

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

Here at ARNSW Dural, most of the VHF and UHF services are operating from the new antennas, although some are in variable and temporary configurations while interference is tracked down and adjustments undertaken. Reports are welcomed, preferably by email to; [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au).

A reminder that our news bulletins, along with live audio of many other events here at ARNSW events, are streamed from our website, [arnsw.org.au/audio](http://arnsw.org.au/audio). Recordings of the audio are uploaded to this site, in the early hours of the morning after, and can be listened to or downloaded for at least six weeks after the event.

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.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
10cm flux	69	69	69	69	69	70	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	29	17	11	8	8	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	15	7	8	5	6	4 estimated
T index	-29	-38	-42	-28	-30	-24	-38

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity ranged from quiet to active, with isolated minor storm periods, on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Quiet to unsettled conditions were observed on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and quiet conditions on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The 30<sup>th</sup> saw quiet levels overall, but SWS magnetometer data showed a weak impulse of 8 nanoTesla at 1240UTC. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, activity was at quiet to unsettled levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, ranged from near predicted monthly values, to depressed conditions. Depressions of 20% were observed during local day on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 25% on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 20% on the 27<sup>th</sup>; 25% depressed during the day, and 15% depressed on the 29<sup>th</sup>; 15% depressed during day and 25% during local night of the 30<sup>th</sup>; and 30% depressed during local daytime on the 31<sup>st</sup>, though improving at local night, to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November, and quiet otherwise.

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 October, we had a;

Minimum of 64, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69  
With peak dates from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

As we start November, we expect a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 71  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<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: 1m32s*

*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**

KENYA; Andy, G3AB is active as 5Z4/G3AB from Nairobi. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO from Mogadishu until mid-November. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 6 metres, using SSB and FT8.

RWANDA; Harald, DF2WO will be active as 9X2AW from Kigali from November 4 to 16. Activity will be on the HF bands, and possibly 160 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

CHILE; Members of the Radio Club Melipulli are active as XR7PNAA from the Alerce Andino National Park until November 3.

MOROCCO; Special event station CN44MS is active from Tan-Tan until November 12, to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Green March.

NEW CALEDONIA; Tom, F4HPX will be active as FK/F4HPX from Noumea, IOTA OC-032, beginning November 3. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT4. This includes a possible visit to Ile des Pins, IOTA OC-033.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS; A group of operators will be active as TX7T from Hiva Oa from November 6 to 18. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8 with three or four stations active.

HUNGARY; Laci, HA0HW is active with special event call HG33EUDXF during November in celebration of the 33rd anniversary of the European DX Foundation.

THAILAND; Ralph, DL9MWG and Uli, DL1HUH will be active as HS0ZOM and HS0ZON, respectively, from November 3 to 6.

ITALY; Members of the 4U1GSC Amateur Radio Club are active as 4U25B until August 31, 2020 to mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi.

BULGARIA; Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active as LZ365BM during November, to honour the memory of Bulgarian saints.

BELGIUM; Members of the Oost Kust Radioclub are active with special call OE75CLM until November 3 to celebrate the liberation of Knokke-Heist 75 years ago.

UKRAINE; Look for EM7KAA/p, UT1KY/p, UT7UA/p, UX2KA/p and UY5BT/p to be active from the Kremenets UFF Botanical Garden, UZFF-002, until November 3. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB, and includes an entry in the Ukrainian DX contest.

VANUATU; Sergei, RZ3FW and Sergei, R4WAA will be active as YJ0RRC from Gaua Island, IOTA OC-104, from November 4 to 7. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20 and 15 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ASCENSION ISLAND; Steve, WB4GHY is active as ZD8SC until November 11. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Silent Key Memorial CW Contest, Zombie CW Shuffle, Ukrainian DX Contest, SA Sprint SSB Contest, IPARC Contest, EANET Sprint and the High Speed Club CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

The RSGB FT4 Contest Series is scheduled for November 4.  
The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for November 5.

The QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for November 6.

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

WICEN NSW is currently assisting the Rural Fire Service by providing operators at their Glen Innes Command Centre.

