

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

The VK2WI Dural library will open tomorrow afternoon and evening. For any enquiries regarding the library, or to get involved with the library team, you can contact the library by email, to [library@arnsw.org.au](mailto:library@arnsw.org.au).

It's just under two weeks until the close of bookings for the July ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend. As papers have to be pre-ordered for each candidate, bookings must be in by 5pm on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. Bookings and Enquiries are best made by email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

ARNSW has obtained a small quantity of the 2019 WIA callbook, which will be available at the July Trash and Treasure event. Pickup on a Sunday morning during the news broadcast, or the library Monday evening, may be possible by prearrangement with the ARNSW office; direct your inquiries for costing and reserving a copy by email to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au) or phone 02 9651 1490, leaving your contact details.

As we approach the bottom of the solar cycle, some are finding HF propagation conditions are difficult. If you can't find a local repeater relaying these news bulletins, you can hear them streamed live on our website, at <http://arnsw.org.au/audio>. Recordings are automatically uploaded to the site and are available for a number of weeks afterwards, if there is anything you would like to catch up on.

## US Licence exams in Sydney

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting their next assessment session in Sydney's western suburbs, on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

This exam will be the first, perhaps in the world, to use the new 2019 to 2023 General question pool. You can find the new question pools, and the FCC "Part 97" rules on the web, at: [ncvec.org](http://ncvec.org).

For more information, visit the Oz-VE group website, [veexams.com](http://veexams.com)

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE).*

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7<sup>th</sup> of May to the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	69	68	68	69	70	70	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	14	8	4	3	5	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	9	2	0	0	1	4 estimated
T index	-9	-7	0	-10	-8	-6	-10

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity started out quiet on the 7<sup>th</sup>, but active periods were observed on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with the SWS magnetometer showing a weak impulse of 7 nanoTeslas, at 1001UTC. After this however, geomagnetic activity settled down again, remaining at quiet levels from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Ending the period, the 13<sup>th</sup> was mostly quiet, with just one isolated unsettled period.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted during local daylight hours, all week. However, some enhanced conditions were observed at night; starting off with 15% enhancement on the 7<sup>th</sup>; 25% on the 9<sup>th</sup>; 15% on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>; and 20% on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very 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)6 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>

Halfway through June, we have a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68  
At this stage, with very low activity, there is no prediction on peak dates.

*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:2m07s*

*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**

CYPRUS; Special event station 5B19CWC is active to celebrate the Cricket World Cup which ends on July 14.

GHANA; Matteo, IZ4YGS is active as 9G5GS from Sanzule, West Takoradi until July 2 while here on work assignment. He is active in his spare time during his evenings on 160 to 6 metres using mostly FT8 and SSB.

CHILE; Special event station CB2E is active until July 2 to mark the total solar eclipse on July 2. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

SPAIN; Members of the Radio Club La Baells will be active with special calls EG3PTA, EG3PTP, EG3PTT, EG3PTU and EG3PTM until June 23 to support the touristic and cultural endeavours of the Bergueda region. Activity will be on 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres using SSB and FT8.

GUADELOUPE; Gildas, F6HMQ is active as FG/F6HMQ and TO1T until June 25.

SAINT MARTIN; After his Sint Maarten activity, Satoru, JI1DFO will be active as FS/AG5CR from June 16 to 18. Activity will be on 40 to 17 metres using FT8.

THAILAND; Members of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand are active with special call HS10KING until July 31 to celebrate the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn [wah-JEE-ruh-long-korn], King Rama 10th.

SVALBARD; Christian, EA3NT and Col, MM0NDX are active as JW/EA3NT and JW/OJ0Y, respectively, from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, until June 16. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MARIANA ISLANDS; Tony, JA6CNL is active as KH0N from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, until June 17. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8. This includes an entry in the All Asian DX CW contest.

NORWAY; Jacques, CT2IXX is active as LA/CT2IXX/p from Hitra Island, IOTA EU-036, until July 12. Activity is holiday style mainly during his weekends on various HF bands using only SSB.

