

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

With the introduction of public health orders throughout the Greater Sydney area this weekend, planned events at VK2WI Dural have been cancelled and the site is closed to visitors. You can still make contact via email, to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message with the office, on 02 9651 1490.

Many Clubs and groups in Sydney, the Central Coast and Illawarra are suspending or moving activities online because of these restrictions. We have included some of these details in tonight's bulletin, and will bring you further updates as we are notified; However, it would be wise to check in on local nets or club websites, as restrictions may change at short notice.

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]**

---

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	77	77	76	79	81	80	81
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	5	4	3	8	6	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	2	1	1	4	2	0 estimated
T index	12	8	5	9	13	13	12

Solar activity was very low from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, low on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and very low again, on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly at quiet levels during the week, with some unsettled periods on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancement of 20% was observed during local night of the 18<sup>th</sup> the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the 20<sup>th</sup> saw some depressions of up to 15% during local daylight hours.

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 to low.

Geomagnetic activity should remain at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies 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 78 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 30<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 780  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 31<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.

---

### **[Play File: 15-FCAL174.wav]**

*Duration 2m23s*

*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**

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI; Hans, 3DA0AQ is active on 20 to 6 metres using CW.

CYPRUS; Phil, G0FVM will be active as 5B4APP starting the end of June. He plans to start on 20 metres.

KENYA; Sila, AK0SK is active as 5Z4/AK0SK from Nairobi. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mostly FT8. His length of stay is unknown.

CANARY ISLANDS; Special event station EG8VCAN is active until July 18 to support the Volcanes de Canarias award.

NEW CALEDONIA; Yannick, FK4TK is active from Mont Dore, on the HF bands.

SCOTLAND; Paul, G4PVM will be active as GM4PVM from the Isle of Lismore, IOTA EU-008, from June 29 to July 4. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

LIECHTENSTEIN; Leuk, HB9HBY will be active as HB0/HB9HBY from June 30 to July 4. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

ITALY; Francesco, IK6QON is active as IA5/IK6QON from Giannutri Island, IOTA EU-028, until June 27. Activity is holiday style on various HF bands using CW and SSB.

DJIBOUTI; Jeje, F8FKJ is active as J20EE from Djibouti City until mid-July. Activity is on 20 and 17 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station RG60ANT is active to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty Signature, that took place in 1961.

UKRAINE; Special event station EN30UKR is active to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukraine's Independence. QSL via UT4ULP.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Mario W4HBW, is active as VP5MA from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, until October. Activity is on 20 and 15 metres using FT8.

INDONESIA; Operators YB9BHJ, YB9BUD, YB9ELS, YF9DSW, YB9DE and WQ2M are active as 7D9BA from Lembongan Island, IOTA OC-022, until June 27. Activity is on 80, 20, 17, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4.

ST. HELENA ISLAND; Gerry, G3WIP is active as ZD7GB until September 30 while working there. Activity is in his spare time.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL Field Day, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, UFT QRP CW Contest, Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest and His Majesty King of Spain SSB Contest are all on tap over this weekend.

The RSGB FT4 Contest Series, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for June 28.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QCX CW Challenge and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for June 29.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 30.

---

**[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]**

---

## WICEN News

Last weekend saw thirteen WICEN operators provide communications support for the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon, held in and around Newnes in the Blue Mountains. 500 people participated in the marathon, with no major incidents.

Next Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July there is a WICEN training day planned, subject to confirmation, on the topic of Prepare Maintain and Test Response Equipment.

The Watagan State Forest Ride is on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of August and the Shahzada Horse Enduro Ride at St Albans, runs from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. If you are interested in assisting on either of these events, please email Colin at; [colin.hodgson@vrarescue.org](mailto:colin.hodgson@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](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 of the Club will be the July monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, at the SES Building in Central Road, 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 COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with Public Health restrictions which may change at short notice.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible; Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run once sufficient candidates have registered.

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.*

## Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club's 2021 Annual General Meeting was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

New club president is Dennis VK2XDW, Vice President Martin VK2MPR, Treasurer Jeremy VK2LDX, Secretary Stephen VK2KWH, and education officer is Jeff VK2JET.

The club runs several regular nets. The 80-metre club net has recently changed frequency; its now on 3675kHz, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30am.

The 80 metre Stone the Crows net is on Saturday at 06m, frequency 3588kHz.

