

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

While no events are currently planned at VK2WI Dural, 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.

A note about membership renewals

The ARNSW magnetic calendars have once again been sent to members in 2021; and as usual, we have included some updates on our operations, plus a renewal form for the convenience of members.

However, we would like to remind our members that ARNSW memberships become due on a rolling basis, based on the month you first joined. While we always appreciate when members choose to renew, our membership team has received a considerable number of renewals, from members whom still have several years paid up until their membership is next due.

Remember that you can check your due date on the address label; if you've already recycled it, email membership@arnsw.org.au or leave a phone message at the office on 02 9651 1490.

Ross Hull VHF/UHF Memorial Contest

The contest is on again in 2021.

Running for the entire month of January, this 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 18th to the 24th of December.

First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 18 th | 19 th | 20 th | 21 st | 22 nd | 23 rd | 24 th |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm Flux | 82 | 82 | 84 | 80 | 86 | 86 | 87 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 11 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 2 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 9 estimated |
| T index | 4 | 8 | 4 | -2 | -21 | -4 | +4 |

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 18th to the 20th. On the 21st, activity went from quiet to active, with the SWS magnetometer observing a weak impulse of 7 nanoTesla at 1420UTC. The 22nd was active initially, returning later to quiet to unsettled levels; and the 23rd and 24th remained at quiet to unsettled levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, except for some depressions of up to 20% after local dawn on the 21st, and on the 22nd, where conditions were depressed by 15%.

Now, the forecast for the 25th to the 31st of December;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected still be at at quiet to unsettled levels on the 25th, returning to quiet afterwards.

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

Nearing the end of December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 81, Average of 88, 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 22nd to the 27th

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 2m5s

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.

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.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS; Lee, DS4NMJ plans to be active again from the King Se-Jong Korean Antarctic Base on King George Island as DT8A sometime in 2021. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8, with 100 watts. QSL via DS5TOS.

WICEN News

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

WICEN is conducting a remote communications exercise on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of January, 2021; and amateur radio operators from across the state are invited to participate.

WICEN members across the state are setting up home or field stations as part of a wider exercise. From WICEN net control at Little Bay, in the east of Sydney, operators will pass messages and accept check-ins from WICEN members and other amateur radio operators.

Contacts from the wider amateur radio community, throughout the course of the exercise, will be greatly appreciated as these will help increase traffic, and simulate more realistic workloads for the exercise net control operators. Operations will be on frequencies from 80m to 70cm; for more details including frequencies, visit the WICEN NSW website.

Members are asked to remain prepared for activation – as summer is a time when things have traditionally gone ‘wobbly’ – often figuratively but sometimes literally!

WICEN and the St. George Amateur Radio Society are jointly testing 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.

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.

Finally, WICEN wishes members and listeners a Happy Hogmanay and New Year.

[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 committee will meet on Saturday the 2nd of January 2021 and minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members.

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.

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

As we wrap up 2020; on behalf of all the members of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, the Club's executive team would like to wish everybody a safe and happy festive season.

The team would like to acknowledge all seen and unseen club members, whose efforts this year have kept the club afloat and has allowed the club to resume operation despite the most extreme and trying circumstances.

Whilst the club rooms are currently closed; the team are still hard at work preparing for the next 12 months and what opportunities it will bring.

One big event in 2021 of course is the Wyong Field Day. It's still going ahead, with several traders already booked in. If you are interested in attending to sell goods, including the car boot sale, please email fieldday@ccarc.org.au for more information or to register.

Lock in the date; Sunday the 28th of February 2021. There are also plans for Saturday fox hunts again, pedestrian and mobile, too.

The event is subject to public health advice, which will be strictly adhered to. 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 Thursday evening net resumes on the 7th of January. Also taking a break is the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR.

The format of the net will be reviewed in the new year, and further announcements regarding this will be made when available.

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 remember many friends are just a kerchunk away.

Brad VK2NMZ

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Assuming its safe to meet, the Club is planning a BBQ on Tuesday the 12th of January, being the second Tuesday of the month. The first general meeting for 2021 is scheduled for the 23rd of February at Mt Colah, with the February the 8th meeting still yet to be determined.

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

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.

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.