

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

For many years now, these VK2WI News bulletins have been relayed via many VHF and UHF repeaters, and we would like to thank those clubs for their continued support of our news service.

In Newcastle, we are relayed via the VK2RNC repeater at Mt Sugarloaf. We always welcome callbacks from those listening to our news bulletins, and today Paul VK2APA, has volunteered to take callbacks after this bulletin. So if you are listening to this bulletin via VK2RNC; welcome, and feel free to call back after the news.

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 26<sup>th</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm flux	68	69	69	69	68	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	6	4	4	5	6	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	4	0	0	2	1	1 estimated
T index	5	6	4	-1	0	+1	-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 immediately after local dawn.

Conditions were enhanced 60% during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 26<sup>th</sup>; 70% enhanced during local night and 20% after local dawn on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 60% during local night, the 29<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 20%, and the 30<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 20% during local night and 20% after local dawn. The 1<sup>st</sup> of July was enhanced 30% at night, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was enhanced 15%, during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July;

Solar activity is expected to be very 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 again 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 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>

Coming up to July, we expect a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68  
With no peak prediction yet

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68  
Again with no peak prediction just yet.

*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 February 2020

*Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Solar activity was again at Very Low levels this month. New cycle region AR 2765, the origin of the M1.1 flare on 29 May, produced low B-class flares as it decayed to a single spot and rotated over the limb on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. The visible disc was spotless for the remainder of the month. Coronal mass ejections were observed mostly early in the month, directed away from Earth.

The solar wind was mostly at background levels with moderate speeds observed from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of 11 June. A CME on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June may have caused the minor disturbance observed in the solar wind on the 30<sup>th</sup> June commencing 0110UTC.

The geomagnetic field in the Australian region was quiet for the whole month. Similarly, ionospheric conditions were very stable with no depressions. MUFs ranged from near predicted to slightly elevated, with sporadic E and spread F observed mostly during local night hours.

A little about solar flares. These are temporary brightening of the chromosphere – the second-most outer layer of the sun. Besides visible light, flares emit energy in other parts of the radio spectrum, and X-rays.

The strength of solar flares is categorised the energy of the X-ray signal, as measured by GOES spacecraft. Classifications are A, B, C, M and X class – each is ten times the strength of the one below it. A and B class flares have little influence on the overall amount of solar flux. C class flares don't have much effect on earth, rarely causing a slight geomagnetic disturbance.

M class flares can cause changes in the ionosphere, and may result in shortwave fadeouts on lower frequencies, on the side of the earth facing the sun at that time. X class are the most powerful flares, and can cause major ionospheric disturbance and fadeout across the whole HF spectrum, on the side of the earth facing the sun.

---

**[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-FCAL149.wav]**

*Duration 2m41s*

*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](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## ARRL DX news

A number of special event stations are on air for the month of July using the FTDMC suffix, to celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the FT8 Digital Mode Club, including;

KUWAIT – 9K8FTDMC  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – A60FTDMC  
BAHRAIN – A91FTDMC  
LEBANON – OD5FTDMC  
EGYPT – SU8FTDMC  
NEW ZEALAND – ZL65FTDMC

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Wireless Amateur Association are active with special event station HZ8FTDMC.

In other DX activity for this week;

MONACO; Ennio, IW1RBI will be active as 3A/IW1RBI from July 6. His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on 30 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

ENGLAND; Larry, G4HLN is active with special event call GB100GKU until July 28, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the long-range maritime radio service in the United Kingdom. Activity is on the HF bands using CW.

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

JAPAN; Special event station 8N1ABIKO is active until the end of 2020 in celebration of the founding of Abiko-City, IOTA AS-007.

ANTARCTICA; Alexander, RX3ABI is active as RI1ANM from Mirny Base, IOTA AN-016, until early 2021 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using FT8.

CORSICA; Max, DL8UW is active as TK4VQO from Olmeto and expects to be here for the next few years. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event stations R100RT and R100TSSR are active until July 10 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Tatarstan. QSL via operators' instructions.

VANUATU; Operators YJ8CW, YJ8ED and YJ8RN are active as YJ40IND until the end of July to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Vanuatu's Independence. Activity is on 40, 20, and 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, FISTS Summer Slow Speed CW Sprint, YBDXC 80-Metre SSB Contest, DL-DX RTTY Contest, Marconi Memorial HF CW Contest, Original QRP CW Contest, TA VHF/UHF Contest and PODXS 070 Club 40-Metre Firecracker PSK31 Sprint, are all on over this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship is scheduled for July 6.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for July 7.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for July 8.

