

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

Next weekend will be the annual Remembrance Day Contest, which runs from 1pm AEST on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>, until 12:59pm AEST on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Also next weekend is the annual Light House and Light Ship weekend, which is a different type of contest; but, as past experience has shown, with a little bit of care and consideration, both activities can successfully run simultaneously.

There is an opening address immediately prior to the start of the RD contest, generally about 12:45pm, depending on the duration. The address will be transmitted from VK2WI and some of the relay stations; but check the frequencies from about 12:30pm. For those taking part, don't forget to submit your log entry, no matter how you go – every entry goes to help the State score.

By now, all ARNSW members should have received the first issue of the new newsletter, *All Access*. Those members without an email address registered should have received a paper copy by mail in the past week. Any member who did not receive a copy and believes they should have, should check their membership status, preferably by an email to [membership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@arnsw.org.au). Members wondering about renewals should start receiving one in the near future – we have transferred membership information into a new database and issuing of renewal notices has resumed.

The next Foundation course and assessment weekend at ARNSW is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September; bookings close at 5pm on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. On the same weekend, the Waverley ARS has scheduled their Foundation course, at their Rose Bay clubhouse.

The VK2RSY 6 metre beacon on 50.289 MHz is back in operation. The antenna is currently a dipole, looking NW by SE, with about 20 watts.

## US Licence Exams

The next exam session for US licences, being run by OzVE, an Australian group of ARRL Volunteer Examiners, will be here at VK2WI Dural, on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, starting from 9am.

At this session, it is possible to take whatever exams are necessary to obtain a new US licence at your desired level, or to upgrade, for a single session fee.

Candidates need to obtain a US address, which can be a friend's address, or a Shopmate one; and use this to register for an FCC Registration Number, (FRN) on the FCC CORES site. Print these, and bring them with your ID, pencils, a pen, and a calculator on August 25.

One commonly asked question is; what time is allocated for a candidate to complete each examination paper. The answer, perhaps surprisingly, is that there is no specific time limit applied.

If you are interested in taking part, please email: [vec.nsw@veexams.com](mailto:vec.nsw@veexams.com) to register your interest

*Advised by Julian VK2YJS  
For OzVE.*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	67	66	67	68	68	68	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	4	6	20	10	6	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	2	25	10	3	8 estimated
T index	-1	-1	-2	+5	-6	-6	-4

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, though on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, SWS magnetometer data showed a weak impulse of 7 nanotesla, at 0717UTC. Geomagnetic activity then reached Major storm levels on the 5<sup>th</sup>, was quiet to active on the 6<sup>th</sup>, quiet on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and back up to quiet to active levels on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. Some enhanced conditions were observed during local nights; 20% on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 25% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 25% on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and 20% enhancement during local night, on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

Now, the forecast for the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August, with quiet to unsettled conditions on other days.

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 just finished July, the figures were a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68  
With peak dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

So far in August, we have a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69  
With peak dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 67  
With no peak predication at this time.

*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:2m28s*

*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**

**MALDIVES;** Gil, IZ2DLV is active as 8Q7GB from Nika Island until August 18. Activity is holiday style on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

**GHANA;** Chip, KB1QU will be active as 9G5QU from September 8 to 21. Activity will be on 40, 30 and 20 metres using CW, FT8 and FT4.

**WESTERN KIRIBATI**[kir-uh-BAS] ; Operators Yuris, YL2GM, Jack, YL2KA, Kaspars, YL1ZF and Kristers, YL3JA will be active as T30L from September 6 to 15. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres, and possibly 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

**NAURU;** Operators Yuris, YL2GM, Jack, YL2KA, Kaspars, YL1ZF and Kristers, YL3JA will be active as C21W from September 16 to 25, after their Western Kiribati operation. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres, and possibly 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

**MADEIRA ISLANDS;** Operators Gerd, DF9TS, Detlef, DK3QZ, Michael, DK6QW, Marcus, DL1EKC, Kai, DL3HAH and Andreas, DL3YM will be active as CR3W from Santana during the Worked All Europe DX CW Contest this weekend, as a Multi-Single entry. Outside of the contest, the operators will be active as CT9/home call usually on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS;** Operators Michael, DL2GMI and Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active as H44MI and H44MS, respectively, from August 23 to September 2. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 metres using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

**THE NETHERLANDS;** Look for special event station PA75OMG to be active September 12 to 22 to celebrate the anniversary of freedom and Operation Market Garden during World War II.

**CUBA;** Members of the DX Punta Maya Group will be active as T45FM from the Punta Maya Lighthouse (NA-105, ILLW CU-032, ARLHS CU-005) from August 15 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. An emphasis will be on the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW).

LIBERIA; The Italian DXpedition Team of 11 operators, will be active from September 28 to October 11. They plan to use two call signs: A82X for CW, SSB and RTTY and A82Z for FT8 only. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. They are planning to use 5 stations with maximum flexibility.

ANTIGUA; Bud, AA3B will be active as V26K from September 8 to 20. Activity will be sporadic because he is doing maintenance on the station, but will be primarily CW on various HF bands.

MICRONESIA; Al, K7AR will be active as V63AR from November 18 to 26. Activity will be on various HF bands with a focus on 160 and 80 metres, including an effort in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23 and 24).

