

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5th to the 11th of June.

First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 5 th | 6 th | 7 th | 8 th | 9 th | 10 th | 11 th |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm flux | 71 | 72 | 73 | 71 | 72 | 71 | 72 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 4 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 5 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 estimated |
| T index | -1 | +4 | 3 | 5 | -1 | +6 | 2 |

Solar activity was at very low levels all week.

Geomagnetic activity 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. However some enhanced conditions were observed during local night hours, and after local dawn.

Conditions were enhanced 20% during local night on the 5th; 25% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 6th, and 35% during local night and 25% after local dawn, on the 7th. The 8th was enhanced 30% during local night, the 9th was enhanced 45%, the 10th enhanced 40%, and the 11th saw enhancement of 35%, during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 12th to the 18th 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 range from near predicted monthly values, to 20% enhanced.

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 68, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates from the 6th to the 15th, and the 28th to the 30th

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 1st to the 12th, and the 25th to the 27th

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>]

[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-FCAL161.wav]

Duration 4m39s

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 is active until June 30 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of San Miguel del Padron, one of the fifteen municipalities that make up the city of Havana. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

ANGOLA; Gabriel, D2EB, has 6 metre capabilities and may soon be active from Grid Square JI61pe.

ENGLAND; Members of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society will be active with special event station GB100MZX until June 20, to commemorate the first official British radio broadcast 100 years ago.

WALES; Members of Dragon Amateur Radio Club are active from special event station GB0MZX until June 21 to commemorate the first official British radio broadcast 100 years ago.

JAPAN; Katsu, JR7AMZ is active from Oshima, IOTA AS-206. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly FT8.

SVALBARD; Bjorn, LA5NUA and Jurn, LA5LUA are active as JW5NUA and JW5LUA, respectively.

BRAZIL; Members of the Clube de Radioamadores de Sao Miguel do Oeste are active with special call ZZ60CRASMO during June to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

SOMALIA; Ali, 6O1OO has been active on 20 metres using FT4 in DXpedition mode around 2320UTC.

CHAD; Nicolas, TT8SN has been active on 6 metres using FT8 just after 1000UTC.

MALI; Jeff, TZ4AM has been active on 20 metres CW around 0820UTC.

AUSTRALIA; Members of the Wireless Institute of Australia are active with special call VI110WIA until the end of 2020 to celebrate the club's 110th anniversary. Activity is on the HF bands.

INDIA ; Verghese, VU3WNI is active with special call AU9VV until August 20, while participating in the STAY-HOME activities. In addition, VU2USI is active as AT2SAH until August 19.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Frank, KK5XX is active as ZF2FD from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, until June 17. Activity is holiday style on 80, 40 and 20 metres using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL June VHF Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, RSGB Hope QSO CW Party, SMIRK 6-Metre Contest, DRCG World Wide RTTY Contest, Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Portugal Day Contest, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, REF DDFM 6-Metre Contest and RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB Hope QSO FT4 Party, RSGB FT4 Contest Series and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are all scheduled for June 15.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SARL Youth 40-Metre SSB Sprint, RSGB Hope QSO SSB Party and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for June 16.

The RSGB Hope QSO CW Party, CWops Mini-CWT Test, NAQCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 17.

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, subject to the requirements for "Return to Sport" being met. This event supports Arrow, the bone marrow transplant foundation.

WICEN is now running weekly nets on Sunday evenings. The main net is at 6pm, with a checking 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 also 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 BMSC Narooma Rally on the 1st of August. 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. The website is at vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM link; <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/>]

[Play ID File: 7-OP ID3.wav]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Amateur Radio Central West Group.

The group normally meets on the first Sunday of the month in Orange; however, with the current restrictions the group is instead holding meetings on the air, on club repeater VK2RCW situated at Gowan. Additional access is facilitated via EchoLink for members outside the coverage area of VK2RCW.

The group also run nets on Monday and Friday nights at 8pm on the 2m repeater and on HF 3.653MHz on Wednesday night at 8pm.

During the physical isolation Kym VK2ASY has instigated an Afternoon Tea net at 4pm each day. This net has been very successful with a great rollup each afternoon. These sessions are open to all amateurs in the area to join in the conversation.

*Garry VK2GLJ
Secretary, Amateur Radio Central West Group*

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.

