

## **Silent Key.**

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and fellow club member John McDonagh VK2VY, on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 aged 75 years.

John was a past Treasurer and Committee of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club during the 1990s. He was involved with the Club setting up infrastructure to provide access to the expanding packet radio network. The club's repeater site VK2RPM at Middle Brother Mountain was part of the East Coast UHF digital backbone. The VHF radio ROSE nodes at VK2RPM and VK2RCN gave local amateurs access to the network so that messages could be sent and received Australia Wide via the network Bulletin Boards.

As a motor mechanic, who was not only proficient in things mechanical but also had great interest in radio and digital technology. He was one of the first mechanics to gain expertise in automotive electronic management systems and held a particular interest in engine performance. In retirement he continued to enjoy Amateur Radio and kept abreast of the new technologies in digital voice and data communications. He also volunteered with Lifeline in Port Macquarie.

The Amateur Fraternity extends Deep Sympathy to John's wife Karin and their family on their sad loss.

A Funeral for John will be held in the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Chapel in Port Macquarie on Friday the 9th of July, at 2:30 pm.

Please pause with us, while we remember John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] John McDonagh VK2VY.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE  
on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

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

With public health restrictions currently in place across the Greater Sydney area, all events at VK2WI Dural are currently suspended, 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 activities in Sydney, the Central Coast and Illawarra have been rescheduled or moved online due to these restrictions. We have included updated details in the bulletin where we have been informed or have been able to get a response from officials in various groups. However, if you are planning on attending an event, it would be best to check in with the local group net or websites, as restrictions may change at short notice.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state which we know about. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially with the current changes – the email address is [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au) – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. As always, we also welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities, which we can report to our listeners.

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.

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 25<sup>th</sup> of June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
10cm Flux	83	82	87	89	93	94	94
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	5	4	4	5	11	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	1	0	0	1	7	5 estimated
T index	23	13	16	21	20	23	27

Solar activity was mostly at very low levels, although some increases in activity, reaching low levels were observed on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. The 30<sup>th</sup> was quiet to unsettled with an isolated active period, and the 1<sup>st</sup> of July remained at quiet to unsettled levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, with some enhancement observed during local night hours; 20% on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 35% on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, and 35% enhancement during local night, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Now, the forecast for the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of July;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity should be mostly at quiet to unsettled levels, with some active periods possible on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> due to CME activity.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly 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 June, we had a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 79 and a Maximum of 93  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

As we start July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 87 and a Maximum of 94  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 84 and a Maximum of 92  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<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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### **[Play File: 15-FCAL141.wav]**

*Duration 2m21s*

*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**

SINGAPORE; Shuichi, JA0DKL is active as 9V1SH, on various HF bands.

URUGUAY; Special event station CW60ATS is active until December 31<sup>st</sup> to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Antarctic Treaty System.

ITALY; Special event station I10LXXV is active until December 31<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the 75th anniversary of ARI Roma.

JAPAN; Members of the Sendai Tuning DX Club are active with special call sign 8N7SPORT until October 31.

ALASKA; Members of the North Pole Contest Group will be active as W1AW/KL7 from July 8 to 13. Activity will be on all bands and modes with four stations active. This includes an entry in the upcoming IARU HF World Championship, as an HQ Station.

AUSTRIA; Alex, OE3DMA is active as OE60ANT to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Antarctic Treaty System.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P44W from July 6 to 13. Activity will be as time permits on all bands. This includes a CW only entry in the upcoming IARU HF World Championship contest.

POLAND; Special event stations 3Z1980LL, HF1980LL, SN1980LL, SO1980LL, SP1980LL, SP1980LS and SQ1980LL are active until July 31<sup>st</sup> to commemorate the strike actions of 1980 in the Lublin region. Activity is on the HF bands.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event call sign R100KOMI is active until September 30 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Komi Republic, created on August 22, 1921, as an Autonomous Oblast.

