

## **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. The next event planned is another “Members Morning Meetup”, next Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July.

From about 9:30am, the site will open for a physically-distanced catchup. The VK2WI grounds provide plenty of green space in fine weather, with a large indoor area on the ground floor of the Centenary Building as well. Tea, Coffee, cold drinks, and refreshments will be available; and the trash and treasure room will be open, with some procedures in place to manage access to the relatively small room. As well-being of our members is paramount, the event will run in accordance with the ARNSW Covid Safety plan.

As always, you can direct any general enquires to the ARNSW office via email, to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://arnsw.org.au/audio), and recordings of previous bulletins are also available.

---

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

---

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of July;

This report issued on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
10cm Flux	171	176	166	152	144	133	122
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	9	6	10	19	7	14 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	3	1	5	19	3	13 estimated
T index	82	85	81	87	93	68	69

Solar flare activity reached R1 level on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with an M1.1 flare at 0629UTC, and an M1.4 at 1539UTC. Low to moderate levels of activity were observed on other days.

Geomagnetic activity reached G1 warning levels on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>, but was otherwise quiet to unsettled.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted; with enhancements of 20% after local dawn on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>; enhancement of 15% during local daylight hours on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; and enhancement of 30% during local night on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The forecast for the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July;

Solar activity is expected to be elevated, possibly reaching R1 warning levels. Geomagnetic conditions are expected to reach G1 warning levels for periods, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>; with quiet conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed after local dawn on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with further mild degradations at times on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. MUFs near predicted monthly values at other times.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished June, we had a;

Minimum of 92, Average of 116 and a Maximum of 149  
With peak dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>

So far for July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 96, Average of 132 and a Maximum of 176  
With peak dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 125, Average of 148 and a Maximum of 160  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<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.

---

### **[Play File: 15-FCAL034.wav]**

*Duration 2m20s*

*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](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

TIMOR-LESTE; Alan, VK1AO will be active as 4W/VK1AO from July 25 to August 4, and again at least two more times over the next three years. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, and 12 metres SSB, FT8, JS8, and possibly some CW. This may include some POTA activity as well.

CROATIA; Operators S50O, S50X, S53Z, S54ZO and S58U will be active as 9A/home calls from Vis Island, IOTA EU-016, from July 25 to August 2. They will be joined by 9A7YY. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT-modes. This includes being active in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

TAIWAN; Ken, BW2/JP1RIW is active as BX0QSL from New Taipei City until November 30. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly digital modes.

BAHAMAS; Operators Joe, W8GEX and Janet, W8CAA are active as C6ADX and C6AYL, respectively, from Exuma Island, IOTA NA-001, until July 26. Activity is on 60 to 6 metres using mainly FT8.

ANGOLA; Mikalai, UT6UY is active as D2UY, mainly on 20 to 6 metres using FT8.

SPAIN; Special event stations AO1XCF, AO1XFM, AO1XVP, AO1XCI, AO1XCP, AO1XCN, AO1XAU, AO1XCV, AO1XCU, AO1XPC, and AO2022XAC are active until July 25 to commemorate the 2022 Jubilee of the Way of Saint James.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Georg, DJ6GI will be active as FO/DJ6GI from Moorea Island, IOTA OC-046, until July 29. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands using mostly FT8, FT4, and CW between 0400 to 0630UTC.

DJIBOUTI; James, KI7MGY plans to be active as J28HJ while stationed there until June 2023. Activity will be in his spare time 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

MARKET REEF; Operators DG5CST, DL3DXX, DL6FBL and SM0W will be active as OJ0DX from July 25 to August 1. They are here mainly for the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest. Outside the contest they will be active on 80 to 6 metres with a focus on 6 metres, and EME.

TURKEY; Berkin, TA3J is active as TA3J/0 from Yassica Island, IOTA AS-099, every Saturday and Sunday until October 31. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, CW, RTTY, and FT8.

BRUNEI; Special event call sign V84SPU is active until July 26. Activity is on all bands and modes.

AUSTRALIA; Special event call sign VK75FAA is active until the end of October to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Fleet Air Arm, the Royal Australian Navy's aviation branch. Activity is on various bands and modes.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Frank, K3TRM is active as ZF2RM from Cayman Brac, IOTA NA-016, Grid Square FK09, until July 30. Activity is mainly on 6 metres and various Satellites, with some HF.

CHATHAM ISLANDS; Volker, ZL1VV is active as ZL7/ZL1VV from Te One. Activity is in his spare time, and usually on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ARAM 50 MHz Contest, Galicia For The World, and the YOTA Contest are all scheduled over this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40 and Mini-Test 80 are on from July 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.

---

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

---

## WICEN News

WICEN NSW provided communications for the recent Glow Worm Tunnel trail running Marathon. This event was in very difficult terrain for both runners and WICEN. It required the use of a VHF repeater, walk in relay points and HF radio to cover the whole 62km marathon course.

Last weekend, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of July, saw WICEN NSW assisting with communications for this year's Navshield in the Tarlo River National Park. The event is organised by the Bush Search and Rescue unit of NSW SES and is a remote bush land navigational exercise involving many of the emergency services. The communications involved HF, the PSN (Public Safety Network), UHF CB and Iridium Satellite phones. The weather was very challenging with temperatures down to -6 degrees C at night and very high winds on the Saturday afternoon.

