

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

While no events are currently planned at VK2WI Dural, and the site remains closed to visitors; you can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by phone message to 02 9651 1490.

With recent changes to public health restrictions, work is underway to resume some in person activities. The ARNSW education team is planning a training and assessment weekend for the 5th and 6th of December, which will be held subject to Covid19 safety plan approval. If you are interested in attending, please email the Education team as soon as possible, to education@arnsw.org.au – with the extra procedures in place, plans need to be confirmed well in advance.

Many clubs and groups have recently modified or increased their on-air activities, and 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 – 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.

VK-DMR Update

Users of the VK-DMR network are advised that the Australian "I P S C" server for hotspots has changed.

Please ensure you have updated your hotspot and have selected "I P S C 2 - VK HOTSPOT " from the server drop down.

The old server will be switched off soon, so be sure to update as soon as you can to keep on the network.

*Advised by Matt VK2FLY
Co-ordinator, ARNSW Radio Network Group.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 6th to the 12th of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
10cm flux	94	91	90	90	87	88	85
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	4	3	0	0	2	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	4	3	0	1	3	3 estimated
T index	+5	-8	-3	-7	-4	-8	-5

Solar activity was low, and geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values, with a few periods of depressions. The 9th saw depression of 20% during local night, the 11th and 12th were both depressed 15% during local daylight hours.

Now, the forecast for the 13th to the 19th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be at low levels, with a slight chance of an M-class flare.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values, with some minor short-wave fadeouts possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished October, we saw a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 88
With peak dates from the 19th to the 21st; and the 27th to the 31st

So far, for November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 77, Average of 83, and a Maximum of 94
With peak dates from the 5th to the 16th; and the 29th to the 30th;

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 82, and a Maximum of 90
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th; and the 26th to the 28th.

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.

[Play File: 5-FCAL201.wav]

Duration 1m35s

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, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Jay, KE6GLA is operating portable as FO/KE6GLA from Bora Bora, OC-067.

ST. VINCENT; Oleh, UR5BCP (aka KD7WPJ) plans to operate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest for a few hours as J8/UR5BCP as a single op, low power entry. He will be on location from November 21 to 28.

UNITED NATIONS; Special event station 4U75UN is active until the end of 2020 to celebrate the United Nation's 75th anniversary.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS; Dan, K8RF will be active as NP2J in the CQ WW DX CW Contest as a single band, 160 metre entry.

ISRAEL; Special event station 4X0RMN will be active from Ramon Crater on November 13 and 14.

MALAWI; Members of the Russian Robinson Club Team will be active as 7Q7RU near Embangweni until November 18. Activity will be on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using CW, SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode, and on various satellites.

CHINA; Dale, BA4TB is active as B9/BA4TB from Xining[*SHIN-ing*] city in the Qinghai[*CHING-high*] province.

INDONESIA; YB0ECT will be a 20 metre, single band, high power entry in the CQ WW DX CW Contest.

PANAMA; Special event station 3E1FP is active throughout November to celebrate the 116th anniversary of Vida Republicana of Panama. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

SINGAPORE; James, 9V1YC has been active using FT8 on 30 metres.

DJIBOUTI; Rene, DL2JRM will be active as J28XX. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

WESTERN SAHARA; S01WS has been active on 17 metres using SSB around 1800UTC.

MALI; Ulmar, DK1CE will be active as TZ1CE from Bamako for a month. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using FT8.

BRAZIL; Sandro, PY1SAN and Marc, PY1CMT are active as ZX6BA until November 15, then as PR1S from November 16 to 18. They will be using satellites QO-100, AO-07, FO-29, RS-44 on CW and SSB. They will also be on HF with a 5W rig using CW and FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Sigfrido, IW9FMD is active in his free time as Z81S, while working with the United Nations Mission here. His length of stay is unknown.

ALBANIA; Sandro, IN3PPH is active as ZA/IN3PPH from Qerret. Activity of late has been on 80, 40 and 20 metres using FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The WAE DX Contest RTTY, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, 10-10 International Fall Contest Digital, JIDX Phone Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, OK/OM DX Contest, CQ-WE Contest, Homebrew and Old-time Equipment Party and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed Test and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are on November 16.

