

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 planning to resume training weekends in 2021. The first scheduled weekend for the year is March 14th and 15th, with the possibility of additional days depending on interest. As current arrangements require significant forward planning, please register with the team 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.

Once again this week, we welcome 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. Our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

ARNSW Elections

The next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 17th of April 2021.

At this AGM, five of the nine current directors will be retiring. Nominations will soon be open for eligible members who which to nominate to be a director, for the years 2021 and 2022. Each elected director serves a two-year term – until the AGM in 2023.

Nomination are available on the website, or from the office.

Nominations close at midday on Saturday 6th of March 2021.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Urunga Radio Convention

The Urunga Radio Convention, which was originally planned over the Easter weekend this year, has unfortunately been put on hold until further notice.

This has been necessary due to the concern over the safety of our visitors in the current Covid-19 situation. The Convention committee has been in contact with the hall committee and the restrictions to safeguard visitors to the convention, has unfortunately made this necessary.

The convention will be on again once the current situation has improved and restrictions can safely be lifted. We hope this will soon be over, as we miss our Foxhunting friends.

*Ken VK2DGT
President, Urunga Radio Convention*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5th to the 11th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
10cm Flux	73	73	73	74	70	74	76
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	4	18	6	3	1	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	5	12	4	3	2	3 estimated
T index	-19	-9	+7	-4	+1	-2	-3

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 5th, quiet to unsettled on the 6th and quiet to active on the 7th. The 8th returned to quiet to unsettled levels, then conditions remained quiet from the 9th to the 11th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, except for a few periods of depressions; 15% during local day and 20% during local night on the 5th; 15% during local night on the 6th; 15% depressed all day on the 8th; and depression of 20% during local day on the 9th.

Now, the forecast for the 12th to the 18th of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach unsettled to active levels between the 14th and 16th, with quiet to unsettled conditions otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly near predicted monthly values, with the possibility of minor depressions between the 14th and 16th.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished January, we saw a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 76, and a Maximum of 82
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th; and the 17th to the 26th

So far for February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 75, and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 20th to the 26th.

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 75, and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 12th 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 1m17s

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

TUNISIA; Ash, KF5EYY plans to be active as 3V8SS during the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

VIETNAM; 3W. Sebastian, SP5FAR is active as 3W9FAR from Da Nang until March 21. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

LIBYA; Elham, 5A0YL has been active on 17 metres using FT8 around 1700UTC, and on 20 metres using FT8 around 1350UTC.

TOGO; Daniel, HB9EHD is active as 5VDE until February 20. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using FT8. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100.

MALDIVES; Sergei, RU3AN is active as 8Q7SZ until February 15.

MOZAMBIQUE; Bruno, CS7AMN will be active as C91BVA from Maputo beginning February 18. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

FRANCE; Francois, F8DVD will be active as TM18AAW from Macon until February 28 in celebration of the 18th Antarctic Activity Week.

MARTINIQUE; Romaric, W7ROM is active as FM4WDM from Le Morne-Vert. Activity is on the HF bands.

ITALY; Special event station IQ3DD is active until February 28 to recognize the FIS Alpine World Ski Championship being held in Cortina. Activity is on 160 metres to 23 centimetres, using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This includes some activity on Satellite QO-100.

JAN MAYEN; Erik, JX2US has been active on 20 metres using CW around 0930 to 1100UTC.

WAKE ISLAND; Tom, NL7RR plans to be active as KH9/NL7RR beginning February 15 and will be there for 90 days. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using SSB. Time permitting, he hopes to operate as KH9/NL7RR on 40 and 20 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, YLRL YL-OM Contest, OMISS SSB QSO Party, HamCation QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest, AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party, PODXS 070 Club Valentine PSK31 Sprint and Balkan HF Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB FT4 Contest Series, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, OK1WC Memorial, K1USN Slow Speed Test and CQC Winter CW QSO Party are scheduled for February 15.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for February 16.

The AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for February 17.

