

## **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. 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 currently available if you 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.

## **An online special event.**

Coming up this Friday evening, is a live online event on the Ham Radio DX Youtube channel. Here's Hayden VK7HH...

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**[Play File: 15-HRDX-2.wav]**

*Duration: 0m33s*

*In: Dick Smith VK2DIK...*

*Out:....for Ham Radio DX.*

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For more information, check the website at [hamradiodx.net](http://hamradiodx.net).

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of November;  
This report issued on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	93	82	88	88	92	88	85
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	13	4	3	6	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	14	16	4	5	3	3	5 estimated
T index	-18	+2	0	7	7	5	-3

Solar activity was low on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, very low on the 7<sup>th</sup> and low on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The 9<sup>th</sup> had moderate activity with an M1.9 flare at 1708UTC; very low levels of activity were observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity was at active levels on the 5<sup>th</sup>, with SWS magnetometer data recoding weak impulses of up to 10 nanoTesla. The 6<sup>th</sup> reached minor storm levels, then the 7<sup>th</sup> was again active with several weak impulses, up to 16nanoTesla, observed at 0211UTC. The 8<sup>th</sup> was quiet to unsettled, with a 9nanoTesla impulse at 0034UTC, then the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> were quiet; the 11<sup>th</sup> was quiet to unsettled.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, saw some depressions from predicted monthly values; 30% during the day and 25% at night on the 5<sup>th</sup>; 20% after local dawn on the 6<sup>th</sup>; 25% during the day and 20% at night on the 7<sup>th</sup>; 15% during the day on the 8<sup>th</sup>; 25% after local dawn on the 9<sup>th</sup>; 20% during the day and 25% at night on the 10<sup>th</sup>; and 20% depressed throughout, on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to near predicted, to moderately depressed.

*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 112  
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>

So far for November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 83, Average of 90 and a Maximum of 103  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 88 and a Maximum of 95  
With peak dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 27<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>]

# Space Weather Summary for October 2021

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Solar activity was generally very low to low. Moderate activity occurred on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and the 28<sup>th</sup> saw high activity with an X1.0 solar flare. There were type II and IV radio sweeps associated with a M-class flare on the 9<sup>th</sup>, with an estimated shock speed of 934 km/s; and the X-class flare on 28<sup>th</sup> with estimated shock speed of 1457 km/s. Flare alerts issued on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were several Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs); A halo CME associated with the flare on the 9<sup>th</sup>, arrived at Earth at 0226UTC on the 12<sup>th</sup>. One associated with the X flare arrived at Earth at the end of the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Proton events were associated with the X class flare and the imminent arrival of the CME late on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Energetic protons exceeded the 10 proton flux unit threshold, resulting in an Australian Space Weather Alert System (ASWAS) S1 level alert.

The geomagnetic field was disturbed on the 12<sup>th</sup> with major storm levels, between 0900-1200UTC in the Australian region. This was due to the arrival of the 9<sup>th</sup> October CME. Global minor storm levels were observed on the 31<sup>st</sup> due to the arrival of the 28 October CME from the X1.0 flare. Active levels were observed in the Australian region during this disturbance.

A severe space weather watch was issued at 0114 UT on the 29<sup>th</sup> because of expected geomagnetic activity due to the X1 flare. The geomagnetic activity did not eventuate, and the watch was cancelled at 2024 UTC on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Australian region Maximum Usable Frequencies (MUFs) were moderately depressed from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, likely due to the geomagnetic activity on the 12<sup>th</sup> and persistently low solar flux in the first half of the month. The onset of increased solar flux around 21 October aided a return to near predicted monthly values. Depressions of 20% were observed in the southern Australian region. Radiocommunications warnings were issued on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

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## 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: 17-FCAL200.wav]**

*Duration 1m31s*

*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**

ZANZIBAR; Vlad, OK2WX is active as 5H3WX from Michamvi Kae, IOTA AF-032, until December 3. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

OMAN; Special event callsign A600MA is active until November 18 to celebrate Oman's National Day.

MOZAMBIQUE; Elvira, C92R will be active until November 30.

THE GAMBIA; Members of the C5C team are active from Kololi until November 19. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, depending on propagation, using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4, and on Satellite QO-100.

FRANCE; Francois, F8DVD will be active with special event station TM60ANT from November 16 to 30 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Arabia Radio Society are active with special event station HZ1OMAN until November 18 in celebration of Oman National Day.

