

Silent Key.

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

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and club member Ross Fraser, VK2WN on September 26th in Narromine, as a result of a single vehicle car accident.

Ross was a former committee member of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, and remained a member even after moving to Narromine. He had also been involved with the Orana Region Amateur Radio Club.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ross.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ross Fraser VK2WN.

*Advised by Daniel VK2DC
on behalf of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

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

The next foundation course and licence upgrade weekend at ARNSW is coming up on the 9th and 10th of November. Bookings close at 5pm next Friday, the 25th of October.

Also in November, the Waverley Amateur Radio Societs has a Foundation and assessment weekend a week later, the 16th and 17th ; then the Fishers Ghost ARC a week after that.

JOTA 2019 has been running over this weekend, with Scouts and Guides from all over the world getting on line and on air. The opening address was transmitted and streamed from VK2WI on Saturday afternoon. A recording of the address is now available, along with VK2WI News bulletins and ARNSW activities, from the audio page of our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

As the new antennas here at ARNSW Dural come on line, there will be changes to some services. Of note are VK2WI News bulletins on 6 metres, will move from simplex to the VK2WI 6 metre repeater, on 53.85MHz, with a 1MHz negative offset. No tone is required to access the repeater but a 91.5Hz tone is sent.

There will also be a change to the 23cm VK2RSY beacon on 1296.42MHz. To maintain operation while site works continue, the beacon will operate from the standby repeater antenna, so transmissions will be vertically polarised. In the event this temporary operation disrupts other users of the band, the beacon operation will cease until the primary antenna is again available.

With the changeover to the new antennas, there may be some changes to transmission characteristics. If you have determined that your reception has changed, you may send in your reports or observations to dedicated email callbacks@arnsw.org.au. More details on the work will be provided as it continues, here on VK2WI News.

Also a reminder that this news bulleting is being relayed tonight on Echolink, and we once again thank John VK3HJQ and the ANZEL team, for making this service available to VK2WI News.

ALARA Grants

The Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association, ALARA, is offering a limited number of grants to any female applying for a Foundation Licence or upgrading to a Standard or Advanced Amateur Radio Licence.

The grant is equal to approximately half the cost of the fees for assessment, licence and callsign. The grant also includes complimentary membership of ALARA, for one year.

For details, visit the website, at alara.org.au.

*Jennifer VK3WQ
Publicity Officer for ALARA*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 11th to the 17th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
10cm flux	69	68	67	66	67	66	66
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	4	1	5	5	5	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	3	0	6	4	4	4 estimated
T index	-29	-23	-23	-20	-22	-16	-24

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 11th, quiet from the 12th to the 14th, again quiet to unsettled periods on the 15th, then quiet again on the 16th and 17th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values, with depressions of 15% during local daylight hours on the 11th, 15th and 17th, and enhancement of 15% during local night hours on the 14th.

Now, the forecast for the 18th to the 24th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain mostly 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 September, we had a;

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

So far for October, we expect a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th, and the 10th to the 13th

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.

[Play File: E-FCAL074.wav]

Duration: 1m59s

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

VIETNAM; Geri, DK8KW is active as 3W9KW from Hanoi until October 26, on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

MALTA; Rene, DL2JRM is active as 9H3YY until October 22. This includes an entry in the Worked All Germany contest.

BOTSWANA; A large group of operators will be active as A21EME, until October 29. Activity will be on 6 and 2 metres, and 70 centimetres, using CW and JT65 on EME. Later, they will be active on 23, 13, 9, 6, and 3 centimetres using CW and JT65.

COMOROS; Members the Mediterraneo DX Club will be active as D68CCC from October 21 to November 2, on 160 to 10 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ST. LUCIA; Medical Amateur Radio Council members Jay AA4FL, Bob K4RLC, Bruce KM2L, Diane N2HIW and Dave KN2M, are active on the HF bands, as J6/home calls until November 2. This includes being active as J68MD in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

ST. MAARTEN; Ed, N2HX will be active as PJ7PL until November 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB, RTTY, FT8 or FT4 and includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; Members of the Noronha Contest Group will be active as PY0F from October 21 to 25 while preparing for their entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. Activity will be on the HF bands, including 160 and 80 metres.

SURINAME; A group of operators will be active as PZ5K from October 23 to 29. Activity will be on the HF bands, including entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

SEYCHELLES; Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are active as S79W and S79CI, respectively, until October 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

PALAU; Jery, HL5BHH will be active as T88KZ from October 21 to 24. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and some FT8.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; John, W5JON is active as V47JA from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until October 22. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Mek, SP7VC is active as VK9NC using digital modes until October 28. Jacek, SP5EAQ is active as VK9NE using SSB until November 4. Marcin, SP5ES will be active as VK9NG using CW from October 28 to November 4.

