

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

With public health restrictions still in place across the Greater Sydney area, 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.

We have included updated details in the bulletin of events rescheduled or moved online; 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 continue to 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 regarding any new meeting and check in nets in response to current restrictions. You can email [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.

Tonight we again 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 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	87	84	82	81	80	79	76
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	5	5	4	6	13	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	1	1	1	1	3	10 estimated
T index	24	22	21	16	16	24	21

Solar activity was very low on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, low on the 24<sup>th</sup>, then low from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, except from some unsettled conditions on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> was near predicted during local day with enhancement of 20% at night; then the 29<sup>th</sup> saw depressions of 15% during local day, recovering at night to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 30<sup>th</sup> of July to the 5<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

And having just finished July, we had expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 82 and a Maximum of 95  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>

As we begin August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 79 and a Maximum of 90  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 29<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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*Duration 3m4s*

*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**

MONTENEGRO; Alex, YU0W is active as 4O/YU0W/p from several SOTA peaks until August 8. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 metres using CW.

CANARY ISLANDS; Look for Philippe, EA4NF to be active as EA8/EA4NF from Fuerteventura Island, IOTA AF-004, until August 14. Activity will be on the FM and Analog satellites from grids IL27, IL28, and IL38.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Yann, F1SMB will be active as FO/F1SMB from August 2 to 23 from the locations Moorea, IOTA OC-046, Tahaa, IOTA OC-067, Bora Bora, IOTA OC-067, Tikehau, IOTA OC-066, Rangiroa, IOTA OC-066, and Fakarava, IOTA OC-066. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using SSB and FT8.

SAINT MARTIN; Hal, W8HC is active as FS/W8HC until August 6. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and FT8.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; Max, HB9TUZ plans to be active as HI9/HB9TUZ from Las Terranas, IOTA NA-096, throughout August. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB.

THAILAND; Members of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand are active as HS18IARU until September 30 to mark the 18th IARU Region 3 Conference 2021.

ITALY; Alberto, IU1KZX is active as IA5/IU1KZX/m from Elba Island, IOTA EU-028, until August 6. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

JAPAN; Special event station 8J2SUSON is active until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Susono.

PERU ; Alex, DD5ZZ is active as OA7/DD5ZZ from Cusco until September 17. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, FT4, and some CW.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Operators Sergey, M0MSV, Daniil, R6LGT, Andrey, R6MG, Vladimir, RN3BL, Sergey, RX3F and Eugene, RZ3EC are active as RI0FF from Turup Island, IOTA AS-025, until August 3. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. Afterwards they will travel to Sakhalin Island, IOTA AS-018, from August 4 to 6.

MEXICO; Special event station 4A2MAX is active during August to honour the memory of Maximilian Kolbe. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and some digital modes.

CYPRUS; Phil, M7CBK is active as ZC4CBK from Akrotiri and plans to be active on a regular basis until October. Activity is on 20 metres using mainly FT8 and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Feld Hell Sprint, Russian World Wide Multimode Contest, WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone, Missouri QSO Party and SARL HF Phone Contest are all on this upcoming weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test is scheduled for August 2.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for August 3.

The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, and VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest are scheduled for August 4.

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## **WICEN News**

The Shahzada Horse Enduro Ride at St Albans has been cancelled for this year; It is hoped it will return bigger and better, next year.

The Watagan State Forest Ride has been rescheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September.

This year's WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, at ARNSW Dural. It will move online if there are any COVID-19 restrictions.

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 is the AGM, which has now been rescheduled for 2pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. The September general meeting will follow immediately after. The August General meeting has been cancelled, and minutes of the August Committee Meeting will be emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs.

All meetings are held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Committee continues to closely monitor 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. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

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 July 2021 issue is currently in preparation but will be published a little later than usual, due to unforeseen circumstances.

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.*



## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions currently in force, the Clubrooms are currently closed until at least Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August.

The next general meeting of the Club is coming up next Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August at 1pm and will be facilitated online via Google Meet. Members should have received a meeting link already; if you haven't received this communication, please reach out to the club's executive team.

