

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

Greetings to all on World Telecommunication Day. Celebrated annually on the 17th May since 1969, it marks the founding of International Telecommunication Union, and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. In recognition of this day, Australian radio amateurs are authorised to replace the VK prefix in their normal callsign, with AX, when operating today.

While some restrictions are still in place due to Covid-19, there are no events at VK2WI Dural for the month of May. The May Foundation course and the Trash and Treasure have been cancelled, and the ARNSW Radio Experimenter's group is planning an online meeting. However, many clubs and groups have increased on air activities and later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on air activities, from various groups in Sydney and across News South Wales.

We would like to hear about activities happening in your area, please let us know; by emailing the details to news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need formatted news items, just the details of the activity and contacts. We also welcome any updates on the progress in these activities; which we can report on VK2WI News, and tell listeners how it went.

We should also remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you have health concerns at this time. The National COVID hotline is 1800 020 080, providing general advice; If you are feeling unwell, Healthdirect is on 1800 022 222. Both of these services are available 24 hours a day, and are a free call from most telephone services.

In last week's news, we were saddened to advise of the passing of Tim VK2ZTM. A memorial service for Tim will be held tomorrow, Monday the 17th of May, from 10am. Due to the current Covid restrictions, this regrettably is an invitation-only service; however, it will be available as video online. The link is in the text edition of this news, and on the ARNSW website.

[link for online memorial;

<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=1589493066214998>]

A note to ARNSW Members

Eric VK2VE, secretary of AR New South Wales, would like to advise members that, as mentioned previously, the Annual General Meeting of ARNSW will take place on Saturday May 30th, via video conference.

Late last week the AGM notice, Agenda and reports were sent out either by email or by post depending on indicated preferences. You may have already received them or will in the near future.

If you are receiving your package by post, you may notice the address label has your renewal date at the end of the first line highlighted; this means that you are currently unfinancial and will need to renew prior to the AGM, in order to be eligible to participate. There is a note with a renewal form included with those packages only. Please renew as soon as possible to make sure you are financial by the AGM date. The easiest is if you use direct deposit, but other methods are also available.

For an hour prior to the commencement of the AGM at 11 am, the meeting link will be active so that you can join and get your name marked off as being present. The meeting will also be recorded, as in previous years.

Full details on how to join the meeting are on the inside front cover of the AGM documentation.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Secretary, ARNSW*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm flux	68	71	68	66	69	69	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	3	5	7	5	4	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	0	1	2	1	2	0 estimated
T index	2	5	0	5	-1	-3	-3

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity also remained at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. Night hours and immediately after local dawn, enhanced conditions were observed, compared to the predicted monthly values.

On the 8th and 9th, conditions were enhanced 45% during local night and 25% after local dawn; on the 10th, enhanced 55% during local night and 20% after local dawn. The 11th was enhanced 60% during local night and 20% after local dawn, the 12th was enhanced 55% during local night. The 13th was enhanced 30% during local night and 20% after local dawn; and the 14th saw enhancement of 15% during local night and 20% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, to low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values with some enhanced periods likely.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

For April, we had a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 12th to the 13th

So far for May, we expect a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 11th to the 12th, and the 24th to the 31st

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 15th to the 28th

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?

Today 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: 6-FCAL151.wav]

Duration: 1m31s

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

STAY AT HOME STATIONS. More special event stations will join the cause to raise awareness of restrictions necessary to fight the spread of the coronavirus and to thank health and medical workers worldwide, including: 6Y6STAYHOME, AU2COV, GB2CCW, HA0HOME, HA0STAY, OE1STAYHOME and SZ3STAYHOME.

SINGAPORE; 9V1STAYHOME will be active until June 30.

KENYA; Members of the Radio Society of Kenya (RSK) are joining the COVID-19 effort with the call sign 5Z4STAYHOME.

WEST MALAYSIA; The Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters Society (MARTS) will be active with special event call signs 9M4STAYHOME, 9M4COVID and 9M4DUDUKRUMAH[9 M 4 doo-DOOK ROO-mah] for three months, from May 15. Look for them on the HF bands using SSB, CW and digital modes.

COLOMBIA; 5JSTAYHOME is the latest COVID-19 special event station from Colombia. Note there is only one number in the call sign.

INDIA; Members of the Tripura Ham Radio Club support the present stay-at-home operations as AT2THC until August 1 on the HF bands.

SAMOA; COVID-19 special event call 5W19STAYSAFE will be operated by Atsu, 5W1SA. Samoa is one of the very few places on earth that has no reported cases of the novel Coronavirus due to the early government lockdown.

In other activity on the air for this week;

GREENLAND; Bo, OZ1DJJ is active from Aasiaat Island (NA-134) as OX3LX, in his spare time. He will be active until May 21.

GEORGIA; Look for Vakhtang, 4L8A in the CQ WPX CW contest May 30 and 31, on 20 metres, single op.

GUANTANAMO BAY; Kelly, KG4NE expects to be active until at least May 28, with activity on 40 and 6 metres.

SPAIN; AM40LAR celebrates the 40th anniversary of a radio program dedicated to amateur radio and broadcast by RNE Radio 4. They are active until May 31.

ENGLAND; GB2CCW will be active during the second half of May, honouring care workers during the pandemic. Also, stations celebrating the end of World War II include GB0PIE, GB1PIJ and GB4VED.

NETHERLANDS; PD75DDAY commemorates the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II. They will be active until the end of May.

AUSTRALIA; Australian amateurs may use the prefix AX on May 17 to mark the World Telecommunication Day.

CANADA; Jean, VE2JCW will use special call sign VE2SPEED, through the month of June to commemorate the Montreal Grand Prix, even if the race is canceled.