[Play ID File: 6-OP ID2.wav]

WICEN News

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

The first official WICEN NSW field operation in some time, is assisting WICEN ACT in the provision of communications support for the BMSC "National Capital Rally". This is being held south and west of Canberra, in the Brindabella and Tidbinbilla areas, on November 28th and 29th.

A remote training exercise will be conducted on January 9 and 10, 2021. This will be conducted in small, physically distributed, teams, and will include practising field operations.

WICEN weekly nets are on Sunday evenings. Tonight, the main net will be at 6pm on the Kurrajong - Berowra 70cm FM system, followed at 6:30pm by a check-in net on 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.

The WICEN website, at 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. Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association is undergoing a restructure, and WICEN members can find out more on the shared Google drive, using your VRA email address, in the "Corporate Governance Review 2020" folder. Members are reminded to regularly check their vrarescue.org email address; from January 1 next year, WICEN emails will only be sent to a member's VRA address.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. For more information, visit the website at www.crarc.org.au. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on their website at; 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 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, until February 2021. One exception is the Club's 2020 Christmas Party, which will be held outdoors, in the covered outdoor picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery near Lake Cathie. This is the same very popular venue where the club's Christmas Party was held last year.

Club business continues, with individual Committee members working on the many tasks which still need to be completed. The Committee met last Saturday the 7th of November; the minutes of the meeting 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 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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The newly published November 2020 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is online 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 is planning a car boot sale next Saturday the 21st 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

Yesterday the club, in conjunction with WICEN Central Coast, presented a lecture on the JS8Call digital mode and the Winlink service, which are a system with extensive capability to facilitate message passing in times of challenging conditions. The club thanks Peter VK2EHQ for hosting such an informative session.

Pending favourable weather, the Club's next outdoor adventure is next weekend, on Saturday the 21st of November. In conjunction with the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club, there's an afternoon outdoor picnic at Mount Sugarloaf, after their scheduled car boot sale, as mentioned previously. If you are interested in attending, please contact the club by telephone, email or social media.

The next training and assessment weekend, planned for Saturday the 21st and Sunday the 22nd of November, is fully booked. Planning is underway for the next education weekend, early next year; if you would like a place at our next day, please email the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB at; education@ccarc.org.au.

The Club is in planning mode for the 2021 Wyong Field Day. Lock in the date – its Sunday the 28th of February 2021. There will be more updates on the Club's website, and here on VK2WI News.

The Clubs repeater team have also been busy planning and preparing for the rollout of new DMR repeater in the Central Coast region. It might be a good time to get your Codeplugs ready, and program in 438.850 MHz with 7.0mhz offset, and with VK-DMR talk groups.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Alan VK2MG, the evenings topic was *"Assuming money was not an issue, what new toys might you be looking at?"* and well... one very obvious thing, is many stations will need deep pockets and a warehouse to store all the items on their bucket list.

Today marks day 226 of the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR on the Club's VK2RAG 2 metre repeater. The club would like to acknowledge Bob for the enormous effort he has dedicated to the net, which continues to receive check-ins from both local and international stations. A shout out goes to Dave VK2KFU, for his daily history lesson where he shares some both very quirky and insightful pieces of times past. Thank you both, Bob and Dave!

Both club 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; 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 and Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

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Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Several exciting events are happening at the club over the next few weekends.

Next weekend, on Saturday the 21st of November, there is a radio communications field day with WICEN members. The clubhouse will also be open for tea and coffee.

On Friday 4th December, the club will be holding its annual Christmas Party, then on Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th, the club will be running a Foundation Training Weekend.

For more information, please contact club secretary, Irene VK2VAN by email to secretary@bmarc.org, or visit the website, at www.bmarc.org.

The Club has two on air nets each week; the 80 metre net Starts at 8pm on Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz. On Wednesday night from 8pm, there is a net on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater on 53.875MHz.

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

Amateur Radio Repeater Group

The Group will be running a 2m Fox Hunt next Sunday the 22nd of November, close by to the M5 Corridor, between Crossroads and Campbelltown.

The Fox frequency is 145.3MHz, so get your tape-measure antenna ready.