The WICEN Training Day was on today, 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 will be present at the Wyong Field Day on Sunday, 23 February.

WICEN's website is at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://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. The BMSC Rallye de Femmes is on December 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 Alpine Rally, November 29 to December 1, around Lakes Entrance in East Gippsland. 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 club's November Friday night gathering, starting at 7pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Last Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, Club members provided the safety communications for the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, west of Wauchope. The event was conducted in perfect sunny weather. There were no incidents this year, despite the lead bilycarts exceeding 100 kilometres per hour on the steeper parts of the long downhill course. The short course childrens' bilycart races after the main race, created a lot of interest. The large crowd stayed on to enjoy the afternoon's entertainment once the races were over.

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.*



## Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. It's at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm. After general business, there a will be a lecture presentation by Jamie, VK2YCJ.

The Group's Monday night broadcast starts at 7:30pm, on the 2 metre repeater 146.9MHz, and the 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

It's Field Day Fever at the CCARC! The Club is happy to announce, that the next Wyong Field Day is on Sunday the 23rd of February 2020. The team are working hard in the background putting together the big day. If you are interested in attending as a visitor, trader, or holding a talk, please head over to the field day website at [www.fieldday.org.au](http://www.fieldday.org.au) for more information.

The Clubrooms are located in Dandaloo Street, Kariong, just past the fire station. They are open from 10.30am on Saturday, and formal meetings start at 1pm.

There is a net every Thursday, starting at 8pm on the VK2RAG 2m repeater, on 146.725MHz. Listeners may "join" the net by checking into the live Facebook stream or by emailing [netmaster@ccarc.org.au](mailto:netmaster@ccarc.org.au) and their comments will be read out. The repeater is linked to both IRLP and EchoLink and we have several international visitors each week dropping in to say hello. On Thursday evenings, the repeater is connected to Echolink conference server "CCARCNSW", and to VK2RAG-R at any other time. Alternatively, IRLP node #6060; just make sure to disconnect the node when you have finished.

Speaking of Digital, the club also runs a mixed mode FM & P25 repeater on 439.95Mhz. This repeater is linked to the 10400 Pacific talk group, a 91.5Hz tone is required for analogue access. There is also a packet radio BBS on 147.6MHz, operating as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1. The D-star digital service is currently inactive due to a hardware failure; fortunately, no smoke was released.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts 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 146.725MHz; both repeaters require the standard sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

You can find further information about the CCARC by visiting the website, at [www.ccarc.org.au](http://www.ccarc.org.au). The club is also active on Facebook, twitter and YouTube. Simply search for "Central Coast Amateur Radio Club" and remember to give them a like and follow, to keep up to date on the latest happenings.

*Brad VK2NMZ.*

*Vice President, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Society's meetings are now at 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 meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November is the Society's very popular Annual Auction night and, as usual, auctioneer Simon VK2XQX creates 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 the Facebook page or on their website, [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au). The website again, [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 the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road Wollongong.

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

## Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club will be holding a Foundation licence course and assessment weekend on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November. The Foundation licence course is on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by licence examinations for all grades, on Sunday.

Register before the 5<sup>th</sup> of November by contacting the club's learning organiser, Frank VK2FRW on (02) 4681 8334 or by email to [vk2frw@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2frw@wia.org.au). The venue will most likely be Cataract Scout Park, Baden Powell Drive, Cataract.

The next monthly general meeting of the Club is on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. This will be the last general meeting of the year. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of amateur radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net, on Thursday evenings, starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at [fgarc.org.au](http://fgarc.org.au).

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR  
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is an informal gathering on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre, 6X Pierre Close; opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station, starting at 8pm. The last meeting for the year at Mt Colah, will be on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

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 net6 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;**

### **November**

Fishers Ghost ARC November Foundation Course bookings close on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Friday Night gathering on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation Course weekend, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC monthly meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 27<sup>th</sup>

### **December**

HADARC End of year lunch on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day is on the 25<sup>th</sup>

### **January 2020**

Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 26<sup>th</sup>