

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

Welcome back to the first evening bulletin from VK2WI since March. With the recent changes to restrictions, activity has been increasing so at the most recent meeting, the board of ARNSW and the VK2WI News team decided it was appropriate to resume the morning and evening bulletins in the usual format.

Morning bulletins will continue with a relay of WIA National news and club news items, with a summary of activity around the state. In the evening, we will bring the news from around the state along with other news and technical features. Evening bulletins are transmitted via VK2WI and automated relays, with callbacks taken after the news. This year, both Morning and Evening bulletins will continue across the holiday period.

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.

The ARNSW Education will resume training and assessment activities in the new year; the team is considering a weekend in January subject to Covid19 safety plan approval. If you are interested, please let the Education team know by email to education@arnsw.org.au – so that plans can be confirmed in advance.

Later in this bulletin we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. You can let us know what is happening in your area by email; to news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full 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.

A note from our Secretary

Eric VK2VE, secretary of Amateur Radio New South Wales, has advised us about the ARNSW 2021 magnetic calendars.

The calendars have arrived at the office and we are planning to post them out to members in the coming week. Hopefully they will arrive in your letter box in time for Christmas.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27th of November to the 3rd of December.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm Flux	106	110	116	109	104	105	103
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	9	6	6	2	4	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	4	2	9	1	2	2 estimated
T index	+11	-1	+19	-5	-2	+30	+31

Solar activity was low on the 27th and 28th of November, then moderate on the 29th with an M4.4 flare occurring at 1311UTC; but activity returned to very low level on the 30th, and low levels from the 1st to the 3rd of December.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 27th, quiet on the 28th and 29th, then quiet to active on the 30th of November; before returning to quiet levels on the 1st through to the 3rd of December.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values. Depressions of 20% were observed after local dawn on the 27th; 20% during local day on the 28th and 15% during local day on the 29th. But, conditions turned around later in the week, with enhancements of 15% during night hours on the 2nd and the 3rd of December.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet, but unsettled to active conditions are possible on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values, to slightly enhanced.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished November, we saw a;

Minimum of 77, Average of 87, and a Maximum of 116
With peak dates from the 5th to the 12th; and the 23rd to the 30th

For December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 95, and a Maximum of 115
With peak dates from the 1st to the 5th; and the 20th to the 31st

And looking ahead to January 2021, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 82, Average of 93, and a Maximum of 110
With peak dates from the 1st to the 5th; and the 16th to the 20th

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 November 2020

Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was mostly at very low levels all month, with moderate solar activity on the 29th of November due to a M4.4 flare. The flare originated from a region near the south-east solar limb and was associated with a near semi-halo solar coronal mass ejection; though since this was eastward, it was not geo-effective. The flare was also associated with a solar proton enhancement; the US GOES satellite solar 10MeV energy level proton flux reached 6 proton flux units (PFU) at 0655UTC on the 1st of December; below the event threshold of 10PFU.

Solar coronal hole high-speed wind streams were also observed during the month; from the 5th to the 7th, and again from the 21st to the 22nd of November. Elevated solar wind conditions were observed toward the end of the month; however, the solar origin is unclear.

The geomagnetic field in the Australian region was mostly quiet to unsettled. A mild increase to active levels was observed on the 22nd of November, with the local A index reaching 16, the maximum for the month. Another isolated active period was observed on the 30th. Very mild increases in geomagnetic activity level to unsettled levels, were observed between the 5th and the 7th; these are believed to be associated with coronal hole high-speed wind streams.

The Australian regional ionosphere was between predicted monthly values to slightly depressed, with a moderate depression on the 28th of November, 20% below predicted. The ionospheric depressions were most likely associated with recurrent geomagnetic activity.

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What use is an F-call?

Tonight, 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: 16-FCAL192.wav]

Duration 2m30s

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

PORTUGAL; Valdemar, CT7AQD will be active as CQ750RSI throughout 2021, to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth of Aragon, the queen consort of Portugal and patron saint of the city of Coimbra.

CUBA; Members of the Radio Club de Caibarien are active as T46W until December 29 to commemorate the first transmissions 100 years ago by the Cuban radio pioneer Manolín Álvarez. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SPAIN; Operators Pedro, EA5BJ, Gen, EA5EL, Antonio, EA5RM and Jose, EA5BCQ are active as EA5BJ/p, EA5EL/p, EA5RM/p and EA5BCQ/p, respectively, from Tabarca Island, IOTA EU-093, until December 6. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB with two stations active.

FRANCE; Members of the Radio Club du Val d'Issole are active as TM20XMAS and TM21HNY.