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The WAE DX Contest, CW, QRP ARCI European Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Maryland-DC QSO Party and The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are all on this weekend.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event continues throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

## WICEN News

The Annual General Meeting of WICEN NSW will be held here at ARNSW, 63 Quarry Road Dural, at 2pm on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

Operators are sought for two upcoming events. First is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley on Saturday, September the 14<sup>th</sup>. This scenic walk stretches 14km from Kangaroo Valley, up McPhall's trail to Fitzroy Falls, optionally continuing to Meryla Pass, or all the way back to Jack's Corner Road. This event supports development projects in Timor-Leste, visit the website [kvrp.net.au](http://kvrp.net.au) for details.

WICEN is also looking for extra operators for the Hounslow Classic, a running event in the upper Blue Mountains, on September 28 & 29.

A long-standing event on the WICEN calendar is the **Hawkesbury Canoe Classic**, including the new Classic Relay, running from Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>, overnight to Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

There is no WICEN training session planned for September; members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

The WICEN website is [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au). 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 ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, on the North-West border of the Territory. In October, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, WICEN is providing support for ANU's Inward Bound; the LCCC Monaro Stages are on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Fitz's Challenge is on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. 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 Rush on August 25<sup>th</sup>, held around Beaufort, near Ballarat. Field Weekend is on September 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Stockman's Rally is on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Big River State Forest. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria can be found on the website, [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

[OEM Link; <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/emergency-management/Training-and-Capability/Training-and-capability.aspx>]

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## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting will be the Friday night gathering; at 7pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Club station VK2BOR will participate in both the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend and the Remembrance Day contest, on the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August. VK2BOR will operate on HF and VHF from the club's Communications Caravan which will be set up in the carpark of the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club. This is the nearest practical location for the station as the road to the Tacking Point Lighthouse is currently closed for a major upgrade.

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 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 July 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

The VK2RAG D-Star service is still out of action due to a hardware failure. The rebuild is underway thanks to Ian VK2HK, but members are asked to remain patient as there are some challenges involved. The P25 Pacific Talk Group 10400 is not affected, and IRLP has not been abandoned; it is hoped to have further news in next week's broadcast.

There is no Club lecture on the 17th August due to the Annual General Meeting. There are plenty of positions to be filled; so members are advised to consider putting their hands up, or risk being press-ganged into service.

The Shahzada [*sha-ZAR-da*] 400km Horse Enduro is coming up soon; its on the last full week of August; starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> and running until the 31<sup>st</sup>. Although not an official Club event, many members take part in it. You can turn up for the full week, or just for a day or so, and you will have fun; especially if you have a four-wheel drive.

Meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are 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 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 439.950MHz 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 (unless you like listening to digital noise)..

There is a net every Thursday, starting at 7pm on Thursday during the winter months, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725; all members are encouraged to join in.

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

*Dave VK2KFU*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on this coming Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. 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.

The next meeting is the Society's AGM, with all positions vacated and up for election. Listeners thinking of coming along needn't be concerned about being hijacked into a vacated position as many of the current Committee and Executive have offered volunteer again – if elected of course.

Following the AGM, David VK2LDW will be doing a presentation on SOTA - Summits On The Air. SOTA is a great part of Amateur Radio that gets you out and about, exploring the countryside, keeping fit and making unique and unusual contacts with fellow Amateurs. Whether you're a Chaser or an Activator, it is certainly an enjoyable part of our great hobby.

Following David's presentation there will be the usual ragchew over a hot cup of tea or coffee with chocky 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 this Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Just a reminder about the August meeting, featuring a special presentation by Kerrie Doherty entitled "*The Dish was not the whole story: Australia's role in the Apollo lunar program*".

*The Dish* is a delightful Aussie film about Australia's role in the Apollo 11 lunar landing. However, while it's "based on a true story", we must remember that it is only a movie: its focus on the crucial role played by the Parkes Radio Telescope in bringing the live television broadcast of the Apollo 11 lunar landing to the world, leaves untold the much larger role in the Apollo program played by space tracking facilities in Australia.

How did a lightning strike help to bring satellite communications to Australia? How can an Australian experiment placed on the Moon during Apollo help with future lunar exploration? How did the Parkes telescope contribute to NASA's Deep Space Network? How did Australia really bring the Apollo 11 landing to the world? Join space historian Kerrie Dougherty as she delves into the larger story behind *The Dish* to find the answers.

Kerrie is an independent space historian, curator and educator, who was previously Curator of Space Technology at the Powerhouse Museum. She also works with the Australian Space Agency and has written a book and numerous articles on Australia's space activities.

So keep the date free; Wednesday, August the 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting and talk will commence at 7:30pm; visitors will be most welcome. Please let the secretary know of your attendance by email, to [secretary@vk2bv.org](mailto:secretary@vk2bv.org), so that arrangements to accommodate expected numbers can be made.

As always, you can find out more about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on their website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). You can use the contact form on the website to obtain further information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is an informal meeting this Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, starting at 8pm. Its at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station. The monthly general meeting will be on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

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;**

### **August**

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>

Central Coast ARC AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>

SARCFest – Summerland ARC at Lismore on the 25<sup>th</sup>

United States licence exams at ARNSW on the 25<sup>th</sup>

Shahzada horse Enduro, a WICEN event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation Course bookings close on the 30<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 31<sup>st</sup>

### **September**

BMARC Monthly Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessments, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Special ARNSW licence assessments at Dural on the 21<sup>st</sup>

WICEN NSW AGM at ARNSW Dural on the 21<sup>st</sup>

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **October**

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>