

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

It's not often that we do a birthday shout-out here on VK2WI, but then again, it's not every day that we have a member turn 100; ARNSW and SGARS member, Doug VK2DWX, turned 100 on Friday. Congratulations Doug, from your friends at the St George Amateur Radio Society, and of course all of us here at VK2WI.

The ARNSW HF Operations Group operations are currently scheduled for Monday afternoons, continuing into the evening, operating club station VK2AWI. If you are interested, please email [HFgroup@arnsw.org.au](mailto:HFgroup@arnsw.org.au) for more details.

A reminder about the ARNSW Library, which has a large collection of reference materials, with a collection that continues to grow. If you are looking for something in particular, or would like to get involved, you can contact the group by email to [library@arnsw.org.au](mailto:library@arnsw.org.au).

We 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.

Later in the 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 items, just the details of the activity and contacts. We would also welcome reports on the outcome of recent group activities, which we can report to our listeners.

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.

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# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 29 <sup>th</sup> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm Flux                    | 77               | 79               | 79               | 80               | 79               | 78               | 77               |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr)   | 15               | 10               | 16               | 12               | 8                | 4                | 6<br>estimated   |
| Australian Index (Aaus)      | 9                | 8                | 13               | 4                | 5                | 1                | 1<br>estimated   |
| T index                      | 14               | 24               | 24               | 20               | 22               | 9                | 8                |

Solar activity was low from the 23<sup>rd</sup> until the 26<sup>th</sup>, then very low from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 24<sup>th</sup> was quiet to unsettled, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 6 nanoTesla, at 0310UTC. The 25<sup>th</sup> was again quiet to active, the 26<sup>th</sup> quiet to unsettled with some isolated active periods, before quiet levels returned from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, mostly remained near predicted monthly values, except for some enhancement of 15%, that was observed during local night on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 30<sup>th</sup> of April to the 6<sup>th</sup> of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with active periods possible on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May, otherwise 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 April, we saw a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 86  
With peak dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

As we start May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 75 and a Maximum of 79  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup>; and the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 79  
With peak dates from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 14<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 2m19s*

*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.

## **ARRL DX news**

FIJI; Dom, 3D2DOM and Joanne, 3D2ZK are active from Nandi.

AZERBAIJAN; Special event station 4J880M is active to celebrate the 880<sup>th</sup> birthday of the writer and philosopher Nizami Ganjavi.

TONGA; Masa, JA0RQV is active as A35JP from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until October. In addition, he will try to be active from some outer islands such as Niuatoputapu, IOTA OC-191, Niuafu'ou, IOTA OC-123, Vava'u, IOTA OC-064, and Ha'apai, IOTA OC-169. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

BELARUS; Special event station EV76M is active during May to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Victory in Minsk in World War II.

REUNION ISLAND; Phil, F5TRO and Ann, F5BSB will be active as FR8UA and FR8TZ, respectively, during May. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SWITZERLAND; Special event call sign HB90BERO is active until July 31 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Beromuenster medium wave AM broadcasting station. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB, AM, FM, and various digital modes. This includes some activity on Satellite QO-100.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Lee, HL1IWD is active as HL1IWD/4 from the Kogunsan Islands, IOTA AS-148, until May 3. Activity is on 40 to 20 metres using CW and some FT8. He will try to be active as HL1IWD/3 on Anmyon Island, IOTA AS-080.

JAPAN ; Special event station 8J1ITU is active until May 31 to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunications Union's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on May 17.

OGASAWARA; Harry, JG7PSJ is active as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until May 7. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

MONGOLIA; Members of the JTDXA Team are active with special event call sign JU100DX until July 10 to celebrate Mongolia's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence.

LITHUANIA; Special event call sign LY57BC are active until June 1 to celebrate the 57<sup>th</sup> Baltic Contest.

POLAND; Members of the SP6PAZ radio club will be active with special event call SO100PS until May 31 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the third Silesian Uprising. Activity will be on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4.

KAZAKHSTAN; Special event call sign UP55L is active until May 20 to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Youth School Radio Station in Kostanay.

