

## **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.

Due to 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.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	70	69	70	70	70	70	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	7	5	5	4	1	2 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	4	1	2	1	0	1 estimated
T index	-1	-2	-7	+1	-4	0	-1

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 4<sup>th</sup>, then remained quiet from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian remained near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week; but after local dawn, and during local night, some enhancements were observed.

The 4<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 20% during local night and after local dawn; the 5<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 20% during local night. The 6<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 15% during local night and 20% after local dawn; the 7<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 35% at night. The 8<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 35% during local night and 20% after local dawn; the 9<sup>th</sup>, 45% at night and 30% after dawn; and the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20% enhanced at night and 30% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.  
Geomagnetic activity is expected to mostly be at quiet levels, with some unsettled periods possible.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly 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 finished August, we saw a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 75  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>;

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70  
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>]

## 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 1m40s*

*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.

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## **ARRL DX news**

MONACO; Ennio, IW1RBI is active as 3A/IW1RBI until September 13, with activity on 80 to 6 metres using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

CHILE; Operators Mau, CE7KF, Juan, CE3BN, Roberto, CE3DOH and Esteban, XQ7UP are active with special call sign XR210CHI during September, to celebrate Chile's 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

GERMANY; Special call sign DK70DARC is active until the end of December to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club.

FRANCE; Members of the Radio Club Aunis are active with special event call sign TM17TDF until September 15<sup>th</sup>, during the Tour de France. Activity is on the HF bands.

SAINT BARTHELEMY; Operators Franck, FG4ST, Marco, FS4WBS and Claude, FS5GL will be active as TO0Z from September 14 to 17.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society will be active as HZ90ND from September 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their National Day of the Unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Activity will be on all bands and modes.

FAROE ISLANDS; Udo, DL2AQI and Torsten, DL4APJ will be active as OY/home calls from Streymoy Island, IOTA EU-018, from September 15 to 23. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SWEDEN; Frank, DH0JAE and Immo, DL8MF are active as SM/home calls near Bergudden Lighthouse, ARLHS SWE-091, on Holmon Island, IOTA EU-135, until September 16. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

DODECANESE; Claudio, HB9OAU will be active as SV5/HB9OAU from Karpathos Island, IOTA EU-001, until September 24. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and RTTY.

UKRAINE; Special event station EN370LL is active throughout September to celebrate the 370th anniversary of the town of Liubotyn.

CANADA; Members of the London Amateur Radio Club are active with special call sign VE3LON100 until the end of September to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the club.

AUSTRALIA; Special event station VI75WW2 is active until November 11 to commemorate the end of World War II.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8A387KRW is active until September 14 to celebrate the 387th anniversary of the Karawang District. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 2 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. In addition, members of the Orari Lokal Kabupaten Sukabumi club are active as 8A150SMI until September 13 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Sukabumi.

ALBANIA; Franz, OE6TQG is active as ZA/OE6TQG from Lake Shkodral until September 17. Activity is on the HF bands using all modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL September VHF Contest, ARRL EME Contest, Worked All Europe DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, FOC CW QSO Party, SARL Field Day Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Texas QSO Party, Alabama QSO Party, Russian Cup Digital Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint and North American CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy over this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for September 14.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for September 15.

The RSGB 80-Metre CW Autumn Series, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for September 16.

## WICEN News

The 2020 Annual General Meeting for WICEN NSW will be held by teleconference, on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> September, commencing at 2pm. Members will be advised via their VRA email address, on how to join the meeting.

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. In-person attendance is via invitation only, but the event will also be streamed online.

WICEN weekly nets are 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 the main net is on the Chatswood 2m repeater, then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays the Kurrajong - Berowra 70cm FM system, followed at 6:30pm by a net VK-DMR Talk Group 3810.

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

Volunteers are still required for logistic and administrative tasks; including ongoing repeater and APRS management, and asset management. The WICEN Tech Team is currently looking for some assistance with getting a JS8Call setup running; please get in touch if you can assist.

The WICEN website, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au); includes membership information, Covid19 safety 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. The next event planned is now the Brookvale Horse Enduro on October the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the LCCC Monaro Stages Rally on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The BMSC "National Capital Rally" is planned for November 28 and 29. For more information, including recordings of recent Club presentations, visit the website at the new address of [crarc.org.au](http://crarc.org.au) or check out the CRARC Facebook page.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. The next event planned is the Baw-Baw Extreme, a multi-sport event 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The Club's AGM took on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September as an online video conference. Elected office bearers were; President Henry VK2ZHE, Vice President Paul VK2ICQ, Secretary Henry VK2ZHE, Treasurer Dennis VK2DAM and Committee Members Larry VK2CLL, Rob VK2CRF and Ian VK2IDL. A full list of office bearers and appointments will appear in September Oxtales which will be published soon.

There was no September monthly general meeting but a Committee Meeting was held prior to the AGM. The minutes of the AGM and the Committee Meeting have been emailed to members.

