

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

John Turner, formerly VK2FV, from Lake Burrill on the NSW south coast, passed away last Tuesday, the 23rd of April.

John previously lived in Ryde in Sydney, and held the callsign VK2WRT for many years. He may be remembered by some listeners to this news bulletin, as the voice on the VK2WI 7000 morning callbacks. He was also instrumental in introducing many into Amateur Radio.

When this report was compiled, funeral arrangements were not known; John VK2ZIO may have details by the time this notice goes to air.

Please pause with us, while we remember John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] John Turner, formerly VK2FV.

Advised by John VK2ZIO

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

The ARNSW Library is back in operation tomorrow, Monday the 28th. Members can make enquiries by email, to; library@arnsw.org.au.

If you are travelling on the road, remember that double demerit points still apply until midnight Sunday; its best to exercise care at all times when operating mobile.

Booking have now closed for the first 2019 Foundation course and assessment weekend at ARNSW, on the 11th and 12th of May. You can register your interest for the next course, currently scheduled for July, or just obtain more information, by emailing our education team, at education@arnsw.org.au.

The WIA Foundation manual is still a useful study reference, and ARNSW has some in stock. Copies can be collected from VK2WI Dural by prior arrangement, on either Sunday mornings between 9.30 AM and 12 noon, or late Monday afternoon when the library is staffed. Arrangements can be made to post a copy; place an enquiry by email to education@arnsw.org.au for details and costs.

There have been some enquiries about upgrade courses; while there are no classes currently running here at ARNSW, the Blue Mountains ARC currently has a study night on Thursday evenings at their Glenbrook clubrooms.

At the next Trash and Treasure, Sunday May 26th, Amateur Radio NSW will be hosting delegates from the WIA Conference and AGM – more details on that, later in this news Bulletin. With the extra activities at Dural on the day, 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 contact our disposals team by email, to disposals@arnsw.org.au.

Activities at the 2019 WIA Conference and AGM

This year's WIA Conference and AGM is being held in Sydney, from Friday the 24th to Sunday the 26th of May. You don't have to be a WIA member to attend and participate in the activities.

After the official opening, on Friday evening the 24th, the Waverley Amateur Radio Society will be holding its 100th anniversary at the historic Marconi Room of Sydney Town Hall, with keynote speaker David Dufty, author of the Australian "Secret Code Breakers".

Saturday starts off with a short formal AGM, then conference activities commence; including an Open Forum, discussions and reports. This is an opportunity to influence the future direction of Amateur Radio in Australia. After lunch, the theme of the conference technical presentations will be "a Spectrum of Opportunities", featuring fascinating insights and new ideas.

The Conference Dinner will be at Sydney's Parkroyal Hotel, with renowned keynote speaker Professor Fred Watson, astronomer extraordinaire, whose father was an amateur radio operator.

On Sunday morning the 26th, attendees will be able to take the shuttle bus here to VK2WI Dural, where along with the usual Sunday activities, there will be special exhibits from a number of groups, including our own Radio Experimenters Group, and other radio club around the greater Sydney area. There will also be commercial exhibitors, technical demonstrations and talks, and complimentary catered lunch for registered attendees. ARNSW members planning on attending are requested to wear their badges.

This year's conference coincides with the start of Vivid Sydney – the spectacular night-time public light and sound festival, now in its tenth year. There is plenty of time after the two evening conference events to stroll to the dramatic displays.

So for a really great weekend in Sydney, Register now to secure your place; visit the website, at www.wia.org.au under the WIA Information tab, or search for WIA 2019 Annual Conference. As a bonus, attendees who register by midnight on the 11th of May, go into the draw to win a UHF, type approved, DMR/FM handheld.

Billeting arrangements are being co-ordinated by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society; if you are a Sydney amateur with a spare bed or two, or if you are planning to attend the conference and are looking for a low cost accommodation option; you can find all the details on the Waverley Amateur Radio Society web site, at vk2bv.org. There is a link to the billeting information on the home page.

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.

Our thanks to Raffy VK2RF for the additional information.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm flux	73	70	69	69	69	69	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	4	4	4	8	6	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	2	1	1	4	4	3 estimated
T index	-1	+3	8	2	-1	6	6

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet all week, except for some unsettled periods on the 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted during local daylight hours from the 19th to the 22nd, with enhancements of 20% above predicted monthly values, seen each day just after local dawn. There were significant enhancements during local night hours; 30% on the 19th, 40% on the 20th, 35% on the 21st, and 40% on the 22nd. The 23rd was near predicted during local day, and 20% enhanced at night; the 24th was near predicted during local day, and 30% enhanced at night; then the 25th showed the biggest turnaround, with depression of 15% during local daytime hours; becoming enhanced 50% at local night.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of April to the 2nd of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to 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.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished March, the figures were;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 82
With peak dates between the 21st and the 25th

Nearing the end of April, so far we have a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 7th to the 20th

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 5th to the 18th.