WICEN News

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

WICEN is providing support for Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. New South Wales events are scheduled in the Illawarra next Sunday the 21st of February, followed by the Hunter on the 21st of March. Sydney events are in May. These events are ideal for new WICEN members to get hands-on experience in emergency communications. The interstate events will be supported by WICEN ACT, WICEN Victoria and WICEN South Australia.

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings; the main net is at 6pm with a secondary net using DMR voice, at 6:30pm. There is digital net using WINLINK and JS8CALL on Monday evenings. Members can find details on their VRA calendar invites. Members are advised to regularly check their vrarecue.org email address.

WICEN NSW is on Facebook; along with an informal, national WICEN group.

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. More details on the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM link: <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/> Messaging software at: <http://js8call.com/> and <http://winlink.org/>]

Club News

We start this week, with news from the HARAOA radio club.

The club is planning a DXpedition for early November 2021, to Willis Island, VK9W, for about 11 days.

Situated about 450km east of Cairns in the Coral Sea, Willis Island is in the top most-wanted DXpedition sites in the world.

If you're interested in this exciting adventure and enjoy working with experienced DX operators; you can send an expression of interest and a request for further information, to Tommy VK2IR via email; vk2ir@vk2ir.com.

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Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

Now is the time to start planning to attend the Club's 2021 annual Field Day. It 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 Port Macquarie area is certain to be even more popular than usual this year.

The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar has proven to be very popular, and a few copies are still available.

The club has 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 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As we mentioned last week, the Club has made the decision to postpone this year's Wyong Field Day.

This decision was not made lightly; but the safety of both the club's members and those who attend the Field day, is the club's number one priority. With the health situation still unstable and changing daily, it is in the best interests of all to postpone this event.

However, we wish to announce the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club "Mayham" event, will be held on Sunday the 30th of May 2021 at Wyong Race Course. For those are looking to attend, be a trader or exhibitor, please email the team at mayham@ccarc.org.au. For the latest news and information regarding this event, please check out the club's website and social media, as well as updates in future bulletins from VK2WI News.

On Friday night the 12th of February, club member Adrian VK2ABS was net control for a SSTV net, on the Club's 2 metre WICEN repeater, 147.125MHz. This was the second SSTV net hosted by Adrian, and it was great to see the strong ongoing support from those within range of the repeater. The club's next SSTV net is planned for Friday the 19th, starting at 7:30pm.

The Club newsletter, *Smoke Signals*, continues to deliver some great content, with Henrick VK2FTDR having taken on the role as Editor. Members are encouraged to take a look each month and provide feedback. Henrick is also on the prowl for content; big or small, the club would love to hear what you have been up to radio/electronics related... or even just so inclined. Even just a few sentences and a photo.

The next education, training and examination session at the Clubrooms is on the 27th and 28th of March. If you are interested in obtaining your licence or upgrading; contact the club's education facilitator Karen VK2AKB, at education@ccarc.org.au.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was hosted by Jaye VK2FOMG. It was a general catch-up net with numerous check-ins swinging by. Some great conversations too; from LiFePO4 batteries, to one station managing to get an 80 Off Centre fed dipole up in the air after many months.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the clubs Morning Tea net, with check-ins still coming in strong. 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. Currently EchoLink is not available due to a hardware failure, but the team is working on it.

The club looking for some operators to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RAAF. This is a great opportunity to get out on the bands and share in celebrating this momentous occasion portable or otherwise. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Club directly.

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.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Last Friday was the club's formal meeting of the year, which was well attended. During the meeting, club members discussed some of the practical projects they were working on during the COVID lockdown. Then, on Saturday, the club held it's first Foundation Course for the year. Participants learnt about the basic theoretical and practical aspects of Amateur Radio theory, as well as the various ways they can get involved in Amateur Radio.

On Tuesday 16th February, the Standard and Advanced licence upgrade courses run by Jan VK2FEB will recommence, running from 7pm till 9pm. The course runs every Tuesday night during the school term, with examinations at the end of the year. Anyone with their Foundation Licence who wishes to upgrade to a Standard or Advanced Licence is encouraged to come along to these regular, free educational events. A gold coin donation is requested, to go towards the tea and coffee served during the night.

