

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 team is considering a training weekend in the next couple of months. As current arrangements require significant forward planning, please register your interest by email to education@arnsw.org.au. 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.

With Australia Day coming up on Tuesday – remember that you can use the AX prefix with your normal callsign, throughout the entire local-time day, of January 26th.

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/>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of January.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm Flux	73	78	77	75	78	77	78
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	2	2	3	6	5	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	3	1	2	4	7	1 estimated
T index	-10	-3	-2	+3	+13	0	0

Solar activity was very low from the 15th to the 18th, low on the 19th and 20th and very low again, on the 21st.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet all week except for the 20th – which saw mostly quiet but some unsettled conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, except for some depressions of 20%, during local nights of the 16th and the 19th.

Now, the forecast for the 22nd to the 28th of January;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

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

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 22nd to the 29th

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 76, and a Maximum of 77
With peak dates from the 12th to the 18th.

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 1m45s

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

KENYA; Wayne, 5Z4WH is active from Molo, generally on 40, 20, 15 and 12 metres using SSB and FT8.

MALDIVES; Michael, HB9WDF will be active as 8Q7AO from Vilamendhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, from January 25 to February 7. Activity will be holiday style and only on Satellite OQ-100.

EASTER ISLAND; Johnson is now active as CD0YJA and plans to be active from Hotu Matua, IOTA SA-001, when time permits.

ANTARCTICA; Felix, DL5XL is active as DP1POL from the German research station Neumayer-3 until mid-March while on work assignment. Activity is on various HF bands, and possibly Satellite QO-100, using CW and various digital modes.

ANTARCTICA; Ramon, LU3HRS is active as LU1ZG from Base Belgrano-2 while on work assignment. He is usually active on 20 metres using FT8 between 1900 and 2300UTC.

BULGARIA; Special event station LZ190FT is active throughout 2021 to commemorate the 190th birthday of Bulgarian revolutionary Filip Totyu.

PERU; Special event calls OC200P, OC200E, OC200R and OC200U are active during 2021 to commemorate 200 years of Peru's republic. Only one of these calls will be active at a time.

GREENLAND; Nils, SM3UQK is active as OX/SE3A from Narsarsuaq Island, IOTA NA-018, while on work assignment. He is active in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres.

ARUBA; Mathias, DL4MM plans to be active as P4/DL4MM until February 3. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. He plans to be active as P44AA in the upcoming CQ World-Wide 160-Metre CW contest.

UKRAINE; Special event stations EM150PLU, EN150PLU and EO150PLU are active throughout 2021 to celebrate the 150th birthday of the poet Lesya Ukrinka.

HONG KONG; Special event station VR2BLEE is active to commemorate the passing 47 years ago of martial arts movie star Bruce Lee.

INDONESIA; Operators YB9GCC, YB9KJ, YC9GIW and YC9JKT will be active from Gelora Beach on Sumbawa Island, IOTA OC-150, on January 23 and 24. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 metres using SSB and FT8.

ASCENSION ISLAND; Tev, TA1HZ is active as ZD8HZ during 2021 while on work assignment in Georgetown. Activity will be in his free time on 80 to 10 metres using mainly FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, BARTG RTTY Sprint and UK/EI DX CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, K1USN Slow Speed Test and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for January 25.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for January 26.

The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray, SKCC CW Sprint and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for January 27.

WICEN News

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

Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events, have been added to the WICEN NSW agenda. The first two in NSW are in the Illawarra on Sunday the 21st of February followed by the Hunter on the 21st of March. The Sydney events are in May.

WICEN weekly nets are on Sunday evenings; the main net is at 6pm with a secondary check-in net using DMR voice, 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 vr@rescue.org email address. Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

The NSW Government's Spatial Information eXchange, or "SIX Maps" site now includes "eTopo" maps, as well as free downloads of "GeoPDF" topographical maps, covering NSW and the ACT.

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.

Now is the time to start planning for 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. Please plan and book accommodation early, as the area will be even more popular than usual this year.

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 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 Club's executive team are pleased to announce that the Clubrooms have reopened for general access. News spread fast yesterday, with several members dropping by to say hello in person, for the first time in months.

The next general business meeting is scheduled for Saturday the 6th of February, starting at 1pm.

The team wished to advise that the 2021 Wyong Field Day is still scheduled to go ahead, on Sunday the 28th of February. Most of the usual field day activities are on, with some slight physical distancing attached.

If you are interested in attending, presenting a lecture or taking 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.

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 Club's Thursday evening net this week was an "open mic" format, due to the regular hosts being unavailable.

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... with Dave's experience facilitating nets along with his own spin on "This Day in History" it is a very enjoyable net to be involved with. A huge thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running the nets, it's greatly appreciated.

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.

Speaking of nets, to mix things up even further, the clubs youngest member Adrian VK2ABS is putting together a SSTV net on our 438.075 MHz repeater on Friday evenings. If you're interested in taking part, keep an eye on the club's website and social media and put forward your interests.

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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The first meeting of the Society 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.

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Blue Mountains Amateur Radio 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.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The first general meeting of the Club for 2021 will be an in-person outdoor event. It's at Curry Reserve, 24 Camden Valley Way Elderslie, on Wednesday 27 January, starting at 7:30pm. There is plenty of parking and lots of space to comply with physical distancing guidelines.

The meeting will depend on weather; if it is raining, this meeting will be cancelled and will revert to an on-air meeting on Thursday 28 January on the VK2RFG repeater.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone is required for access.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The first gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday 3rd February. This will be a virtual gathering, with log in details available on the society's website closer to the event.

At this gathering there will be a brief update on the society's activities and then a presentation by Brian VK2GCE on Operational Amplifiers, commonly called op-amps. Brian has been working with op-amps for over 60 years. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

While op-amps have what often appears to be quite complicated circuits, they can be treated simply as a building block or black box; that is, without thinking about the details of what's inside, you can just connect a few components around it to make a variety of different circuits such as amplifiers, high or low pass filters, integrators or comparators.

This will be a very useful introduction to op-amps for those new to the subject or a refresher for old hands.

The Society and WICEN NSW are jointly conducting a test of a temporary 70cm FM repeater at Mt. Bindo, in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. The purpose of this test is to determine UHF coverage from the location. The repeater VK2RAH is on 439.875 MHz with a standard negative 5.0 MHz offset and no CTCSS tone is required or sent.

Amateurs with UHF FM radios in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the mid-west and further afield are encouraged to try out the repeater and send any reports to callback@sgars.org.

And finally, don't forget the Society's annual summer 2 metre contest is on now, running through until the 28th of February.

Further information about The St George Amateur Radio Society can be found on the website, at www.sgars.org or follow us on Facebook.

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

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, 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.