

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

Firstly, a note about VK2WI news for next week. With the CCARC Mayham event on next Sunday, there will be no Morning bulletin from VK2WI. In its place, will be a special bulletin, on Saturday evening the 29th of May. This bulletin will start at 7:30pm with items from VK1WIA National news, followed by an update on Mayham news and events, then a summary of news from around the state. The VK2WI Sunday evening bulletin on the 30th, will be in its usual format.

The ARNSW Radio Experimenter's group will have a stand at the Mayham event, along with the VEA team running US exams, other exhibitors, and traders as well. More details later in the bulletin.

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 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 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.

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

ARNSW Radio Network Group

In recent months, you may have noticed some new DMR repeaters on the air. With more information, here's the co-ordinator of the ARNSW Radio Network Group, Matt VK2FLY;

[Play File: 15-RNET-1.wav]

Duration: 1m40s

In: ARNSW has formed ...

Out: ... this has been Matt VK2FLY.

Thanks, Matt. There will also be a link to the microsite, from the ARNSW homepage.

[Audio item transcript]

ARNSW has formed a subcommittee known as the radio network group with the purpose of establishing a network of linked repeaters with broad coverage across New South Wales; the ARNSW RadNet for short. To that end ARNSW are extending support, including providing DMR repeaters, to local clubs for the purposes of operating the service as well as assisting in setup and configuration and providing back-end infrastructure. The network carries the talkgroups of the VKDMR network, VK's largest DMR network as well as a special ARNSW talkgroup – 1910.

With the help and dedication of local clubs, we currently have no-break coverage across Sydney and right up to port Macquarie. We will soon be adding Mount Bindo in the Blue Mountains as well as some unbelievable locations further North.

More information about the ARNSW RadNet can be found on its dedicated microsite, at; arnsw.net. This site is packed with live information about your local Radnet repeater including some intriguing site photos, coverage plots and engineering data right down to life battery voltages and temperatures in the repeater hut. The site is great for planning road trips and will soon include a config generator for some popular transceiver brands. The site address again is simply arnsw.net.

Stay tuned to the broadcast for more updates from the Radnet team including some exciting information about a check in net.

Thanks for listening and hope to catch you on 1910 soon; this has been Matt VK2FLY.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 14th to the 20th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm Flux	71	73	73	75	76	76	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	8	4	6	10	5	20 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	4	2	3	7	3	14 estimated
T index	14	18	14	15	25	16	24

Solar activity was very low from the 14th to the 17th, low on the 18th, then very low again on the 19th and 20th.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 14th to the 19th, except for some unsettled periods on the 18th. The 20th varied from Quiet to Active levels, with isolated minor storm periods.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, except for some depressions of up to 15% during local daytime on the 14th. Some enhanced conditions were observed during local night hours; 25% on the 15th and 17th, 60% on the 18th, and 35% during local night hours on the 19th and the 20th.

Now, the forecast for the 21st to the 27th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity should be at quiet to unsettled levels, with slight chance of minor storm periods on the 21st, and active periods on the 22nd.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values. Some mild to moderate depression are possible on the 21st and 22nd.

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 17th to the 30th.

So far for May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 73 and a Maximum of 77
With peak dates from the 8th to the 14th; and the 30th to the 31st

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 16th; and the 29th to the 30th.

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: 16-FCAL127.wav]

Duration 1m38s

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: 17-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

MONACO; Ennio, IW1RBI and other operators will be active as 3A/IW1RBI from May 27 to 30. Activity will be on 30 to 6 metres around the clock using CW, SSB and FT8 in DX-pedition mode.

AZERBAIJAN; Boris, 4K4K and members of the 4J0SFR Safari club are active with event call sign 4K880NKM to commemorate the 880 years since the birth of poet Nizami Ganjavi.

NIGERIA; Jean-Louis, ZS6AAG is active as 5N7MSF while working with Doctors Without Borders in Abuja until September. Activity is in his spare time, currently on 20 and 15 metres using SSB.

NIGER; Adrien, F4IHM is now active as 5UAIHM until June 27 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using CW and SSB.

MADAGASCAR; Daniel, 6W7RP is active as 5R8RP from Nosy Be, IOTA AF-057. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres.

FRANCE; Special event station TM0BEE is active until May 23 to bring attention to World Bee Day. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, PSK and FT8.

MARTINIQUE; Marius, ON4RU plans to be active as FM/OQ3R until June 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW. This includes being active as TO3F in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

ECUADOR; Special event station HD1ECU will be active until May 24 to commemorate Ecuador Independence Day.

ITALY; Special event call sign II6RI is active until June 30 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Italian Republic.

ARUBA; John, KK9A will be active as P40A from May 25 to June 1. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PA21ARDF is active until May 30, to support Amateur Radio Direction Finding.

SEYCHELLES; Ros, 4Z5LA is active as S79LA until May 27.

