

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

The next scheduled licence training and assessment weekend is currently planned for July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Due to current protracted lead times from the examination provider, bookings must in no later than Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June. Enquires about training and assessments can be sent to our education team by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@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 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](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.

---

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

---

---

[UPDATE no item 15 – skipped]

---

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	74	76	79	73	84	88	83
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	5	4	2	3	12	17 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	3	0	0	0	7	12 estimated
T index	16	11	9	14	8	12	20

Solar activity started out low on the 21<sup>st</sup> before reaching moderate levels on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two solar flares were observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; an M1.1 at 1712UTC, and an M1.4 at 2136UTC. The 23<sup>rd</sup> also had an M1.1 flare, at 1108UTC. After that, solar activity was very low on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and low on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 26<sup>th</sup> became unsettled, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak 10nanoTesla impulse at 1246 UTC. Then the 27<sup>th</sup> ranged from quiet to active levels, with SWS magnetometers recording two weak impulses – 10nT at 0156UTC, and 7nT at 0452UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, except for enhanced periods during local night hours. Enhancement of 15% was observed during local night on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and enhancement of 30% during local night hours on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 28<sup>th</sup> of May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June;

Solar activity is expected to be low on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, then very low afterwards. Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and be quiet to unsettled on the 29<sup>th</sup>, before settling down to mostly quiet on other days. Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values, with mild depressions possible on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*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 17<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Near the end of May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 74, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 88  
With peak dates from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

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 13<sup>th</sup> to the 24<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.

---

### **[Play File: 16-FCAL202.wav]**

*Duration 1m59s*

*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](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

We start with several stations currently on air especially for the CQ worldwide WPX CW contest;

ARUBA; Look for AE6Y and KK9A to be active as P49Y and P40A, respectively.

AUSTRIA; Operator HB9RB will be active as C7A from the United Nations Amateur Radio Contest DX Club station in Vienna during the contest.

CZECH REPUBLIC; Olda, OK1YM will be active with special call sign OL57ZW.

FINLAND ; Olli, OH0XX will be active as OG60BBM

NEW ZEALAND; Jacky, ZL3CW will be active with special call ZL25NZ.

VATICAN; Vatican station HV0A will be active.

...and in other DX activity for this week;

TONGA; Masa, JA0RQV will be active as A35JP from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until the end of October. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. He also plans to visit other islands in IOTA groups OC-191, OC-123, OC-064, and OC-169 during this time.

ESTONIA; Operators Ed, ES2TT and Sergei, ES1LL will be active as ES2TT/8 and ES1LL/8, respectively, on May 29 and 30. Activity will be on 40, 30 and 20 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ST. BARTHELEMY; Phil, K2LIO is active as FJ/K2LIO until around August 5. Activity is on the HF bands.

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

HUNGARY; A group of operators will be active as HG21TISZA in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest as a Multi Op entry, and the upcoming Tisza Cup contest.

HAITI; Peter, JK1UWY is active as HH2JA and is there for the next three years. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

PANAMA; Special event station HP200I will be active from June 1 to November 30 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Panama's independence. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

ARUBA; John, W2GD is active as P44W. Activity is on all bands as time permits, and includes being active in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

CANADA; Lali, VE3NE is active with special call sign VX31IGY until June 27 to celebrate the first flight of NASA's helicopter on Mars, including an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; Steve, VK6SJ is active as VK9XX until June 11. Activity will generally be around 1100 to 1500UTC and 2200 to 0000UTC daily on the HF bands and possibly 6 metres using FT8 and some SSB.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Operators K4BAI, K4QPL, KR4R and K2SX are active as VP5/home calls from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until June 1. They will be active as VP5M as a Multi Op entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Feld Hell Sprint and Day of the YLs Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for May 31.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for June 1.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 2.

---

**[Play File: 17-E-ID2.wav]**

---

## WICEN News

The next training day will be held at Dural next Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. Activities will include the new VRA field radios and a working bee.

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; its a great opportunity for new members to get out in the field and work with experienced operators. If you are interested in participating, please contact [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org).

Last Sunday saw WICEN provide support for the Sydney Dementia Australia Memory Walk. Earlier today, Hunter WICEN supported the Lake Macquarie Memory Walk.

