

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

With the start of winter bring some cooler conditions on the east coast, we hope that the shack is warm for all those contests or general operation.

As we reported last week, last Sunday saw VK2WI Dural hosting delegates from this years' WIA annual conference, with over a hundred people visiting us on the final day of the Convention and Waverley Centenary. A big thanks to the clubs and groups who brought their interesting and informative displays to Dural; SOTA, the Blue Mountains ARC, St George ARS, ALARA, HADARC, Manly Warringah, CREST, ARNSW Experimenters Group, and WICEN. The two afternoon lectures were audio streamed, which attracted 14 listeners on the day, and the audio is available for download. For many of the WIA delegates, particularly those from interstate, it was their first visit to see the Dural facility.

Next weekend is the June long weekend. If you are travelling, be aware that double demerit points are in force; it is prudent to be careful when operating mobile, as it is unclear if the law makes a distinction between operating a microphone, or a mobile phone. For those traveling to the north coast, there is the two-day Oxley Region field day at Wauchope, which we will have more on, later in this bulletin.

## US Licence Exams

Congratulations the following candidates, who successfully completed their examinations at the Sydney sessions held just over a week ago, with their licences issued yesterday morning:

Kusal AC1HT  
Barry AG7VC  
Adam AG7VB  
Bree KE0VXK - 100% passes  
Ronald KN4UVP

The next session is currently planned, for around July 1. Contact with the group can be made via: [veexams.com](http://veexams.com)

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS, and AG6LE, for Oz-VE.*

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	66	67	68	68	68	68	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	2	6	12	9	16	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	2	7	4	11	7 estimated
T index	3	-2	-8	-3	-4	+4	0

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 27<sup>th</sup>, returning to quiet on the 28<sup>th</sup>, before becoming unsettled again on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted during local daylight hours, early in the week, with some enhanced conditions observed at night; starting off with 60%(!) on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 40% on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 25% on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> was then depressed 15% during local day, but enhanced 30% at night; the 29<sup>th</sup> near predicted during the day and enhanced 35% at night; then the 30<sup>th</sup> remained near predicted monthly values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, to the 6<sup>th</sup> of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 May, the figures were;

Minimum of 66, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 79  
With peak dates from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>

As we start June, so far we have have a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 76  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<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:2m18s*

*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**

Starting this week with an interesting event; stations on air until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019;

CYPRUS; Special event call 5B19CWC.

PAKISTAN; Special event call AP19CWC.

HONG KONG; Special event call VR2019CWC.

SOUTH AFRICA; Special event call ZS19CWC.

In other activity;

SAMOA; Members of the Uruguay DX group will be active as 5W0H from Upolu Island, IOTA OC-097, until June 10. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 6 metres, using mainly CW and SSB, with two stations active.

NEPAL; Yuki, JH1NBN is active as 9N7BN until June 4. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and possibly FT8.

PHILIPPINES; Audie, DU1ZDR and Gazelle, DU1ZDQ will be active as DZ1A from Kalangaman Island, IOTA OC-129, on June 3. Activity will be on 7055 kHz and 14260 kHz using QRP power.

ERITREA; A large group of operators are active as E31A until June 3 while here in support of the Eritrea National Olympic Committee. Activity is in their spare time on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS; Milan, OK1DWC is active as E51DWS from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. His length of stay is unknown.

FRANCE; Special event station F/ON6JUN/p is active from Ranville, Normandy until June 7 to commemorate 75 years since D-Day.

JAPAN; Special event station 8J7AIZU is active until November 30 to highlight the 120th anniversary of Aizu Wakamatsu City in Fukushima.

LUXEMBOURG; Members of the Radioamateurs du Luxembourg group are active with special event call LX19CWC until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019.

SWEDEN; Rick, SM6U, Bengt, SM6UQL and Tomas, SM6XMY are active as 7S6WX from the Weather Islands, Vaderoarna, IOTA EU-043, until June 2. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using SSB.

GREECE; Oliver, DK7TX will be active as SV8/DK7TX from Antipaxos, Paxos and Kerkyra, all IOTA EU-052, until June 9. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17, and 15 metres using SSB.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Operators Vasily, R7AL, Igor, UA3EDQ, Vladimir, RK8A and Albert, UB9WLJ will be active as R26RRC from Paramushir Island, IOTA AS-204, until June 7. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, and 17 metres.

CANADA; Members of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club will be active as VX4WARC during June to celebrate the club's centennial anniversary.

VIETNAM; Sven, HB9DXB is active as XV9DXB from Nha Trang beginning June 1. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, and 15 metres using CW and SSB.

ALBANIA; Ralf, DK8FA is active as ZA/DK8FA in Golem, near Durres, until June 3. Activity is on 20 and 17 metres using RTTY and PSK.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, Museum Ships Weekend, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, PVRC Reunion, DigiFest, Wake-Up QRP CW Sprint, SEANET Contest, UKSMG Summer 6-Metre Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, Dutch Kingdom Contest, IARU Region 1 CW Field Day and the RSGB National CW Field Day are all on this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for June 4.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 5.

