

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 team is considering a training weekend in the next couple of months; if you are interested, please let get in touch by email to 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 – 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's news is being relayed on EchoLink, on the "HAM" conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken tonight on the network after the bulletin. 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; we would like to hear from you.

Ross Hull VHF/UHF Memorial Contest

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 28rd of February, there is also a plan for US exam sessions to be running on the day, for both new and upgrading candidates.

There is a wide range of study material is available, including several free online resources.

Online supervision of exams is also available; contact the team for more information.

For more information or bookings, the Australian VE team website is vea.org.au.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE).

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of January.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm Flux	75	74	73	73	73	73	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	1	2	3	10	8	3	2 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	1	1	11	5	3	1 estimated
T index	9	5	3	-10	-13	-6	-7

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet except for the 11th – which reached active levels. SWS magnetometer data for the day, showed a weak impulse of 11 nanoTesla, at 0931UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values from the 8th to the 10th. The 11th saw depressions of 15% during local day and 20% at night; the 12th was depressed 20% during the day and 15% at night; the 13th remained near predicted; and the 14th was 15% depressed at night.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of January;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at mostly quiet to unsettled levels, with isolated active periods between the 17th and 19th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain mostly 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 80, Average of 88, and a Maximum of 109
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th

So far for January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 77, and a Maximum of 82
With peak dates from the 1st to the 5th; and the 19th to the 28th

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 74, Average of 76, and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 16th 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?

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: 15-FCAL147.wav]

Duration 2m11s

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.

[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

MALDIVES; Massimo, IZ5KID is active as 8Q7MM from Male until around January 23rd while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 30, 20 and 15 metres using FT8.

ZAMBIA; Brian, 9J2BO is usually active on 40 metres using CW from 0330 to 0500UTC.

ANDORRA; Joan, C31US is usually active on 40 metres using CW between 0700 and 0800UTC.

BOLIVIA; Antonio, EA5RM is active as CP1XRM from San Ignacio de Moxos until January 26. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

ANTARCTICA; Operators Taka, JA1AGS and Hiro, JH7JCX are active as 8J1RL from Syowa Station, IOTA AN-015, until the end of January. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using mainly FT8.

SVALBARD; Erling, LB2PG is active as JW/LB2PG from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 1. Activity is on 80 to 20 metres using SSB.

ALASKA; As part of the Alaska RST QSO Party 2021, stations K7ICE, KL7CCN, KL7JR, KL7RST, KL7RST/KL7, VE8RST/KL7, VY0RST/KL7, and VY1RST/KL7 are active until February 15 from various regions across the state.

ARGENTINA; Members of AMSAT Argentina will be active as LU7AA until January 24 to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the launch of Satellite LO-19. Activity will be on the HF bands and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, various digital modes, SSTV, and FM on various satellites.

BULGARIA; Special event station LZ1340B is active to celebrate the 1340th anniversary of the First Bulgarian Empire.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PC19HOPE is active until March 10 to support efforts in containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEYCHELLES; Ravi, S79VU has been active on 40 metres using FT8 around 0145UTC.

POLAND; Members of the SEDINA Contest Club are active with special event call sign SQ0MORSE from Szczecin[*SHCHETCH-in*] until April 30 to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse. Activity is on various HF bands.

WESTERN KIRIBATI[*kir-uh-BAS*]; Jack, T30TM has been active on 20 metres using SSB around 0530UTC.

GABON; Alain, TR8CA has been active using CW and RTTY on 20 metres between 1600 and 1730UTC.

MALI; Jeff, TZ4AM has been active on 30 and 17 metres using CW between 1745 and 2000UTC.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station R170SG is active until the end of January to celebrate the founding 170 years ago of the province of Samara.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS; Garry, 2M1DHG is active as ZC4GR for the next few years. Activity is mainly on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8, and possibly SSTV, PSK31 and WSPR in his spare time.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Pete, K8PGJ is active as ZF2PG until January 17. He is active using SSB and plans to be active in the North American SSB QSO Party.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, Hungarian DX Contest, PRO Digi Contest, RSGB AFS SSB Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, North America Collegiate SSB Championship, WAB 1.8 MHz Phone and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC CW Memorial are scheduled for January 18.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for January 19.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, 40-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt and Phone Weekly Test Fray are scheduled for January 20.

WICEN News

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

Last weekend's "FEBEX2" communications exercise proved to be a success, with much learned. Comments have been posted to the wicen.all group in the VRA mail system.

WICEN and the St. George Amateur Radio Society are jointly testing a 70cm FM repeater at Mt. Bindo; VK2RAH is on 439.875 MHz, with the standard negative 5.0 MHz offset, and no tone required or sent. Coverage reports so far appear good; so, please "give it a go" and let callback@sgars.org know your results.

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 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 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. Members can volunteer by contacting WICEN Operations.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information; its at www.crarc.org.au.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. Duncan's Run at Turra-Bulga State Forest is scheduled for the 20th and 21st of March; 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.

The Club is planning to resume in-person meetings, with the February general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of February at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. While the club is looking forward to the return of regular face to face activities, the Club's Committee will continue to closely monitor the evolving public health situation, to ensure that activities comply with restrictions, which may change at short notice.

The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar has proven to be very popular, and copies will also be available at the meeting on Saturday the 6th of February.

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's 2021 annual Field Day is on Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend, at the Wauchope Showground Hall. All the usual Field Day attractions will be there, and the Field Day Dinner will be in the Function Room at Port Macquarie Golf club on the evening of Saturday the 12th. Start planning and book your accommodation early, as the area will be even more popular than usual this year. There are limited caravan and camping sites at Wauchope Showground, so if you want to stay on-site, it is best to book now.