FALKLAND ISLANDS; Matthew, M0ZMS is active as VP8ZMS from the British Air Force Base in Mount Pleasant. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8A250GNR is active until May 2 to celebrate 250 years of Gianyar City. Activity is on 80 and 40 metres using SSB, and 2 metres using FM.

LATVIA; Hans, YL3JD is active with special call sign YL50AGCW during May in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Telegraphy Working Group. Activity is on 160, 80, 40, and 20 metres using CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The New England QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, 10-10 International Spring CW Contest, RCC Cup, SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge, Microwave Spring Sprint, ARI International DX Contest, F9AA Digi Cup, AGCW QRP/QRP CW Party, 7th Call Area QSO Party, Indiana QSO Party, FISTS Saturday CW Sprint and Delaware QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC Memorial are scheduled for May 3. The MIE 33 Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for May 4. The RSGB FT4 Contest Series, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for May 5.

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## WICEN News

The Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon is held in and around Newnes and the Wolgon Valley area in the Blue Mountains, on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June; if you are interested in participating, please contact [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org).

The next Dementia Australia Memory Walk event is in Penrith on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, followed by Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Volunteers are still needed for both events, which are an ideal training ground in emergency communications for WICEN members.

The WICEN training day which was here at VK2WI Dural today, was on the topic of NVIS antennas.

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the WICEN website for details.

Please note, the Berowra 70cm repeater is currently off air.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. The website is at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au).

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](http://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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting will be the May Friday night get-together, at 7pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the public health advice, to ensure that activities comply with current restrictions, which may change at short notice.

Last weekend, the club commissioned its new VK2RCN DMR repeater at Telegraph Point, on 438.425MHz. This repeater is part of RadNet, supported by the ARNSW Radio Network group. It is providing reliable DMR coverage to the Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Camden Haven areas. The availability of DMR repeater coverage has stimulated a great deal of interest. Ian VK2GL delivered an informative talk and demonstration of DMR to a very attentive audience yesterday after the club's May Monthly General meeting.

Now is the time to plan to attend the Club's 2021 annual Field Day. It is on Saturday and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend; that's only six weeks away. Please book accommodation as soon as you can, as the Port Macquarie area is proving to be even more popular than usual this year. Note that it is possible to camp on site at the Wauchope Showground, but only a small number of sites are available; booking details are on the Wauchope Show Society website.

There are two club 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 March 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

A reminder that “Mayham” is now only four weeks away; Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at Wyong Racecourse. On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be both pedestrian and mobile fox hunts plus an informal dinner in the evening. If you have attended Wyong Field Days in previous years, this event will be familiar; even with a fresh new name and a new date. For those are looking to attend, be a trader or exhibitor, please email the team at [mayham@ccarc.org.au](mailto:mayham@ccarc.org.au).

The website has an up to date list of pricing, as well as confirmed traders and exhibitors who will be attending. For all the latest news, check the website [www.mayham.org.au](http://www.mayham.org.au), as well as updates in future VK2WI bulletins.

Yesterday saw the club’s May general meeting, with many members in attendance. A shout out to Steve VK2SKC for donning the apron and cooking up a storm.

The next training and assessment weekend at the Club is on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May; training will be at the clubrooms on Saturday, with examinations at Mayham on Sunday. If you are interested in obtaining your licence or upgrading, contact the club’s education facilitator Karen VK2AKB, at [education@ccarc.org.au](mailto:education@ccarc.org.au).

The Club is making a change to repeater operations at VK2RAG, to conserve power coming into the winter months. Between the hours of 10pm and 6am EST, the only VK2RAG repeaters operating will be 2 metre 146.725 MHz and the WICEN repeaters on 2m 147.125 MHz and 70cm 438.8MHz.

The Club’s Thursday evening net this week was hosted by Brad VK2NMZ with discussion on news and Mayham – are you coming? Some members spoke about reprogramming their scanners with all new channels and being excited for the upcoming especially with the bargain hunting. Thank you, Brad, for running the net.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the clubs daily Morning Tea net; even while many people returning to the workplace, the net is still well attended. A huge thanks to Bob and Dave for running these nets, which represent a stellar effort; having run daily, for over 12 months!

Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. EchoLink access is via the CCARCNSW conference server, and IRLP on node 9509.

