

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

While many events have been cancelled – such as today's bi-monthly Trash and Treasure here at ARNSW – activity is moving on air and online.

The ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group had their first online meeting this afternoon, and we will attempt to get a recording of it posted to the website, in the coming week.

Many clubs have increased their on air activities, and we have a summary of some of these, later in this bulletin. Please let us know of activities and events in your area. Email the details to [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au) – we don't need formatted news items, just the details of the activity and contacts. And, don't forget – after your event we want to hear about it too; send a report on your activities back to VK2WI News, so we can tell listeners how it went.

Amateur Radio licence exams are returning, though in a modified form – with the outsourced operator, AMC, advising the WIA that remote assessments will resume from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Enquiries can still be made to ARNSW by emailing the education team, at [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au) – and they will keep you apprised of any updates.

In news for ARNSW members, based on advice published by ASIC in the past week, the Board of ARNSW has decided to postpone the AGM, previously scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. More details in a later bulletin.

In the past week, several ARNSW membership badges were posted. Badge orders are made once sufficient orders are received for a production run – email enquiries to [membership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@arnsw.org.au). Speaking of membership, the fee remains unchanged; \$20 for 2 years, and \$50 for five years. While the AGM has been postponed, members still must be financial to take part in the proceedings.

The ARNSW bi-monthly electronic newsletter, *ALL ACCESS*, was sent out last week; the few paper copies required by those without the internet are in the post.

The VK2RWI 70 cm repeater 8525 is currently under LIPD attack. It seems that once one is eradicated, another takes its place! The engineering team is investigating a more permanent solution, which will necessitate frequency changes.

In other work at the Dural site, antenna relocations have temporarily taken off air, 23cm beacon and repeater, 10 meter news broadcasts, and the VKE580 news relay.

Next Sunday, New South Wales returns to standard time. VK2WI News maintains the same local times of 10am and 7.30pm, so HF propagation may change. If you have difficulties, news bulletins can be streamed live or downloaded from our website, at [arnsw.org.au/audio](http://arnsw.org.au/audio). The server has recently had a software upgrade, so if you had trouble in the past, it may be working for you now.

Tonight's news bulletin is also 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.

## **Kurrajong Radio Museum**

Many listeners will be familiar with the Kurrajong Radio Museum, to the northwest of Sydney. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid-19 public health pandemic, the museum has temporarily had to close.

This has been a difficult year at the museum, with the summer bushfires only a few kilometres away, smoke, followed by heavy rain North Richmond bridge under water, and Bell's Line of Road closed; and now the virus.

However, when the museum reopens, we will let you know on VK2WI News.

All the best in these trying times!

*Ian VK2ZIO*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

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

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	72	71	70	70	71	71	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	5	10	4	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	7	5	8	1	2	4 estimated
T index	0	7	1	5	2	-1	-4

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and quiet at other times.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values all week, with some periods of enhanced conditions observed; 20% after local dawn on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 30% during local night on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 25% during local night and 30% after dawn on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 20% after dawn and 45% during local night on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 25% enhancement during local night on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 27<sup>th</sup> of March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with isolated active periods possible on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

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.

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*Duration:2m3s*

*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**

While travel restrictions have required the cancellation of some DXpeditions and other planned activities, there is still quite a bit of contesting and DX activity this week;

**TURKEY;** Members of the Turkish Radio Amateur Club are active from special event station TC105GL until March 30. Activity is to commemorate the Gallipoli campaign of World War I. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and SSB.

**CAPE VERDE;** Max, IZ4DPV is active as D4F from Sao Vicente Island (AF-086) until March 31. Activity has been on the lower bands using SSB. Look for him also in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest.

**ALASKA;** Members of the Russian Robinson Club are planning an activation of Kiska Island (NA-070) from June 17 to 19 as KL7RRC/p. They will be taking two rigs for CW, SSB and FT8.

**EGYPT ;** Tom, DL2RMC is active as SU9TH on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using FT8, FT4, CW and SSB. He will be in the country until the end of April.

**VANUATU;** Chris, VK2NYA/VK2YUS will be active as YJ0CA from Port Vila, Efate Island (OC-035), until April 1. Activity is 40, 20 and 15 metres and possibly 10 metres, using SSB. He also plans to be in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest as a Single-Op entry.

**BRAZIL;** Members of the Serra Lopo DX Team will be active as ZZ4A during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest as a Multi-Single entry.

