

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

With public health restrictions easing, the VEA team is now planning the next in person US licence exam session in Sydney, for Thursday the 2nd of July at Meadowbank, commencing at 6pm.

This examination will include an Extra Class assessment, based on the new licence paper.

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 12th to the 18th of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
10cm flux	71	69	70	70	69	69	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	64	4	3	5	7	5	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	0	2	2	2	2 estimated
T index	+3	-3	0	-7	-5	-9	-6

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 45% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 12th; 20% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 13th, and 30% during local night on the 14th. The 15th was enhanced 20% during local night, the 16th was enhanced 25%, the 17th enhanced 15%, and the 18th saw enhancement of 20%, during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 19th to the 25th 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, with enhancements likely during local nights.

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 70, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates from the 6th to the 13th, and the 20th to the 27th

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68
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.

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Duration 2m58s

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

WEST MALAYSIA; Members of the Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters are active with special call 9M2STAYHOME until August 11, to support and promote social distancing to encourage people to stay within their homes to slow the spread of COVID-19.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; Special event station A60CH is active from Sharjah during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BAHRAIN; In recognition of June 23 being United Nations Public Service Day, Fawaz, A92AA is active using special event station A91PSD until June 23.

SPAIN; Members of the URE section San Fernando will be active with special event callsign AM500ISJ until June 28, to mark a milestone made during Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe.

ENGLAND; Special event station GB125NT is active until June 28 from the Marconi Lizard Wireless Station to draw attention to the 125th anniversary of the National Trust.

ALAND ISLANDS; Bosse, OH0BHU has been active on 6 metres using mostly SSB with some CW.

DENMARK; Michael, OZ1KZX is active as 5P2LND from Langeland Island, IOTA EU-172, until June 20. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

BONAIRE ; John, W2GD will be active as PJ4/W2GD until June 21. He will be active as time permits with a focus on the All Asia DX CW contest.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station R300WORF is active until August 31 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Dmitriy Ivanovitch Vinogradov[*vee-noh-GRAH-dof*], the inventor of Russian porcelain.

FALKLAND ISLANDS; Bob, VP8HDM will be active as VP8HDM/A from various locations during International Museum Weekends 2020.

INDONESIA; Members of the ORARI Lokal Blitar will be active with special event call sign 8A50BK on June 20 and 21.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, Z81D is monitoring for 6 metre FT4 stations. He is also active on 40 to 12 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; ARRL SSB Kids Day, All Asian DX CW Contest, International Museum Weekends 2020, NCCC CW Sprint, RSGB Hope SSB QSO Party, Battle of Carabobo International Contest, Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, IARU Region 1 50/70 MHz Contest, Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, West Virginia QSO Party, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, WAB 50 MHz Phone and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

The RSGB Hope CW QSO Party is scheduled for June 22.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RSGB Hope FT4 QSO Party are scheduled for June 23.

The SKCC CW Sprint, CWops Mini-CWT Test, RSGB Hope SSB QSO Party, and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 24..

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. 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 check-in 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, followed at 6:30pm by a net on User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network.

WICEN members who are able to assist with an equipment stocktake, are requested to make contact via the webform. The webform, along with more information about WICEN's can be found at; nsw.wicen.org.au. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page; and an informal national WICEN group.

The chainsaw training course, previously planned for the 3rd to the 5th of July, is currently subject to confirmation; but it is still too early to make any puns regarding the course being axed. 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, and the LCCC "Blue Range Rallysprint" on September 5. For more information visit 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/>]

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Club News

We start this week with news from the Great Lakes Radio Club.

With Covid-19 restrictions somewhat eased, last Monday the 15th of June, the club recommenced face-to-face meetings, adhering to physical distancing and the 4 square metre rule.

During restrictions, the club has introduced an informal net on Monday evenings at 7pm on the 2 metre repeater VK2RGL. The net proved quite popular and at the last club meeting, it was decided it should continue while there is interest. Anyone within range of the repeater is most welcome to join the weekly net, and the VK2RGL repeater can also be accessed via Echolink.

To avoid a clash between the Monday evening net and in-person meetings, the club has also decided to move physical meetings to the last Tuesday of each month.