In the absence of in-person meetings, members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club's two weekly nets; 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 January 2021 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed 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 8th 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 made some temporary changes to repeater operations while maintenance is carried out. The P25 439.950 MHz mixed mode repeater, the 2 Meter 146.6375 MHz and 70cm 438.325 MHz D-Star system is currently off air. In the interim, P25 & D-Star services will be available via the MMDVM repeater on 438.875MHz.

Speaking of Repeaters, the recently commissioned VK-DMR repeater is getting reports of great coverage! Its on 438.850MHz with a negative 7MHz offset, and VK-DMR talk groups. The club appreciates the support of the ARNSW Radio Network Group with this project.

The 2021 Wyong Field Day is still scheduled to go ahead on Sunday the 28th of February, with several traders already booked in and promising some incredible field day specials.

Many of the usual field day activities are still planned, with some slight social distancing attached. Car boot sales have been getting strong interest, along with the US licencing exams.

Speakers that have already been booked, include; Ray Robinson, from Tube Radio; Dr Brian Clarke, who will be sharing his knowledge and experience of Operational Amplifiers - devices he has worked with, for over 60 years; and Roger Harrison will convene a meeting of the Weak Signal Group.

If you are interested in attending, provide a lecture or take part in the car boot sale, please email fieldday@ccarc.org.au for more information.

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

While the CCARC clubrooms were scheduled to re-open on Saturday the 9th of January, with the rapidly developing health situation in the Greater Sydney area, the Club's executive team have postponed opening, with the clubrooms remaining closed for now. The executive team are monitoring the ongoing situation closely and will keep in communication with members.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Jaye VK2FOMG. Topic of discussion was "*mobile radio – What do you have in your vehicle?*" Many stations came back with your regular dual band rigs, and some having a full fit out of UHF, VHF, HF and even 27mhz marine radio.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU have been mixing it up during the week with the clubs Morning Tea net. Bob will be hosting the net on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with Dave VK2KFU hosting on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. The repeater also is available via EchoLink on *ccarcnsw* or on IRLP node 9509.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at 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.

Brad VK2NMZ

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

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Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month except for January; the first meeting for 2021 will be on Tuesday evening, the 9th of February. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm; directly after the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

Meetings are at the BlueScope Steel Visitor's Centre, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the main entrance road, immediately turn right just before the security gates and follow the signs to the Visitors Centre. Due to the large size of the Visitor Centre, physical distancing requirements can easily be maintained.

At the February meeting, the Society's resident teacher Vaughan VK2KBI will be discussing the basics of electronics and electrical theory. Everyone can do with a "brush-up" on what makes it all work!

The night will conclude with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer, where you can also relax on the very comfortable lounges, while of course maintaining the necessary physical distancing.

A reminder of the Society's weekly Nets; the Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. You can join on the 2 metre repeaters, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, or call-in on EchoLink, via VK2BGL-R. The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage, and it starts at 8:30pm.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on the web at iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; iars.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the first meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society for 2021 – its at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 9th of February; at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club is an active group of individuals interested in all things Amateur Radio; including supporting emergency services, electronic equipment testing, satellite communications and Jamboree On The Air. The club has a range of members of different ages and professional backgrounds. Having an amateur radio licence is not a pre-requisite for joining the club.

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.

The first Friday night meeting for 2021 will be on the 5th February at the BMARC club room, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook. Due to the current COVID situation, meeting participants are required to wear face masks. A supper will be provided after the meeting.

The first foundation license weekend for the year will be held at the clubroom on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th February. Training and exams will be held for new radio amateurs along with exams will be available for anyone who wishes to upgrade to Standard or Advanced licences.

If you would like to attend the meeting on Friday 5th February or sit for any of the upcoming examinations contact the club secretary, Irene VK2VAN. Her contact details as well as any other information you wish to know about the club can be found on the club's webpage at www.bmarc.org.

73 James VK2GOH

Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

With the Society's meeting place at Rose Bay still unavailable, the next meeting, to be held this coming Wednesday, January 20th, will once again be on Zoom. An email will be sent out to members with the Zoom invitation for those who don't already have it in their calendar.

Working bee Tuesdays are still being held on Wednesdays as a few are 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, so the next one is February 3rd. The next project day will be on Saturday February 6th, on Zoom, commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm. The next meeting of the club's Morse code group is scheduled for Sunday, February 7th.

The next meeting of the digital special interest group is scheduled for Tuesday February 9th, from 7:30pm on Zoom.

The first foundation weekend for 2021 is scheduled to be February 13th and 14th, subject to availability of the clubhouse as well as the prevailing Covid situation. Listen to these broadcasts for further news.

The club is once making plans to hit Tooraweenah for the John Moyle contest weekend next year. Apparently there has been quite a bit of rain in recent times and it's looking a lot more lush. There has also been a fair amount of contest activity at the Robertson site with several of the Society's members involved. See the club website for details and some photos.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8:00 pm every Monday evening, usually run by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website, <http://vk2bv.org>. You can purchase kits, pay your membership or use the contact form on the website to contact the society for more information.

*Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

An informal, family friendly, dinner is planned for February 8, at the "Magpies Club" in Waitara.

Tuesday, February 23rd will be the first meeting back at Mt Colah; it will feature several short presentations, including on the NanoVNA by Steven VK2AAV. The meeting starts at 8pm, and its at the Mt Colah Community Centre near the northern end of Pierre Close.

The planned BBQ is postponed until February. Details will be announced on the various nets.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, plus 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. 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. Out-of-town members and visitors are most welcome to participate in any nets via Jitsi or linked repeaters.

*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, Wednesday from 8pm on 3608.5kHz, Friday 9am on 7106kHz.

Manly-Warringah on air meeting net, Wednesdays 8pm on 146.875MHz.