

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

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.

This year's Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales, took place yesterday on Saturday May 30th, via video conference. Starting at 11am, the meeting reached a quorum, with 33 members joining on line, on mobile devices, and via telephone dial-in.

After a brief period of familiarisation with the video conference environment, the meeting proceeded largely as normal. In all the meeting ran successfully, with the added benefit of allowing the participation of members who could not practically attend Dural, even under normal circumstances without travel restrictions. The Board of ARNSW will be considering how to continue to use similar technology for 'hybrid' meetings in the future.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The group usually meets at VK2WI Dural, after the bimonthly Trash & Treasure; but with restrictions continuing, the group is again having an online meeting via Skype.

Skype is a free download, available for almost all computers and smartphones. The link for the Skype group call is on the home page of the ARNSW website, arnsw.org.au. The link is already active if you want to test, but the meeting will start at noon AEST.

[skype meeting link <https://join.skype.com/PFCoaE95dVMs>]

Some tips for those new to Skype; a headset with microphone will help your audio, but the computer's built in audio will often be ok; and it's a good idea to mute your audio when you are not talking.

The meeting will start with a bit of online help to get everyone's audio and video working, followed by some show and tell and discussion.

We will also try to record the audio and put it on the website, to be available for later download.

ARNSW HF Operations Group

Earlier this year, the ARNSW HF Operating Group commenced regular operations from the Dural site, on Mondays from 3pm through into the evening.

The group had to suspend activities due to Covid-19 restrictions, but as restrictions are being progressively lifted, the group is planning to resume operations in the coming weeks.

If you live in an apartment, or are still setting up your station, the group provides you with an opportunity to get on the air from Dural, using the club station VK2AWI.

For more information, or to let us know if you are interested in attending, please contact the group by email to HFgroup@arnsw.org.au. We will continue to provide updates on this, and other operations as they resume, here on VK2WI News.

*Fred VK2WS
Coordinator, ARNSW HF Operations Group*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22nd to the 28th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th
10cm flux	71	69	69	70	70	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	4	5	7	3	6	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	1	4	3	1	2	0 estimated
T index	-3	+1	1	12	5	1	-6

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity reached unsettled levels on the 24th, but otherwise remained quiet.

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 conditions were enhanced 25% during local night on the 22nd, 30% during local night on the 23rd, and 45% during local night on the 24th. The 25th saw a very significant enhancement, with night frequencies enhanced by 100% relative to predicted monthly values, and 25% enhancement after local dawn. Enhancement continued during local night hours for the rest of the period, with 70% enhancement on the 26th, 45% on the 27th, and 20% during local night on the 28th.

Now, the forecast for the 29th of May to the 4th of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very 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 possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

At the end of May, we had a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 9th to the 10th, and the 21st to the 23rd

Coming up to June, we expect a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With no peak prediction at the moment.

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
Again, with no peak prediction at the moment.

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-FCAL185.wav]

Duration: 3m12s

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

Several stations are on air especially for the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest this weekend, running through to 2359UTC on Sunday.

GEORGIA; Vaho, 4L8A plans to be active from Tbilisi, as a Single Op/Single Band on 20 metres.

BARBADOS; Charles, 8P6ET is active as 8P1W.

CHINA; Members of the ZhangJiaGang Amateur Radio Association are active as BI4WXD as a Multi 2/High Power entry.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS; Yuriy, N2TTA plans to be active as WP2DX as a Single Op/Low Power entry.

LITHUANIA; Rolandas, LY5AA is active as LY88A in the contest, as a Single Band on 160 metres entry.

ALAND ISLANDS; Team OH0Z will be active as a Multi/Single entry, although their main purpose will be antenna work.

DENMARK; Henning, OZ2I will be active as 5Q6EE from Odense as a Single Op/Low Power entry.

COSTA RICA; Kam, TI5/N3KS plans to be active as TI7W as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; William, KO7SS will be active as ZF2SS.

NEW ZEALAND; Holger, ZL3IO and Jacky, ZL3CW will be active as ZM4T and ZM1A, respectively.

PARAGUAY; Manu, ZP9MCE will be active as a Single Op/Single Band on 160 metres entry.