GREENLAND; Bo, OZ1DJJ is active as OX3LX from Nuuk City until June 21. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands, with a focus on 160, 80 and 60 metres.

PALAU; Nobuaki, JA0JHQ will be active as T88PB from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until June 23. Activity will be mainly on 6 metres using FT8. This includes an entry in the All Asian DX CW contest.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Operators Vasily, R7AL, Vladimir, RK8A and Albert, UB9WLJ are active as R205NEW from Bogoslova Island, IOTA AS-205, until June 18. This is a new island activation.

MICRONESIA; Hatu, JA1XGI will be active as V6K from Kosrae Island, IOTA OC-059, from June 17 to 24. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; Christmas Island Amateur Radio Club station VK9XX has been active on 20 metres around 0900UTC.

FALKLAND ISLANDS; Special event station VP8HDM will be active this weekend from the Historic Dockyard Museum in Stanley, IOTA SA-002, during the International Museum Weekend. Activity will be on 40 to 17 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL SSB Kids Day, All Asian DX CW Contest, Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, International Museum Weekend, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, SMIRK Contest, Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, ARR BPSK63 Contest, IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest, West Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the WAB 50 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for June 17.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 19.

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

The Glow Worm Marathon at Newnes, concluded today.

Next weekend is the BSAR Navshield, which is a bush navigation contest, in the Western Blue mountains area, around Jenolan Caves and Oberon.

Returning to the WICEN calendar is the Shazada Horse Enduro, at St Albans. This is a week-long event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

Due to the number of events in June, there will be no training at Dural. The next training activity is scheduled for July the 7<sup>th</sup>.

WICEN Hunter Secretary, Dan VK2GG, advises that the Great North Walk Ultra event has changed. It now consists of out-and-back runs from Patonga, rather than running from the Hunter to Central Coast as in previous years. As mobile coverage is good at the proposed checkpoints, WICEN's services are no longer required. The Terrigal Trotters Running Club and Hunter WICEN wishes to thank all past operators for their time and dedication over last ten years supporting this event, including those from the Central Coast, and beyond.

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. VRA NSW, of which WICEN is a member squad, is also on Facebook as VRANSW.

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 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. The next club meeting is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Last weekend saw the Club's 44<sup>th</sup> annual Field Day, at the Wauchope showground hall. The Field Day was a great success, with attendees coming from near and far to enjoy the many activities of the weekend. After a little light rain on Saturday, Sunday was a perfect warm sunny day. The disposals tables were particularly active, with a great many items changing hands; as usual, there were many bargains to be had. The foxhunt champion was Jeff VK2BYY with Chris VK2YMW as runner up. The Field Day dinner was at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night; it was a very enjoyable social evening, with great food in pleasant surroundings. There will be a full report on the Field Day in July's Oxtales.

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.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday's club lecture on the GPS has been postponed, as Dave VK2KFU has come down with a case of the flu and was ill inclined to sharing it around. We hope Dave is feeling better, and back in action, soon.

In a blast from the past, progress is being made on the VK2EHQ packet BBS. While there is too much detail to be included here, it will basically all work as it used to, and in a nod to progress it is also available from the Internet.

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; a specialty being her homemade cakes and pikelets.

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 70cm VK2RAG repeater on 439.950 MHz, is a mixed-mode repeater; currently supporting analogue FM and P25, with IRLP and Echolink access coming soon. A 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and highly recommended for receiving.

Along with these, there is a packet radio BBS on 147.6 MHz, as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1; old-timers will know how to use it.

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 Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club is on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, starting at 7:30pm. Meetings are in the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook – behind the sports Oval.

Club activities include weekly Nets on HF and two metres, Tech talks, show-and-tell, Guest Speakers, field days such as John Moyle and JOTA, project and antenna Building, and of course, a good old chin-wag.

The club runs classes in Radio and Electronics theory, at 7pm on Thursday nights at Glenbrook. This is suitable for those intending on sitting for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams. For any queries regarding training at BMARC, please e-mail [education@bmarc.org](mailto:education@bmarc.org).

The club regularly holds Foundation training courses, which will resume once the new examination process is up and running.

