

## **Silent Key.**

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

We have been advised of the passing of John Pinson VK2KBD, on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, aged 86 years.

Born in Muswellbrook, John moved to Taree as a high school science teacher in the 1960s. His interest was amateur radio and photography.

A service was held on Friday; John is survived by his children David and Ann and 3 grandchildren.

Please pause with us now, while we remember John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] John Pinson VK2KBD.

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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, 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 events and activities over the holiday period. 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; and, as always, we welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities.

Tonight, we again welcome listeners on the EchoLink "HAM" conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken after tonight's bulletin; our thanks to John VK3HJQ, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available.

## Contest Update

Just a reminder – with Australia day coming up this Wednesday, not only can you use the AX prefix with your regular callsign – but there is also a new contest that you can take part in.

The Inaugural WIA Australia Day contest takes place on the 26th of January 2022. While the rules are generally similar to the RD, there are a few... quirks. The contest starts at Midnight on the East coast, and continues until Midnight on the west coast – in total, 27 hours.

The contest is the brainchild of Alan VK4SN and Trent VK4TS, and the contest committee are keen for feedback. So why not have a go!

Full details and rules are available on the WIA web site.

[ <https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/australiaday/index.php> ]

## **ARNSW Elections**

As previously announced, the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.

At the AGM, four of the nine directors will be retiring. Nominations will shortly be open for those members who wish to be a director for the years 2022 and 2023. The term of a director elected in 2022 is two years – until the AGM 2024.

Nomination forms will shortly be available from the office, and on the website at [arnsw.org.au](http://arnsw.org.au).

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

*Peter VK2EMU*  
*Returning Officer*

## Wyong Field Day 2022

MAYHAM, the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's annual field day, is on again this year, on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2022.

With planning already underway for the big event, the team is calling for anybody wanting to present a lecture of interest to the Amateur Radio community on the day.

Lectures are scheduled to run for 45 minutes, followed by a maximum of 15 minutes for questions.

Please contact Col VK2ZCO by email to [ccarc@ccarc.org.au](mailto:ccarc@ccarc.org.au), with an outline of your proposed lecture topic.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of January;

This report issued on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	110	116	119	114	115	105	99
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	17	16	6	12	15	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	15	11	9	10	14	2 estimated
T index	68	9	29	36	49	20	51

Solar activity was moderate on the 14<sup>th</sup>, with an M1.8 flare at 0204UTC. Activity was then at low levels from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>, before becoming moderate on the 18<sup>th</sup>, with an M1.4 flare at 1749UTC. After a period of very low activity on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the 20<sup>th</sup> suddenly showed high activity, with an M5.5 flare at 0601UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to active on the 14<sup>th</sup>, then quiet to unsettled from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Quiet to active conditions were present on the 19<sup>th</sup> with SWS magnetometers recording a weak impulse of 9nanoTesla at 0627UTC, before returning to quiet levels on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values, with enhancements of 25% observed after local dawn on the 14<sup>th</sup>, depressions of 25% observed during local day on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and depression of 15% during local day on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of January;

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance of M-class flares. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with some active periods possible.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to 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 December, we had a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 103 and a Maximum of 140  
With peak dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

So far for January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 84, Average of 99 and a Maximum of 116  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>.

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 90, Average of 105 and a Maximum of 115  
With peak dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 18<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>]

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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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*Duration 2m44s*

*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**

MAURITIUS; Ray, HB9DNG is active as 3B8HH on 80 to 2 metres, and possibly 160 metres, using CW and some SSB. He will soon be active using RTTY and PSK.

KENYA; Ferdy, HB9DSP is active as 5Z4/HB9DSP until January 31. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and some FT8.

JAMAICA; Neville, G3RFS is active as 6Y5FS for two months. Activity is on the HF bands.

GUADELOUPE; Members of the Radio Club de Montceau Les Mines are active as TO6S from Terre de Haut, IOTA NA-114, until February 1.

ST. MARTIN; Peter, G4HSO is active as FS/G4HSO until January 31. Activity is on various HF bands using mainly CW.

ENGLAND; Special event stations GB1900HA and GB1900HW will be active from January 24 to December 23 to commemorate the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the construction of Hadrian's Wall.

ST. LUCIA; Operators K9HZ and K8SD are active as J68HZ from Soufriere until February 8. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL SSB DX contest.