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.

[Play File: E-FCAL048.wav]

Duration:2m42s

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

LESOTHO; Chris, ZS1CDG is active as 7P8GOZ until April 28. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

GERMANY; Special event station DL19JDAY is active until May 26, to commemorate Japan Day, a German/Japanese festival being held in Duesseldorf.

CANARY ISLANDS; Operator SP7VC will be active as EA8/SP7VC from Lanzarote Island, IOTA AF-004, until May 4. Activity will be on 80 to 15 metres, and 6 metres, using SSB and FT8.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Rich, KE1B and Anna, W6NN are active as FO/KE1B from Moorea, IOTA OC-046, until May 3. Activity is mostly on 20 metres using FT8 with 10 watts.

REUNION ISLAND; A large group of operators will be active as TO19A until May 8. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8, with a focus on the low bands.

ISLE OF MAN; Operators Shin, JR1NHD, Hiro, JF1OSL and Toru, JH0CJH will be active as MD0IUX, MD0HWX, and MD0ITP, respectively, until May 1. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

JERSEY; A group of operators will be active as GJ6EFW from April 30 to May 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes.

JAPAN; Special event station 8J1ITU will be active from Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, from May 1 to 31 to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunications Union.

OGASAWARA; Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until May 4. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

MONGOLIA; Andy, R9YU will be active as JT/R9YU from the Great Lakes Basins of Mongolia from May 2 to 12 while working there as a communications specialist. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 metres using SSB.

MARKET REEF; Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0W until May 4. Activity will be on the HF bands in his spare time.

SWEDEN; A group of operators will be active as SE6VING from Vinga Island, IOTA EU-043, from May 3 to 5. Activity will be on the HF bands.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO until May 15 while on work assignment with the UN Department of Safety and Security in Mogadishu. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

VIETNAM; Jun, JL8AQH plans to be active as XV9XX from Hue until May 4. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20 and 17 metres, with a focus on 30 metres using CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, SP DX RTTY Contest, Helvetia Contest, Florida QSO Party, BARTG Sprint 75 and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, AGCW QRP/QRP CW Party and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 1.

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 is intending to conduct training on the first Sunday of each month; members can email training@nsw.wicen.org.au for details.

True Grit is an obstacle course running event, scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of June, and the OCR World Championship 24 hour is on the 8th and 9th 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 if you are available for either or both.

The Glow Worm Marathon is at Newnes, on June 15th and 16th.

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.

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 10th and Saturday 11th 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.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event on Sunday May 5th. The Mallee Rally, in spectacular Sealake, is on June the 8th. 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.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting is the May monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of May, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

It's not just six weeks until the Club's annual Field Day at the Wauchope showground during the Queen's Birthday long weekend, on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th 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 first assessments under the new arrangements will be held soon.

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 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 10th May. This meeting will take the form of a technical visit to the N.S.W. Fire Station in Newcastle City, starting at 7:15pm. The Fire Station is on the corner of Union and Bull Streets. There will be no meeting at the Adamstown Bowling Club this month.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a broadcast at 7.30pm on Monday nights. You can find this broadcast on the Group's Repeaters on 146.9MHz in the 2 metre band and 438.025 MHz in the 70 cm band. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 14th 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 14th of May at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next general meeting of the club is on Saturday the 4th of May.

All meetings 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, preferably by 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: 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.

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 of 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.

The Club will be holding a 'Pixie' transmitter build day on Saturday the 4th 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 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 1st 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 and follow the events link.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is at 8pm on Tuesday the 14th of May. 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 27th April; it started at 10am local time yesterday, and finished at 10am this morning. If you worked VK2IMD, please QSL direct to the address below, with a stamped self-addressed envelope, 2 IRCs, or 3 "greenstamps":

VK2IMD - HADARC
PO Box 362
Hornsby NSW 1630
AUSTRALIA

The Club runs three nets each week, including on public holidays. 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;

May

St George ARS gathering at RFS Heathcote on the 1st

Blue Mountains ARC AGM on the 3rd

BMARC 'Pixie' build day on the 4th

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 4th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 10th

Westlakes AGM, 1pm on the 11th at the clubrooms

ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 11th and 12th

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 14th

HADARC meeting on the 14th

WIA AGM and Conference in Sydney, 24th to the 26th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 26th

Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29th

June

ORARC Field Day, Wauchope showground hall on the 8th and 9th

July

ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 13th and 14th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 28th