

## **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 currently planned at VK2WI Dural. We continue to follow the updates to public health advice, and plan to resume in person activities once it is practical. But for now, the site remains 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 9651 1490.

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. We would like to thank those clubs for their continued support of this news service.

The latest edition of *All Access*, the bimonthly newsletter of Amateur Radio New South Wales, is now available. It has been emailed to members who have chosen to join the mailing list, and you can also download it from the link on the home page of [arnsw.org.au](http://arnsw.org.au).

[direct link for text; <http://arnsw.org.au/allaccess/AllAccess-2004.pdf>]

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to the 6<sup>th</sup> of August.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	72	72	73	73	73	73	73
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	3	9	15	9	6	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	0	7	12	5	3	1 estimated
T index	4	6	1	10	12	9	9

Solar activity was at very low levels all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and 1<sup>st</sup> of August, then quiet to unsettled from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, returning to quiet on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, saw considerable enhancements; on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and 1<sup>st</sup> of August, frequencies were enhanced 15% during local day, 30% after local dawn; and 35% during local night. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was 15% at day, 25% after dawn and 30% at night; the 3<sup>rd</sup> was 20% during the day and 30% at night; and the 4<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 20% throughout. The 5<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 20% at day and 30% at night; and the 6<sup>th</sup> 15% day, 35% local dawn, and 45% enhanced during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to the 6<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be 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.

Having just finished July, we had a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 73  
With peak dates from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

For August, we expect a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 73  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>; and the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>; and the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

*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 July 2020

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Solar activity was at very low levels this month, with no M or X class flares observed. Minor solar coronal mass ejections were observed on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of July, however none of these were significantly geo-effective.

Some very mild increases in Geomagnetic activity were observed on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 14 to the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. These were associated with mild coronal-hole solar wind streams, or very weak coronal mass ejections, but did not result in a significant geomagnetic disturbance.

There were no significant ionospheric depressions observed this month.

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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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### **[Play File: 6-FCAL107.wav]**

*Duration 1m25s*

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

*Out: "...I'm Onno vk6flab"*

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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**

BARBADOS; Mathieu, VA2MVR is active as 8P9QC from Pine Gardens until September 12. Activity is mainly on 40 and 20 metres using SSB with a possibility of FT8 and FT4.

GHANA; Matteo, IZ4YGS will be active as 9G5GS until September 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly SSB and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100.

MOROCCO; Hassan, CN8SG is active with special call sign CN21SG from Kenitra to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the reign of his Majesty King of Morocco, Mohammed VI. Activity is on the various HF bands.

CANARY ISLANDS; Philippe, EA4NF, will be active as EA8/EA4NF from Lanzarote Island, IOTA AF-004, and Grid Squares IL38 and IL39, from August 10 to 17. Activity is on the FM and Linear Satellites in Full-Duplex mode.

FRANCE; Members of the radio club F8KGH will be active with special call TM76DP until August 22 to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Provence Landing in August 1944. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

COLOMBIA; Members of the Colombian Amateur Radio League are active with special call sign 5K87LR from Bogota until August 31, to celebrate the 87th anniversary of the LCRA. Activity is on the HF bands.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Members of the KARL Chungbuk HQ are active with special call HL75V during August, to celebrate the liberation of the Korean peninsula 75 years ago.

ITALY; Simone, IU4HRJ is active as IM0/IU4HRJ from Maddalena Island, IOTA EU-041, until August 10. Activity is on 40 to 2 metres using SSB and various digital modes. He plans to possibly activate some DCI/WCA reference numbers as well.

SARDINIA; Gil, IZ2DLV will be active as IS0/IZ2DLV from Portobello di Gallura from August 10 to 28. Activity will be on 60 to 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

GREECE; Francesco, IK6QON will be active as SV8/IK6QON from Corfu, IOTA EU-052, until August 20. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

TURKEY; Stations TC3GP and TC3GS are active until August 23 to commemorate the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli.

CORSICA; Frans, DJ0TP is active as TK/DJ0TP until September 14. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; A large group of operators are active as R90WDWR from the Bryansk Region until August 16 to mark the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Russian Airborne Troops. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres.

MEXICO; Ramon, XE1KK is active with special call 6E6E until the end of 2020. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using mostly FT8 and FT4. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX Phone and other contests.