JAPAN; Take, JI3DST is active as JI3DST/5, JJ5RBH, and JS6RRR/5 from Shodo Island, IOTA AS-200, until February 24. Activity is on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FM, and FT8.

FAROE ISLANDS; Operators Cornel, YP5C and Mihai, YO6SM are active as OY/YP5C and OY/YO6SM, respectively. Activity has been mainly on 20 metres using SSB. Their length of stay is unknown.

ARUBA; Mathias, DL4MM will be active as P4/DL4MM until February 1. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8 with a focus on the low bands. This includes being active as P40AA in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

BRAZIL; Special event station PR200IND is active to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Brazil's independence.

ANTARCTICA; Alex, UG1A is active as RI1ANC from Vostok Station until early February. Activity is in his spare time using mainly CW.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event stations R900BL, R900DM, R900DV, and R900RO are active from St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast until January 31 to mark the annual commemoration of the end of the 900-day siege of Leningrad in World War II.

MONTSERRAT; Thaire, W2APF is active as VP2MDX until February 18. He is active on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

INDONESIA; Stations YB6ABO/p, YC1BIQ/6, YD0AVE/6, and YE1AR/6 are active from Pulau Rondo, IOTA OC-245, until January 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

ST. HELENA; Station ZD7MY has been active on 10 metres using FT8 around 1800UTC.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Jim, WB2REM is active as ZF2OO until January 2023. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using mostly FT8 and FT4, as well as CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American SSB QSO Party, North American Collegiate SSB Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Marconi Club ARI Loano CW QSO Party Day, BARTG RTTY Sprint, RSGB AFS SSB Contest, Classic Phone Exchange and OK1WC CW Memorial are all on this weekend.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Australia Day Contest, SKCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, CWops Test, Mini-Test CW 40, Mini-Test CW 80, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest and AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest are all scheduled for January 24 to 27.

## 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, operating from Hornsby. It is not currently linked to the Kurrajong repeater. Signal reports are welcome, 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.

The next Monthly General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

The club's Antenna Shoutout, planned for Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, has been cancelled. The inconvenience caused by the cancellation is regretted, but the Committee will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with restrictions and circumstances which may change at short notice.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run once 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 repeater coverage area. 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 January 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed on the website as well. 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 Clubroom is closed until the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. This decision has been taken reluctantly, but the increased risk of transmission of the Omicron variant makes it a prudent step in the public interest. Month-end exams have likewise been cancelled.

The club passes its sincere condolences to Don Crutcher VK2ZCZ on the passing of his XYL Dot this week.

Planning is underway for next year's field day, Mayham, scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2022.

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, 70cm EchoLink and IRLP and the BrandMeister DMR repeater are still having problems. All other services are fully operational, including the new webSDR; [websdr.ccarc.org.au](http://websdr.ccarc.org.au) is currently configured to listen on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

The Club's Morning Tea is on at 10am daily and after the VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. Welcome back Bob VK2AOR. The Weekly Thursday night net at 8pm has also resumed, this week hosted by Alan VK2MG; all had a good catch up. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Fortnightly SSTV returned last Friday night on the club's WICEN repeater – 147.125 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone. Hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, the next net is on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, and all are welcome to watch or participate.

SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page, and past nets can be replayed as well; you can find the recordings under the "Videos" section.

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.

*73 Alan VK2MG*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Sydney ATV Group

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.

Regular nets are 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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's first meeting for 2022 will be online, on Wednesday the 2nd of February. At the meeting there will have a presentation by Paul VK2GX o End Fed Half Wave, or EFHW, HF antennas.

Recently this antenna has become popular with portable / field stations, low power operators and those with space limitations.

What advantage does the antenna have over the conventional centre or off-centre fed, half wavelength dipole antenna? How do you match it to your transceiver with an un-balanced 50 ohm connection? How to construct an antenna?

For the answer to these questions and more; you can join the SGARS gathering online. The meeting will start at 7:30pm, and more information, including login details, can be found on the society's website at [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

*73 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** Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays; Thursday nights 8pm; VK2RAG 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone and EchoLink. Next SSTV net February 4.

**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.

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

**Sydney ATV Group** net 7:30pm Monday on 445.5MHz from Lawson.

**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.