BENIN; Ian, ZS6JSI is now active as TY5AB from Parakou until June. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 40 and 20 metres using SSB and FT8.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station R800ANL is active to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Grand Prince Alexander Nevsky, who lived from 1221 to 1263.

AUSTRALIA; John, VK6NU plans to be active from Rottnest Island, IOTA OC-164, from May 25 to 28. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Operators K4BAI, K4QPL, KR4R and K2SX will be active as VP5/home calls from May 25 to June 1. They will be active as VP5M as a multi op entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

LATVIA; Special event station YL21ICE is active until June 6 for the Ice Hockey World Championship to be held in Riga. Activity is from various locations and on 160 to 10 metres, including 30, 17 and 12 metres, and VHF/UHF bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4.

ZIMBABWE; Peter, PA3CPI is now active as Z21DX and has been active on 20 metres using SSB between 1740 and 1800UTC.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, YOTA Contest, EU PSK DX Contest, Hamvention QSO Party and Baltic Contest are all on this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, QRP ARCI Hootowl CW Sprint and K1USN Slow Speed CW Test are scheduled for May 24.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for May 25.

The CWops Mini CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 26.

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 18th to the 20th of June; if you are interested in participating, please contact wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

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.

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.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting will be the June Monthly General Meeting; 2pm on Saturday the 5th of June, 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 public health advice, to ensure that activities comply with current restrictions, which may change at short notice.

Now is the time to plan 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; that's only three 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. There are a small number of sites available at the Wauchope Showground, if you wish to camp on-site; booking details are on the Wauchope Show Society website. The Field Day weekend features all the usual activities including foxhunting, disposals, traders, a home brew display, and digital demonstrations. The ORARC stand will be able to install a code plug in your DMR radio if you have a DMR ID. The Field Day dinner will be in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. A full program of the weekend can be downloaded from the Club website, at orarc.org.

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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The May 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 May issue has details of the Field Day, as well as articles on DMR digital radio and how to use the recently commissioned VK2RCN DMR repeater.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

A reminder that “Mayham” is on next week; Sunday the 30th of May at Wyong Racecourse.

Also, don't forget on Saturday the 29th – the fox hunts; a pedestrian taster along with 2 mobile fox hunts, kicking off from 1pm. Muster point is the Wyong Commuter Carpark in Rose Street; tune to the VK2RAG 2-meter repeater for exact details on the day. Later, at 6:30pm is an informal dinner at Grand Hotel in Wyong. This location also accepts Dine & Discover Vouchers.

On Sunday Morning; Traders, Exhibitors and Car Boot sales entry is from 6am, to allow time to set up. Please note that sales prior to the official opening time are prohibited; it is not fair for those attending on the day and you may be asked to exit the venue.

General Public Entry is via the Rose Street Entrance with Gates open at 8:30am. Entry Pre-sales will begin at approximately 7:30 AM. General Public entry is \$15 and Car boot sale entry begins at \$30. Entry to the event is strictly cash only as there are no Eftpos or ATM facilities available at the entry gates.

For all the latest news, check the website www.mayham.org.au; and don't forget the special VK2WI Saturday evening bulletin from 7:30pm, which will include any last minute updates.

Several candidates will be sitting for foundation, standard and advanced licence examinations at Mayham. If you are interested in obtaining your licence or upgrading your existing licence, please contact the club's education facilitator Karen VK2AKB at education@ccarc.org.au.

The Club has changed 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, the DMR repeater on 438.85MHz which is also part of ARNSW RadNet, and the WICEN repeaters on 2m 147.125 MHz and 70cm 438.8MHz.

The Next SSTV net, hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, will be at 7:30pm on Friday the 4th of June, on the 2m WICEN repeater 147.125MHz. For feedback or suggestions regarding this net, contact the club directly at ccarc@ccarc.org.au.

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, they sure brightens up everyone's day.

Club 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 club is looking for more 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, 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; 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.

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.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Last Wednesday's lecture by Professor Simone Douglas was a cracker, and the club aims to have the video up on the VK2MB-TV YouTube channel soon. Meanwhile, there are plenty more interesting videos there to watch.

On Saturday the 5th of June, the Society will be hosting its "Sale of the (Last) Century" auction. On offer will be "Interesting Museum Quality Items, Collectibles, Valves, Early Light Globes, Silent key Transceivers and more." The catalogue of auction items will be available shortly on the Society's website, at mwrs.org.au. There's also a short teaser video of the items to be auctioned. More info closer to the event.

[Link straight to the auction info: <https://www.mwrs.org.au/2020/02/20/sale-of-the-century/>]

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the web site for details. The web site again is at mwrs.org.au.

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Coming up is the Club's Annual General Meeting, at 8pm this Tuesday the 25th of May. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, opposite Mt Colat Railway station. The meeting agenda and other documents are in May QUA, with is available online for HADARC members.

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 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.*

[Play ID File: 19-E-ID4.wav]

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.