JAN MAYEN; Erik, LA2US is active as JX2US until the end of March, 2021. Activity is on 160 to 12 metres using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

HAWAII; Alex, KU1CW is active as KH6/KU1CW from Oahu Island, IOTA OC-019. His length of stay is unknown. Activity is on various HF bands using mostly FT8 with some CW.

ARGENTINA; Hernan, LU7EHR plans to be active as LU7EHR/E from La Isla Martin Garcia, IOTA SA-055, until December 8. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

BULGARIA; Special event station LZ2020XMAS is active from Sliven until January 1, 2021.

NETHERLANDS; Special event stations PA20XMAS, PB20CLAUS and PD20SANTA are active during December.

SLOVENIA; Special event station S521PMC is active until January 3, 2021 to promote the PMC Contest.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Saratow, R30MCHS and Kurgan, R30EMER are active until December 27 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations.

INDONESIA; A group of operators are active as 7C9B from Sumbawa Island, IOTA OC-150, until December 10. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

IRAQ ; Giorgio, IU5HWS is active as YI9WS and remains active until January 20, 2021 in his spare time.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Metre Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, UFT Meeting, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, PRO CW Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint and FT Roundup are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC CW Memorial are scheduled for December 7.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and ARS Spartan Sprint are scheduled for December 8.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray, NAQCC CW Sprint and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 9.

WICEN News

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

The group was recently presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the NSW RFS - Hawkesbury District for the contributions of its radio operators and Incident Management Team at the NSW RFS Hawkesbury Fire Control Centre. This included assisting in coordinating the response to the Gosper Mountain fire during the 2019-20 bushfire season.

WICEN and the St. George Amateur Radio Society are jointly conducting a test of a 70cm FM repeater at Mt. Bindo on the Great Dividing Range. VK2RAH is on 439.875 MHz, with the standard negative 5.0 MHz offset. No CTCSS tone is required or sent. Please "give it a go" and let callback@sgars.org know how it went.

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. The main net is at 6pm with a secondary digital voice check-in net at 6:30pm.

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.

WICEN hopes to be at the CCARC Field Day at Wyong on February 28, 2021.

WICEN 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/>]

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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 in person activities until February 2021... with one exception.

The Club's 2020 Christmas Party, was held yesterday, the 5th December. The venue was outdoors, at the covered outdoor picnic area at Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery near Lake Cathie. Members, their families and close friends greatly enjoyed the first opportunity for many months to get together and socialize while still observing the current physical distancing and safety requirements. The sausage sizzle barbeque and servings of a delicious dessert added to the enjoyment of the day. Several members demonstrated their digital communications equipment which created a lot of interest.

The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar was unveiled and distributed at the party; arrangements are being made to safely hand deliver calendars to the members who were not at the party.

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 November 2020 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is now 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday's monthly general meeting saw a full house both at the Clubrooms and online via video conference; thanks to Steve VK2SKC for cooking up a storm on the BBQ.

The club Christmas luncheon is on the 12th of December and all club members are welcome. To ensure Covid compliance, please contact the Club directly if you are planning to attend.

Planning is underway for the 2021 Wyong Field Day. If you are a trader interested in attending or are looking to sell goods at the car boot sale and would like to register or obtain further information, please email fieldday@ccarc.org.au.

Lock in the date –Sunday the 28th of February 2021. The event is subject to public health directives and updates will be provided as progress continues. There will be more updates on the Club's website, and here on VK2WI News.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ, on the topic of "*QRP or QRO, what do you prefer?*" The general consensus was QRP is the winner as it provides more of a challenge. One station spoke about QRO and the famous "foot warmers" that many 11-metre operators would run. A huge thank you to all those that participated.

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

If you interested in Packet Radio, remember that the Club has a digipeater VK2RAG-1 which connects to VK2EHQ and is available via 147.600Mhz.

Today marks day 247 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.

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.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's pre-Christmas lunch is on Sunday the 13th of December at noon. As attendance is strictly limited to 20, contact club secretary, Steve VK2AAV, for bookings and details.

In person meetings have resumed with COVID safety measures in place, though regular meeting will resume in early 2021.

A BBQ is being planned for January, details TBA, subject to the health situation.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, including the Covid Safety plan, 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 2 metre repeater, VK2RNS on 147.250 MHz is now connected to Allstarlink on Node 41646. This also provides access to the repeater via Echolink node 311266, or VK2RNS-R, which has been associated with this system.

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.

Nets are supplemented with Jitsi, which is an open source audio and video conferencing system, available via a web browser, an App; or by dialling in from any 'phone. Out-of-town members and visitors are most welcome to participate in any events where Jitsi is used.

*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 and 53.875MHz.

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 Thursdays on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with - 7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required, also on Echolink.

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.