CHATHAM ISLANDS; Operators Chris, ZL2DX and Catherine, ZL2QT are active as ZL7DX and ZL7QT, respectively, from Waitangi, IOTA OC-038, for the next few years. Activity is on the various HF bands and 6 metres EME.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Worked All Europe DX CW Contest, QRP ARCI European CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Maryland-DC QSO Party and RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint are all on this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and SARL 40-Metre SSB Youth Sprint are scheduled for August.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and MMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest are scheduled for August 11.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, NAQCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 12.

## WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. WICEN has currently limited non-emergency activations, and has moved meetings to radio and other electronic means. However, volunteers are still required for logistic and administrative tasks; including ongoing repeater and APRS management, and asset management.

Preparations continue for the 2020 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October, subject to "Return to Sport" rules. Volunteer Memorial Day for 2020 is at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Domain, at 11am on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

WICEN members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management. Members should also check their VRA email, for information regarding training for RFS communications support roles.

WICEN has weekly nets on Sunday evenings, with the main net at 6pm and 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, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au); includes membership information and 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, which has moved all events, including its enthralling lectures, online or on-air. The next event planned is the LCCC "Blue Range Rallysprint" on September 5, followed by the BMSC Narooma Rally on the 19<sup>th</sup>. In October, ANU's "Inward Bound" runs from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Brookvale Horse Enduro is planned for the 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit the website at the new address of [crarc.org.au](http://crarc.org.au) 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, starting with the Baw-Baw Extreme, which runs (literally) from October 31 to November 1. More details on the website, [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 Amateur Radio Central West Group.

The Group's nets are on Monday and Friday nights at 8pm on the 2m repeater VK2RCW, and on Wednesday night at 8pm, on 80 metres, at 3653kHz.

Every Afternoon at 4pm, Kim VK2ASY is net control for the ARCWG Afternoon net, which is on the 2m Repeater VK2RCW and EchoLink.

*Garry VK2GLJ  
Secretary, Amateur Radio Central West Group*

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## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

As mention last week, the club's AGM has been rescheduled. It will now be held at 2pm on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, as an online meeting. An email with a link to the conference will be sent to all members soon.

There is a short video conference planned for the evening of Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, in lieu of the usual Friday night get-together; this will give members a chance to become familiar with Microsoft Teams video conferencing, and to provide an opportunity to test microphones, speakers and web cameras. The email will provide the details.

The club Committee met last Saturday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August and the minutes of the meeting have been emailed to members.

In response to the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has reluctantly cancelled all planned face-to-face club activities until further notice. As it is not possible to maintain the mandated physical separation within the club's Communications Caravan, the planned VK2BOR participation in the RD Contest and the ILLW, is also cancelled.

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 July 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**

Because of the current public health situation, the Club executive has decided to close the clubrooms for the month of August.

The next scheduled event is the monthly general meeting, on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September.

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

*Greg VK2CW  
Secretay, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club has scheduled a training and assessment session over two days; the 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August. This in-person session has been approved by AMC and is subject to Covid19 rules. With limited places available, bookings are essential; RSVP to the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB, by Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. Booking information is on the website, at; [ccarc.org.au/education](http://ccarc.org.au/education).

Last weekend, Club Vice President Brad VK2NMZ had the opportunity of introducing the next generation to the wonders of Amateur Radio. Brad was operating portable at a Park in Sydney, when a father and son approached him, asking what he was doing. Soon, 9-year-old Angus had made his very first contact, with Alex VK3JX. This sparked curiosity and had Angus frantically spinning the VFO trying to find another station to contact. Other club members have had similar experiences recently – it's just one example of how we can get new generations interested in joining our hobby. Perhaps you or your club could share some experiences you've had?

The Club's AGM is on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and will be a hybrid meeting, with both in-person and video conference attendance. Video conference details have been distributed to the club's mailing list. The Club's CovidSafe plan allows a maximum of 10 occupants in the club's primary meeting room and 4 occupants in the radio room. Weather permitting, the club will setup a video link in the undercover area at the clubrooms, however space will still be limited under the four-square metre rule.

Position nomination forms have also been distributed to the club's mailing list and are also available from the clubrooms. Please ensure electronic nominations are submitted by noon, Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August.

