

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

With restrictions currently in place due to Covid-19, there are no events currently planned at VK2WI Dural, and 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. We continue to follow the updates to public health advice, and plan to resume in person activities once it is practical.

In response to these restrictions, many clubs and groups have increased on-air activities. Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of activities from Sydney and across the state.

You can let us know about the activities happening in your area; you can email 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, to tell listeners how it went.

We also wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you currently have any health concerns – 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.

In some disappointing news from across the Tasman - the peak body for radio amateurs in New Zealand, the NZART, has advised that the trial of NZ amateurs having access to the 5MHz band has ended - with the NZ Defence Force declining a further extension of the trial. NZART has stated that it will continue to work with the NZ regulator to find a way, to allow New Zealand Amateurs access to 5MHz. Here in Australia, the WIA continues to lobby our regulator, the ACMA, for access to a 5MHz allocation. The ACMA has indicated that they are currently reviewing options and plan to announce a decision, later in the year.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm flux	75	73	76	75	75	74	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	5	3	5	3	7	10 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	4	2	7	2	6	3 estimated
T index	9	3	-7	-2	-8	-4	-21

Solar activity was low on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, except for some quiet to unsettled conditions on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancements of 35% were observed during local night on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 25% on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20% on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> also saw enhancement of 20% during local night, then the 22<sup>nd</sup> saw a daytime depression of 20%, compared to predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of October;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active level on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and quiet to unsettled on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 25<sup>th</sup>, otherwise 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 September, we saw a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 74  
With peak dates from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

So far for October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 76  
With peak dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>;

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 73  
With peak dates from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>; and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</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>]

## 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 1m47s*

*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**

Several special stations are on air for this weekend's CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest;

ALAND ISLANDS; Pekka, OH2TA will be active as OH0X from Brando Island as a Single Op/Single Band on 20 metre entry.

BERMUDA; Jeff, N1SNB is active as VP9I.

CANARY ISLANDS; Juan, EA8RM plans to be active on all bands.

CHILE; Members of the CE DX Group will be active as CB1D from La Huayca, Pozo Almonte, Atacama Desert, as a Multi-2 entry.

CHINA; Dale, BA4TB will be active as BD9XE as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry from Zone 23.

EAST MALAYSIA; Saty, JE1JKL will be active as 9M6NA, on 40 to 10 metres.

GEORGIA; Members of the National Association Radio Amateurs of Georgia and Contest Station will be active as 4L0G from Tbilisi as a Multi Op entry.

GIBRALTAR; Robert, ZB2TT will be active as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

INDONESIA; Yohanes, YB2DX will be active as an All Band entry.

ITALY; Operator IT9WDC will be active with special call IF9A from Favignana Island, IOTA EU-054.

MALAWI; Don, K6ZO will be active as 7Q6M.

MONGOLIA; Members of the Young Technician Castle will be active as JT1KAI from Sukhbaatar Province.

NEW ZEALAND; A small team of youth operators will be active as ZM4T, as a Multi-2 entry.

OMAN; Operator A41CK will be active as A42K as a Single Op/All Band entry.

TUNISIA; Ash, KF5EYY will be active as 3V8SS from the Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts in Sousse, as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

...and in other DX activity around the world this week;

ARUBA; John, W2GD is active as P40W until October 26. Activity is on the HF bands as time permits. This includes an entry in the contest.

BONAIRE; Marty, W1MD is active as PJ4/W1MD. He will be active as PJ4X during the contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry, possibly on 15 metres.

BELIZE; Jim, W2JHP is active as V31TA from Turneffe Atoll, IOTA NA-123, until November 8. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB and some digital modes. In addition, Marc, V31MA will be active as V3A in this weekend's contest, on all bands.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Marty, NN1C is active as ZF1A. This includes being active in the contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

PARAGUAY; Manu, ZP9MCE will be active from Hohenau during this weekend's SSB contest, and the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest as Single Op/All Band/High Power entries with a focus on the Low Bands.

MOROCCO; Special event station 5E1EC is active to honour the memory of Boumehdi El Moujahid, CN8EC.

BELGIUM; Members of the Oostkust Radioclub are active with special event call OR39CLM until November 13 to commemorate the liberation of the city Knokke-Heist by Canadian forces on November 1, 1944. Activity is on various HF bands and modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Kentucky State Parks on the Air and RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint are all on this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and QCX Challenge are scheduled for October 26.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and QCX Challenge are scheduled for October 27.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 28.

## WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Due to COVID-19, administrative and training functions have been moved on-air or online. Volunteers are still wanted to assist with tasks such as repeater and APRS management, and asset management.

Trek for Timor Blue Mountains is now a "virtual" event; the upside being it is possible for you, or a group from your club, to take a sponsored walk in any location. Details on the website, [trekfortimorbm.org.au](http://trekfortimorbm.org.au).

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 have been experimenting with WINLINK and JS8CALL to pass short text messages on Monday evenings, supported by a Google Meeting. Details are on the calendar in the VRA email system.

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

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 LCCC Monaro Stages Rally is on the 31<sup>st</sup>, with WUCEN providing equipment and advice; and the BMSC "National Capital Rally" is planned for November 28 and 29. For more information, including recordings of recent Club presentations and licence training courses, visit the website at [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. More details on the website, [vic.wicen.org.au](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

[OEM link: <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/> Messaging software at: <http://js8call.com/> and <http://winlink.org/> ]



## Club News

We start this week with news from the Amateur Radio Central West Group.

