

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

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors; with public health orders changing, we are planning to re-introduce some on-site activities later in the year. In the meantime, 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 wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you currently have 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. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding changes to activities or planned events. 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.

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.

Today is also a special 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration –the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1961 saw the official opening of the Parkes Radio telescope. The 64m dish took nearly 3 years to design and 2 years to build. Since its opening, 'The Dish' has provided radio astronomers from all over the world with insights such the discovery of Pulsars and the survey of over 2500 new galaxies. It has also provided tracking and reception of signals from spacecraft such as Mariner 2, Voyager 2, and perhaps most famously – the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon.

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of October;  
This report issued on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.  
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm Flux                    | 87               | 87               | 93               | 101              | 109              | 111              | 112              |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr)   | 3                | 2                | 2                | 4                | 3                | 2                | 2<br>estimated   |
| Australian Index (Aaus)      | 3                | 2                | 3                | 4                | 3                | 2                | 1<br>estimated   |
| T index                      | 8                | 16               | 26               | 24               | 29               | 34               | 37               |

Solar activity was very low from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> and low on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Activity was moderate on the 26<sup>th</sup> with an M1.3 flare at 0247UTC and an M1.0 at 1557UTC. The 27<sup>th</sup> was back to low activity, but this didn't last long – the 28<sup>th</sup> saw high activity with an M1.4 at 0740UTC, M2.2 at 1029UTC, and an X1.0 flare at 1535UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet all week, except for some unsettled periods on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted; depression of 15% was observed during local night on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and into the day of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, enhancement of 15% was observed during local night; and on the 26<sup>th</sup>, enhancement of 20% was observed during local night hours.

Now, the forecast for the 29<sup>th</sup> of October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November;

Solar activity is expected to be at moderate to high levels early in the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected reach minor to major storm levels on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, before returning to quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed 20 to 30 percent on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and the 1<sup>st</sup> of November; otherwise near predicted monthly values.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures, last updated on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September;

At the end of October, we had a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 89 and a Maximum of 114  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

Just about to start November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 82, Average of 92 and a Maximum of 114  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 82, Average of 85 and a Maximum of 92  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<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-FCAL203.wav]**

*Duration 1m54s*

*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**

Several stations are on air this weekend especially for the CQ WorldWide DX SSB Contest;

CHINA; A large group of operators are active as B4T as a Multi/2 entry.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; Operators PP2BT, PT2IC, PY4AZ, PY6RT, PY7RP and PU0FDN are active as PY0F.

GREECE; Kostas, SV2HJW is active with special call SX16V.

INDONESIA; Special call 7A2A is active in the contest.

KUWAIT; Abdallah, 9K2GS is active as a Single Op on 15 Metres.

OMAN; Members of the ROARS Team are active as A44M from Masirah Island, IOTA AS-014.

ST. LUCIA; Dan, W0CN, Bill, J68HZ, Lin, J69CU, Frans, J69DS and Kyle, WA4PGM are active as J68HZ.

...and in other DX activity this week;

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI (or Swaziland); Lionel, ZS6DPL will be active as 3DA0LP from November 1 to 5.

BAHAMAS; Richard, NN2T is active as C6AHB from Bimini Island, IOTA NA 048, until to November 3, including participation in the contest.

MARTINIQUE; Miguel, EA1BP is active as FM/EA1BP until November 5, including activity as TO7O in the contest.

SARDINIA; Richard, OM2TW is active as IS0/OM2TW until November 1. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, including entry in the contest.

ARUBA; John, W2GD is active as P40W until November 1, on all bands as time permits, including activity in the contest.

BERMUDA; Jeff, N6GQ is active as VP9/N6GQ until November 1, on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. He plans to be active as VP9I in the contest.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS; John, W5JON is active as PJ5/W5JON from St. Eustatius, IOTA NA 145, until to November 1. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8, Including entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; Members of the Tifariti Gang/DX Friends are active as HD8R until November 7. Activity is with four active stations on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, various digital modes, and Low Earth orbit Satellites. This includes entry in the contest as a Multi/2 or Multi/Multi entry.