**OMAN;** A42K will be active in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest.

**CUBA!** Members of the SMP DX Club will be active as T42DX until March 30 on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4, including an entry in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest.

**SCOTLAND;** Members of the Scarlett Point Club are active as GS0SP. Their length of stay is unknown.

**ETHIOPIA;** Ken, K4ZW will be active as ET3AA starting March 27 for one week, pending successful flight arrangements.

MARTINIQUE; Laurent, FM5BH will be active in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest on all bands. Miguel, EA1BP will be active as TO7BP during the Contest; outside of contest he will be signing FM/EA1BP on various HF bands.

EASTER ISLAND; A Polish team will be active as XR0YSP from September 15 to 30. Operators include Jan, SP3CYY, Jurek, SP3GEM, Wlodek, SP6EQZ, Janusz, SP6IXF, Roman, SP9FOW and Piotr, SP9RCL. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THE NETHERLANDS; Operators Harm, PA0HPG, Michel, PA0VCC, Ad, PA2PCH, Nico, PA3ADU, Gerrie, PA7TT, Harm, PD0GIB, Bert, PD2B and Gerard, PD2VW will activate special event station PA75ASN from April 1 to May 7 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Assen City. Operations will be on 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8/FT4.

LUXEMBOURG; The LX7I team celebrates its 20th anniversary with the call sign LX20I during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest.

CZECH REPUBLIC; The Czechoslovak DX Club celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the air as OL30DXC until the end of the year.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ WW WPX SSB Contest, FOC QSO Party and QCX Challenge are on this weekend.

The QRP Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test and UKEICC 80 Metre Contest are all on April 1.

## WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, WICEN is cancelling participation in all but emergency activations. BSAR's Navshield has been cancelled.

Short, twice daily nets are commencing tomorrow, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of March, using WICEN's Sydney repeaters; and daily on the VK-DMR network, using WICEN Talk Group 3810, timeslot 1; note this is a user activated talk group.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

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.

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" has been postponed. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria is planning a Data training weekend, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Dramona Drive-in. WICEN Victoria's weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz and the website is at [vic.wicen.org.au](http://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. Like many organisations, the Club has suspended in person activities - Monthly General Meetings and Friday Night Get-Togethers are cancelled until further notice, along with the weekly Wednesday morning working bees.

The planned ORARC annual Field Day at the Wauchope Showground Hall on the Saturday and Sunday of the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of June, is being actively reviewed in the light of the rapidly evolving pandemic situation, but at this stage it is still planned to go ahead.

In the absence of meetings, members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible. Access to VK2RPM is available via EchoLink for those outside the coverage area of the repeater. 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](http://orarc.org). The newly published March 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.*

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month; however, given the current and unprecedented COVID 19 Virus situation and the required social distancing requirements, the next meeting will *not* be of the normal face-to-face type, but will rather be of a virtual-type, using the RF spectrum.

Consequently, the Society's special RF meeting will commence at 7:30pm local time on Tuesday the 14th of April, using the linked 2 metre repeaters of VK2RMP on 146.850MHz and VK2RUW on 146.675MHz. Out-of-town Members can call in via Echolink on VK2MT-R. This special RF meeting will follow the normal meeting format with a welcome, call-ins, apologies, correspondence and general discussion, etc.

At the conclusion of this formal meeting, attendees can break for their own cuppa and cake, before reconvening for the more informal 80 metre catch-up Net at 8:30pm. The Net will be on 3.666MHz, plus or minus frequency for other usage.

Unlike most other hobbies, Amateur radio is the perfect hobby for maintaining the required social-distancing, while still allowing for socialising with your mates. Perhaps an upside to Amateur radio is that with all the self-isolation and quarantining, we'll see an increase in on-air use of our bands.

A reminder of the Society's other weekly Net on Saturday morning run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in at 9:30am local time by either using one of the aforementioned 2 metre repeaters, on 6850 or 6675, while the out-of-towners can call-in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

Last weekend the Society participated in the John Moyle Field Day using their callsign of VK2AMW. Fifteen members attended their field day site at Penrose, near the township of Bundanoon on the southern highlands of NSW.

Of the various Sections that could be entered in this fun Contest, the Society chose the Portable / 24 hour / Multi Operator / Phone / HF section with a total score of 884 being achieved and submitted.