UKRAINE; Special event station EM60KTS is active until December 31 to mark the 60th anniversary of the enactment of the Antarctic Treaty System.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS; Frank, K3TRM will be active as VP2V/K3TRM from Tortola, IOTA NA-023, until July 17<sup>th</sup>. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres, including some Satellite activity, using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

INDONESIA; Members of ORARI Daerah Banten are active as 7I1S from Sangiang Island, IOTA OC-237, until July 4. Activity is on all HF bands and modes.

ST. HELENA ISLAND; Gerry, G3WIP is active as ZD7GB from Jamestown until September 6. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 metres, including Satellite QO-100, using SSB, FT8 and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The 13 Colonies Special Event, the QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, DL-DX RTTY Contest, Two-Metre Classic Sprint, Marconi Memorial HF Contest, Original QRP Contest, TA VHF/UHF Contest and the PODXS 070 Club 40-Metre Firecracker PSK31 Sprint are on over this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship, are scheduled for July 5.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for July 6.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for July 7.

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## **WICEN News**

Coming events for scheduled for WICEN, are 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. These events are subject to confirmation given current public health restrictions; if you are interested in assisting on either of these events, place 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.

Due to current public health restrictions, yesterday's club meeting was cancelled. A committee meeting was held and the minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members.

The July Friday night get together is currently planned for 7pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, at the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. Subject to confirmation, the meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Committee continues to closely monitor the public health directives, to ensure that club activities comply with 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**

July's monthly meeting, originally scheduled for this Thursday night, has been postponed.

However, the groups weekly on-air nets continue, on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. They're on the Group's VHF Repeater, on 146.9MHz.

*Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With the Government health orders announced this weekend, the Clubrooms are currently closed. As a result, yesterday's monthly general meeting was held online via Google Meet. Several topics were discussed, including the Club's AGM; which is now planned for Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, at 1pm. The club's executive team are hoping the greater Sydney restrictions are relaxed by then and that in-person activities can resume.

The Clubs repeater committee wishes to those members who responded to the recent survey regarding digital repeater usage and will reach out to those directly to discuss. The committee is pleased to report that D-Star, or more commonly known now as RAGstar, is back on the Central Coast.

The VK2RAG 2 Metre and 70cm Repeater is now back on the air and fully synchronised with all systems and is available for open use after several weeks of testing and tweaking. By default, Module B which is available on 438.325MHz with negative 5.4MHz split is connected to Reflector 23C, and Module C which is available on 146.6375MHz with a negative 600kHz offset is connected to Reflector 1C. The club wishes to thank all those involved in working to have the service returned to full operational use and is glad to see another service available that covers such a large area.

Last Friday's SSTV net was hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, and several stations checked in – including a portable station out in the cold! Thanks to all those stations that joined the net. The next is planned for 7:30pm on Friday the 16<sup>th</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.

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. While D-Star is fully functional, EchoLink is still offline; the repeater team hopes to have the service restored 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.*

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## 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.*

## 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. The group has regular technical talks, shows our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during the net times 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

Well, it was too good to last, wasn't it? Having recently re-opened the clubhouse for in-person activities, a new COVID-19 outbreak in Sydney has seen the resumption of restrictions; last Wednesday's Antenna Show and Tell night has been postponed, hopefully not for too long.

Until the Sydney lockdown is lifted, the Society has reverted to meeting on air and via Zoom. So, the weekly net will once again be on the VK2RMB two metre repeater, 146.875 MHz, starting at 8pm. If you're not in the area and would like to listen in, you can also monitor the net via the repeater audio feed on Broadcastify. Just visit the Society's website and read the "COVID QRM" post for details

Meanwhile, the Society's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV, has a fine selection of lectures and other radio-related videos for your viewing pleasure.

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), or just search for VK2MB.

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 are available on the website, [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

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. Unless the lockdown is extended, the meeting will be at the Mt Colah community centre, in Pierre Close, Mt Colah. 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.*

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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** 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.

**Manly-Warringah Radio Society** meeting net 8pm Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of July, on VK2RMB 146.875MHz.

**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.