

## Silent Key.

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

Leith Martin VK2EA became a silent key on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2021, at the age of 97.

Leith was born in 1924 – the same year as Yagi and Uda first began work on the now ubiquitous Yagi antenna. His Certificate of Proficiency is numbered 169 and dated 15 May 1947. He was first issued an “Experimental Licence”, which on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1963 was replaced by Amateur Station Licence Number NA 96 with call sign VK2EA – which he held ever since.

At 21,697 days or 59 years 4 months and 25 days; we believe that Leith was the longest continuously licensed Amateur in Australia. He was a life member of both WICEN and the Summerland Amateur Radio Club, testament to his decades of dedication and tireless service to Amateur Radio and the community.

Leith is survived by his wife Shirley. While they had no biological children, the nurturing and mentoring so many of us received will live on for generations to come.

Please pause with us, while we remember Leith.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Leith Martin VK2EA.

*Advised by Duncan VK2DLR  
on behalf of the Summerland Amateur Radio Club.*

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## **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.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of November;  
This report issued on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	79	80	79	78	80	83	94
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	7	8	7	7	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	10	8	6	5	4	2 estimated
T index	-16	+1	-19	-4	-9	+2	+9

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, except for some unsettled periods on the 20<sup>th</sup> and some Active periods on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were depressed compared to predicted monthly values; 20% during the day and 15% at night on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>; 15% during the day on the 20<sup>th</sup> and again on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; 30% during the day and 20% at night on the 21<sup>st</sup>; 15% on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and 25% after local dawn and 20% during local night, on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 26<sup>th</sup> of November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach Active levels on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, with a small chance of a minor storm if a glancing blow from the CME on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November arrives at Earth. Quiet to unsettled conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be moderately depressed on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and near predicted values on other days.

*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>

Nearing the end of November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 86 and a Maximum of 103  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 78, Average of 83 and a Maximum of 92  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<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>]

## 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-FCAL166.wav]

*Duration 2m02s*

*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 active especially for this weekend's CQ Worldwide DX CW contest;

ALAND ISLAND; Tomi, OH6EI is active as OH0Z, as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

CHINA; Operators BA7NQ, BD7MQ, BA7JS, and BD7IOP are active as B7P from Foshan city, in the contest as a Multi/Single entry.

CORSICA; Look for TK0C to be active in the contest.

ECUADOR; Members of the Quito Radio Club Team will be active as HD1A, possibly on 160 metres only.

GEORGIA; Algis, LY4ZZ is active as 4L/LY4ZZ near Tbilisi as a Single Op/Single Band on 80 metres.

HONDURAS; Dennis, W1UE is active as HQ9X from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, as a Single Op/All Band entry. Outside the contest, he may be active as homecall/HR9 as time permits.

NEPAL; Robert, S53R is active as 9N7AA on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres.

PARAGUAY; Yuriy, N2TTA is active as ZP5AA from Asuncion as a Single Op/All Band entry.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Jim K4QPL is active as VP5M from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, as a Single Op/Low Power entry. Outside the contest he may be active as VP5/homecall.

...and in other contest activity this week;

MAURITIUS; Operators G0CKV, KX7M, M0CFW, M0SDV and W6NV are active on the HF bands as 3B8/homecalls, and 3B8HA, until December 1. They are active in the contest as 3B8M from Roches Noires.

THE GAMBIA; Alan, G3XAQ is active as C56XA until December 2. Activity is on the HF bands using CW. He is active in the contest on 20 metres.

RWANDA; Members of the Holy Land DX Group are active as 9X4X from

Kigali until December 1. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with three stations, and in the contest.

BHUTAN; Peter, HB9DVG is active as A52CC from Phodrang until December 21 while on work assignment. Activity is on his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

BAHAMAS; Brian, ND3F is active on the HF bands as C6AQQ from New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, until December 7. He plans to be active in the contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

MOZAMBIQUE; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as C92R until November 30. Activity is in her spare time on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

COMOROS; Don, K6ZO is active as D60AB until November 29, on the HF bands using CW and SSB, and in the contest.

ARUBA; John, W2GD is active as P44W until November 30. Activity is on all bands as time permits and in the contest as well.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Bob, WX4G is active as V4/WX4G from Calypso Bay on St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until December 2. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. He plans to be active as V48A in the contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

INDONESIA; Special event stations 8H13H, 8H13U, 8H13T, 8G13T, 8G13A, 8G13N, 8G13G, 8G13S, 8G13E, and 8G13L are active until December 12 to commemorate the 13th anniversary of South Tangerang City. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

ZIMBABWE; Operators Tom, DL7BO and Tom, DJ6TF will be active as Z22O and Z21A, respectively, from Harare from December 2 to 15. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, EACW Meeting, RSGB 80-Metre CW Autumn Series, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and the K1USN Slow Speed Test are all on over this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, OK1WC Memorial, and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are scheduled for November 29.

## 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).

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## Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Next weekend sees the traditional Club Christmas Party. It 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. The club will provide a sausage sizzle lunch.

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.

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 early in the New Year, 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 November 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 includes a very comprehensive article on network radio by Paul VK2ICQ. You can also find the Club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms have been reopened, subject to the current public health orders.

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, the RadNet DMR repeater is fully functional, and EchoLink and IRLP are available on 2 metres. The Brand Meister DMR repeater and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are currently still having problems.

Thanks to the ongoing effort and commitment of Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU, the Morning Tea net continues daily. Why not call in and you will be sure to learn a little piece of history every 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 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was run by Alan VK2MG, on the topic "*Have you played with SDR?*" The net is on every Thursday night at 8:00pm on the club's 2m VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 with 91.5Hz tone, and on EchoLink via the CCARC conference. SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page.

The Club's IT team is currently 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; plans for other VHF/UHF bands are in the works.

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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. With the continued uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions, the committee have decided to hold a virtual meeting. The Google Meet will start at 7:30pm with the AGM commencing at 7:45pm.

All members should have received an email with the agenda and annual reports. Any members who did not receive the notification are asked to contact the secretary via the link on the society's website [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

The Society's annual 2 metre DX contest is on again this year; it starts on the 1st of December and runs all summer, until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.

The login details for the AGM and the rules for the 2 metre contest are now available on the society's website [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

*73 de Peter VK2EMU  
Publicity officer.*

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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 December 3.

**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>.