

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

With some restrictions still in place due to Covid-19, there are no events currently planned at VK2WI Dural. We are monitoring the advice from government and public health organisations, and we are planning to resume in person activities when it is practical.

As a result of the public health restrictions, many clubs and groups have increased on air activities. 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.

One of the activities we are particularly looking forward to resuming is the ARNSW HF Operating Group. Established earlier this year, the group plans to soon resume regular operations from the Dural site. Activity usually takes place on Mondays from 3pm through into the early evening, using club station VK2AWI.

The group is looking forward to resuming activities soon, 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.

US Licence examinations

Ever wanted to be the first person in the world to do something?

With public health restrictions easing, the VEA team is planning a US licence exam session on July 1. Since this is the date of introduction of the new Extra class licence paper – if you attend the session, you could well be the first person to pass the new Extra Class examination.

The exams are planned to be at Meadowbank, close to that northern line railway station. For more information or to register your interest, please contact the team via the website, vea.org.au.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (and AG6LE)

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29th of May to the 4th of June.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm flux	70	70	71	69	70	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	13	4	7	7	3	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	9	1	2	4	1	2 estimated
T index	-6	+6	5	2	10	0	-1

Solar activity was moderate on the 29th, with an M1.1 class solar flare observed at 0742UTC. Activity then quickly settled down, remaining at very low levels for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity reached unsettled levels on the 30th, 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.

Conditions were enhanced 20% during local night on the 29th; 80% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 30th, and 40% during local night on the 31st. The 1st saw enhancement of 35% during local night and 25% after local dawn, the 2nd was enhanced 45% during local night, the 3rd was enhanced 15% during local night, and the 4th saw enhancement of 20% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 5th to the 11th of June;

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.

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

So far for June, we expect a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 6th to the 13th, and the 22nd to the 30th

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 5th, and the 19th to the 21st

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>]

Space Weather Summary for May 2020

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominantly at Very Low levels this month, however, moderate solar activity was observed on the 29th of May, due to a single impulsive M1.1 flare. The last M-class flare was on the 20th of October 2017. This flare originated from a solar region located behind the north-east solar limb and the solar latitude of this region, suggests it is a new cycle region. The region appeared to be in decay as it rotated onto the solar disk, reportedly briefly visible as just a single simple spot. The same solar region also produced a C9.4 flare at 1046UTC on the 29th of May. Minor non-Earth directed coronal mass ejections were also observed. At present, new cycle spot groups do not seem to last for more than a few days before decaying, and have yet to produce significant solar activity.

No significant geomagnetic disturbances in the Australian region were observed during the month; the ionosphere was also relatively stable as a result. A HF communications warning was issued for shortwave fadeouts following the M1.1 flare on the 29th of May, but no further M class flares were observed.

Some minor depressions were observed at times in the Southern Australian region; the worst was with MUFs depressed 15% below predicted monthly values.

[Play ID File: 5-OP ID2.wav]

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-FCAL154.wav]

Duration: 2m39s

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

CUBA; Special event station CO200SMP will be active from June 8th to 30th, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of San Miguel del Padron, one of Havana's municipalities. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

GERMANY; Volker, DL1WH will be active as DL1WH/p from Sylt Island, IOTA EU-042, until June 19. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using mainly CW with some SSB.

SPAIN; Special event station EG1FSB will be active from June 8 to 14 to commemorate the Festivals of San Bernabe and La Rioja Day.

FRANCE; Members of the Radio Club of the British Breakout from Normandy Museum will be active as TM80CDG until June 20th to commemorate Charles de Gaulle's speech made via the BBC on 18 June 1940. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

SWITZERLAND; Special event station HB15SOTA is active until May 8, 2021 in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the SOTA Group Switzerland.

ANTARCTICA; Station KC4USV located at the McMurdo Station, IOTA AN-011, has been active on 20 metres using SSB.

PERU; Daniel, OA9DVK, is a missionary who is active from the Amazon Rain Forest in Peru. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 6 metres.

CANADA; Special event station VX3X is active until June 30 to commemorate the Apollo 13 space mission. QSL direct to VE3IKV.

NICARAGUA; Trevis, YN7ZTR is a missionary working in Gaunacastillo for the next two years. He is active in his spare time.