The Next SSTV net, hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, is coming up at 7:30pm this Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, on the 2m WICEN repeater 147.125MHz. For feedback or suggestions regarding this net, contact the club directly at [ccarc@ccarc.org.au](mailto:ccarc@ccarc.org.au).

The club is looking for more operators to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RAAF. This is a great opportunity to get out on the bands and share in celebrating this momentous occasion, operating 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](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.

*Brad VK2NMZ*

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

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## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. 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, 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 upcoming meeting, IARS member Rob VK2MT will be presenting and discussing the Society's repeaters and sites. Rob has been helping to build and maintain the Society's repeaters for several decades and will have lots of photos and videos to share, so the presentation should be quite interesting.

The night concludes 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 ever-changing physical distancing requirements.

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, including details on upcoming Amateur Radio training and examination activities, on the web at [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au), and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au).

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society—at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

## **Amateur Radio Repeater Group**

The Group's next 2m Fox Hunt is coming up on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Like previous hunts, the fox is somewhere along the M5 Corridor, south from Crossroads towards Campbelltown. The fox will be hidden in a public space, park or bushland; hidden down low, up high, or perhaps somewhere in between.

Co-ordination starts from around 8am on the Fisher's Ghost 70cm Repeater VK2RFG; which is on 438.650MHz with a negative 7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required. The fox is on 145.3MHz FM.

It's not a race, it's a bit of FUN to exercise your Amateur Radio Direction Finding skills and we would love to see more people come along and have some fun.

For more information and further updates, visit the group's website at [www.arrg.club](http://www.arrg.club).

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The St George Amateur Radio Society was founded in July 1971, so this year, the society celebrates its Golden Jubilee. A special event callsign, VI50SG, is now on air and the next gathering of the society will include a presentation on the history of the society, its founding and the milestones that followed.

This gathering also marks the first time this year that the society will meet 'in person' as a result of the easing of COVID related restrictions. However, it is the intention that this gathering will be in a 'hybrid' format involving those attending in person as well as allowing others to join via the Google Meet conferencing facility that the society has been using since March last year.

Members and guest are welcome to attend, with doors opening at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start. Its at the Kyle Bay Scout Hall, Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connell's Point. Log in details will be sent to members and are also available on the society's website [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

In early March, the Society lost one of it's longest active members, Don Edwards VK2NV. Don was a very keen CW operator, encouraging other amateurs to get out their keys and get on the air with Morse. In recognition of Don, the inaugural "Don Edwards Memorial slow Morse contest" is on next weekend, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

The contest is in two sections; 80 metres on Saturday evening from 6pm to 9pm (0800 - 1100 UTC) and 40 metres on Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm (0300 - 0600 UTC). The contest is open to all VK amateurs, and participants can enter either or both sessions.

Many amateurs have rarely ever used Morse code since they passed their exam, or never needed to learn Morse for their licences. This contest is to encourage inexperienced or rusty operators to try their hand or fist at Morse.

For this reason, it is a "Slow Morse contest" with a speed limit of 10 words per minute, no keyboards or screens - all sent by hand and received by ear. To encourage those amateurs who did not need to pass a Morse exam for their licence, they will be able to claim an extra 2 points per session.

So, if you have been looking for an excuse to get out the Morse key, then this is your opportunity.

Complete operating and participation details are available on Society's web site [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

*Peter VK2EMU*

*Publicity Officer for the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be an informal mid-monthly gathering on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May starting at 8pm. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, which is roughly 55 metres away from the railway station of the same name. The Annual General Meeting will be on May 25<sup>th</sup>, also at this venue.

Mick Price VK2CMP's presentation on EME or "moonbounce", was well received, and further talks on the subject are planned.

For those who worked VK2IMD last weekend, QSLs can be obtained by including a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope to HADARC's new address:

VK2IMD HADARC  
PO Box 707  
Cherrybrook NSW 2126

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](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 2 metre repeater, VK2RNS on 147.250 MHz, is connected to Allstarlink and is available on EchoLink.

The Club's three regular nets continue each week. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. 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.

*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; Echolink \*CCARCNSW\*. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz.

**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.