

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 Ananda Wettasinghe VK2IHV, on the 20th of May, at the age of 93.

Ananda had a long passion for radio, having obtained his Amateur Callsign 4S7NB in Sri Lanka, at the age of 16.

A service was held for Ananda on Thursday the 26th of May.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ananda.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ananda Wettasinghe VK2IHV.

Advised by Raskia VK2QV

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

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

ARNSW is reintroducing in-person activities at VK2WI Dural, in line with current public health guidance.

Earlier today was another “Member Moring Meetup”. Further events are being planned for later in the year.

As always, you can contact the ARNSW office via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from both Sydney, and across New South Wales. We would welcome any updates from club and groups; simply email news@arnsw.org.au – we don’t need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. Don’t forget, we always welcome reports on the outcome of recent activities, as well.

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.

VK2WI news bulletins are streamed live from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio, and recordings of previous bulletins are also available.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of May;

This report issued on the 27th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm Flux	166	167	165	158	147	137	123
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	12	9	11	6	3	7	6 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	8	9	2	1	3	1 estimated
T index	91	97	93	84	81	82	78

Solar flare activity was at R1 level on the 20th, with an M3.0 flare at 0745UTC. Activity was then at low levels from the 21st until the 24th, before reaching R1 level again on the 25th with an M1.3 at 1824UTC. The 26th returned to low levels.

Geomagnetic activity remained at quiet levels all week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were generally near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhancements. During local daylight hours, enhancement of 25% was observed on the 20th, 30% on the 21st and 22nd, 20% on the 23rd, 24th and 25th; and 15% on the 26th. Local nights saw enhancement of 15% on the 20th and 21st, and 25% on the 22nd.

The forecast for the 27th of May to the 2nd of June;

Solar activity is expected to be moderate, with a chance of activity reaching R2 warning level. Geomagnetic conditions should generally be quiet.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted, to slightly enhanced.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished April, we had a;

Minimum of 96, Average of 132 and a Maximum of 164
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th, and the 18th to the 29th.

Nearing the end of May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 109, Average of 136 and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 14th to the 26th.

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 112, Average of 142 and a Maximum of 175
With peak dates from the 10th to the 24th.

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.

[Play File: 15-FCAL064.wav]

Duration 1m55s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

We start with stations active specially for the CQ WorldWide WPX CW contest, on this weekend;

CAPE VERDE; Pierre, HB9AMO, Philippe, HB9ARF and Marco, HB9CAT are active as D4Z from Sao Vicente, IOTA AF-086.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; William, KO7SS is active as ZF2SS from Cayman Brac, IOTA NA-016.

GEORGIA; Vaho, 4L8A is active as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 15m.

HAWAII; A group of operators are active as NH7T, as a Multi/Multi entry.

KUWAIT; Look for Abdallah, 9K2K.

MARTINIQUE; Mar, ON4RU is active as TO3F.

TUNISIA; Ash, 3V9A is active as 3V8SS as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS; Mariano, LU8EOT is active as KP2B from St. Croix, IOTA NA-106.

.. and in other DX activity for this weel;

ARUBA; John, W2GD is active as P44W from Santa Cruz until May 31. He will be active in the contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

CHILE; Luis, CX1EK is active as CE2ML, and in the contest as XR2K as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 10 metres.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Bob, WX4G is active as V4/WX4G from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, until May 31. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. He is also active as V48A in the contest.

HUNGARY; Operators HA0NAR, HA0HV, and HA7VK are active with special call HG22TISZA as part of the Tisza Cup contest. They will also be active in the contest as a Multi Op entry.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Operators K4BAI and K4QPL are active as VP5/home calls from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until May 31. They are active as VP5M in the contest.

KOSOVO; Bodo, DF8DX and Rene, DL2JRM are active as Z68QQ from Gjilan until May 30. They are active in the CW contest as Z66BCC.

GUINEA; Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is active as 3X1A from Conakry. This may include being active from Los Island, IOTA AF-051.

THE GAMBIA; Gerard, F5NVF, Abdel, M0NPT and Luc, F5RAV are active as C5B from Bijol Island, IOTA AF-060, until June 7. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and on Satellite QO-100.

GUADELOUPE; Reiner, DL2AAZ is active as TO2AZ from Basseterre Island, IOTA NA-102, until June 10. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

MINAMI TORISHIMA; Take, JG8NQJ is active as JG8NQJ/JD1 until June 16. He has been active on 17 and 15 metres using CW.

OGASAWARA; Nobu, JA0JHQ is active as JD1BOW from Komagari, Chichijima until June 5. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. This includes being active in the upcoming All Asian CW DX contest.

GABON; Roland, F8EN is active as TR8CR until the end of July. Activity is on 40, 30, 20, and 17 metres using CW.

INDONESIA; Operators YB8HZ, YB8DKL, YC8ES, YC8AQY and YC8BNZ are active as home calls/p from the Sabalana and Tengah Islands, IOTA OC-247, until May 29.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and the K1USN Slow Speed CW Test are over the weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB FT4 Contest, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 and the Mini-Test 80 are coming up from May 30 to June 1.

WICEN News

Last Sunday saw WICEN NSW provide communications support for Dementia Australia's Sydney Memory Walk and Jog. The event started and finished at Leichhardt Oval and took in the Bay Run athletic track. Three WICEN NSW members attended. A VHF repeater was deployed at Rod Park and eleven VHF handheld radios were distributed to the event organisers. 200 to 300 people participated, with the event being incident free.