PITCAIRN ISLAND; A large group of operators are active as VP6R until November 1. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres with eight stations active using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS; Operators Sree, VU2OB, Shabu, VU2CAC and Samson, VU3XTG will be active as VU7RI until October 30. Activity is on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

VANUATU; Chris, VK2YUS will be active as YJ0CA from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, from October 22 to 30. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 metres, and possibly 10 metres, using SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL EME Contest, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 10-10 International Fall CW Contest, NCCC RTTY sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, JARTS World Wide RTTY Contest, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, New York QSO Party, Worked All Germany Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Argentina National 7 MHz Contest, Asia-Pacific Fall CW Sprint, UBA ON 2-Metre Contest, Illinois QSO Party and the RSGB RoLo 80-Metre CW will certainly keep contesters over this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and Telephone Pioneers QSO Party are scheduled for October 21. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Data Series, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 23. The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from October 21 to 25. 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 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, including the new Classic Relay, is on next weekend, running from Saturday October 26th, overnight to Sunday the 27th. This event has one of the largest staffing requirements of all events which WICEN supports.

The next WICEN Training Day is Sunday the 3rd of November here at ARNSW in Dural. WICEN Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN's website is at nsw.wicen.org.au. There is a web contact form on the site, which is usually the best way to get in contact with any enquiries. 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. This weekend sees the 25th Anniversary Carriage Driving Event at Wittwood, NSW. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event, on next Sunday the 27th of October. The BMSC Rallye de Femmes is on December 7th. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria is supporting the Stockman's Rally next Sunday October 27th 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.

[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 club's November monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of November, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Yesterday, Saturday the 19th, club station VK2BOR participated in JOTA. The Club's communications caravan operated from McInherney Park on the bank of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie, operating at the Scouts and Guides District event.

Next Sunday the 27th of October 2019 Club members will provide the safety communications for the 40th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, west of Wauchope. This is the longest downhill bilycart road course in Australia.

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. 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.*

Great Lakes Radio Club

The next meeting will be the club's Annual General Meeting. Its on Monday the 28th of October, at the studios of Great Lakes FM Community Radio Station, 16 Douglas Avenue, Tuncurry. The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

The AGM will be followed by a regular business meeting. Members should note that membership fees will become due at the AGM.

Visitors are welcomed at our meetings.

For visitors and those unfamiliar with the venue, entry is via the rear door accessed from the car parking area.

Great Lakes Radio Club serves the mid-north coast area of NSW, centred on the twin towns of Forster-Tuncurry.

The club operates the VK2RGL repeaters from Cabbage Tree Mountain; on 2 metres, 147.1 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone required and on 70cm, 439.775 MHz with no tone required.

The club also has a Facebook group; just search for Great Lakes Radio Club.

*Andy VK2AAK
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 8th of November. It's at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm. There will be a lecture presentation at the meeting.

The group operates three Repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. The Repeaters are on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink, and a 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. The 146.975MHz Repeater transmits a CTCSS tone of 91.5Hz.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Central Coast WICEN held their bi-monthly meeting at the CCARC Club rooms; naturally, it was preceded by a BBQ cook-off between Glenn VK2GEM and Steve VK2SKC, but at least we can report that the fire brigade next door was not called.

Yesterday was the monthly CCARC Lecture; more details on that, and the next lecture, in next week's news.

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 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 VK2RAG repeaters also support various digital modes of operation. Details on the digital modes and the current repeater status are available on the club website.

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 can "join" the Club net by email to netmaster@ccarc.org.au and their comments will be read out. Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by noon on Friday.

The Club 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 [*pron.* "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.

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 Tuesday the 12th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

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

The November meeting is the Society's very popular Annual Auction night and as usual, with the Auctioneer being Simon VK2XQX who helps create both an entertaining night and an opportunity to pick-up a great bargain. Anyone wishing to bring along something to sell, should arrive by 7pm so that it can be booked-in with time to spare. After the Auction, 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. The 80 metre net is now on Tuesday evenings – except for meeting nights – starting at 8:30pm local time, on 3666kHz plus or minus frequency for usage.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on their website, iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again, is 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 12th of September, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The October meeting of the Club will discuss “The NBN – the good, the bad, and the ugly.”

It's been quite some time since the last talk on the NBN and quite a lot has changed. It's time for an update on progress, problems, pitfalls, scams, good news and horror stories. And anyway, will 5G make the whole thing redundant?

Andrew VK2TAN will give us an update, and Bob VK2ZRM will outline some real life stories of NBN experiences among friends and neighbours. Come along for this discussion and be ready to relate your own experiences with NBN.

Be there this Tuesday the 22nd of October, at the Mt Colah Community Centre, 6X Pierre Close; opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station. The meeting starts at 8pm.

The Club's End-of-Year event will be a lunch on Sunday, 15 December. Details will follow.

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. 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

ARNSW November Foundation Course bookings close on the 25th
Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 27th
Great Lakes Radio Club AGM on the 28th
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 30th

November

Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 1st
Oxley Region ARC Monthly meeting on the 2nd
Fishers Ghost ARC November Foundation Course bookings close on the 5th
Summerland ARC Advanced licence course 4th to the 8th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 8th
Summerland ARC Foundation course on the 9th and 10th
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 9th and 10th
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 12th
Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 16th and 17th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 24th

December

HADARC End of year lunch on the 15th
Christmas Day is on the 25th