

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

Here at VK2WI Dural, further work is underway on antenna and tower facilities. The 23cm VK2RWI repeater, the 23cm VK2RSY beacon and the VKE580 morning news relay on 5425kHz, are currently out of service, while some of the work is carried out. We hope to have these services back on temporary basis soon; we will have further updates in future bulletins.

The month of March sees much Amateur Radio activity; Next Sunday is the Sydney Ferry contest; we will have more details later in the news. Wednesday the 11th marks 110 years since the foundation of the Wireless Institute of New South Wales – the forerunner of Amateur Radio New South Wales – making this the world oldest Amateur Radio society. There will be a small celebration of this at the March T&T later in the month, Sunday the 29th.

The first of this years ARNSW Foundation weekends is on the 14th and 15th. The next Foundation weekend is in May on the weekend on the 16th and 17th, and bookings for the May weekend close at 5pm on May the 1st. Foundation manuals may be collected from Dural by prior arrangement, by an email to education@arnsw.org.au or they can be ordered from the WIA Bookshop.

The weekend of March 21st and 22nd is the John Moyle contest. Then, towards the end of the month is the next issue of the ARNSW bi-monthly newsletter *All Access*, a few days before the Trash and Treasure and radio Experimenters Group gathering, here at Dural on the 29th.

Looking ahead to April, and HADARC will be holding their annual VK2IMD operation on the 25th in celebration of Marconi's birthday. Since the 25th is also Anzac Day, the AX prefix can be used.

A reminder that nominations for the half Board election close at 11am next Saturday the 7th of March 2020; details later in this bulletin. Also due on this date is submission agenda items for the AGM, which is on Saturday the 18th of April.

Tonight's news bulletin is being relayed via EchoLink, on the "HAM" conference server. Our thanks to John VK3HJQ, and the Australian and New Zealand EchoLink team; for making the service available to VK2WI News.

ARNSW Board Elections

As previously announced, the next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 18th of April.

With the new constitution passed at last year's AGM, board members now serve overlapping two-year terms. At this year's AGM, 4 members of the board will be standing down.

Nominations are now open for those eligible members who wish to be on the board.

Nomination forms are available from the ARNSW office, or on the website, at arnsw.org.au.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 7th March 2020; that is next Saturday. Note that nominations being forwarded by mail must be received on Friday, but the office will be open on Saturday morning, for anyone wanting to submit a nomination at the last moment.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest

The fifth annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest is on Sunday, March the 8th, from 10am until 4pm local time, taking place on and around Sydney Harbour.

This unique contest aims to gather radio amateurs to the harbour and make VHF/UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and wharves. With all-day travel for just \$2.80 (less for seniors and concession holders) using an Opal card, it is a great way to spend a Sunday!

Operation is restricted to hand-held radios but can be in any mode – including repeater, simplex or “eyeball” (a handshake) contacts. Contestants can obtain points multipliers by working multiple ferries and multiple wharves during the six-hour contest. A number of awards, including the prestigious “Worked All Ferry Lines” are available.

The event is being run by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, and Club station VK2BV will be at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf for the duration of the contest. We hope to eyeball as many contestants as we can during the day.

Not only is this a fun contest for the amateur radio community, but also a great way to promote amateur radio to the general public.

Full contest details are on the Waverley Amateur Radio Society's website, at vk2bv.org.

Urunga Radio Convention

Returning over this Easter weekend, on the 11th and 12th of April, is the Urunga Radio Convention.

The Convention is one of the most challenging fox hunting events in Australia and attracts fierce competition from all over. If you are a new fox-hunter, or a devotee with years of experience, this weekend is made for you.

The weekend begins at 9am Saturday, with activities at the Pensioners Hall, Bowra Street Urunga.

The Convention Dinner is 6pm Saturday night, Followed by a Night Fox Hunt; registration for that is 7:30pm.

Sunday kicks off with the Urunga Scrambles are at 8am, and activities continue until the presentation of awards at 3pm.

The Convention has a limited supply of sniffers to lend to first time fox-hunters.

Other activities include our superb technical quiz and general quiz, guessing competitions, raffles and lucky door prizes. Trading tables are also available.

Urunga is one of the remaining original villages left on the north coast of NSW and is the ideal relaxed holiday weekend for families and fox-hunters without the holiday crowds. It is where two rivers meet the sea and offers plenty of outdoor activities.

The Convention hall is accessible and has a relaxing lounge room and accessible amenities.

For more information you can Contact Ken VK2DGT, Terry VK2TEZ, and Merv VK2DMS.

*Advised by Gloria Savins
For the Urunga Radio Convention.*

Balun Buildathon

On Sunday May the 24th, AR New South Wales is holding another 'balun buildathon' for members, here at VK2WI 63 Quarry Road Dural starting at 10am.

