

## **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](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by phone message to 02 9651 1490.

The ARNSW Education team is keen considering a training weekend early in the new year. If you are interested, please let the Education team know by email to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au) – so that plans can be confirmed in advance. Those interested will be kept informed by email, and we will have further updates here on VK2WI News.

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](mailto: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 services are available 24 hours a day; and are a free call from most telephone services.

Tonight, we welcome back listeners on the EchoLink “HAM” conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken tonight on the network after the bulletin, and our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

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](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au); we would like to hear from you.

## Ross Hull VHF/UHF Memorial Contest

It's already underway; running 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/> ]

## US Licence Exams at Wyong

With the 2021 Wyong Field Day planned for Sunday the 28<sup>rd</sup> of February, there is also a plan for US exam sessions to be running on the day, for both new and upgrading candidates. More details will be announced soon.

There is a wide range of study material is available, including several free online resources. For more information or bookings, the Australian VE team website is [vea.org.au](http://vea.org.au).

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE).*

[VEA on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VEAExams/>]

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
10cm Flux	88	88	88	87	84	83	81
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	3	4	6	5	6	2
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	3	6	8	5	6	1 estimated
T index	5	8	14	5	10	18	14

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 25 to the 27<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 28<sup>th</sup>, before remaining quiet from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, except for enhancements of 15% during local night on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of January;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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 December, we saw a;

Minimum of 81, Average of 88, and a Maximum of 109  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>

As we start January 2021, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 85, and a Maximum of 89  
With peak dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 82, Average of 84, and a Maximum of 86  
With peak dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<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?

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 2m24s*

*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**

KENYA; Cato, LA9PF will be active as 5Z4/LA9PF from Malindi until May. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

PORTUGAL; Valdemar, CT7AQD will be active as CQ750RSI all year, commemorating the 750<sup>th</sup> birthday of Queen Elizabeth of Portugal.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY; Special event station DB59FIRAC is active throughout 2021 to recognize the 59<sup>th</sup> International Congress of FIRAC, the International federation of Railway Radio Amateurs.

SWITZERLAND; Special event station HB40POLICE is active all year, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the International Police Association Radio Club. Activity is on all HF, VHF, UHF and SHF bands.

THAILAND; Chris, GM8NMM is active as HS0ZJB from Bang Saray. Activity is on various HF bands. His length of stay is unknown.

FINLAND; Special event station OH100SRAL is active all year, celebrating the centennial of the Finnish Amateur Radio League.

BELGIUM; Special event stations OO7STAYHOME, OP19MSF, OQ5BECLEVER, OR20STAYHOME, OT4LIFE and OT6SAFE are active until January 31.

ANTARCTICA; Alexei, RX6A is active as RI01ANT from Progress Station and Vostok Station until May 30. Activity is mainly on 40 metres and above using CW and FT8.

UKRAINE; Members of the 7-DX-Club will be active with special event call EN50WZA during January, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of their club.

POLAND; Members of the SEDINA Contest Club will be active with special event station SQ0MORSE until the end of April to commemorate the 230th birthday of Samuel F. B. Morse.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO and is generally active on 40 metres using FT8 in DXpedition mode from 2200 to 0000UTC.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D from Juba. He is active on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8 in his spare time.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; ARRL Kids SSB Day, Straight Key Night, ARRL RTTY Roundup, AGB New Year Snowball Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, AGCW Happy New Year CW Contest, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, QRP ARCI New Years CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, World Wide PMC Contest, RSGB AFS CW Contest, Original QRP Contest, Winter VHF Sprint and EUCW 160-Metre CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy these next few days.

The OK1WC CW Memorial, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and RSGB Hope RTTY QSO Party are scheduled for January 4.

The RSGB Hope SSB QSO Party, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and ARS Spartan CW Sprint are scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup>.

The RSGB Hope FT4 QSO Party, AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest, UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and 40-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt are all scheduled for January 6.



## 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](mailto: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](http://nsw.wicen.org.au); includes details on exercises, the Covid safety plan, and a web contact form. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page; and an informal, national WICEN group.

WICEN members are reminded to regularly check their [vrarescue.org](mailto:vrarescue.org) email address. 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 ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. heir 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](http://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](http://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 committee met yesterday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January; minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members.

The club's 2021 50<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

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](http://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 the January 2021 issue will be published soon. 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.*

## Hunter Radio Group

The VK2AWX Monday night news broadcasts take a break over the new year period, and resume on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

However, the Wednesday evening nets continue. They are on the Group's VHF Repeater, on 146.9MHz, and start at 7:30pm.

*Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubs repeater team have recently commissioned a new DMR based repeater in conjunction with the ARNSW Radio Network Group and reports so far are that the coverage is great! One station was transmitting from Inner Sydney and reached the repeater on 2 watts via Handheld.

The Club appreciates the support from ARNSW with this project. The repeater is on 438.850MHz with a negative 7MHz offset with VK-DMR talk groups.

The 2021 Wyong Field Day is 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](mailto:fieldday@ccarc.org.au) for more information or to register.

Lock in the date; Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2021. There are also plans for Saturday fox hunts again, pedestrian and mobile, too. So, keep your eyes and ears peeled.

The event is subject to public health advice, which the team are monitoring closely. Updates will be provided as progress continues, both on the Club's website, and here on VK2WI News.

The Clubrooms are scheduled to re-open again on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January; however, with the rapidly developing health situation in the Greater Sydney area, this may be changed at short notice.

The Club's Thursday evening net resumes this coming Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. Bob VK2AOR has taken a short break from the Morning Tea net, but to keep the wheels turning, the amazing Dave VK2KFU has stepped in as host. With Dave's vast experience facilitating nets, along with his own spin on "This Day in History" it is a very enjoyable net to be involved with.

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 social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club. Remember to 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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The committee of the St. George Amateur Radio Society would like to wish all listeners a healthy and safe 2021.

For many years, the society has operated the 2 metre repeater VK2RYL at Rylstone, north west of Sydney between Lithgow and Mudgee. It has an output frequency of 147.225MHz with a positive 600kHz offset. To access this repeater, a 91.5Hz subaudible tone is required.

Many thanks to Tom VK2TB for maintaining this repeater.

The society in conjunction with WICEN are also conducting testing a 70cm repeater at Mt. Bindo. VK2RAH has an output of 439.875MHz and an input of 424.875MHz; a normal negative 5MHz offset. No tones are sent or required. Listeners in Sydney, the Central West, the Southern Highlands and surrounding areas are invited to give it a try and send reports to [callback@sgars.org](mailto:callback@sgars.org).

Further information about The St George Amateur Radio Society can be found on the website, at [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org) or follow us on Facebook.

*Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Assuming it is safe to meet, the Club is planning a BBQ on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, being the second Tuesday of the month. The first general meeting for 2021 is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February at Mt Colah, with the February the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](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. 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, can now be accessed on Allstarlink Node 41646. On EchoLink use VK2RNS-R, node 611266.

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.

**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.