COVID-19 SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS; A number of special event stations are active with the STAYHOME suffix including, 4U9STAYHOME, 9M4STAYHOME, 9V1STAYHOME, A43STAYHOME, CR2STAYHOME, CV7STAYHOME, E2STAYHOME, E7STAYHOME, and YO1STAYHOME. Many of these stations will participate in the STAYATHOME Contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The RSGB Hope FT4 QSO Party, 9th Green Party, HA3NS Sprint Memorial CW Contest, PVRC Reunion, 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, VK Shires Contest, DigiFest, Wake-Up QRP CW Sprint, COVID-19 Radio Communication Event, UKSMG Summer Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, KANHAM Contest and the Cookie Crumble QRP Contest will certainly keep contesters very busy this weekend.

The RSGB Hope QSO SSB Party is scheduled for June 8.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, RSGB Hope QSO CW Party and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for June 9.

The UKEICC 80-Metre Summer Series, RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship, RSGB Hope QSO RTTY Party, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, NAQCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 10.

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 continuing for the 2020 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, planned 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.

WICEN is now running a weekly broadcast on Sunday evenings from 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 on User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network.

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.

A training course is planned for the 3rd to the 5th of July, on the use of chainsaws in safely clearing fallen timber.

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

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 next planned car rally involvement is the NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" on July the 4th. 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 is planned to 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.

This weekend is normally the Club's annual field day, but this has been cancelled this year due to restrictions with COVID-19. The Field Day will however be back 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 clubs executive committee is currently working on plans to resume in person activities in compliance with the health and social distancing requirements.

The Club's AGM will be held in August, with the exact date still to be determined. This means the date for membership renewals is approaching soon. You can email treasurer@ccarc.org.au, to renew or check your current status.

The executive team have been in discussions with Benjamin ZL1BEN regarding a YOTA Oceania initiative. YOTA, or Youngsters On The Air, has a large following in the USA and the club looks forward to working with Benjamin on bringing a new generation of Amateur operators into the hobby. You can find more information about YOTA on Facebook by searching for "Youngsters on the air Oceania".

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, club 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 66 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 clubs Echolink & IRLP services.

The Club's Thursday continues, starting at 8pm with varying topics of discussion each week. The most recent net was facilitated by Alan VK2MG.

You may recognize that callsign, since Alan is an avid WWFF (That's World Wide Flora and Fauna) activator. You will find him out most weekends. Make sure you keep an ear out!

The club has numerous stations checking in from interstate and overseas; A mention this week goes to Kent K3NTH.

Remember, you can view the live stream of the Thursday evening net on the clubs Facebook page, and join in via Echo link using the *CCARCNSW* conference server.

Both nets are available via the VK2RAG 2 Meter repeater 146.725Mhz.

This Club's MMDVM based DMR repeater is now active, and connected to the Brandmeister network. Note that only talk groups on this system, can be connected.

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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The society operated the VK2RDX repeater, located at Mt. Bindo in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, between Lithgow and Jenolan Caves.

Installed in the 1970's, the repeater has an output of 146.650 MHz and a negative 600 kHz offset and no subaudible tone is required.

The repeater also relays VK2WI News bulletins, and callbacks are taken after the news. During May, there were 43 callbacks with amateurs from Sydney as well as Bathurst, as far west as Orange, and anywhere in between.

Amateurs in the areas surrounding Sydney, and the Blue Mountains, are encouraged to check out the repeater.

Peter VK2EMU

On behalf of the St George Amateur Radio Society.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Given the ongoing "QRM from COVID", HADARC will be replacing My Colah meetings with extra nets on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater.

The next net is this Tuesday the 9th of June, starting at 8pm. Net control will be using the callsign VK2WAH, with the phonetics "We Are Home". This will be supplemented by video conferencing using Jitsi, which also provides a way for those members outside of Sydney to take part. The following meeting will be on the 23rd.

The Club's website has more details on this and other changes to club activities, along with information on how to use Jitsi; you can even join a Jitsi conference from a standard telephone. The address is www.hadarc.org.au. The site also includes a contact form.

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

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.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
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 nets now on Sunday evenings from 6pm, 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, on air net this Tuesday at 8pm on VK2RNS – net control is VK2WAH[we are home].

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.