MOROCCO; Look for 5C1WTIS to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, until May 17.

SAUDIA ARABIA; The Saudi Amateur Radio Society will join the on air activity for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day with HZ1WTIS, until May 17. Also, HZ1DG is a new six metre beacon, transmitting on 50.055 MHz and using 5 watts into a vertical antenna. The grid locator is LK18gf.

GERMANY; Station DL70IPA will be active as part of the 70th anniversary of the International Police Association. IPARC, the IPA Radio Club, plans various operations in August and November.

JAPAN; Members of the Yoneyama HF Club (JR0YHF) will be operating special event station 8J0K in celebration of the 80th anniversary of Kashiwazaki city in Niigata Japan. They will be active until March 31, 2021, on 1.8 MHz through 5.7 GHz.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The UN DX Contest, NZART Sangster Shield Contest, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest, Aegean RTTY Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are all on this weekend.
The RSGB FT4 Contest Series is on May 18.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Due to COVID-19, WICEN has cancelled participation in all but emergency activations, and moving training and meeting to radio and other electronic means.

WICEN is running checkin nets twice daily. In Sydney, the repeaters are VK2RWC on 2m and VK2RWS and VK2RWK on 70cm. For members outside the Sydney basin, there is also a morning-only net on the User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network, which has reasonable coverage across the state.

Should it be safe to do so, training in the use of chainsaws will be provided on 3 to 5 July, most likely in northern Sydney. In the meantime, members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

More details are on WICEN's website, 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. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria has a 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.

Like many organisations, the Club is operating without face-to-face meetings. Club business continues, with individual members contributing by undertaking various tasks to keep the club operating.

Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets, which appear to be attracting a larger number of participants each week. There are two nets each week; 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. Access to VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink, for those outside the coverage area of the repeater.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The newly published May 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Despite recent relaxation of some travel restrictions, the club rooms are still closed and face-to-face activities are currently still on hold.

The Club held its first online meeting yesterday via Google Meet, and it was a success. Some club members used their computer, some used their smart devices and some dialled in directly from a telephone. A great experience all around and the club wishes to thank those who attended.

The club recently performed a hardware upgrade on their MMDVM based Brandmeister DMR repeater. Now running dedicated hardware that directly interfaces with the 70cm repeater has made programming much easier. A shout out to the repeater team, for keeping all the services in check. The MMDVM Build day continues to progress with Project Facilitator Tom VK2VC working with suppliers for applicable components.

The club's executive team have been working in the background with surrounding clubs on future collaboration projects and initiatives, with a key focus on how amateur radio is perceived today amongst the community.

Did you know; the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB, is an AMC Level 3 assessor and the club has the capability to perform remote education and assessment sessions? If you are interested, please contact Karen by email, to; education@ccarc.org.au.

The Club hosts a Morning Tea net at 10am daily. Grab a cuppa and come along for a chat. Our thanks to Bob VK2AOR who has run the net for over 40 days now. There have even been some international stations dropping in to say hello. The club also runs a weekly Thursday evening net starting at 8pm with varying topics of discussion each week. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater, 146.725MHz. You can also view the live stream of the Thursday evening net on Facebook, watch later on the clubs YouTube channel, join via EchoLink, using the *CCARCNSW* conference server.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; or on Facebook, just search for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Like everything else at the moment, face to face activities of the Society have been suspended. Most activities are continuing on air, or line using Zoom, with great success, or on air. Members on the Society's email list will get an invitation, with login details, for each activity.

The next event is the monthly meeting this coming Wednesday, May 20th, which is the Society's annual general meeting.

We have rescheduled our special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty, for the September meeting, by which time we hope to be back to in person meetings. It is scheduled to be held in the ANZAC room in the Rose Bay RSL club next door to the usual meeting venue. Kerrie's talk will be on the Australis OSCAR-5, the satellite built in Melbourne.

The next scheduled Foundation weekend is in September over the weekend of the 19th & 20th; Hopefully that one will be able to go ahead. In the meantime, some assessments are still being run as remote assessments by Level 3 assessors. If you wish to undertake a remote assessment, please contact the AMC, at amc.ar@utas.edu.au to arrange an assessment. Note that assessments can only be carried out by level three assessors and are done on a one to one basis.

The Society's weekly net continues as usual, on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually MC'ed by Richard VK2XRC.

You can keep up to date with full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the website, at vk2bv.org. You can book events, pay membership fees and purchase kits on line, or use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Instead of meetings at Mt Colah, extra on air will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, via the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Net control will either be under the callsign VK2WAH, using the phonetics "We Are Home"; or VK2MA. The next on air net will be on Tuesday the 26th of May.

The Club's website has more details on this and other changes to club activities; the address is www.hadarc.org.au. The site also includes a contact form.

The Club runs three regular 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 club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian AX2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Activities on the air

Here is a summary 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 after.

Central Coast ARC net Thursday night on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; also on Echolink *CCARCNSW*. Morning tea net daily from 10am, also on VK2RAG.

Illawarra ARS Nets - Tuesday at 8:30pm on on 80m, 3666kHz. Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

WICEN daily nets at 9am on the VK-DMR network on Talk group 3810, VK2RWC on 147.150 and VK2RWS 438.275. Evening net at 7pm, on the Sydney repeaters only.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Other club activities online, see website for details.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz

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

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz. Next meeting net Tuesday 26th from 8pm on VK2RNS and on Jitsi.

Manly-Warringah on air meeting net is every Wednesday from 8pm on 146.875MHz.

At ARNSW, Morning News bulletins continue, and audio can be downloaded or streamed live from the website.