The 2 metre nets are on 146.775Mhz;

The Stay Safe net, Thursdays at 8pm; the EZB net: Saturday at 08am, and the Weekly Broadcast on Sunday from 9am.

The 70cm DMR net is on Sunday at 08.30am; Frequency 438.625MHz, Talk Group 8.

The club is located at 2E York Street, Teralba, and is open Saturdays from 10am until 3pm, with a wide range of activities.

You can find more information about the Club on the website at; [westlakesarc.org.au](http://westlakesarc.org.au), and there is a link from the Clubs page on the ARNSW website.

*Stephen VK2KWH  
Secretary, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With the Government health orders announced this weekend, the Clubrooms are currently closed. As a result, the next general meeting, which is scheduled for 1pm next Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, will be facilitated as an online and teleconference meeting.

The Club's AGM is currently planned for 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).

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the clubs daily Morning Tea net. A huge thanks to Bob and Dave for running these nets, they sure brighten up everyone's day.

Club nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. EchoLink is currently offline after some hardware trouble; specifically, some filesystem corruption and an SD card that no longer wished to remain in one piece. The repeater team is working on some replacements and hopes to have the service restored soon. There has also been some progress made in restoring the D-Star stack, and the team expects it will be back online, within the next 2 weeks.

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: 17-E-ID3.wav]**

---

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming up on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm; directly after the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

The meeting is currently planned to be in-person at the BlueScope Steel Visitor's Centre, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. However, this is subject to change as the public health situation evolves.

At the upcoming meeting, IARS member Simon VK2KU will present the final version of his HF noise cancelling unit and will be showing the construction of a board. Simon has spent many months working on the design to make it the most efficient, compact and useful versus simplicity and cost. He presented a session at the Mayham Field Day a few weeks ago, so it will be most interesting to see where Simon has taken the evolution of this noise canceller.

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 13<sup>th</sup> of July. For update on the meeting, please check the Society's website, and we will have update on future VK2WI News bulletins.

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

## **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**

The Club has currently suspended all in-person activities. This includes the Club's Annual General Meeting, which will now be via Zoom, on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July starting at 11am. Members will be sent the meeting information via email.

On air nets, fortunately, are continuing. They are 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.*

## Sydney ATV Group

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.

There are two nets; Thursday afternoon starting at 2:30pm, and Monday nights from 7pm.

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.*

## **Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club**

The next meeting of the Club will now be an on-air meeting, on the Club repeater, VK2RFG, on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of July commencing at 7:30pm. The Club's weekly net will follow the meeting. The repeater is on 438.65MHz with a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone for access. The repeater is also accessible via Echolink.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at [fgarc.org.au](http://fgarc.org.au).

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR*

*On behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## **Manly-Warringah Radio Society**

The Society's June lecture, on the work of Sir John Madsen and Radio Research in Australia, is now up on YouTube. Just search for the club channel, VK2MB-TV, and you'll find it in the Lectures playlist. Or just search YouTube for "Sir John Madsen".

The club station, VK2MB portable, has been active this weekend in the VHF/UHF Winter Field Day. Hopefully everyone has enjoyed the event.

With in-person meetings are currently suspended, you can check the web site for the latest updates on the society's events. The address is [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au).

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY*

*Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.*



## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

The Society has decided to revert to a virtual meeting in July. This will be on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30pm. Login details will be posted on the society's website next weekend.

Over the last few years, the use of DMR, Digital Mobile Radio, by Australian amateurs has evolved and expanded. In 2018 there were 33 VK DMR repeaters, which has now grown by 60% to 53. Currently there are over 1800 registered DMR users.

As recently announced, the St. George Amateur Radio Society will be shortly being installing a DMR repeater at the Mt. Bindo site in the Western Blue Mountains between Lithgow and Oberon.

At the Society's July gathering, Paul VK2GX will be presenting on the VK Digital Mobile Radio network, looking at DMR network basics, providing an update the VK DMR network including repeaters, hotspots and talk groups, reviewing available DMR equipment and giving helpful programming hints.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday July the 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8pm. Subject to the lifting of public health restrictions, the meeting will be at the Mt Colah community centre; otherwise, it will be online using Jitsi Meet, the open-source online audio, video, and phone conference system.

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: 18-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** 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30am on new frequency of 3675kHz, 2m nets on 146.775MHz, see website for details.

**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; 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.