KOSOVO; Rene, DL2JRM is active as Z68XX from Gilan, Grid Square KN02rn, including participation in the CQ World Wide SSB DX contest.

MALDIVES; Remo, HB9SHD will be active as 8Q7RM from Kandolhu Island, IOTA AS-013, during November. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using some CW, SSB and FT8.

THE GAMBIA; Operators Jan Francois, F4AHV, Gerard, F5NVF, Luc, F5RAV and Abdel, M0NPT are active as C5C from Kololi until November 19. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and Satellite activity on QO 100.

MOROCCO; Special event station CN46MS is active until November 10 to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the so-called Marche Verte, or Green March.

BRAZIL; Members of the Sao Carlos Amateur Radio Club are active with special event call sign PV60CRASC during November to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Zombie CW Shuffle and K1USN Slow Speed CW Test will keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Silent Key Memorial CW Contest and RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Data Series are scheduled for November 1.

The ARS Spartan Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for November 2.

The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest and the UKEICC 80-Metre Contest are scheduled for November 3.

## 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.

The VK2RWS 70cm repeater is now back on the air. Formerly at Berowra, it is now operating from Hornsby, but it is not currently linked to the Kurrajong repeater. Signal reports are welcomed and can be emailed to [tech.team@nsw.wicen.org.au](mailto:tech.team@nsw.wicen.org.au).

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. 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 Great Lakes Radio Club.

The club is pleased to advise that the VK2RGL 2m repeater is now back on the air.

The repeater is running with reduced transmitter power, using an external power amplifier, to try and ensure everything is running well within limits. We have also made some changes and adjustments which will hopefully improve sensitivity.

Now that the repeater is back on air, club nets will return to running through the repeater. The net starts at 7pm every Monday on VK2RGL, 147.1 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone.

The repeater is also available on EchoLink at VK2RGL-R. All amateurs are welcome to join the net.

*Andy VK2AAK  
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club.*

## Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The Club is pleased to announce that the November General Meeting will be held in person, at 2pm on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November in the SES building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. Proof of double COVID vaccination must be shown in order to enter the building. Check in is by QR Code. Masks must be worn inside the building and social distancing maintained. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 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. The assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

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. Access to VK2RPM is 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 September 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 current issue contains a full report on the club's recent AGM, including a list of the office holders elected at the meeting. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE  
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

The Club is planning a field day on Sunday the the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, in the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, subject to public health regulations. Proof of full vaccination and Covid check-in will be required.

You can set up a stall at no charge; but bring your own table. There will also be an auction, raffle, and a BBQ with hot and cold drinks available.

Westlakes has a net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30am on 3565kHz.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG  
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

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## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms have been reopened, subject to the restrictions in the current public health orders. The next general meeting is on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November starting at 1pm. Details will be emailed to members during the coming week.

Thanks to the efforts of our repeater team, Echolink and IRLP are again functional on 2 metres at VK2RAG Somersby, but there are still problems with the 70cm interface. The D-Star and Rad-Net DMR repeaters are fully functional, but the Brand Meister DMR repeater is still having problems.

The daily morning tea net continues, thanks to Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU; you will be sure to learn a little piece of history each day.

Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member and avid SSTV fan, hosts a fortnightly SSTV net 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. The net attracts many participants, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. Adrian has had a large amount of support from members and would love to see you drop in; the next net is scheduled for Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was run by Alan VK2MG, welcoming the return of our friends through EchoLink. The topic was "*What do you currently enjoy most about Amateur Radio?*", with a broad range of responses. The net runs every Thursday night at 8:00pm on the club's 2m VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 with 91.5Hz tone. The SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page.