The Group's Afternoon Tea net is on each afternoon of the week at 4pm, on the Gowan Repeater VK2RCW, which is on 147.2MHz with a +600kHz offset. There are also nets on Monday and Friday evenings, at 8pm on VK2RCW. For stations out of range of VK2RCW, all these nets are available on ECHOLINK node VK2BLO Node 270506.

The Group's HF net is on 80 metres net on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, on 3653kHz, +- QRM.

*Submitted by Gary VK2GLJ  
For the Amateur Radio Central West Group.*

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

In response to risks arising from the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has reluctantly suspended all in person activities, including monthly general meetings and get-togethers.

Club business continues, with individual Committee members working on the many tasks which still need to be completed. The Committee will meet on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and minutes will be emailed to members, to keep them abreast of club affairs.

In the absence of in-person 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 site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The September 2020 web edition 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 includes the list of office holders elected at the recent virtual 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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## Great Lakes Radio Club

The next meeting of the club will be on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, at the studios of Great Lakes FM Community Radio, 16 Douglas Avenue Tuncurry. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm.

Visitors are welcomed at our meetings but please note that in accordance with restrictions regarding the four-square metre rule and distancing guidelines, the meeting room cannot cater for large numbers. Attendees are required to adhere to the prevailing health advice and guidelines.

For visitors and those unfamiliar with the venue, entry is via the rear door accessed from the car parking area.

Great Lakes Radio Club serves the mid-north coast area of NSW, centred on the twin towns of Forster-Tuncurry.

The club operates the VK2RGL repeaters from Cabbage Tree Mountain on 147.1 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone required and 439.775 MHz with no tone required. The informal weekly club net is on the 2m repeater, commencing at 7:00pm every Monday evening.

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

*Andy VK2AAK  
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club.*

## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

The Club is also planning a car boot sale on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 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*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

A reminder that the Club's next HF operating night is coming up this Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. Clubroom doors open from about 5:30pm for a 6pm start; if you are interested in attending, please contact the club directly.

Next month, the Club is planning another outdoor adventure; on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, in conjunction with the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club, there's afternoon outdoor Picnic at Mount Sugarloaf. More details to come soon! If you are interested in attending the next event, please let the club know; you can get in touch by telephone, email or social media.

A training and assessment weekend is planned for Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. If you are interested in obtaining or upgrading your Amateur licence, contact 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; the evening's topic was "*Your Favourite Amateur related video stream or website*". Many stations provided some great suggestions from both Australian and international content creators, especially from VK3 and VK7.

Today marks day 206 of the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR on the Club's VK2RAG repeater. The Club would like to acknowledge Bob for the enormous effort he has dedicated to the net, that continues to receive check-ins from both local and overseas stations. Thanks Bob! If you have checked into the morning tea net either via the local repeater or EchoLink, the club would like to hear from you.

Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au); or on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Simply search for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club - and give the club a "like" to follow for updates.

*Brad VK2NMZ  
Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society is pleased to announce the testing of a Simplex Repeater, on the 23cm band. It operates on a frequency of 1296.850MHz, with RF power of 20 Watts, into a Vertical Omnidirectional Antenna of 11dB gain. It is located at Maddens Plains, which has an elevation of 371 Metres above sea level; not including the height of the tower.

This repeater is intended to encourage interest and experimental development; it can be used by amateur radio operators in developing transmitters, receivers, RF amplifiers, pre-amplifiers and antenna designs. It also operates as beacon which can be used to monitor propagation on the 23cm band.

In beacon operation, a Morse code message is sent once every ten minutes. Part of this is identification of the beacon; but the message also includes monitoring of two repeater parameters; the Temperature inside the cabinet, and DC supply voltage.

To use the Simplex Repeater function, it is recommended to wait at least 10 seconds or press your PTT once for a short test; if a tail and beep comes back to you, you're good to go. If not, it may be that your signal is not getting in or someone is using it on the input that you can't hear.

At the start of your transmission it is best to operate the PTT button for about 1 second before speaking or transmitting data or pictures, to avoid clipping the start. The repeater has a 0.5 second noise suppression timer to avoid false triggering. No CTCSS is used.

Once you release PTT there is a one second delay, then the repeater will start retransmission of your over. Once complete, you will hear an audible 'Rodger Beep'. The repeater is then ready for the next transmission.

Remember to be patient - including waiting to hear the "Roger beep" – and be sure that a transmission does not exceed the 150 second (2 minutes 30 seconds) time limit.

*73 Rob VK2XIC  
Vice President, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next Club meeting is This Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>, at Mt Colah Community Centre, in Pierre Close, Mt Colah - opposite the eastern entrance to Mt Colah Railway Station. Rather than a lecture, there will be an extended Show-and-Tell session.

With COVID safety measures in place, the centre has 35 places available. Attendees are required to book with the Secretary, Steve VK2AAV, via email, or the website. Supper is BYO, and masks are recommended.

Unlimited places are, however, available via Jitsi.

Jitsi is an open source conferencing system, accessible via web browser, 'phone or tablet App; or by dialling in from any 'phone. It provides video transmission, if your device supports this. Visiting and out-of-town folks are most welcome to participate in any events where Jitsi is used.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, 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 and are supplemented with Jitsi as well. Net control is using VK2MA or VK2WAH, "We Are Home".

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 daily; Monday  
and Friday night net at 8pm, on VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday 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 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, 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

**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.