You'll have your choice of constructing a 1:1, 4:1 or 9:1 balun from a kit. You can also order hi-quality Kevlar antenna wire. All items must be pre-ordered and paid for on the day.

Further information is in the newsletter, *All Access*, and on VK2WI News closer to the day.

For enquiries or bookings, you can email events@arnsw.org.au or contact Al VK2OK by phone, on 0415 259 777.

73 Al VK2OK

Function and Events Co-ordinator for AR New South Wales.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21st to the 27th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
10cm flux	71	72	70	70	71	70	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	7	4	3	3	3	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	7	3	2	1	3	2 estimated
T index	-7	-14	-10	-5	-8	-14	-6

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 21st and 22nd, the remained at quiet levels from the 23rd to the 27th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhancements. Frequencies were enhanced 15% during local night on the 21st, 25% after local dawn on the 24th, 20% after local dawn on the 26th; and 15% during local night on the 27th.

Now, the forecast for the 28th of February to the 5th of March;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels. There is a possible increase in activity late on the 1st of March, and again on the 4th, due to coronal hole effects. An isolated active period is possible with the latter disturbance.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

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What use is an F-call?

Tonight we continue with this series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: E-FCAL090.wav]

Duration: 1m7s

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

MALDIVES; Ivan, UR9IDX is active as 8Q7VR from Naifaru Island, IOTA AS-013. Activity has been mainly on 80 and 40 metres using CW with some SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

RWANDA; Harald, DF2WO will be active as 9X2AW from March 4 to 22. Activity will be on the HF bands, possibly including 160 metres and Satellite QO-100 upon requests, using mainly FT8 with some CW and SSB.

TAIWAN; Special event station BV120SU is active until August 4 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Soochow University. Activity is on the HF bands.

SOLOMON ISLANDS; Will, AA4NC and Ron, AA4VK will be active as H44NC and H44VK, respectively, until March 3. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

PANAMA; Operators Alvaro, HP1DAV, Jay, HP3AK, Roger, G4BVY, Peter, G4CLA and Martin, GD4XUM will be active as H33K from Volcan/ Province Chiriqui from March 2 to 13. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

ITALY; Special event stations IO3RT and IO3AF are active until the end of May to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Arturo Ferrarin's first flight from Rome to Tokyo. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

OGASAWARA; Operators Take, JA1UII and Kami, JH1HHC are active as JD1BON and JD1BPH, respectively, from Komagari, Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until March 5. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ARUBA; John, KK9A will be active as P40A until March 8. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB and includes entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO from Mogadishu until March 25. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, with an emphasis on 60 metres, using CW, SSB and FT8.

EAST KIRIBATI [*kir-uh-BAS*]; Ken, KH6QJ will be active as T32AZ from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, from March 4 to 11. Activity is on the HF bands, mainly on 80 metres, using SSB. This includes being active in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

BELIZE; Iain, G4SGX plans to be active as V31GX from Ambergris Caye, IOTA NA-073, during March. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB Commonwealth contest.

BRUNEI; Special event station V84HSK is active until March 2 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the country's independence. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS; Members of the Perseverance DX Group are active as VP8PJ from Signy Island, IOTA AN-008, until March 5. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

VANUATU; Will, AA4NC and Ron, AA4VK will be active as YJ0NC and YJ0VK, respectively, from New Hebrides, IOTA OC-035, from March 3 to 6. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Sigfrido, Z81S, a member of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan has been active on 20 metres using SSB around 1630 to 1730UTC.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Joel, NF3R will be active as ZF2RJ from March 3 to 10. Activity will be on the HF bands and includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY QSO Party, North American Collegiate RTTY Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, EurAsia HF Championship, FT4 DX Contest, UBA DX CW Contest, South Carolina QSO Party, SARL Hamnet 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest and North Carolina QSO Party are all on this weekend.

RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship is scheduled for March 2. The AGCW YL-CW Party and ARS Spartan CW Sprint are scheduled for March 3. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, 40-metre QRP CW Fox Hunt and Phone Fray are scheduled for March 4.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. WICEN NSW President, Lindsay VK2FLEA, attended the NSW Bushfire State Memorial Service, honouring the 25 firefighters and community members lost in the recent NSW bushfires.

The WICEN training course for, "Drive vehicles under operational conditions", was held this weekend. All WICEN Members encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN groups across Australia will be supporting Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. The first event in NSW is at Tench Reserve on the Nepean River at Penrith, on the 5th of April, followed by the Inner-West Sydney event on the 24th of May; and in the Hunter, on the 31st. See memorywalk.com.au.

