

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

With the restrictions currently in place due to Covid-19, there are no events at VK2WI Dural. We continue to monitor the advice from public health organisations and the updates to government regulations, with a view to resume in person activities when it is practical.

For now, the VK2WI site unfortunately must remain closed to visitors. You can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by phone message to 02 96511490.

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 19th to the 25th of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm flux	7169	68	68	68	68	67	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	7	4	3	6	7	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	3	1	0	0	1	0 estimated
T index	+1	-2	-6	-6	-9	-5	-4

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.

Conditions were enhanced 55% during local night on the 19th; 20% on the 20th; 15% on the 21st; 30% on the 22nd; 25% on the 23rd; 20% on the 24th, and on the 25th, enhancements of 50% were observed, during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of June to the 2nd of July;

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 mostly near predicted monthly values, with some enhanced conditions possible during local night hours.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

As we near the end of June, we have a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates from the 9th to the 10th

Coming up to July, we expect a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 5th to the 13th, and the 27th to the 31st

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th.

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 2m55s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "...currently located at OF78wc"

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

GERMANY; Special event station DL0SOP will be active from July 1st to 31st, to commemorate the 62nd edition of the Sea Of Peace Award.

BALEARIC ISLANDS; Andy, DK5ON will be active as EA6/DK5ON from Mallorca Island, IOTA EU-004, from July 1 to 11. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, FT8 and FT4 using QRP power, with some possible EAFF and SOTA/GMA activities as well.

UK; Members of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society will be active with special event call GB100RS until the end of October, to mark the society's 100th anniversary.

WALES; Members of the North Wales Amateur Radio Group are active with special event call GB0WMZ until July 17 to support the work of the Welsh Mountain Zoo.

SVALBARD; Peter, LA7QIA will be active as JW7QIA from Spitsbergen, IOTA EU-026, until July 4. Activity will be on 4 and 6 metres.

DENMARK; Carsten, OZ4CG will be active as OZ4SOP from Bornholm Island, IOTA EU-030, from July 1 to 31 for the Sea Of Peace Award. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW.

ANTARCTICA; Alexander, RX3ABI is active as RI1ANM from the Mirny Antarctica Base Station, IOTA AN-016, and is there until early 2021. Activity is limited to his spare time on various HF bands, most likely on 40 and 20 metres using FT8 between 0200 to 1530UTC.

INDIA; Operator VU2TUO is active with special call AT2ARA until September 23 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8A343CJR is active to draw attention to the 343rd anniversary of the Cianjur[*chi-an-JURR*] District on Java.

VANUATU; Operators Colin, YJ8CW, Estelle, YJ8ED and Rod, YJ8RN will be active as YJ40IND from July 1 to 30 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Independence of Vanuatu. Activity will be mainly on 40, 20 and 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8, mostly during their weekends.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL Field Day, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, RSGB Hope RTTY QSO Party, UFT CW QRP Contest, Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, His Majesty King of Spain SSB Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint and the 10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party, will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for June 29.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for June 30.

The RAC Canada Day Contest, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for July 1.

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

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.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au; and includes a web contact form. 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. 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The Club is currently operating without face-to-face meetings, but club business continues, with individual members contributing by undertaking various tasks to keep the club operating.

The next Committee meeting will be on Saturday the 4th of July, however there will not be a face-to-face Monthly General Meeting. Instead, as in the previous few months, the minutes of the Committee meeting will be emailed to members. In making these decisions, the Committee has been mindful of the current COVID 19 situation, and that that a great many of the club members are in the high-risk category.

The club's AGM is scheduled for Saturday the 1st of August; it is hoped that public health restrictions will allow the meeting to take place. The Committee will make a firm decision in mid-July, as the health advice and restrictions continue to evolve.

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, 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.

The Clubs Annual General Meeting is coming up in August with a date to be announced next week.

The Clubs repeater team recently made some changes to the VK2RAG 2-meter repeater; users will observe an increase in coverage area and the club thanks those involved in making this possible.