End fed, Off Centre Fed and Dipole antennas were hoisted high into the helpful pine trees surrounding the site, while other important items to help with the Field Day weekend were solar panels, batteries, radios and laptops, but perhaps more important were the BBQ, campfire and cold beverages that kept the operators fed, warm & pleasantly happy.

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 call-in to the special RF meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7:30pm local time on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, via the Society's linked 2 meter repeaters of 6850 and 6675 or via the Echolink node of VK2MT-R.

Finally, the Society wishes to send their best wishes to all listeners and for them to stay safe in these rather uncertain times.

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

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Thanks to the COVID-19 situation, the Society has suspended meetings at the clubhouse. Instead, a voice net now takes place every Wednesday at 8pm, on the club's two metre FM repeater VK2RMB. The frequency is 146.875 MHz, with a -600 kHz offset.

As with face-to-face club meetings, visitors are most welcome to join the net and say hello. If you don't have a licence yet, you can listen in via the club web site. Just click on the "Repeater audio" link on the menu. Take the edge off self-isolation with Amateur Radio!

This month's lecture, whose subject was a bit too rude to mention on air, has also been deferred. But, if you go to YouTube and search for the club callsign VK2MB, you'll find plenty of past club lectures, and other videos on a variety of topics.

The club station, VK2MB portable, was active in last weekend's John Moyle Field Day. Operating portable in Barrington Tops National Park, the station clocked up 229 contacts, and all the participants enjoyed a weekend of great camping. Details and photos are on the web site.

The Club history page has also been updated, with links to numerous articles about the then-Manly & District Radio Club's activities as far back as 1923.

So, to wrap up, a reminder that in place of meetings at the clubhouse, the Society is now running a weekly net, on the two metre repeater VK2RMB, on 146.875 MHz FM with a -600 kHz offset. All are welcome, including shortwave listeners - you'll find the repeater audio link on the menu at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au).

73 and stay safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY  
MWRS Publicity Officer*

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

The Society has decided that, for the near future, monthly gatherings at Kyle Bay will not be held. Obviously, this is an unprecedented situation and remains dynamic in nature so the committee will review the situation when circumstances change.

In the meantime, stay connected with your fellow amateur radio operators and join us on the SGARS net, every Thursday evening commencing 8.00 pm local time, on the VK2RLE 2m FM repeater, 146.800 MHz with minus 600 khz offset. Everyone is welcome to call in and stay connected.

Both the Engadine VK2RLE and Mt Bindo VK2RDX repeaters remain in service, including the VK2RLE EchoLink node and we welcome members and guests to stay in contact using these services.

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Meetings of HADARC meeting at Mt Colah have been cancelled until at least the end of May.

In lieu of Main and Mid-Monthly meetings, an extra 2m net will run on the VK2RNS repeater; using the unique communication resources and opportunities made available by our amateur radio licences.

Saturday, April the 25<sup>th</sup> is International Marconi Day, and being an event typically conducted from individuals' residences it is able to continue.

Members are asked to contact Bob VK2KAZ to volunteer for the VK2IMD roster, such as via the IMD Team option on the HADARC website's contact form. Because of the COVID-19 lock-down meaning plenty of DX, the club is hoping for a full roster.

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. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, starting at 8pm is the on air meeting net.

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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## Activities on the air

Since most regular activities have been suspended, the following is a list of current on air activities notified to us here at VK2WI News;

**Oxley Region ARC** nets at 7:30pm Thursday and 9am Sunday.  
VK2RPM repeater, 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

**Westlakes** nets Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9:30am on 3565kHz.

**Hunter Radio Group** news 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz repeaters, with callbacks taken after.

**Central Coast ARC** net Thursday night on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; also on Echolink \*CCARCNSW\*

**Illawarra ARS** on air meeting on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. From 8:30pm on 80m, 3666kHz.

**WICEN** daily nets on the VK-DMR network, on Talk group 3810.

**Waverley ARS** net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV

**Fishers Ghost ARC** net 8:30pm Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz

**St George ARS** net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz

**HADARC** special meeting net Tuesday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz.

**Manly-Warringah** on air meeting net – Wednesdays at 8pm on 146.875MHz

In April, Anzac Day is the 25<sup>th</sup>, and all Australian amateurs can use the AX prefix.

The ARNSW AGM has been postponed. ARNSW Library and HF Operations Group activity are presently continuing, but are subject to review as the public health situation develops.