The Club's IT Team are experimenting with a webSDR, destined for the Somersby repeater site. [websdr.ccarc.org.au](http://websdr.ccarc.org.au) is currently configured to allow four users to listen on 2 metres with several presets.

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.

*Alan VK2MG  
Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Sydney ATV Group

If you are interested in Amateur TV; 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.

Nets are now on Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm. We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during the net 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

Despite public health restrictions, this years' Jamboree On The Air saw good participation, with around 20 to 30 youth members across Sydney online. Scout groups from many different geographical areas and cultural diversities participated in online virtual scouting-related activities, and of course the premier event of battleships over the amateur radio airwaves. Many thanks to Club members Pip VK2SJ, Steve VK2YE, Jan VK2FEB and Irene VK2VAN for their invaluable assistance in providing radio communications support and being net controllers for the event.

The club would also like to extend a special and important appreciation to Robin VK2HRG, Brett VK2BNN, Pete VK2EMS and James VK2GOH for organising and putting together a successful event despite the challenges of this year. We are hoping that JOTA 2022 will allow us to meet at the clubhouse again to run JOTA as normal.

The next Foundation Licence weekend will be on Saturday 11th December and Sunday 12th December. During this weekend, candidates who have been attending the Wednesday night upgrade course will also be allowed to sit for their Standard or Advanced licence. If you would like to participate in the Foundation Licence weekend or sit for the upgrade examination please contact Irene, VK2VAN.

Wednesday night licence upgrade courses are still running by Jan VK2FEB from 6pm. If you would like to upgrade to a Standard or Advanced licence, contact Irene, VK2VAN.

On air nets are on the club's 2 metre repeater VK2RBM, on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone. Wednesday night nets start at 8pm and Sunday nets are now on the second Sunday of the month, from 5pm.

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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

Firstly an Update on the VK2RDX Mt Bindo repeater; Paul VK2GX advises that the Society's repeater team are planning further refurbishment works at the site over the first weekend in November; the VK2RDX 2m FM repeater will be out of service for part of the time on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. The team apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

The St George Amateur Radio Society sponsors several repeaters for use by amateur radio operators; further information can be found on the website.

The next meeting of the Society will be on-line, on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

The theme of meeting will be "show and tell"; during the lockdown, many amateurs have been forced to stay at home, giving them more time to work on radio, electronics and other projects. Even those who have been working have found extra free time available for projects.

The on-line meeting on Wednesday 3rd November will be a good opportunity for members and visitors to show their projects; radio, electronic or otherwise. Projects don't have to be finished; they can be "works in progress". It will also be an opportunity for those logging in to the meeting to ask questions about other people's projects and maybe even obtain that vital piece of information that they are looking for to complete their project.

So, join the on-line meeting, show what you have been doing and see what others have been doing as well. The meeting will be online on Wednesday the 3rd of November, starting at 7:30pm.

Log-in details are now on the society's website [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

*73 de Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 8pm, using the Jitsi open-source conferencing system. Later in the month, the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will feature part 2 of Taffy Bowen's talk, "Development of Air Borne Radar in the United Kingdom during World War Two".

The club runs three weekly nets which are:

Monday evenings at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2m repeater, 147.25MHz. No tone is needed, but 91.5 Hz is sent.

Wednesday's 80 metres net, also at 8:00 pm, on 3608.5kHz.  
"Morning Tea with HADARC", Fridays from 9am, on 7106kHz.

Both HF nets are plus or minus QRM; Listen for VK2WAH, We Are Home.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, plus weekly nets, a web-based contact form 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

**Lightning Net** 8pm Mondays 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 on the VK2RGL Repeater, 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, 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** nets on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays – and Thursday night at 8pm. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz; next net November 5.

**Amateur Radio Central West Group** lunchtime net 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday night net at 8pm, on VK2RCW and EchoLink VK2BLO. 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 on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Second Sunday of the month from 5pm.

**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. Next meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>.