

## **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.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding any new meeting and check in nets. 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.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27<sup>th</sup> of August to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm Flux	90	90	89	91	84	84	86
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	19	17	9	9	9	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	6	5	6	3	3	1 estimated
T index	18	11	4	8	17	13	17

Solar activity was generally low, except for the 28<sup>th</sup>, which reached moderate levels of activity with an M4 flare observed at 0611UTC; and the 31<sup>st</sup>, which dropped to very low levels.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels on the 27<sup>th</sup>, with SWS magnetometers recording two weak impulses 9 nanoTesla at 0117UTC and 10 nanoTesla at 1234UTC. Quiet to unsettled conditions continued to the 28<sup>th</sup>. While activity remained quiet on the 29<sup>th</sup>, another weak geomagnetic impulse of 8 nanoTesla was recorded at 2041UTC. The 30<sup>th</sup> saw quiet to unsettled conditions, which then returned to quiet levels for the 31<sup>st</sup> of August to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were depressed 20% after local dawn on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, depressed 20% all day on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and 15% during local daylight on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, near predicted.

Now, the forecast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of September;

Solar activity is expected to be low, with the chance of an isolated M-class flare.

Geomagnetic activity is expected be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible isolated active periods on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 August, we had a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 91  
With peak dates from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 85 and a Maximum of 90  
With peak dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 84 and a Maximum of 90  
With peak dates from the 13<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>]

# Space Weather Summary for August 2021

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Moderate solar activity occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with an M4.7 flare peaking at 0611 UTC from Active Region 2860. San Vito solar observatory reported this event being accompanied by a type II radio sweep with an estimated shock speed of 276 km/s. This Active Region AR 2860 produced multiple C flares between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> as it rapidly developed from plage on the 24<sup>th</sup>, into large and magnetically complex beta-gamma-delta spot group. Low solar activity on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> was due to Active Region AR 2853. AR 2859 caused low solar activity on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with several C flares. AR 2862 contributed one C flare on the 27<sup>th</sup> before rotating over the west limb. Very low activity occurred on other days.

Many Coronal Mass Ejections were observed over the month but most were not Earth-directed. A large filament erupted on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with B class flaring from AR 2859 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, resulted in two weak CMEs that likely arrived at Earth on the 27<sup>th</sup>. An apparent halo CME from the M4.7 flare on the 28<sup>th</sup> was expected to arrive at Earth on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Otherwise, weak coronal hole wind streams appeared to influence geomagnetic conditions on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic Activity in the Australian region saw active to minor storm periods on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August, with quiet to unsettled conditions on other days. A CME on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July is the likely cause of activity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August; the CMEs on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> contributed to the activity on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

There were moderate ionospheric depressions in the Australian region on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August, with localised mild depressions on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>; mostly during local day.

The M4.7 flare peaked at 0611 UTC on 28<sup>th</sup> of August, affected the Indian and Middle East sectors. In the Australian region, the flare caused absorption on lower HF frequencies from about 0600 to 0630 UTC, with ALF in Southern Australia increasing to about 5MHz.

## 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-FCAL191.wav]**

*Duration 2m40s*

*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**

NIGER; Adrien, F4IHM will be active as 5UAIHM from September 11 to October 22. Look for him on 40 and 20 metre CW.

MALAWI; Vasco, 7Q7CT is active on 40, 20 and 15 metres.

MONGOLIA; Jaeseok, HL1WP is active as JU1WP from Ulaanbaatar. Activity has been mainly on the LEO satellites.

THE GAMBIA; Operators Luc, F5RAV, Gerard, F5NVF and Abdel, M0NPT will be active as C5C from October 24 to November 19. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB, digital modes and the QO-100 satellite.

COLOMBIA; Lothar, DK8LRF be active as HK3JCL until end of May 2022. Activity will be mainly on 20 metre SSB.

