

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

Today was the September Trash & Treasure here at Dural; the final for the year will be on the 24th of November. The first event for 2020 will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

Work continues here at VK2WI Dural with fitout of antennas and co-ax on the new monopole. There is plenty more to do with terminating of feeders and patching for antennas, so commissioning will still be a few weeks away

Next Sunday the 6th of October is the start of Daylight Saving. VK2WI News stays with the same local times, of 10am and 7:30pm, but propagation might. News bulletins can be streamed live, or downloaded after, from the audio page of our website, [arnsw.org.au/audio](http://arnsw.org.au/audio).

That weekend is also a long weekend, so road users are subject to Double Demerit points from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. While it is legal to use a hand-held microphone for a radio whilst driving, it is important to ensure you are not distracted and keep attention on the road at all times; not only to avoid a fine, but for your safety on the road as well.

The final Foundation course and assessments for the year at ARNSW, will be on the weekend of November the 9th and 10th. Closing date for bookings is the 25<sup>th</sup> of October; best made by email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

A reminder to those wishing to contact VK2WI by phone, that the Engineer is especially busy during VK2WI callbacks. If you need to phone in a callback, please do so by the time the coming events are being read out. Otherwise, or if you have comments regarding news presentation, it is preferable to emailed, to [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au), and it will get to the team.

The Snowy Mountains ARC advise that their 70cm repeater VK2RLJ on 438.450MHz, is back in action. It covers the Perisher Range Resorts which include Thredbo, Charlottes Pass and Perisher.

Once again this week, we welcome those listening via the EchoLink "HAM" conference, and the ANZEL network; a reminder that callbacks to this news will be taken after the bulletin, and our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the whole ANZEL team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	67	68	68	66	67	68	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	7	2	2	11	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	4	0	1	10	2	1 estimated
T index	-3	-4	0	+3	+6	-6	-4

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>th</sup>, but then was quiet to active on the 24<sup>th</sup>, with SWS magnetometer data showing two weak impulses, of 8 nanoTesla at 1311UTC, and 6 nanoTesla at 1647UTC. After these disturbances, geomagnetic conditions returned to quiet levels on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values, during daylight hours, all week. Enhancements were observed during local night hours and after dawn, of 25% on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> was enhanced 15% during night hours and 25% after local dawn; the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> were both enhanced 35% during night hours and 25% after local dawn; the 24<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 40% during night hours, the 25<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 15% at night; and the 26<sup>th</sup>, was enhanced 25% during night hours and 25% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 27<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low. Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach minor storm levels on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, with mostly active conditions on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, before returning to quiet to unsettled conditions.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be up to 15% enhanced on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and 15% depressed on the 28<sup>th</sup>, returning to near predicted monthly values on other days.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Nearing the end of September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 74  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>

For October, we expect a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68  
With peak dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68  
With no peak prediction as yet.

*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: 3m21s*

*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

A number of stations are active especially for the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest;

BAHRAIN; A92AA is active as a Single Op/All Band entry.

CUBA; Members of the Santiago de Cuba Contest Team will be active as T48SC as a Multi/2 entry.

CANARY ISLANDS; Operators SM7BHM, SM7GXR, SM4RGD, YL2KF, OH9GIT and OH2BP will be active as EA8DED from Tenerife, IOTA AF-004.

SURINAME; Ramon, PZ5RA will be active in the contest.

In other activity for this week;

VIETNAM; Jacek, SP5APW is active as 3W9KJ from Dao Co To Island, IOTA AS-132, until October 3. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8 and FT4.

UGANDA; Anton, ON6NL is active as 5X8C from Entebbe until October 7. Activity is in his spare time while working and teaching telecom classes. He hopes to be active in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

KUWAIT; Abdallah, 9K2GS will be active as 9K2K in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry, and also in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

TONGA; Grant, VK5GR, Oly, VK5XDX and Andrew, VK5AKH are active as A35JT from Tongatapu, IOTA OC 049, until October 7. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX and upcoming Oceania DX contests.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Harald, DF2WO will be active as D44TWO from Sao Tiago, IOTA AF-005, until October 13. Activity will be on the HF bands and possibly various satellites.

LIBERIA; Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as A82X and A82Z from September 30 to October 11. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with five stations.

PERU; Members of Radio Club Peruano are active with special call sign OC19IARU until October 6, during the 20th General Assembly of IARU Region 2.