The 13 Colonies Special Event runs until July 8.

## 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 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October. This event supports Arrow, the bone marrow transplant foundation.

The Volunteer Memorial Day for 2020 is being held at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Domain, at 11am on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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. The club is currently providing equipment and advice in support of car rallies. The next planned event is the BMSC Narooma Rally on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, followed by the LCCC "Blue Range Rallysprint" on September 5. For more information visit [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://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. They are planning to resume involvement in events, the first being the Sunraysia Rally, south of Wentworth on October 17; followed by the Baw-Baw Extreme from October 31. The website is at [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

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



## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The Club committee met yesterday, Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but the monthly general meeting was cancelled. Minutes of the Committee meeting will be emailed to members in the coming week.

The Friday night get-together, scheduled for Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, has also been cancelled.

The club's AGM is scheduled for Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Notice of the meeting will be sent out assuming the meeting will be able to proceed as planned, but the Committee is closely monitoring the evolving COVID 19 situation.

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](http://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 has resumed in person activities from Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, with some changes to ensure physical distancing is in place.

The Club is also 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 net has been running for a few weeks now with a good roll-up, and the group would like to invite any interested amateurs to join in.

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.*

---

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

---

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday, for the first time in nearly 4 months, the club was able to reopen the clubrooms to members. There were a number of happy faces to be seen. Steve VK2SKC handled the BBQ and ensured that members received their food as per food handling guidelines.

In making the clubrooms COVID compliant, physical distancing meant that unfortunately, not everybody who attended could gather in the meeting room; however 7 members were able to be inside the meeting room, 4 were in the club's radio room and additional attendees were able to take part outdoors.

The club also had members attending remotely via video conferencing. It was a productive meeting and the minutes will be collated and sent soon.

The Club would like to welcome Ryan VK2FRTS and Ward VK2HBZ, whose membership applications were passed at the recent meeting. The club welcomes you.

The Club's membership renewal date of the 1st of July and renewal notices have been emailed to members. You can contact [treasurer@ccarc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@ccarc.org.au) to renew, or to check your current membership status.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, with both face-to-face and Video Conference attendance options available. More details will be supplied closer to the date. Present social distancing rules mandates a maximum of 10 occupants within the primary meeting room and 4 occupants within the club's radio room. Weather permitting, the club will attempt to set up the undercover area outside with video link, however, space will be still be limited.

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.

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 started out as just a little idea after a regular Thursday night net, has now grown into a significant achievement. Today is day 94 of the net, inching closer to triple figures.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week, was facilitated by Alan VK2MG. Topic of the evening was, "*Encouraging Youth into Amateur Radio – What are your thoughts and ideas?*" The net ran for nearly 2 hours with an array of fantastic ideas.

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](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://iars.org.au), and the society is also on Facebook. The website again, is [iars.org.au](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The second period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2020 is now complete, and entries can be submitted until the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. If you have worked any DX over the past 3 months, head over to [contest.fgarc.org.au](http://contest.fgarc.org.au) and submit your entry. There are several easy ways to enter.

See the website for more details; its [contest.fgarc.org.au](http://contest.fgarc.org.au).

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July on the Club repeater, VK2RFG.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. 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 their website at [fgarc.org.au](http://fgarc.org.au).

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



## St George Amateur Radio Society

VK2WI News bulletins are relayed through the Society's repeater, VK2RDX at Mt. Bindo.

Last month there were 43 callbacks to the morning broadcasts and we would like to thank Peter VK2JTV, for continuing to take the callbacks.

Last weekend, 4 members of the St George Amateur Radio Society travelled to the Mt. Bindo repeater site and undertook some maintenance on the repeater hut and equipment.

This included lifting up half the floor of the repeater hut, cleaning the rust off the steel framework, giving it a coat of "Cold Gal", then putting the floor back down. Checks were also made on the repeater and repeater subcommittee will shortly be deciding on what improvements can be made.

Later in July is the annual St. George 80 metre 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](http://www.sgars.org).

For more information on the St George Amateur Radio Society, the website again is; [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

*Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity Officer, 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 such net is on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, starting at 8pm. Net control will be using the callsign VK2WAH, with the phonetics "We Are Home". This will be supplemented by Jitsi video conferencing; not only adding the “show” to the “Show & Tell” segments, but allowing participation in the meeting by out-of-area members, even by dialling in from a basic 'phone, worldwide.

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](http://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’s three regular nets continue 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

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 net** 7:30pm Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz. Next Monthly meeting net on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**St George ARS** Online gathering Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.