Mineira DX CW contest.

KOSOVO; Thomas, OZ1AA and Alex, OZ7AM are active as Z66Z until April 22.

ST. HELENA ISLAND; Gilbert, ZD7BG plans to be active in the CQ Manchester Mineira DX CW contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Holyland DX Contest, ES Open HF Championship, Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest, YU DX Contest, QRP to the Field, CQ Manchester Mineira DX CW Contest, Michigan QSO Party, EA-QRP CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and Ontario QSO Party are all on this weekend.

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

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, 432 MHz Spring Sprint, SKCC CW Sprint, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest and Phone Fray are scheduled for April 24.

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 continues to support Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. These are short Sunday morning events, typically packed up by noon, and ideal for new members. The final one for this year is the Sydney event; its at Leichhardt Oval #3 Lilyfield, the over the "Bay Run" around Iron Cove, on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

WICEN is intending to conduct training on the first Sunday of each month; members can email [training@nsw.wicen.org.au](mailto:training@nsw.wicen.org.au) for details.

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. Nic VK2KXN is event commander for both of these events; let him know via email, [mcleannb@bigpond.com](mailto:mcleannb@bigpond.com) if you are available for either or both.

The Glow Worm Marathon is at Newnes, on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

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.

The Northern Rivers region has now been wound up, with the last WICEN NR net on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April confirming, on air, that the region has closed.

The Summerland Amateur Radio will continue to support WICEN NSW in its activities. All amateurs in the Northern Rivers Region are encouraged to support WICEN NSW, through individual membership.

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

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Mallee Rally, in spectacular Sealake, is on June the 8<sup>th</sup>. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria's 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, this month at 7pm on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Note that it's a week later than usual this month, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday is Good Friday.

The Club's annual Field Day is at the Wauchope showground during the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June. All of the usual field day activities will be there; remember to bring your projects for the home brew display, and there will be foxhunts on 2 and 80 metres, on both days.

The Field Day dinner will be at Port Macquarie Golf Club on the Saturday night; mark your calendar now. Wauchope showground permits camping, so you can stay on site in your own motor home, caravan or tent, with power and amenities. Please book ahead, as Port Macquarie and Wauchope are very popular holiday destinations for the June Long Weekend.

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 March 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online this week, 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.*

## **Illawarra Amateur Radio Society**

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall 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.

At the next meeting two representatives from RASA, the Radio Amateur Society of Australia, will be in attendance. Ian VK3BUF and Chris VK3QB have offered to come along and both present, explain and discuss their reasons for a second representative body for Australian amateurs.

Whatever your thoughts may be about either the WIA or RASA, everyone should endeavour to best understand a diversity of views in any situation. With this in mind, attending members and visitors will be able to explore their thoughts and concerns with Ian and Chris who believe that RASA is not a divisive influence, but more a healthy competition, thus inspiring everyone to work harder for our hobby.

Following will be the usual ragchew over a hot cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits.

A reminder of the Club's two weekly Nets; one being the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in at 9:30am local time 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 second is the "TGIF" End-of-Week 80 metre Net run by a rotation of Club members, on Friday nights from 8:30pm on 3.630MHz, plus or minus frequency for usage.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the Clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, from 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 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library.

The Club relays VK2WI News 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; 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 highly recommended for receiving. Also, both IRLP and EchoLink will be available soon.

There is a net every Thursday from 8pm, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725. There is also an experimental HF net on 80m, but as it is difficult to find a free frequency, the frequency will be announced on the VHF net prior. Club news is happily accepted at [publicity@ccarc.org.au](mailto:publicity@ccarc.org.au), preferably by 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: look for “centralcoastarc” and be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [“At CC AR Club”], and a YouTube channel of the weekly streaming world-wide news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

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

## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club would like to advise both prospective and current members about their upcoming Annual General Meeting on Friday night, the 3rd May starting at 7pm, at the club rooms, in the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook – that's behind the Oval.

There will be a lucky door prize of a Diamond Dual Band Mobile Antenna for one lucky member on the night.

Current financial members should have received official advice, along with forms regarding committee positions, and proxy votes. Please let the club know if you have not received yours thus far.

Meetings are held on the first Friday night of each month, excluding January; at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, behind the Oval.

Club activities include weekly Nets on HF and two metres, Tech talks, show-and-tell, Guest Speakers, Field Days, JOTA, project and antenna Building, and of course, a good old chin-wag.

We are also holding training in Radio and Electronics theory on Thursday nights from 7:30pm. This training is suitable for those intending to sit for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams. For any enquiries regarding training at BMARC, please e-mail [education@bmarc.org](mailto:education@bmarc.org).

The Club will be holding a 'Pixie' transmitter build day on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, from 10am. The 'pixie' is a small low-power or 'QRP' HF transmitter, and many people have accepted the challenge of seeing how far they can get with them.

There are still places available; e-mail [education@bmarc.org](mailto:education@bmarc.org) for more information, or to confirm your place.

*Steve VK2TSG*

*Vice President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

On Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, the Society will not be gathering at our usual meeting rooms; rather, we will be visiting the Sutherland Rural Fire Service control centre at Heathcote.

Commencing at 7.30 pm with the usual SGARS monthly announcements, we then hand over to the Rural Fire Service team to explain a little about the RFS and the various activities undertaken by its members. Of particular interest is the role of the RFS communications team. Following will be a tour of the control centre, with the communication team undertaking a realistic exercise to demonstrate their important role with the service.

There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of the evening, over a cup of tea or coffee.

For catering purposes, members and visitors are asked to register their intention to attend by visiting the SGARS web site, [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org) and follow the events link.

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the monthly general meeting, at 8pm on this Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. The meeting is at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Station.

International Marconi Day is the UTC day of the 27<sup>th</sup> April; that is, 10am local time on the 27<sup>th</sup> to 10am on the 28<sup>th</sup>. VK2IMD, the only IMD station active in Australasia, will operate on various HF bands.

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;**

### **April**

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC gathering on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Meccano Exhibition at Forestville on the 27<sup>th</sup>

### **May**

St George ARS gathering at RFS Heathcote on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Blue Mountains ARC AGM on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
BMARC 'Pixie' build day on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Westlakes AGM, 1pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> at the clubrooms  
ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
WIA AGM and Conference in Sydney, 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **June**

ORARC Field Day, Wauchope showground hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>