So the next in person-meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th July at the usual venue; that is, the studios of Great Lakes FM Community Radio, 16 Douglas Avenue, Tuncurry NSW 2428. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm. For visitors and those unfamiliar with the venue, entry is via the rear door accessed from the car parking area.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings however, it should be noted that there may still be limits on numbers attending the meeting due to restrictions and the size of the meeting venue. It might be wise to contact the club by email at secretary@glrc.org.au to check beforehand.

Great Lakes Radio Club serves the mid-north coast area of NSW, centred on the twin towns of Forster-Tuncurry. The club operates the VK2RGL repeaters from Cabbage Tree Mountain on 147.1 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone required and 439.775 MHz with no tone required.

The club also has a Facebook group; just search for Great Lakes Radio Club.

*Andy VK2AAK
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club*

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 Committee is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation to determine if a face-to-face Monthly General Meeting can be held on Saturday the 4th of July. A firm decision will be made in the coming week and an announcement will be made in next week's news.

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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.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club's is planning a car boot sale on Saturday the 18th of July in the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8am, with physical distancing in place.

You can set up a stall at no charge, but bring your own table. There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available.

All are welcome. For more information, contact the club on 0478228983.

Westlakes has a net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30am on 3565kHz.

Barrie VK2QG

Vice president, Westlakes 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As mentioned last week, club members have been working to preparing the club rooms, and we are excited to announce the club will be re-opening its doors on Saturday the 4th of July from 10:30am, with a BBQ from around 11:30. The club will also be holding its first face to face general business meeting, starting at 1pm.

Things have changed slightly to make the clubrooms COVID compliant; physical distancing requirements mean that unfortunately, not everybody will be able to be in the clubrooms during meetings. Alternative arrangements will be set in place with External video conferencing options available.

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 would like to acknowledge Max VK2XOR and Brad VK2NMZ for their work on the clubs digital D-star repeater. The service will soon be back online, awaiting final details from the D-Star trust server team.

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 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. Something that start out small, has grown into a significant achievement; now we are up to day 80 of the net, with checkins daily from stations across the globe.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week, was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ. Topic of the evening was, *"Have you built a radio-related device from scratch and what was it?"*

We were joined by stations from Florida, Scotland, England and all over Australia with some fantastic examples provided ranging from building a tower from scratch using upcycled parts, to an Amateur TV transmitter along with many other small projects.

The standout comment was from Carmel, VK2CAR who provided insight to her homebrew electric vehicle conversation, it was absolutely incredible.

The club wishes to thank those who frequently check in from different locations. It means a lot to the club and shows how much of an impact the club has made and the geographical footprint they have achieved.

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?

Remember, you can view the live stream of the Thursday evening net from the clubs Facebook page, or join in via Echo link using the *CCARCNSW* conference server and more recently via IRLP reflector 9509.

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.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be on-air, on the Club repeater, VK2RFG, on a new date; the next meeting will be on Thursday the 25th of June.

The meeting will precede the Club's regular weekly net on Thursday evening, which will go ahead as usual after the meeting, from around 8:00pm. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

For several decades, the Society has held an annual 80m contest on the last Saturday night of July. The purpose of the contest was to provide practice for members to take part in the Remembrance Day Contest a few weekends later.

This contest was previously open to St. George members only, but following the success of the society's ANZAC Day QSO Party, it has been decided to open the contest to all Amateurs in VK.

The contest will run on Saturday the 25th July from 6pm to midnight on the 80 metre band from 3.5 to 3.7MHz.

Opening up the contest to all VK amateurs involves some re writing of the rules, so these are still being finalised; when this is done, the rules will be published on the society's website, www.sgars.org, and we will provide details here on VK2WI News.

So pencil this event into your diary - 6pm to midnight on the last Saturday of July and get some practice in for the RD contest.

Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Given the ongoing "QRM from COVID", HADARC is replacing My Colah meetings with extra nets on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Net control is 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 next meeting is on this Tuesday the 23rd of June, starting at 8pm.

The Club's website has more details on this and other changes to club activities, along with information on how to use Jitsi; 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

Some current on air activities, notified to us here at VK2WI News;

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

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday on VK2RGL, 147.1MHz.

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 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, Wednesdays 8pm on 146.875MHz.

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