SEYCHELLES; Ravi, VU2IIX will be active as S79VU from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024, from September 30 to June 30, 2021. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

DODECANESE; Wolf, DL3DRN is active as SV5/DL3DRN from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until October 10. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

GABON; Roland, F8EN will be active as TR8CR until December 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW.

BELIZE; Victor, WB0TEV and Scott, K5PS are active as V31VP and V31CQ, respectively, until September 30, from Maya Hill Lodge. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being active as V31VP as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ World Wide RTTY contest.

VANUATU; Oleh, KD7WPJ will be active as YJ0BCP from Efate, IOTA OC-035, from October 3 to 10. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

TOKELAU ISLANDS; A large group of operators will be active as ZK3A from October 1 to 11. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, EME and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Maine QSO Party and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are all on this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for September 30. The UKEICC 80-metre SSB Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 2. The IQRP Quarterly Marathon runs from October 1 to 7.

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 Hounslow Classic is a running event in the upper Blue Mountains, around Blackheath and Grose Valley, this weekend.

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, including the new Classic Relay, runs from Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>, overnight to Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The next WICEN training session will be next Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, here at ARNSW Dural. WICEN Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

Sunday, October 13th is Volunteers Memorial Day.

WICEN's website is at [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's HF net is 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. On October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, WICEN is providing support for ANU's Inward Bound; the Light Car Club of Canberra 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 is supporting the Stockman's Rally on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Big River State Forest, and the Alpine Rally, November 29 to December 1, around Lakes Entrance. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, can be found on their website, [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

[URL for OEM: <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/>]

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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 October monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, club station VK2BOR will participate in JOTA from the Scouts and Guides District event at Port Macquarie.

Club members will provide the safety communications for the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Beechwood Billycart Classic on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

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 September 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 next General Meeting of the club will be on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, and all are invited, especially visitors.

The next Club Lecture will be on Saturday 19th October, on a topic to be advised by the new Lecture Coordinator. In the meantime, the next meeting of WICEN Central Coast will be on Saturday 12th October.

Meetings of the club are at the Clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle at noon, run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, followed by Karen VK2AKB's 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 is highly recommended for receiving. There is also a packet radio BBS on 147.6MHz as VK2EHQ, which can also be accessed via digipeater VK2RAG-1.

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. Listeners may "join" the Club 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: just look for "centralcoastarc" and be sure to "like" it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [pronounced "At CC AR Club"], and a YouTube channel of the weekly streaming news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

For more information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at [www.ccarc.org.au](http://www.ccarc.org.au).

*Advised by Dave VK2KFU  
For the 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 Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm.

The venue for the Society's meetings has recently changed to the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre located on Springhill Road, on the southern side of the CBD of Wollongong. The new venue has fantastic facilities and plenty of off-street parking. Attendees should turn off Springhill Road into the main entrance of BlueScope Steel, then immediately turn right just before the security gates, following the large Visitors Centre direction signs.

At the next meeting there will be a Trivia competition, with questions to test your radio knowledge. A great time will be had by all, with prizes even being awarded at the end of the night. After the competition there will be the usual ragchew over a hot cup of tea or coffee with cake and chocky biscuits in the foyer of the new meeting venue.

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 from 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 via Echolink, VK2BGL-R.

Like the change of meeting venue, the second weekly net has moved as well. The 80 metre net is now on Tuesday evenings, on 3666kHz, plus or minus frequency for usage; but still at the same time, of 8:30pm. All VK2WI News listeners are invited to call in & say hello.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on their website, [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au), and the society is also on Facebook. The website again, is [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au).

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, at the new meeting venue – the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, 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 2nd of October.

At this gathering, Rob VK2ATC will give the first of two presentations on the topic of "Open source in amateur radio".

These presentations will cover the availability and implementation of open source applications in amateur radio, software defined radios, both receiving and transmitting, and Linux applications in amateur usage.

They will also give practical demonstrations of analogue and digital technology, and a Question and answer session will follow each presentation.

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 2nd of October.

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 next meeting will be an informal mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, starting at 8pm. It's at the Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station. The general meeting for October is on the 22<sup>nd</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;**

### **October**

St George ARS gathering at Connells Point on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Monthly meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
CCARC monthly meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Armada and District ARC AGM on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Westlakes ARC Field Day, Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jamboree on the Air, JOTA, from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
ARNSW November Foundation Course bookings close on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>

### **November**

Summerland ARC Advanced licence course 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Summerland ARC Foundation course on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 24<sup>th</sup>

### **December**

Christmas Day is on the 25<sup>th</sup>