GUINEA; Jean-Philippe, F1TMY will be active as 3X2021 starting in mid-September. He plans to be active on 160 to 6 metres and on the QO-100 satellite. He will also operate portable from the Los Islands (AF-051).

LITHUANIA; Valerijus, LY2QT will be active as LY785QT during the month of September to celebrate 785th anniversary of the City of Siaulai. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes.

UNITED STATES; Members of the American Legion Post 10 Amateur Radio Club (N7ALA) will be active using special event call sign N7F (Never7Forget) from September 9 to 12 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres using SSB, PSK-31 and CW.

SLOVENIA; Alex, S50DX is active as S5030DX until December 31 to celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Slovenia.

GREECE; Operators Manos, SV1IW and Miroslav, YT7MPB will be active as SX021IEEE until September 15 to promote the 26th IEEE Symposium on Computers and Communications.

BRAZIL; Mor, PT7ZT is active as ZW16ZT to celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games until September 5. Activity will be on various HF bands using SSB and digital modes.

IRELAND; Charlie, EI8JB plans to operate from Bere Island (EU-121) as EJ8JB from September 16 to 19. He will be using SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK on the HF bands and possibly on FM satellites.

SAUDI ARABIA; Francisco, EA5VD is active as 7Z1VD on 20 metre CW and SSB.

LEICHTENSTEIN; Tina, DL5YL and Fred, DL5YM will be on the air until September 28. They will operate holiday style signing HB0/home calls on 160 to 6 metres using mostly CW and RTTY, and some SSB.

THAILAND and DENMARK; During September and October, special event stations HS400OZ and OZ400HS celebrate 400 years of friendly relations between Thailand and Denmark. Operators are Lars, OZ1FJB, Carsten, OZ4CG, Allis, OZ1ACB, Henning, OZ2I, Jack, HS1FVL, and Champ, E21EIC.

UNITED STATES; Members of the Alabama Contest Group (ACG) commemorate the attacks of 9/11 with the call sign K4A until September 12. They will be active on 160 to 6 metres on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

TANZANIA; Maurizio, IK2GZU will be active from September 25 to November 20 as 5H3MB on various HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

CENTRAL AFRICA; The Italian DX Team plans to have seven operators working as TL8AA using CW, SSB, RTTY and TL8ZZ using FT8 on 160 to 6 metres during the Spring of 2022.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; Russian RTTY WW Contest, All Asian DX Contest, Wake-Up. QRP Sprint, CWOps CW Open, 144 Two-Metre Classic Sprint, AGCW Straight Key Party, Colorado QSO Party, IARU Region 1 Field Day, RSGB SSB Field Day, IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest, PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial, 144 WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone, and the Tennessee QSO Party are all on over this weekend.

## WICEN News

This year's WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. With public health restrictions continuing, the meeting will be online; members will have received the documentation and meeting invitation for the AGM, via their VRA email. Please contact the WICEN secretary if you did not receive the AGM information.

The Watagan State Forest Ride has been cancelled for this year, along with the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic. Hopefully next year will see these events return bigger and better than ever.

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 Club's AGM was held yesterday, online using Microsoft Teams. We will have a full report in next week's bulletin. The September committee meeting was also held online, and the minutes will be emailed to members early in the coming week.

General meetings and Friday night get togethers have currently been suspended. The Committee continues to closely monitor public health directives, to ensure that club activities comply with restrictions which may change at short notice. When in-person activities can resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's Covid Safety Plan.

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, and public health regulations permit.

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 July 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.*

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## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions currently in force, the Clubrooms are currently closed; The club continues to monitor the ongoing public health situation, hopeful that the doors can reopen again soon.

Yesterday, the Club's Monthly general business meeting was held online, and sub-committee positions were renominated for the 2021-2022 term. The club's executive thanks those members who have offered their time and expertise to assist in the club operations.