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 June Monthly General Meeting; 2pm on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Its now only two weeks until the Club's 2021 annual Field Day, on Saturday and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. 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](http://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](http://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.*



## Hunter Radio Group

The June Monthly Meeting of the Group will be on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

Meeting are now held at the Hunter TAFE Campus School of Electronic Technology in Tighes Hill Newcastle, in the RF Transmission Lecture Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Building J. The meeting starts at 6:30pm.

After general business a lecture will be presented.

The Group conducts a weekly net on the Group's VHF Repeater, on 146.9MHz. The net is on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm; net controller is club President, Len VK2ZFD.

*Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

This morning was MayHam, the Central Coast's field day at Wyong Racecourse. The event was well attended, and despite a cool start to the morning, the rain held off for the day.

We will have a detailed report on the field day in next Week's VK2WI news.

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 this Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 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.*

---

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

---

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. 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 June meeting, IARS member Keith VK2KQB will be presenting and discussing the design, construction and repair of power supplies, including linear and switch mode types. Keith has worked in the power supply industry for over 40 years, so his knowledge and experience is extensive and most 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

## Sydney ATV Group

The Sydney ATV group has two nets; Thursday afternoon starting at 2:30pm, and Monday nights from 7pm.

The Blue Mountains ATV repeater at Lawson transmits high definition TV on 445.50MHz, with analogue and digital inputs on 23cm. 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.

We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call on the Lawson repeater, 147.325 MHz with positive offset, with reports, questions or help with receiving Amateur Television. Why not join in and find out more about this fascinating and fast-growing aspect of digital amateur radio.

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

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Video of the May lecture - "Ice Boat" by Professor Simone Douglas - is now available on the Society's YouTube channel; Just search for "V K 2 M B - T V" [spell out and include the "hyphen"].

While you're visiting, there are plenty more interesting videos to watch.

On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> 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." If you still have money left over from Wyong, or you're looking for more Treasure, then come along and be tempted!

The auction will be held at the First Terry Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills in northern Sydney. Doors open at 9.30am for viewing, and the auction starts at 11am.

Auction details, and the catalogue of treasures, are now available at [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au). There's also a short teaser video of the items to be auctioned.

This will be a COVID-safe event, with all the trimmings, including Service NSW QR code, hand sanitiser, wipes, and social distancing. Be COVID-safe, or risk the Wrath of Zara! (HI)

[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](http://mwrs.org.au).

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY  
MWRS Publicity Officer.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

DX-peditions... from a single person operating "holiday style" to a multi-million dollar, years in the planning Top 10 Most Wanted operation; the DX-pedition always arouses interest with something for everyone - CW, SSB, digital modes, even satellite operations.

Every edition of AR magazine lists current and planned DX-peditions, and there are weekly reports of ongoing operations around the world here on VK2WI news. DX-peditions span IOTA, WWFF, DXCC, Prefix awards, CQ Zones, ITU Zones and regions to name just a few.

At the next SGARS gathering, you'll have an opportunity to take a look at some of the planning and operations of some of the better known DX-peditions of the last two decades. There will be screenings of the DX-pedition DVD's produced by Bob K4UEE, for SGARS and the owner of these DVDs to utilise them in this fashion and for this purpose.

The gathering will be a 'hybrid mode' event, both in-person and online using Google Meet, on Wednesday evening the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, commencing at 7:30pm.

Those present, either in-person or virtually, will be able to vote for which videos to watch; among the choices will be DX-peditions to 3X5A Guinea West Africa, 3Y0X, Peter Island, AH1A Howland Island, XR0Y Easter Island, VK0IR Heard Island and many others.

For those who wish to attend the physical meeting, it will be at the usual venue, the Kyle Bay Sea Scouts Hall, Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point, with the door opening at 7:15pm, next Wednesday 2nd June.

Members are reminded that there are still many quality items available from the estate of Don Edwards, VK2NV... and reminder for those who took part in the Don Edwards' memorial slow Morse contest earlier this month; logs close at midnight Monday. So, if you haven't got your log in yet, then get a move on!

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

At the Club's AGM last week, the following committee members were elected;

President: Rod VK2DAY

Vice-president: Rob VK2DIO

Secretary: Steve VK2AAV

Treasurer: Andrew VK2TAN

Committee members: Matt VK2BAI and Colin VK2JCC

The next meeting is an informal gathering on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, at Mt Colah Community Centre.

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.

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.

*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.