WICEN's website is at nsw.wicen.org.au. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

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 "NatCap" Rally is coming up on March 21st and 22nd, and the Canberra Two Day Walk is on April 4th and 5th. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria is supporting several Memory Walk and Jog events; at Ornamental Lakes Park in Mildura this morning; in Melbourne's on May the 3rd and in Geelong on May the 17th. The Duncan's Run 100 at Turra Bulga in south Gippsland is on March 21; and the Kenda Motorbike Rally is on May 3rd at Eildon. WICEN Victoria's weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz and the website is at vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM link; <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 is the club's March general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of March at the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. As always, visitors are most welcome.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. The next training and assessment weekend is scheduled for the 14th and 15th of March, at the SES building in Central Road Port Macquarie.

The club's 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.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The January 2020 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now available, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The Group's AGM, along with the monthly general meeting, are coming up on Friday the 13th of March.

The meeting is at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm.

The monthly general meeting will take the form of a members "Do It Your Self" Presentation.

The Hunter Radio Group has a news broadcast on Monday nights starting at 7:30pm, on the 2 metre repeater 146.9MHz, and the 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club would like to especially thank the team who assisted with running this year's Wyong Field day. The Club would also like to thank all those who attended and enjoyed the variety of traders, exhibitors and lectures, and we hope you managed to obtain a bargain or 5.

The Raffle winners this year were; James VK4EQ, Tim VK2XAX, Bob VK2AOR, Geoff Barr, and Marty VK2GIB. The Lucky door winners were Graham Wilson and Glenn VK2GFW.

The Fox Hunts were a great success; In the Pedestrian fox hunt, 3 keen hunters found it at once; well done VK2IO, VK2YM and VK2BYY. In the Mobile fox hunts; the hunt up to Crackneck lookout at Forrester's Beach, saw the fox again discovered by intrepid hunters VK2BYY and VK2IO. However, the fox managed to outsmart all the hunters in the 1st mobile hunt at Don Small Oval, Tacoma.

Karen VK2YX facilitated a fantastic foundation and training assessment weekend and has received some amazing feedback from the candidates. Thank you, Karen.

The US exam sessions run by VEA, saw all 6 candidates either obtaining a new licence or upgrading. Congratulations to Lewys KJ7MWK, Nigel KJ7MWL, Michael KJ7MWM, Jan[YARN] KC3OZJ, Brett AG7ZR; and Doug KC3MZR.

The Field Day committee will now take a well-earned break before undertaking a review of the event. The Club would encourage all those who attended to provide their thoughts and suggestions, via the feedback link on the club's website. While not all suggestions may be able to be placed into action immediately, the committee will read and consider all feedback that is received.

The club's weekly Thursday evening net ran for over 2 hours this week with a variety of interesting topics; including discussion on the most efficient 2 Metre antenna for effective satellite chasing, with Bob VK2AOR and Bob VK2NRC swapping some great notes. Remember, you can watch the live stream from Facebook or join in via Echolink using the *CCARCNSW* conference server.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web, at ccarc.org.au.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club's will be holding their first car boot sale event for 2020, on Sunday the 21st of March. Its at the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8:30am.

There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available, and a club raffle.

There is no cost to set up, but bring your own table. All welcome.

Westlakes has a 40 metre net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30 on 7150kHz.

Barrie VK2QG

For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the society will be at 7:30pm this coming Wednesday, the 4th of March.

At this meeting, Rob VK2ATC will give an Introduction to Antenna Modelling using the free 4nec2 software package. Discussion will include designing, modelling and optimisation of various antennas. In addition, Near and Far Electromagnetic fields, SWR sweeps and matching design techniques will be illustrated.

The meeting rooms of the Society are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville.

The “What Three Words” address for the club is “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 HADARC meeting will be an informal mid-monthly meeting this Tuesday the 10th of March, at Mt Colah Community Centre. The next general meeting is on the 24th.

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.

The VK2RNS 70cm FM and P25 repeater Hornsby has now been restored of service. The repeater is on 439.975MHz with a -5MHz offset; sending requires a 91.5 Hz tone, or NAC of 293.

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

March

St George ARS gathering at Kyle Bay on the 4th
Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 7th
ARNSW Board nominations close on the 7th
Waverley ARS Sydney Ferry contest on the 8th
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 10th
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 10th
ARNSW 110th birthday on the 11th
Hunter Radio Group AGM at Adamstown on the 13th
ARNSW Foundation Training and Assessment weekend, 14th and 15th
Oxley Region ARC Training and Assessment weekend, 14th and 15th
Westlakes ARC car boot sale at Teralba on the 21st
John Moyle Contest weekend, 21st and 22nd
HADARC general meeting on the 24th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 29th

April

Urunga Radio convention on the 11th and 12th
Amateur Radio New South Wales AGM on Saturday the 18th
Anzac Day – Australian amateurs can use the AX prefix on the 25th
VK2IMD activation on the 25th

May

ARNSW Foundation Training and Assessment weekend, 16th and 17th
Waverley ARS Foundation training and assessment weekend, 23rd and 24th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 31st