Coming events at BMARC include the “mini-winterfest” at Glenbrook on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. This is a small event for members, visitors and friends to meet up and chat, as well as buy and sell. The event attracts all kinds of items, not just radio equipment.

On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, the club is visiting the Kurrajong Radio Museum, and on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, there is an antenna building day, with BMARC President Daniel VK2DC leading attendees in the construction of a Moxon.

For more information, please see our website at [www.BMARC.org](http://www.BMARC.org) or come along to the next meeting, at 7:30 on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

*Submitted by Steve VK2TSG,  
Vice-President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club*

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This coming Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> will be a slightly different monthly meeting; it starts with a dinner to celebrate the society's centenary, next door in the RSL, commencing from 6:30pm. Following dinner will be the club's AGM. If you haven't given your dinner order Al yet, you had better do it today or risk going hungry!

And a heads up that we have a great speaker lined up for the August meeting; Kerrie Dougherty is an independent space historian, curator and educator, who was previously Curator of Space Technology at the Powerhouse Museum. Her talk is entitled "*The Dish was not the whole story: Australia's role in the Apollo lunar program.*" All are welcome to attend. If you intend coming, please let us know, as we may move the meeting to the RSL club next door to our club if numbers are sufficient.

The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 7:30pm. The next project day will be on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> commencing at 1:30pm and going through to about 4:00 or 5:00pm.

As usual, the clubrooms are open most Tuesdays for all those able to get there or just skipping work for the day, from about 10:00am until about 3:00pm.

The Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00am at Rose Bay; the next meeting is Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in finding out more about Morse, or CW; whether you're a beginner, want to brush up or re-learn Morse code, will be welcome. CW enthusiasts of all skill levels meet to swap ideas and experiences and learn about operating and contesting. Email contact is at [morsecode@vk2bv.org](mailto:morsecode@vk2bv.org), or just drop in when we meet on a Sunday morning.

The next Foundation weekend is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>; see the website for details of how to reserve a place. Under the new system, the team needs to have the numbers for assessments at least sixteen days prior to the scheduled date, so registrations need to be made early - no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Don't forget the society's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125MHz with -5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone from 8:00pm every Monday. It's back to the usual club callsign of VK2BV as the special event call has finished.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Society on the website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). The site includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage, which is normally actioned within a day or two.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday, the 19th, is lecture night at the Society.

A question to ask yourself this month is, “can I believe my eyes?”. The lecture topic is “Rainbows that aren’t rainbows”. It’s an exploration of how our eyes work, when they fool us, and what causes the colours that we see around us. The talk will involve blowtorches, mixing Diet Coke with electricity, 3D printing, and all sorts of rainbows. Are you intrigued? Then come along on Wednesday and find out more!

Congratulations to long time club member, Tim VK2BT, who this week was awarded the ARCIA NSW Industry Professional of the Year. ARCIA is the national peak body representing the two-way and associated wireless radio communications industry in Australia. Well done, Tim!

Last month’s Show and Tell night was on the theme of interesting QSL cards. There were some great entries, including a QSL card from the Space Shuttle. But the winner was Robert VK2DH, with a card from a famous shortwave listener, Eric Trebilcock. Eric had a long and varied “career” on the air, dating back to the 1930s. For the story behind the card, and the man, check out the latest blog post on the club web site.

The club station, VK2MB, will be on air for the upcoming Low Band Contest next month; more details closer to the event.

Visit the society web site for other news, information about the various club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club’s Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club’s two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club’s web site at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au) for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY  
MWRS Publicity Officer*



## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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 monthly general meeting, which will include an interesting presentation, is on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

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**

Waverley ARS Meeting - with dinner - on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Manly-Warringah Radio Society meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Bookings for ARNSW July Foundation course close on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

US licence exam in western Sydney on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
SGARS Gathering on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Blue Mountains ARC Monthly meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
WICEN training day on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
BMARC Monthly meeting at Glenbrook on the 6<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>  
BMARC Moxon Antenna building day on the 20<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>  
BMARC Foundation Training weekend, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>  
Shahzada horse endure, a WICEN event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>