Some Club members have recently been experimenting again with Packet radio, living life to the fullest at 1200bps utilising Peter VK2EHQ's Packet BBS. Did you know that our repeater site has a digipeater? You can access it on VK2RAG-1 on 147.600 Mhz.

The daily morning tea net continues, and the club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU for their amazing efforts. With stay-at-home orders still in effect it is a terrific way to get to know your fellow operators. A massive thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running these nets, you will be sure to learn a little piece of history each day.

Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member and an avid SSTV fan, hosts a net every fortnight on the Club's 2 metre WICEN repeater, 147.125 MHz with 91.5 Hz tone. The net consists of 2-3 rounds predominately in Scottie-2 mode. You don't even need a computer; if you can record the audio, there are many tools available for you not only record but the encode your own images into audio files and transmit via your radio. The net attracts many participants, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. The next net is scheduled for Friday the 9th September, at 7:30pm.

A reminder that the club's BrandMeister DMR repeater is currently offline due to a power related fault, and EchoLink and IRLP facilities are also currently offline due to hardware failure. However, D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters remain fully operational.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au); via phone on 02 43402500 or on social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to "like" to follow for updates.

*Brad VK2NMZ*

*Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is planned for Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. Meetings are normally held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, but with the current travel restrictions, this month's meeting will again be over-the-air. The last two meetings were also held over-the-air with about 25 attendees checking in.

The meeting will commence at 7:30pm on the VK2RMP 6850 and VK2RUW 6675 repeaters, as well as via EchoLink connecting to VK2MT-R. Check-ins will be taken first, followed by the usual Club business and then there will be some interesting presentations by various Society Members. Past verbal presentations have been most interesting, giving an insight into Members' other interests outside of Amateur radio.

In the meantime, apart from the over-the-air meeting, the Society has two other Nets, something that lockdowns don't prevent!

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; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage. It usually starts at 8:30pm, but as there is a meeting this coming Tuesday night, it will be an informal chit-chat get together afterwards.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, including details on 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, which will instead be on-the-air at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September; via the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP 6850 and VK2RUW 6675, EchoLink VK2MT-R. So, get your cuppa ready and have your radio tuned for the meeting, starting at 7:30pm.

*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.*

## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

While in-person activities are suspended, the club is still running regular events online and on-air, such as the Wednesday evening licence upgrade courses and the regular weekly nets.

A number of guest speakers have also been approached to present at the Club's online meetings, during this difficult period.

Licence upgrade courses are still run by Jan VK2FEB, from 6pm on Wednesday nights. If you would like to upgrade to a Standard or Advanced licence, contact Irene, VK2VAN. The Club is planning a Foundation Licence weekend, restrictions permitting, on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October; contact Irene to register your interest.

Participation in JOTA, Jamboree On The Air, will be online and on-air this year. Virtual activities have been planned to go along with a combination of on-air and virtual contact, as most likely participation will be on-air and online. If you are interested in helping out and joining the JOTA subcommittee, please contact James VK2GOH.

On air nets continue weekly; The 80-metre net is 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 with no tone required. Sunday Afternoons nets are from 3pm, on the 2-metre repeater.

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.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

All Club activities are currently on-air and online.

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.

Listen for VK2WAH, We Are Home.

The next informal mid-monthly meeting is on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. Like Zoom, you can join the Jitsi meeting online, using a web browser, on a smartphone app, or even from a landline phone.

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

**WinterNet** Mondays 8pm on 1860kHz, Net Control Steve VK2STG.

**Oxley Region ARC** nets 7:30pm Thursday, 9am Sunday, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

**Great Lakes Radio Club** weekly net 7pm Monday, currently simplex on 147.1MHz and EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

**Westlakes** 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30am on 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 – Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. Tuesday 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

**Blue Mountains ARC** nets 8pm Tuesday on 3543kHz, 8pm Wednesday on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz and 53.875MHz. 2m Net Sundays 3pm.

**Manly-Warringah Radio Society** meeting net 8pm Wednesdays 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.