In response to risks arising from the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has suspended in person activities, including monthly general meetings and Friday night get-togethers. In the absence of meetings, members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

There are two nets each week; the 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. 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 September issue of Oxtales is in preparation; it will include the list of office holders elected at yesterday's AGM. 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.*

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## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

At last week's general business meeting, the committee put forward the importance of a Secretary, to the club members. The Club would like to announce that Myles VK2ASS has accepted the position of Club Secretary and the rest of the executive team looks forward to working closely with him. Brad VK2NMZ has fulfilled the role of Publicity, and Henrick VK2FTDR has taken up managing the publication of Club Newsletter, *Smoke Signals*; and if the previews are anything to go by, it is very impressive; so, club members – Keep your eyes peeled, a new *Smoke Signals* is on its way!

The club is seeking expressions of interest for a HF operating night at the club rooms. This will primarily be focused towards foundation licence holders and those new to hobby, as well as those who may not have the capability to operate on HF frequencies at their QTH. If you are interested, please contact the club directly via telephone or email; details are available on the club's website.

The club is planning another outdoor activity on the 17th of October, although the location is yet to be decided.

The Club will be hosting a training and assessment day at the club rooms on Saturday the 17th of October, with assessments to be held on Sunday the 18th. With limited places available, bookings are essential; RSVP to the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB. Booking information is on the website, at; [ccarc.org.au/education](http://ccarc.org.au/education).

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ. Topic for the evening was, "*The FM cross band repeater on the ISS and have you worked it?*" Many stations, both within VK and overseas shared similar experiences of pile-ups and getting the occasional clear contact through. If you are interested in working this satellite, simply set your radio to 145.99MHz with a 67Hz subtone for transmit, and 437.8MHz for receive; but note this does not take into account Doppler effect.

The Club's Morning tea net continues daily on the Club's 2m repeater, running consecutively for 5 months. The Club thanks Bob VK2AOR for his continued efforts in hosting the net.

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.*

## Hunter Radio Group

The Group operates three repeaters at Mt. Sugarloaf west of Newcastle.

On 2 metres, the repeaters are on 146.9MHz and 146.975MHz with EchoLink. On 70cm the repeater on 438.025MHz serves Newcastle and the lower Hunter area. There is also a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

The Hunter Radio Group 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.*

## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September the Club had the pleasure of listening to Darren Spoor on the topic of Power System Security. The event was well received, and BMARC would like to extend its appreciation to Darren for a job well done.

The Club will run a licence training and assessment weekend on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October at the Clubhouse, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook, face-to-face, under COVID-SAFE conditions.

Training for foundation licensees will take place on Saturday, with Assessment for all licence grades planned for Sunday; exams are available for Standard or Advanced theory, regulations and practical components of amateur radio proficiency.

Details of the syllabus, exam fees, and other information, can be found on the AMC website. For more information, or to book for the licence weekend; contact the Blue Mountains ARC Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is [secretary@bmarc.org](mailto:secretary@bmarc.org).

The Club has two on air nets each week; 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.*

[AMC information <https://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio> ]

## **Waverley Amateur Radio Society**

The next meeting will be via teleconference, this Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. At the meeting, the Society welcomes the return of special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty. Look for an email prior to the meeting, with the login details.

Fifty years ago, in January 1970, Australia's second satellite, Australis-OSCAR 5, piggybacked into orbit with a NASA weather satellite. Despite its small size – comparable to a modern Cubesat - Australis was a groundbreaking satellite in many ways. Not only was it the first amateur radio satellite built outside the United States, it was also the first in the world to be developed as a student project and incorporated many unique features that were particularly advanced for the time. The brainchild of a group of students from the Melbourne University Astronautical Society, Australis was designed and constructed in 1965-66 and was actually ready to fly before WRESAT (the Weapons Research Establishment satellite). However, difficulties with finding a launch in the US meant that WRESAT launched first. With help from the newly-formed AMSAT, Australis eventually flew as OSCAR 5 in 1970.

This presentation will explore the fascinating story of Australis-OSCAR 5, its development (a classic example of Australian 'make do' ingenuity), the search for a launch and its operational phase once in orbit. Kerrie Dougherty is an independent space historian, author, curator and educator, who was previously Curator of Space Technology at the Powerhouse Museum. Kerrie works part-time for the Australian Space Agency and has written several science fiction guidebooks as well as numerous articles on Australia's space history.

With major refurbishment works about to commence at the Scout hall, the clubrooms will be unavailable until probably November or December at the earliest. These works will require the removal of the station equipment and temporary storage. A call will go out soon to members requesting some assistance in the re-location of equipment.

Working bees have temporarily moved to Wednesday, as a few are meeting in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch, which isn't open on a Tuesday. The working bee is also available on Zoom.

All other Society activities take place online, via Zoom. The next project day will be on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm. Shack nights continue on the 1st Wednesday of the month; the next one is October 7th.

The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month; next meeting is October 13th from 7:30pm. The Morse code group meets on the first Sunday with next meeting scheduled for October 4th.

The next Foundation weekend, scheduled for September 19th and 20th, has been cancelled; so the next one is scheduled for November 14th & 15<sup>th</sup>, subject to completion of the building works. Many are studying on line and then doing remote assessments; contact the Society for more information.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually MC'ed by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets and all members and other visitors are always welcomed on the nets.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). You can book for courses or assessments or use the contact form on the website to get in contact for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast 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. Monthly meeting net has moved; next is on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

**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.