There are two club 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. 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 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

Whilst restrictions have not yet been lifted, the team have been busy preparing the clubrooms for re-opening. Brad VK2NMZ, Jaye VK2FOMG and Steve VK2SKC recently performed a thorough clean; all surfaces and floors have been disinfected and sanitised, and the rooms have been restructured and signposted to ensure compliance with physical distancing requirements, based on the "4 square metre" rule. Hand Sanitiser has also been placed in various areas of the clubrooms, including entry and exits.

The Club wishes to advise Mark VK2CCR has made the decision to step down as club Secretary, due to personal reasons. Mark has provided the club with near three terms of office and has been instrumental in guiding the team through numerous matters and considerations. The club thanks Mark for his service, and we hope to see him around the grounds and on the air. In the meantime, Club President Jaye VK2FOMG will fulfil this role in his place until the next AGM, which is coming up in August.

The Club's membership renewal date of the 1st of July, is fast approaching. Please make sure you renew your membership; you can contact treasurer@ccarc.org.au to renew, or to check your current membership status.

The Clubs repeater team have been making preparations to introduce a VK-DMR repeater service at VK2RAG. So far, frequency allocations and antenna array selection and are good to go; so watch this space!

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 recently held a combined net with KR4KZ-R via EchoLink on the 10th of June; this was a highlight for all on the 222 Fun-net (hosted in Orlando Florida). One station who had been licenced for 38 years in Florida said it was the best net they've ever been a part of. The team welcomes this to happen again.

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 73 of this net, an amazing effort!

The Club’s Thursday evening net this week, was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ. Topic of the evening was, *“What is the most exciting or fulfilling thing that you've done in Amateur Radio?”* and he was amazed at the responses.

There were many examples of stations clearly remembering their first contacts, DX-peditions, awards and building a piece of equipment from scratch and no smoke coming out when power was applied.

The standout comment was from Myles VK2ASS who said *“the most fulfilling thing in amateur radio is the people they have met and the friends they have made and the people who have helped him and the people he has been able to help with different things, sharing experiences and learning from other people.”* This comment resonated with many participants on the net who resonated closely to the comment. An incredible discussion topic and is a great conversation starter.

Both club nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, on 146.725Mhz; If you’re within range of our repeater, why not drop by? Check ins are also welcomed via the clubs Echolink & IRLP services.

You can also 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.

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.*

Hunter Radio Group

In place of the regular meetings, the Group conducts a weekly net on the Group's VHF Repeater, on 146.9MHz. The net is on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm.

The Hunter Radio Group also 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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Like everything else at the moment, face to face activities of the club have been suspended during the lockdown, however it looks like we may be able to start getting back to face to face meetings very shortly. Our landlord has given permission for this to start shortly, probably in the next couple of weeks.

Most activities have been on air, or on line using Zoom, with great success. Email invitations are sent out to members via the email group; there is a separate invitation for each activity, containing the login to each one.

The last meeting was held last month on Zoom and this was the society's AGM. It was very successful, with the committee remaining unchanged from the previous year.

This coming meeting on Wednesday, the 17th, will be the monthly meeting commencing at 7:30pm on Zoom and it is expected that there will be some general discussion about getting back to some sort of normality. You can also show and tell about projects you may be working on at the moment.

We have rescheduled our special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty, for the September meeting, by which time we should be back to in person meetings. This meeting 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 and launched by NASA.

The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st starting at 7:30pm. The next project day will be on Saturday July 4th commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm. Hopefully, these activities will be able to be resumed at Rose Bay.

The next Tuesday working bee is this coming Tuesday and will be on Zoom but we are hoping to have things together to have a limited face to face one at the club the following week on June 24th.

The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month. The next one is scheduled for July 14th from 7:30pm. The club's Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month at so the next one is on July 5th.

The next Foundation weekend is scheduled for September 19th and 20th and looks like it will be going ahead, albeit with limited numbers. We are awaiting notification from AMC about in person assessments again; full details and registration form can be found on the society's website, at vk2bv.org.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually MC'ed by Richard VK2XRC.

Remember that all face to face activities are currently pending, and it is planned to include Zoom connectivity for future meetings.

More information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society can be found on the website, at vk2bv.org. You can book for courses or assessments, or use the contact form on the website to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

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. 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.*

[Play ID File: 8-OP ID4.wav]

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 meeting net Wednesday 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.
VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

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.

Amateur Radio Central West Group afternoon tea net 4pm, Monday and Friday night at 8pm, on VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday on 3653kHz.

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 Tuesday the 23rd 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.