

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

Are your membership details up to date? If you have recently moved, changed email address, or got a new callsign; please let our Membership team here at ARNSW know. The easiest way is by email, to [memership@arnsw.org.au](mailto:memership@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.

## Slow CW contest

If you would like to have a go at contesting in CW, here's an interesting new contest from VK6.

The Peel Amateur Radio Group, PARG, kicked off their inaugural Slow CW contest in February. It generated quite a bit of interest, so they've decided to have another go – and they would like to encourage VK2 amateurs to join in as well. The idea is to encourage Amateurs to have a go at CW and to contact PARG members – but more importantly, to have fun while doing it.

The contest is on Saturday June 26, from 1100 to 1300UTC that's 9pm to 11am AEST. Activity is on 80 metres, between 3550 and 3600kHz as the operation station licence permits. If you feel that your morse might not be up to speed or you can't find your key - you could even enter as an SWL.

You can find more details, including contest rules and handy hints and tips to help you during the contest, on the PARG website; [www.parg.org.au](http://www.parg.org.au).

*David VK6FAAZ  
Secretary, PARG.*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	77	78	69	77	76	76	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	11	8	7	7	15	15	10 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	5	2	1	9	8	3 estimated
T index	11	14	12	11	13	24	19

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, before returning to quiet again, on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancement 20% was observed during local night on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and 35% during local night on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The 17<sup>th</sup> saw some depressions of up to 15% during local daylight hours, but enhancements were again observed, up to 30%, during the local night.

Now, the forecast for the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach unsettled to active levels on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, due to the effects of a Coronal Mass Ejection observed on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may also be mildly depression on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, but otherwise should remain 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 May, we had a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 75 and a Maximum of 88  
With peak dates from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

So far for June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 82  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 78 and a Maximum of 80  
With peak dates from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</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 2m8s*

*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.

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## **ARRL DX news**

AZERBAIJAN; Special event station 4J880M is active from Mingechevir until July 1 to commemorate the birth of writer and philosopher Nizami Ganjavi.

KENYA; Jacob, AK0SK is active as 5Z4/AK0SK from Nairobi. Activity is mostly on 40 to 10 metres.

BALEARIC ISLANDS; Andy, DK5ON is active as EA6/DK5ON until June 20. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4 with QRP power.

HUNGARY; A group of operators are active as HG0WFF from Matrai TK Landscape Protection Area, WFFF HAFF-0031, until June 21. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ITALY; Operators Simone, IK5RUN and Carlo, IK5MES are active as IG9/IK5RUN and IG9/IK5MES, respectively, from Lampedusa Island, IOTA AF-019, until June 25. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using SSB.

ARGENTINA; Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will be active as LU4AAO, LU4AAO/A and LU4AAO/D until June 27, commemorating Argentine Flag Day. Activity will be on HF, VHF and UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV and FT8.

ALAND ISLANDS; Special event station OH0100AX is active until June 9, 2022 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Aland Islands' self-government from Finland.

DODECANESE; Wolf, DL3DRN is active as SV5/DL3DRN from Rhodes Island, IOTA EU-001, until June 21. Activity is on various HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

VIETNAM; Jun, JH4RHF is active as XV9RH from Hanoi until June 21. Activity is in his spare time on various HF bands using mainly CW and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL SSB Kids Day, All Asian DX CW Contest, IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, SMIRK 6-Metre Contest, Battle of Carabobo International Contest, Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, International Museums Weekend, West Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint, WAB 50 MHz Phone and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test is scheduled for June 21.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for June 22.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for June 23.

## **WICEN News**

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.

Last weekend was the Club's annual Field day, at the Wauchope Showground Hall. In perfect sunny weather during the Queen's Birthday Holiday Weekend. With 99 visitors registered, the day followed the COVID safety plan with QR Code check in. Everyone enjoyed socializing and the various Field Day activities. Traders did brisk business and the Disposals sales yielded many bargains. The food was excellent. DMR was a feature of the weekend with information and displays. Some 25 code plugs were loaded into radios for attendees by Paul VK2ICQ and Ian VK2GL at the ORARC stand. Many new DMR IDs appeared for the first time on the RadNet DMR network during the weekend. The new VK2RCN 428.425 MHz DMR repeater provided excellent coverage at the hall.