Club member Max VK2XOR has recently built a single-band Pico Tuner for 40 Metres. One of the main goals was to be able to throw the kit into pocket and quickly have a working station in a matter of minutes. Max made a successful contact to Merv VK3ADX who was over 800 kilometres away using CW on 4 watts; very impressive. You can find out more about Max's project on the club's website.

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 87 of the net, with growing popularity, Australia-wide.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week, was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ. Topic of the evening was, "*What is your favourite band? And why? What do you use?*"

This week we were joined by Wade VK1MIC from the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club who recently facilitated an online video stream of digital P25 trunking systems.

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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting on Tuesday evening, the 14th of July. With the relaxation of the restrictions around public gatherings, combined with the large size of the Society's meeting place, the next meeting will be back, in person, at the normal location of the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre.

The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer. The Visitors Centre is located on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD, with attendees turning off Springhill Road into the main entrance of BlueScope Steel, then immediately turning right, just before the security gates, following the large Visitors Centre direction signs.

As well as the opportunity to safely reunite with fellow Members and Visitors after the long Virus separation, the meeting will also feature Keith VK2KQB showing how to de-solder and solder SMD components. The days of large discrete components on circuit boards has all but disappeared, so the need to work with SMD components to repair your own equipment has become necessary.

The night will conclude with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer area where you can also relax on the very comfortable lounges, while of course maintaining the necessary physical distancing.

A reminder of the Society's weekly Nets; The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. You can join on the 2 metre repeaters, on 6850 or 6675, or call-in on EchoLink, via VK2BGL-R.

The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings; except on meeting nights. The usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage, starting at 8:30pm.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on their website, iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again, is iars.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 14th of July; back, in person, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Due to the current restrictions, the Society has decided to cancel the annual auction this year. However, some face-to-face activities have resumed, with a hybrid meeting last Tuesday, consisting of several members in attendance at Rose Bay and others attending via Zoom. They are experimenting with further setting up for more permanent teleconference capabilities so that future activities can be hybrid as well.

Special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty, has been rescheduled for the September meeting. Kerrie's talk will be on the Australis OSCAR-5, the satellite built in Melbourne and launched by NASA. This meeting is planned to be at Rose Bay RSL Club, next door to the usual meeting venue. Due to the current restrictions, it will be necessary for attendees to register beforehand so that the numbers are known, as it may be necessary to move it to a different room if the numbers require it.

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 this will be able to be 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 club's Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month; next meeting is on July 5th. The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting scheduled for July 14th from 7:30pm.

A foundation weekend is scheduled for September 19th and 20th and it looks likely to be going ahead, albeit with limited numbers. Full details and registration form can be found on the website, at vk2bv.org.

Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8:00 pm every Monday evening, usually MC'ed by Richard VK2XRC. For more information about the Waverly Amateur Radio Society, visit the website at vk2bv.org. There you can also book for courses and assessments, or use the contact form to get in touch.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society is continuing to hold their monthly gatherings on line; the next is on this coming Wednesday the 1st July, starting at 7:30pm. After some short announcements and a general catch up, there will be a presentation by Clifford VK2CLF, on Apollo Unified S-Band Communications.

The Apollo program needed to cram many kinds of signals onto a single carrier; including Doppler, Ranging, Voice, Command, Telemetry, Biometrics, Science and Video; and do it all with a minimum of space-borne equipment and with sufficient gain to operate at lunar range, from many sites on earth. This presentation explains how they made that work.

Later in July is the annual St. George 80 meter contest; Run on the last Saturday night of July, the contest is a practice for the RD contest, a few weeks later. Starting this year, the contest is open to all amateurs. Details will shortly be on the society's website; www.sgars.org.

For more information on the St George Amateur Radio Society, including the login information for the virtual meeting on Wednesday night, the website again is; www.sgars.org.

Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.

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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.

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. Activities online and in person, see website for details.

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

St George ARS Online gathering Wednesday 1st 7:30pm, visit website for details. 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.