In other DX activity this week;

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society are active with twelve stations with the suffix NMT, which stands for National Medical Taskforce, during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Stations

A60NMT/1 through A60NMT/12 are active, although the length of their activity is unknown.

PHILIPPINES; Tim, M0FGC is active as DU3TW while permanently living in Arayat. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres using mostly CW, with some SSB, FT8 and WSPR.

ENGLAND; Special event station GB2CDK will be active from June 1 to 12 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the June 9, 1870 death of author Charles Dickens.

MONGOLIA; Special event station JU85UIA celebrates the founding of the University of Internal Affairs 85 years ago.

ALASKA; Brayden, KC1KUG will be active as KL7/KC1KUG from Fire Island, IOTA NA-158, from June 2 to 27. Activity will be mainly on 40 and 20 metres, and possibly 30 and 17 metres, using CW, SSB and FT8.

AUSTRIA; Hannes, OE1SGU is active with special call sign OE30MAGICBAND from Vienna until June 30 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the allocation of the 6 metre band to Austrian amateurs. Activity is mainly on 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

GUATEMALA; Enrique, YS1RM is active as TG9/YS1RM from Guatemala City. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. His length of stay is unknown.

CANADA; Jean, VE2JCW will be active with special event call sign VE2SPEED during June in reference to the Montreal Grand Prix, even though the event is cancelled.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest, PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, RSGB Hope QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship is scheduled for June 1. The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for June 2. The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for June 3.

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.

Preparations are underway for the 2020 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic to take place in October. The event, with WICEN's support, will only go ahead if the requirements for "Return to Sport" can be met.

The daily WICEN checkin nets are being replaced by a weekly broadcast and net. The last daily net will be today, and from next Sunday, the broadcast will be at 6pm, with the checkin net at 6:30pm. On the 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays this will be on the Chatswood 2m repeater, then On 2nd and 3rd Sundays the Kurrajong - Berowra 70 cm FM system, and callbacks User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network.

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 or the CRARC Facebook page.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. Their first event back may be Ballarat's Eureka Rally on August 22 and 23. 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.

The June Committee meeting was held virtually, and minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs. There will not be a June Monthly General Meeting due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Next weekend is the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend –The Club's 2020 Field Day, which usually takes place over the long weekend, has been cancelled. The next Field Day will take place next year, during the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend in June 2021.

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 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

While the NSW state government is progressively easing restrictions, the club unfortunately still has not received the go-ahead to resume in person activities. The club's executive committee is in close communication with other surrounding clubs, to manage a scaled re-opening plan.

If you have recently heard some unfamiliar sounds on 40 metres; you might have just heard part of a new experiment, Spectrum Painting. This is where specialised software generates a transmitted signal, which appears as an image on a spectrum waterfall. You can find more information about this on the web.

The club's executive team have been in discussions with surrounding clubs on future collaboration initiatives, with a key focus on how amateur radio is perceived today amongst the community and would love to hear from other clubs within Australia who may be interested.

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.

With many club members spending more time at their QTH, we're hoping that you have been able to do some work on your shack or finish a long-standing project. The Clubs Website Admin, Henrick VK2FTDR, would love to have a few photos and a small write up for the club's future publications.

The club wishes to say a special thanks to Bob VK2AOR for hosting the "Are you okay" net at 10am each day, on the VK2RAG repeater on 146.725MHz. This has been an incredible initiative, with an average of 15 check-ins each day from stations both local and afar. Today will now be day 59 of this net, an amazing effort! If you're within range of our repeater, why not drop by? Check ins are also welcomed via the club's Echolink & IRLP services.

The Club's Thursday continues, starting at 8pm with varying topics of discussion each week. The most recent topic was "What memory banks or talk groups do you most use in your shack?"

The club has numerous stations checking in from interstate and even overseas; this week a special mention goes to Dwayne N9ZIV who checks in each week via EchoLink.

This net is also on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater, plus you can also view the live stream on Facebook, watch later on the clubs YouTube channel, or 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.

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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 nets now on Sunday evenings, see the website for details.

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

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting 7:30pm this Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz. Regular weekly net following.

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

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz.

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. The ARNSW Radio experimenter's group meeting will be online from noon today.