The committee is also discussing reopening the clubhouse every second Saturday per month. This is an opportunity for members to work on any personal projects, assist with the maintenance of clubhouse facilities or just have a general chit chat. Visitors are also welcome to drop in and introduce themselves.

On air nets continue weekly; on 80 metres from 8pm Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz, on Wednesday night from 8pm, on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater, 53.875MHz.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at <http://www.bmarc.org>.

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

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Sydney ATV Group

If you're interested in Amateur Television but don't want to tie up your evenings, then keep listening...

The Sydney ATV group now have a Thursday afternoon net starting at 2:30pm, transmitting high definition TV on 445.50MHz. Reception is possible over the Sydney Metro area, or via the British Amateur TV Club streaming web site; select the VK2 callsign and the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching.

The group is a bunch of friendly amateurs showing our latest projects such as gravity-wave detectors, sub-space communicators plus lots more. Why not join us to find out more about this fascinating and fast-growing aspect of amateur radio.

Give us a call on the Lawson repeater, 147.325 MHz with positive offset, with reports, questions or help with receiving Amateur Television. We are also on Monday nights from 7:30pm for the night owls.

*Advised by John VK2ATU
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

With the COVID-19 situation easing in New South Wales, face-to-face meetings at the clubhouse are back, subject to government guidelines. For example, the clubhouse now has its own QR code, which you need to scan with COVID-safe Check-in on the Service NSW app. If you don't have a smart phone with the app, there will be a visitor's book to sign, or someone else can sign you in with their app. Of course, hand sanitiser and physical distancing measures will also be in place.

The weekly 2m net and Zoom meetings have been replacing face-to-face meetings, but these may continue for the benefit of anyone unable to come to the clubhouse. All are welcome, including shortwave listeners - you'll find the repeater audio link on the menu at the club web site. The repeater audio streamer was relocated recently to the clubhouse and given its own antenna, so the audio quality is greatly improved.

Some more good news, this time for HF APRS users: the club has been testing a new 30m band receive-only I-gate. This is currently connected to one of the shack's HF transceivers, so may be unavailable if the rig is being used for voice contacts. A dedicated Codan receiver and antenna are being organised. So far, the I-gate has copied mobile HF stations in VK3 and VK4.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30p.m. for an 8p.m. start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

With clubhouse still undergoing maintenance, the next meeting, to be held this coming Wednesday February 17th, 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, so those involved can meet in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch, which isn't open on a Tuesday. They are generally there from about midday to 2:30 or 3 pm. The next project day will be on Saturday March 6th on Zoom, commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm.

Shack nights continue via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of the month; the next one is March 3rd. The Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month, the meeting is scheduled for March 7th.

The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month. The next one is scheduled for March 9th from 7:30pm on Zoom.

The first foundation weekend for 2021 was planned for February, but with the clubhouse unavailable it couldn't go ahead. The next one is scheduled for May so hopefully things may be better by then.

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 will probably be discussion during the meeting on Wednesday. There has also been a fair amount of contest activity at the Robertson site with several club members involved; see the website for details and some photos.

The Society's weekly net is from 8pm on Monday night, on the VK2RBV repeater. It is usually run by Richard VK2XRC or Bob VK2NRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website, vk2bv.org. You can purchase kits, pay membership or get in touch using the contact form on the website.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

John Bishop's funeral and wake were both well attended last Friday; John's family and HADARC thank all that attended. Those who wish to watch it can do so by following the link on the HADARC website.

A request from Rod VK2DAY, acting Club President; is that those who have previously contacted HADARC using John's personal email address, instead email: president@hadarc.org.au.

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, at the Mt Colah Community Centre near the northern end of Pierre Close; that is, across Pierre Close (not the highway) from Mt Colah Railway Station.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, plus contact information and 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 be accessed on Allstarlink Node 41646, and on EchoLink VK2RNS-R.

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 VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz. 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 Meetings return every Wednesday from 7:30pm, net Wednesdays 8pm on 146.875MHz.