The Club's AGM will be on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August at 1pm. The current executive team will not be standing again this year and nominations forms have been distributed to club members via E-mail. Signed and scanned copies of committee nomination must be received no later than noon on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

Club Member Peter VK2EHQ has recently received a QSL card from Mario VP8EME in the Falkland Islands, IOTA SA-002, after a successful contact on 80 metres, For those who are unsure where the Falkland Islands are; it is just shy of 30,000kms long-path from Peters QTH. Congratulations Peter!

Last Friday night Adrian, VK2ABS hosted an SSTV which was well attended; the next is planned for 7:30pm Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. The SSTV nets are on the 147.125 MHz 2 Metre WICEN Repeater, and the club thanks Adrian for putting together a great show, for all the stations that check in to the net.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the clubs Morning Tea daily; and now that travel restrictions have returned across the greater Sydney area, it is a prime time to check in on your mate! A massive thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running these nets, it sure brightens up everyone's day.

Brad VK2NMZ hosted the Thursday Evening 2-metre net with a topic of "*Headspace during COVID*". There were several discussions from stations of what they have been doing to keep themselves busy during this challenging time. Some are keeping themselves occupied with self-education and others are focusing on revisiting music production, a fantastic discussion had by all.

Both nets are held on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725Mhz with a 91.5hz sub audible tone.

While D-Star is fully functional, Echolink and IRLP facilities are also currently offline due to hardware failure. Also, the Brandmeister DMR repeater on 438.375MHz, is offline due to an unknown power related fault. The Club hopes to be able to return these facilities once travel restrictions ease.

The club is looking for more operators to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RAAF at the end of August; only 2 stations have registered so far. This is a great opportunity to get out on the bands and share in celebrating this momentous occasion – note that operation does not have to be from the clubrooms, it can be portable or at other locations. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Club directly.

Did you know the club has a YouTube channel? It contains lecture information from previous events as well as numerous technical videos covering a range of topics.

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 Society regularly meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Meeting start at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm. Meetings are normally held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the Southern side of Wollongong CBD.

The next meeting, on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, will be the Society's AGM, with most current Executive and Committee Members offering to stand again; if re-elected of course.

With that said, due to the current Lockdown, the last meeting of the Society was not in-person, but instead was held over the air on the Society's linked 2 metre repeaters of VK2RMP and VK2RUW. It was an excellent roll-up with 27 attendees checking-in. Most were on 2m, a few via EchoLink and a couple of listeners checked-in via text messaging.

After check-ins, minutes and reports were read, followed by an update from Simon VK2KU on his HF Active Noise Canceller project, a report from Steve VK2BGL on the Saturday morning East Coast Net that he hosts and then some information from Tony VK2TS on recent 6 metre band openings. All attendees then gave a quick update about what was happening in their lives, many noting the affects the Lockdown was having on them.

Since the current public health situation suggests that the current Lockdown will extend past the next meeting date of the 10th of August, Members will be advised as to the meeting location directly via email and it will be posted on the Society's website and Facebook page. Additionally, it will be publicised here on VK2WI News, on Sunday the 8th of August.

Something that Lockdowns don't prevent is the Society's two 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, on the air at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August; either at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre on Springhill Road in Wollongong or on the air via the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP and VK2RUW.....stay tuned!

*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.

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

Give us a call during 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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's August meeting will be on this coming Wednesday 4th August starting at 7:30pm. At the gathering, Wal VK2ACE will be presenting on "The Evolution of Telecommunications".

Communicating over a distance has been a need of man since the dawn of time. First came optical semaphore systems, then with the discovery of electro-chemistry and electro-magnetism, sending coded messages over a wire became a reality. With AG Bell's invention of the microphone, and later the telephone, the human voice could now be passed over that wire.

Come with us as we tour the fascinating technology timeline from then to now, making frequent stops along the way to examine the major milestones.

Log-in details are now on the society's website <https://sgars.org>.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity officer*

## **Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club**

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. Members and visitors can join the Jitsi meeting online, using a web browser, on a smartphone app, or even from a landline phone.

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, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, 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.*

[Jitsi Meet details:  
Phone: 08 7150 1136 and enter 3145759306#  
Web: <https://meet.jit.si/HADARC> ]

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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 3565kHz, 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 and 53.875MHz. 2m Net Sundays 3pm.

**WICEN** nets on Sunday evenings from 6pm.

**Manly-Warringah Radio Society** meeting net 8pm Wednesdays on VK2RMB 146.875MHz.

**Waverley ARS** net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air, 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.