Co-ordination will start from around 8:30am on the Fisher's Ghost 70cm Repeater VK2RFG, on 438.650MHz with negative 7MHz input and 91.5Hz tone required.

Then, once the hunters are close by, the group will move to a simplex frequency, announce a suburb and turn on the fox. No speeding, it's not a race; it's a bit of fun, the aim is to *find* the Fox.

We would like to invite anyone who is interested and may like to attend to get in contact via email, to info@arrg.club to register your interest.

This would be a great event to get your kids involved and have a great day out.

For more information and further updates, visit the group's website at www.arrg.club.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Refurbishment has commenced at the Scout Hall, so the Society is currently unable to use the premises until December at the earliest. The works required the removal of the station equipment temporarily into storage. Several members assisted in the removal of the equipment. Once the refurbishment is complete, antennae and the other station equipment will need to be reinstated. A call will go out once we know when works will be completed.

The next meeting of the society will be held this coming Wednesday, November 18th. The meeting will be by teleconference and all are welcome.

Usually the December meeting is given over to the Christmas Party, however, the committee has not yet decided on whether it will be able to go ahead this year. Updates will be made on the Society's website, nets and here on VK2WI News.

Working bee Tuesdays have been temporarily moved to Wednesday, to allow for a few members meeting in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch as the bistro isn't open on a Tuesday. It may also be available on Zoom. Shack nights are continuing on Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of the month, the next one is on December 2nd.

The next project day will be on Saturday December 5th, on Zoom, commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm. The next Morse code group meeting is scheduled for December 6th. The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month, next meeting December 8th from 7:30pm on Zoom.

The Foundation weekend originally scheduled for November, has been cancelled due to the building works continuing. Dates for foundation courses have not yet been set for 2021 but the first one is likely to be in mid-February.

There has also been a fair amount of contest activity at the Robertson site with a number of the Society's members involved; see the website for details and some photos.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually run by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

For more information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, visit the website at vk2bv.org. You can also purchase kits and pay membership fees online, or use the contact form on to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

[zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86241108220?pwd=WDNRT1FRK0thL0JNS2xUV2paaFpTQT09>

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Manly-Warringah Radio Society

For some time now, the club's VHF and UHF D-STAR repeaters have been off-air for maintenance and software upgrades, and are now pending a frequency change and relocation to a new site closer to the club rooms.

Thanks to the generous support of Amateur Radio New South Wales, work is progressing to erect a new tower for these repeaters. Jobs are being planned and allocated, and the repeaters should be back on air some time in the new year.

Club station, VK2MB portable, will be active from Barrington Tops for the VHF/UHF Field Day on 28-29 November. Good luck to everyone participating, and hope to see you on the air!

Members are advised that the Society's usual Christmas dinner has been cancelled this year, due to the ongoing COVID situation; there will instead be a socially-distanced barbecue at the club rooms before Christmas.

Also, a reminder that in place of meetings at the clubhouse, the Society is now running a weekly net, on the two metre repeater VK2RMB, on 146.875 MHz FM with a -600 kHz offset. On the second and third Wednesdays, the net starts at 7.30pm, before moving to Zoom videoconference. Other weeks, the net starts at 8pm. All are welcome, including shortwave listeners - you can listen to the repeater audio via the club web site or the Scanner Radio app on your smart phone.

The Society's web site is at mwrs.org.au, where you'll find plenty of information about club activities and facilities, including links to the club's YouTube channel VK2MB-TV. You'll find recordings of past club lectures and short videos on many radio and technical topics.

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

HADARC's Pre-Christmas lunch will be on Sunday the 13th of December at noon. Due to the current situation, numbers are limited to 20. Contact the club secretary, Steve VK2AAV, for bookings and details.

The Club has resumed in-person meetings, with COVID safety measures in place; which includes a requirement for attendees book a seat with the Secretary. However, there is still interaction with remote members via Jitsi.

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 24th of November. In person attendance is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah - opposite the eastern entrance to Mt Colah Railway Station.

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. Visitors and out-of-town members 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.

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 and Echolink. Next monthly meeting on-air Thursday, 26th of November.

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.