

****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.

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.

VK2WI News bulletins are also relayed through a network of regional repeaters, and we would like to thank these clubs for their continued support of our news Service. Some of these clubs also arrange to take callbacks for us, at the end of the bulletin. But, if callbacks are not taken on your relay outlet, you can let us know directly by email to callbacks@arnsw.org.au; we would like to hear from you.

Ross Hull VHF/UHF Memorial Contest

The contest will be on again in 2021, and it runs for the entire month of January.

The contest aims to encourage DX activity on the VHF and UHF bands. You can enter your log for the best two days in the contest period, the best seven days, or both.

Experience what it is to work DX on 6 Metres and above.

For more information about the Ross Hull Contest, visit the contest page on the WIA website. You don't need to be a WIA member to take part; all you have to do is make contacts, have fun and enjoy our hobby.

Rob VK2XIC
Contest Manager.

[contest page <https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rosshull/>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 11th to the 17th of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
10cm Flux	83	82	81	83	83	82	82
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	3	3	2	2	3	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	4	2	3	1	2	1 estimated
T index	9	14	16	7	15	11	8

Solar activity was very low from the 11th to the 13th, low on the 14th, then very low again, from the 15th to the 17th.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 11th, then remained at quiet levels from the 12th to the 17th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, all week.

Now, the forecast for the 18th to the 24th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 November, we saw a;

Minimum of 77, Average of 89, and a Maximum of 116
With peak dates from the 6th to the 10th; and the 24th to the 30th

So far for December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 81, Average of 87, and a Maximum of 109
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th

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

Minimum of 82, Average of 84, and a Maximum of 86
With peak dates from the 15th to the 26th

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?

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.

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Duration 3m12s

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.

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ARRL DX news

SRI LANKA; Members of the Radio Society of Sri Lanka, formerly known as the Radio Society of Ceylon, celebrates its 70th anniversary with stations adding /70 to their call signs.

CYPRUS; Alex, 5B4ALX is active as C4XMAS, throughout December.

SPAIN; Special event station AO50UPC is active until December 30 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society are active with special event station HZ18SAT until December 27 to commemorate the start of the Saudi satellite 1C SO-50, 18 years ago.

OGASAWARA; Harry, JG7PSJ is active as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, and currently plans to be there until January 9, 2021. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

ALASKA; Jim, KL7KK is active from Bethel and is generally active on 80 metres using SSB around 1500 to 1600UTC and then from 1700 to 1900UTC, daily.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PH20XMAS is active until January 3, 2021. Special event station PH21HNY is active until January 31, 2021.

SLOVENIA; Members of the Radio Club Elektron Brezice [*bree-JIT-zey*] are active with special event station S520SAFE until January 31, 2021 to support the STAY SAFE campaign and to express their gratitude to medical staff and care workers.

POLAND; Members of team SP2PBM are active with special event callsign HF2021HNY until January 10, 2021.

GREECE; Nine multi operator special event stations, SX1A, SX2A, SX3A, SX4A, SX5A from Dodecanese, and SX6A, SX7A, SX8A, and SX9A from Crete, are active in the countdown towards celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Hellenic War of Independence in 1821.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D from Juba. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly 160 metres, using SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, Feld Hell Sprint, OK DX RTTY Contest, RAC Winter Contest, Padang DX Contest and Croatian CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for December 21.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for December 22.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for December 23.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint is scheduled for December 24.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Members are asked to remain prepared for activation – as summer is a time when things seem to go ‘wobbly’ – sometimes literally – for example, the small earthquake of about magnitude 2, recorded in the Blue Mountains earlier this week.

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. Coverage reports so far appear good; so, please "give it a go" and let callback@sgars.org know how it went.

There will be a remote training exercise on January 9 and 10, 2021. This will be conducted in small, physically distributed teams, and will include practice of 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 is planning 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. their website includes WICEN and general Club information; with details of FM, DMR and D-Star repeaters on the Services pages. 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, including general meetings and Friday night get-togethers.

The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar has proven to be very popular, and arrangements are being made to safely hand deliver calendars to as many members as possible. Calendars will also be available at the Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of February 2021.

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. Due to a server failure, it was not available for last Thursday's net, but the server has since been repaired and the VK2RPM EchoLink node is now back on line.

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 saw the last day of operations at the Kariong clubrooms for 2020. The clubrooms will be closing for a short period during the festive season, reopening on Saturday the 9th of January 2021.

Many milestones were passed and hurdles were jumped this year, and this would not be possible without the support of the club's members. The club's executive team would like to thank all members for their ongoing support during this challenging year.

The Club is in full swing planning for the upcoming 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 Clubs repeater team have been busy preparing for the rollout of a new DMR repeater for the Central Coast Region, in conjunction with the ARNSW Radio Network Group. It might be a good time to update your DMR Codeplugs; program in 438.850 MHz with 7MHz offset, and VK-DMR talk groups.

The Club's final Thursday evening net for the year was facilitated by Brad VK2M+NMZ, on the topic of "*Festive season projects*". This was an engaging topic where a number of stations spoke about their short-term, 2-year-old projects, that will be finished "one day"... Some stations spoke about home renovation projects, reviewing and compiling mapping data from 1943 along with further exploration of the Raspberry Pi Keyboard. It was a great way to wind up the year, including a visitor Christof DO7KEH from Germany who dropped by to say hello. The team wishes to thank everybody who participated this year and is looking forward to what 2021 brings, with the first net to be held on Thursday the 7th of January.

Today marks day 261 of the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR on the Club's VK2RAG 2 metre repeater. The club would like to acknowledge Bob's monumental effort in hosting the net during these testing times. It has been an absolute pleasure hearing stations around the world checking in to the net after hearing or reading about the popularity. Bob VK2AOR has made the decision to step back from the daily nets during the festive season with the final net for 2020 to be held on Wednesday the 23rd of December. The structure of this net will be reviewed in the new year and further announcements regarding this will be made when available.

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.

73 one and all, enjoy time with those close to you, stay safe out there and don't forget the rush for toilet paper and lobsters.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President and Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's on air nets continue to run as normal 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.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

The club wishes all members and listeners, a Merry and safe Christmas and New Year.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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.

On 70cm, also at Hornsby, is a dual mode FM and P25 repeater on 439.975MHz, with a -5 MHz offset; it requires a 91.5Hz tone, or NAC of 293. VK2RHT is the DMR repeater at Chatswood.

The Club's three regular nets continue each week throughout the holidays, including on the 25th of December. 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.

Club events are being planned for the new year, including a BBQ on Tuesday the 12th of January, the venue will be advised shortly. An informal meeting is planned for February the 8th and the first general meeting at Mt Colah is planned February the 23rd, 2021.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, including the Covid Safety plan, and 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.

*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.