BELGIUM; Special event station OR95B is active until the end of 2021, celebrating the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belgian National Railway Company.

NETHERLANDS; Hans, PA7HPH is active with special event callsign PC19VACCIN until December 31 in support of current health campaigns.

SINT MAARTEN; Oleh, KD7WPJ will be active as PJ7/UR5BCP from November 18 to 24. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

MALI; Ulmar, DK1CE will be active as TZ1CE from Bamako from November 18 to December 8. He plans to be active on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; John, W5JON is active as V47JA from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until November 22. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

NAMIBIA; Gunter, DK2WH is active as V51WH until March 2022. Activity is on the HF bands. During contests, he will be active as V55Y.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Nick, VK2DX is active as VK9DX and has been active on 40 and 15 metres using CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Japan International DX Phone Contest, Worked All Europe DX RTTY Contest, RCA Transatlantic QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, 10-10 International Fall Digital Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, OK/OM DX CW Contest, FISTS Saturday CW Sprint, CQ-WE Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 CW QSO Party and FIRAC HF SSB contest will certainly keep contesters over this weekend.



## **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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Their next meeting is an in-person Friday night get together on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. Attendees must show proof that they are fully vaccinated, check in by QR Code, and wear masks while inside the building. 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 restrictions which may change at short notice.

There will not be a December Monthly General Meeting; instead, the traditional Club Christmas Party will be held at 10:30am on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, in the covered picnic area at Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. This is the same excellent outdoor location where the Christmas Party has been held in recent years.

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 November 2021 issue will be published in the coming week. 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 for next Sunday 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 current public health orders. There is an examination day planned for Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, along with a club outing.

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, D-Star and RadNet DMR repeaters are fully functional but the Brand Meister DMR repeater is still having problems. EchoLink and IRLP is back on the 2m repeater but the 70cm interface is still having problems and is currently disabled.

The daily morning tea net continues, thanks to the commitment of 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. Adrian has had a large amount of support from members and would love to see you drop in; the next net is scheduled for this coming Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was run by Alan VK2MG, on the topic "*What is the most surprising thing that you've found in your pursuit of amateur radio?*" Responses ranged from the amount of HF noise as against twenty years ago, through to finding five other hams on a ship in Belgium and organising to visit a local club over there. 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](https://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](https://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 Group's ATV repeater at Lawson in the Blue Mountains, 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; on the site, select the VK2 callsign and if requested, the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching – just enter /nick, a space then your name, your following text will appear in the column above.

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.*

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

With public health restrictions easing, the Society has resumed in-person activities. The November meeting will be this coming Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>, in the ANZAC room of the Rose Bay RSL club; the Society's usual meeting place in the Scout hall is still unavailable due to ongoing renovations. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.

At this meeting, Matt VK2FLY will give an overview of the new Allstar node operating through the VK2ROT UHF repeater.

In other news, the Society has acquired one of the new contest callsigns, VK2W, which has already been used by members in a recent worldwide contest. More details may be available at the meeting.

Apart from weekly nets on Monday evening, there is a get together on the first Saturday of the month, being "project day" as well as the other activities. See the website for details. Zoom links for all activities are normally sent out a few days prior, but they are always the same; so you can save a copy of the link to always have it available.

The Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, from midday in the RSL bistro, are also being well attended and are also usually available on Zoom. Come along and join in.

You can keep up to date with full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

Last weekend, members of the Society visited the VK2RDX repeater site at Mt. Bindo between Lithgow and Jenolan Caves. They carried out maintenance on the equipment and installed a new 70cm DMR repeater. However, some of the equipment associated with the new repeater interfered with the 2m FM repeater, so the DMR repeater was shut down.

A return visit is planned to site next week to make the necessary changes and re-commission the DMR repeater. Stay tuned.

*73 Peter VK2EMU.*

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## Activities on the air

**Lightning Net** 8pm Mondays on 1860kHz, Net control Steve VK2STG.

**Snowy Mountains ARC** net 7:30pm Saturday on South east network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

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

**Great Lakes Radio Club** weekly net 7pm Monday, back on the VK2RGL Repeater, 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

**Westlakes** 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 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 146.9.

**Central Coast ARC** nets on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz and EchoLink; 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 19.

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

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

**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 23<sup>rd</sup>.