WICEN NSW is providing communications support for several events in June. First is the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon, from the 17th to the 19th of June, in the Wolgan Valley around Newnes. We are seeking volunteers to help out; please email Neil, VK2XNF, at neil.fallshaw@vrarescue.org.

Later in the month is True Grit, a military-inspired obstacle course race, on Saturday the 25th at Dargle Farm, Lower Portland. A few volunteers are still required; contact Nic VK2KXN at nicholas.mclean@vrarescue.org.

This year's Navshield is on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of July. It is a remote bushland navigational exercise involving many of the emergency services. WICEN NSW will be assisting the Bush Search and Rescue Unit of the SES with communications. If you would like to volunteer, email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN NSW voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the website for details.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. For more information on upcoming events, or how to join, visit the website at nsw.wicen.org.au.

For information about other WICEN groups; WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information and can be found at www.crarc.org.au. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net on Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the web at vic.wicen.org.au.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; The June general meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Saturday the 4th of June, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

VK2RCN repeaters are currently off air, due to a lightning strike in March. Required repairs include installation of a replacement underground power line to site, which has been delayed by recent rain.

It's now less than two weeks until the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's annual field day on Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of June, during the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend. The Field Day will be at the spacious Wauchope Showground Hall, with the Field Day Dinner at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night.

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, 146.7MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. A Foundation training and assessment weekend is planned for the near future, and Assessments for other licences will run once sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The newly published May 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online; it's a 40-page issue with all the Field Day information, as well as a comprehensive introduction to the Nano VNA by Bob VK2ZRE. 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.*

[Play ID File: 17-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Thank you to everyone who attended Mayham; there's still time to give your feedback using the online survey, at <http://tiny.cc/ccarc>; the survey closes at the end of May.

The next monthly business meeting of the club is next Saturday at 1pm. Details of the Special Resolution to change standing orders and dial in information, have been circulated by email.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still having problems.

Also at Somersby is a WebSDR, websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23 centimetres.

The Club's daily Morning Tea continues at 10am and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Thursday night net starts at 8pm. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The fortnightly SSTV net is hosted by Adrian VK2ABS. It's usually 2-3 rounds on the Club's 2 Metre WICEN repeater; 147.125 MHz with 91.5Hz tone. Adrian has had a large amount of support from other members and would love to see you drop in on the next net, Friday the 10th of June at 7:30pm.

SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page, and recordings of past nets can be found, in the "Videos" section.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; by 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.

You can call in 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

Monthly gatherings return to Connells Point, with the next one scheduled for this Wednesday the 1st of June at 7:30pm.

Last year, Wal VK2ACE gave a presentation on the History of Telecommunications. The communications revolution began with the invention of the Morse Telegraph, closely followed by the Bell Telephone.

On Wednesday night, Wal presents part 2 of the series, examining the anatomy of the telephone itself, manual and automatic exchanges, and the networks that carried analogue communications right across Australia. Come with us on a tour the fascinating technology timeline from then to now, making frequent stops along the way to examine the major milestones.

As well as the presentation, there will a friendly rag chew, tea, coffee, biscuits and cake as well as many items of disposal equipment available for inspection and purchase.

The gathering will be "in person" at the Society's meeting rooms, Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point – near South Hurstville. All members and visitors will need to sign-in. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

A reminder about submitting logs for the Don Edwards Memorial Slow Morse Contest, which was on the weekend of the 14th and 15th of May. Deadline for log submission is this coming Tuesday the 31st of May; you can check the contest rules online as there are bonus points to be had. All the details can be found on the website at sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

At the Clubs AGM on the 24th of May, Matt VK2BAI was elected as the new President. Matt has been involved in radio for 44 years and is keen to showcase the wide-ranging benefits of being involved in Amateur Radio. Matt said he was pleased to accept this important role, and recognised immediate past president Rod VK2DAY, for his tireless work to date.

The HADARC committee members are;
President: Matt VK2BAI; Vice-President: Robert VK2DIO
Secretary: Stuart VK2BMX; Treasurer: Andrew VK2TAN
Committee Members: Steve VK2KHA and Rod VK2DAY

At the next meeting, the guest speaker will be Brett Savill. Brett has long experience in executive roles in the communications industry, including executive roles with Broadcast Australia, Free TV and Zimi Australia. Brett will be talking about the changes in the telecommunications industry and the latest developments in 5G networks.

Members and visitors are welcome to attend this unique evening at the Mt Colah Community centre, on the 28th of June. Come along and bring a friend. What a great way to promote radio!

The Club is is hosting "Airwaves by the Sea" on Saturday the 4th of June, at Long Reef, from 4:30 pm. This is an opportunity to test your ability to go portable. Even if you have never gone portable before, it's an opportunity to learn from seasoned operators. With solar cycle 25 in an upswing, strong signals are being heard from Europe, and Colin VK2JCC has worked some very rare DX here. Bring along your portable equipment, antennas, batteries, should you have them. There are also coastal paths to repeaters not accessible in Hornsby. That's 4.30pm on Saturday the 4th of June.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities; it's at 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.*

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID4.wav]

Activities on the air

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

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm Saturday on Southeast 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, on VK2RGL; 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 10th of June.

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; Tuesdays from 8pm on 3543kHz.

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

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm Monday; call in on repeater 147.325MHz.

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.