Over 35 people enjoyed the excellent Field Day Dinner in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the Saturday night.

As usual, fox hunting was keenly contested; Gerard VK2IO emerged as Foxhunt Champion just two points ahead of Runner-Up, Jeff VK2BYY. Chris VK2YMW was third. Bruce VK2EM won the Home Brew Contest with his microwave test set. Highly commended was the 1960s home brew 2 metre mobile transceiver constructed by the late Jim Webster VK2BZD/VK2ZCW displayed by son Paul VK2BZC.

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 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 next Monthly Meeting of the Group will be on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, at the School of Electronics, Hunter TAFE at Tighes Hill, Newcastle.

The meeting starts at 6:30pm, with a lecture presentation after general business.

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

*Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

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## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next Club general meeting will be on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, starting at 1pm. Resident chef, Steve VK2SKC will be banging out bangers on the BBQ from noon, and the clubroom doors will open from 10:30am.

The club's committee continues to review responses to the recent Mayham event survey, with over 52 responses so far. The club thanks those who have provided their feedback. If you wish to submit your thoughts regarding the event, please visit the club's website for further information.

The Club's AGM will be in August, with the date to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

The Next SSTV net will be at 7:30pm on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, on the 2m WICEN repeater 147.125MHz. The net is running primarily in Scottie 2 mode, however, may be changed on the night. Adrian VK2ABS thanks those who have participated in the net; If you have any feedback regarding this net, contact the club directly at [ccarc@ccarc.org.au](mailto:ccarc@ccarc.org.au).

The Central Coast WICEN Meeting was held yesterday, with WICEN RCO Glenn VK2GEM's XYL passing around their well renowned vanilla cupcakes. Those who attend these meetings will know exactly how good they are.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the club's daily Morning Tea net. A huge thanks to Bob and Dave for running these nets, they sure brighten up everyone's day. The net has been running continuously for over 14 months now – that's just over 8 dog years!

Club nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. EchoLink is currently having some on-way audio problems, but the repeater team is working on it and hope to have it back on line soon.

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.*

## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, starting at 11am. The venue is the clubhouse in Glenbrook.

The Committee positions are up for nomination; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Ordinary Committee member positions. The non-official positions will be up for nominations as well. The meeting will conclude with a sausage sizzle. Please note, there will be no Friday night gathering beforehand.

Standard and Advanced licence upgrade classes are taking a break over the school holidays; they resume on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. Examinations for the course will be held at the end of the year. The next Foundation Licence training will be on the weekend of August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information, or to book for the licence weekend; contact the Blue Mountains ARC Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is [secretary@bmarc.org](mailto:secretary@bmarc.org).

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 [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

*73 from James VK2GOH  
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains 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](mailto:vk2ir@vk2ir.com).

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

For many years, the society has operated the VK2RDX 2-metre repeater at Mt. Bindo in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. On a remote mountain-top about 25km south of Lithgow, the repeater covers much of Sydney, the Blue Mountains and west out to Bathurst and Orange regions.

Over the past six months, the SGARS repeater team have been working to resolve a de-sensing issue. Site work has included removal of corroded masts and guy wires, which were identified as responsible for passive inter-modulation, removal of old coaxial cable and installation of a new antenna system.

The repeater receiver and transmitter units have also been upgraded to improve sensitivity and site coverage.

The repeater also relays VK2WI bulletins, and after this bulletin they would appreciate your signal report. Please call back on the VK2RDX 2m FM repeater; its on 146.65MHz with a minus 600 kHz offset. The SGARS repeater team would appreciate your signal report, location, and any comments about the repeater performance.

*Submitted by Paul VK2GX  
on behalf The St George Amateur Radio Society repeater team.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the June monthly general meeting, this Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, at Mt Colah Community Centre. The meeting starts at 8pm and will include a presentation.

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.*

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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.