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

True Grit is an obstacle course running event, concluded today. Next weekend is the OCR World Championship 24 hour, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, also at Lower Portland, in outer North-West Sydney.

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

The BSAR Navshield is a bush navigation contest, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, this year in the Western Blue mountains area. As well as providing support and safety for the event, WICEN may enter a team, subject to interest.

Due to the number of events in June, there will be no training at Dural. We will have more details on July's activities in coming bulletins.

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 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 SCSCC Bega Rally is on June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, and the NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" at Bateman's Bay is on the 29<sup>th</sup>. August 6<sup>th</sup> is the BMSC Narooma Rally. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Eureka Rally on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, around Ballarat. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, 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; their next meeting is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Next weekend is the Club's 44<sup>th</sup> annual Field Day at the Wauchope showground hall, Saturday and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. All of the usual field day activities will be there, including both 80 metre and 2 metre foxhunts, on both days. Remember to bring your projects for the home brew display. A barbeque bacon and egg breakfast and sausage sizzle lunch will be available both days, with fruit salad and ice cream for dessert on Sunday. Field Day dinner is in the Seaview Room of Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night.

Wauchope showground permits camping, so you can stay on site in your own motor home, caravan or tent, with power and amenities; but you need to book ahead, as Port Macquarie and Wauchope are very popular holiday destinations for the June Long Weekend. The entrance to the Wauchope Showground hall is in High Street, Wauchope.

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 on 146.7MHz, which 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 May 2019 issue 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.*

## Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. At the meeting, Gordon VK2XDR will present a lecture on antennas.

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



## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next club lecture is scheduled for Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, where Dave VK2KFU, will give a presentation on the GPS system. Although it is now so familiar in everyday life that we almost take it for granted, a significant amount of technology and clever thinking went into the design of the GPS system. Dave's presentation will give some insights into these details, and is sure to be interesting.

The Club has gained a somewhat large satellite dish, so visitors can expect to see a new landmark on the horizon soon; further details will appear in later broadcasts, but the local residents need not be concerned about spontaneously growing extra appendages; as the dish is receive-only.

Central Coast WICEN meetings are on the second Saturday of every even-numbered month; the next is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. 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, followed by Karen VK2AKB's home cooking.

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; and one can usually arrange a lift back. The Clubrooms 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, and a new course is coming up soon, once details of the new licencing arrangements are finalised.

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; all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved). 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).

*Dave VK2KFU  
Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June; at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook; behind the sports Oval. All are most welcome.

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. Some of these events are in the Coming events section, later in this bulletin.

We are also running training in Radio and Electronics theory, on Thursday nights from 7pm. The classes are suitable for those planning to take either Standard or Advanced Licence Exams.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August, the Club will be holding a Foundation training weekend at Glenbrook. For any enquiries regarding training and assessments at BMARC, please email [education@bmarc.org](mailto:education@bmarc.org).

*Steven VK2TSG*

*Vice-President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

## **Illawarra Amateur Radio Society**

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. 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, Mal VK2DXM will be presenting on the rather interesting subject, of weather fax. He will explain how to use the available software and all the tricky bits to get you started. If you are interested in this fascinating subject, come along and enjoy the presentation.

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

A reminder of the Society's two weekly Nets; the first is the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in at 9:30am 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 – it's 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 the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, at 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 Wednesday evening, the 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

At this gathering, there will be a presentation on Digital Mobile Radio, or DMR. With 5 repeaters in the Sydney area and over 30 Australia wide, the DMR network is more easily accessible than ever before.

For those new to DMR, Paul VK2GX will be covering time slots, repeater coverage, available equipment and getting started. Learn about code plugs and the basics of DMR programming, including the relationship between contacts, talk groups, receive groups, zones and scan lists, plus available programming and cloning software.

The presentation will also look at the popular DMRplus network, providing easy access to talk groups and group repeater reflectors worldwide. DMR Plus also supports connectivity via the DV4mini, DVMEGA and OpenSpot devices.

At the meeting, there will be the opportunity to buy a ticket in a raffle for a GD-77 DMR handheld transceiver, which will do both DMR and FM.

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 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

The “What Three Words” address for the club is “torch bath frosted”.  
[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted\]](http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted)

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU  
for the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The club held its AGM last Tuesday. The central committee remains the same; and Chris VK2YMW has taken on Social Events Co-ordinator. The Field Day and Contest co-ordination role is looking for a volunteer.

The next meeting of the club is an informal mid-monthly meeting at 8pm on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. It is at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Station.

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](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;**

### **June**

SGARS Gathering on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
BMARC Monthly meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
ORARC Field Day, Wauchope showground hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>  
VK Shires Contest, also on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting at Adamstown on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Winter VHF/UHF contest on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Bookings for ARNSW July Foundation course close on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

SGARS Gathering on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Blue Mountains ARC Monthly meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
BMARC Buy and Sell day at Glenbrook on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
BMARC visit the Kurrajong Radio Museum on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **August**

Blue Mountains ARC Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
BMARC 3D Printing Demo on the 3<sup>rd</sup>