At last week's club meeting, Club President Jaye VK2FOMG presented Bob VK2AOR with a gift on behalf of the club, for his contribution and dedication in hosting the "morning tea net" for over 100 consecutive days. This was a concept that was formed after the club's Thursday evening net and has now grown into a significant achievement. Daily morning nets are now continue, subject to net control availability.

The Club would like to welcome honorary member Kent K3NTH from Orlando, Florida. Kent has been granted honorary membership of the CCARC for his daily contribution to “morning tea net” and has gathered quite a following from friends in Florida. Welcome, Kent!

The Thursday evening net is held on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, on 146.725Mhz; If you're within range of our repeater, why not drop by?

Remember, you also join via EchoLink using the \*CCARCNSW\* conference server, via IRLP reflector 9509, and you can view the live stream on the club's Facebook page.

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.*

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## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is this coming Tuesday evening, the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

The Society's meetings are at the BlueScope Steel Visitor's Centre, located on the southern side of Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the main entrance of BlueScope Steel, immediately turn right just before the security gates, and follow the signs to the Visitors Centre. Due to the large size of the Visitor Centre, physical distancing requirements can easily be met.

This meeting is the Society's AGM, with all Committee positions being vacated and up for nomination and election. Listeners thinking of coming along need not be concerned about being coerced or hijacked into a vacated position, as many of the current Committee and Executive have offered to stand again – if elected, of course.

Following the AGM, there will be a short on-line Zoom presentation from RASA, the Radio Society of Australia, relating recent call-sign changes introduced by the ACMA, the Australian Communications and Media Authority. The presentation itself has been put together by an Australian Maritime College advisor. A "Q and A" session will follow and given that these call-sign changes have generated quite a bit of on-air discussion, this presentation should be most interesting.

The night will conclude with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer area where you can socialise with fellow attendees, while still 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 this Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of August; at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT*

*Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

## **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**

Due to a recent increase in Covid-19 cases, the Club has decided to cancel the planned gathering on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

The Club's 6 metre repeater at Lawson, is back in operation. It is on 53.875MHz.

The 80 metre net Starts at 8pm on Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz, and the 2 metre net starts at 8pm on Wednesday, on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

*73 from James VK2GOH  
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*



## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Just a reminder that, due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the Society has suspended in person meetings; instead, there is a voice net every Wednesday at 8pm, on the club's two metre FM repeater VK2RMB. The frequency is 146.875 MHz, with a -600 kHz offset.

As with face-to-face meetings, visitors are most welcome to join the net and say hello. If you don't have a licence yet, you can listen in via the club web site; just click on the "Repeater audio" link on the menu. Take the edge off self-isolation with Amateur Radio!

Congratulations to Society member Sajith - formerly VK2FAST then VK2PAL, now Sajith has upgraded to Advanced and will henceforth be known as VK2 Alpha India Delta. Well done, Sajith!

The planned participation in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August is looking doubtful at the moment; partly as Barrenjoey Lighthouse is still closed due to COVID, as well insufficient available operators. The situation may change in the next week, and if so there will be an update here on VK2WI News.

So, to wrap up, a reminder that in place of in-person meetings, the Society is now running a weekly net, on the two metre repeater VK2RMB, on 146.875 MHz FM with a -600 kHz offset. All are welcome, including shortwave listeners - you'll find the repeater audio link on the menu at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au).

73 and stay safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY*  
*MWRS Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Given the ongoing “QRM from COVID”, HADARC has replaced Mount Colah meetings with extra nets on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Net control is using the callsign VK2WAH, with the phonetics "We Are Home". The next net is this Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm.

On air nets are 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.

The Club’s website has more details on this and other changes to club activities, along with information on how to use Jitsi; it’s at [www.hadarc.org.au](http://www.hadarc.org.au).

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.*

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## Activities on the air

**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 Echolink \*CCARCNSW\*.

**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.

**Blue Mountains ARC** nets 8pm Tuesday on 3543kHz, 8pm Wednesday on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone.

**WICEN** nets now on Sunday evenings from 6pm.

**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 has moved; now on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**St George ARS** net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

**HADARC** Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, on air net Tuesday at 8pm on VK2RNS – net control 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.