A 50km fund raising Trek is being run by Camp Quality from Bobbin Head to Balgowlah Heights on the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September. WICEN will be supporting this event with communications. If you are interested in participating please email [simon.brown@vrarescue.org](mailto:simon.brown@vrarescue.org).

After a three-year break, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is on this year, on the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Competitors paddle the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney, a distance of 111km. Please email [mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org](mailto:mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org) if you would like to help out.

The WICEN NSW AGM will be held on Saturday 3rd September at 2pm at Rural Fire Service, Northern Beaches Fire Control Centre in Terry Hills.

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](http://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](http://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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, and their next meeting will be the Club's AGM. Its at 2pm on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie. It will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

A short Monthly General Meeting will be held after the conclusion of the AGM, and members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

The VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point are currently off air following a lightning strike in March. The underground mains power cable to site was extensively damaged, and work to restore mains supply to site is still ongoing.

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment session is next weekend, the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of July. For those interested in attending a future Foundation weekend, or assessments for any licence grade, contact the club, via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 or by the contact form on the website.

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. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible. VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink.

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 newly published July 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. This months issue of Oxtales includes a comprehensive report on the Club's Annual Field Day, which was held on the June Long Weekend. 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 at Kariong are open every Saturday. The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at 1pm on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, and members are reminded that Membership is now due. Details will be emailed to members.

Congratulations to D. McGinty, winner of the club's second of three "quick-fire" raffles. For more information, including all the details we can't tell you about here; see the link on the club web page – at [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au) – or on social media.

At VK2RAG, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list. The Somersby WebSDR, online at [websdr.ccarc.org.au](http://websdr.ccarc.org.au), is configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23 centimetres.

The Club's Morning Tea net continues at 10am daily, and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings; and the Club's weekly net is on Thursday night from 8pm. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on the 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 5<sup>th</sup> of August at 7:30pm.

Both the SSTV and the Thursday Night Nets are video streamed live to the club's Facebook page. Recordings of past nets can be found there, in the "Videos" section.

You can find out more about the CCARC, including information on upcoming social events, on the web at [ccarc.org.au](http://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.*

---

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

---

## Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Attendees are most welcome to arrive from 6.30 onwards to enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

Meetings are at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the BlueScope main entrance road, attendees then turn immediately right before the security gates, following the large signs towards the Visitors Centre.

The next meeting is the Society's AGM, with all Executive and Committee positions being up for nomination and election. Attendees need not be concerned about being coerced or hijacked into a position, as many current Executive and Committee have offered to stand again – if elected of course.

After the AGM, all attendees are invited to "Show and Tell" and perhaps to "show-off" what they have been up to in their shack, with their antennas, or even on the bands. Then, there will also be the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake while having a yarn or two about the latest rigs, the size of each other's antennas and the elusive contact that got away! As a bonus, resident Barista Vinnie VK2VIN will prepare your preferred cuppa from the coffee machine.

The Society has two weekly Nets. The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL; join in via the 2 metre repeaters, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, or from out of town via EchoLink, VK2BGL-R. The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights, at 8:30pm; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, including details on Amateur Radio training and examination activities, on the web at [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au), and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; [iars.org.au](http://iars.org.au). To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

*Advised by Rob VK2MT  
President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

## **Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club**

The next meeting of the Club is on this coming up Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of amateur radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net, on Thursday evenings, starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. The repeater frequency is 438.650MHz. It has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone is required for FM access. It is also accessible via EchoLink.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, and to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at [fgarc.org.au](http://fgarc.org.au).

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR*

*On behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

Next Saturday evening, the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, is the society's annual 80 metre contest. Running from 6pm local time until midnight, the contest is open to all VK and ZL amateurs, and is a practice run for the Remembrance Day Contest coming up next month.

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August in the usual venue at Kyle Bay.

At the gathering, Col VK2BCC will entertain those in attendance with some reminiscences about his time as ship's radio operator, plying his trade with a Morse key on ships on the high seas. He will also describe the several winters that he spent in Antarctica as a communications officer.

As well as hearing Col's stories, you can catch up with fellow amateur radio operators, check out the disposal items, and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and cake.

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

Full details about the contest, along with information about other Society activities, can be found on the website, [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

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

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

At the Society's Annual General meeting last month, a new committee was elected;

President Eddie VK2BEH, vice president Al VK2OK, secretary Matt VK2FLY, treasurer Raffy VK2RF, committee: Bob VK2NRC, John VK2JB, Tony VK2KZ and Eric VK2VE.

At the July monthly meeting, held last Wednesday, there was a report from Fred VK2WS on the recent Trans-Tasman contest activity from Robertson followed by an interesting talk by Jared VK2WAY entitled "What I have been up to in the last year on radio".

The new committee is working hard to sort out their accommodation options and have emailed a survey link to members, seeking their thoughts on the society's future direction. All members to have their say and let the committee know their thoughts; the survey should only take a couple of minutes.

Along with the weekly net Monday evenings, the society has a "project day" get together on the first Saturday of the month. Other activities are continuing either in person or on Zoom; see the society's website for details. The August project day will be devoted to sorting out the equipment from the junk at the scout hall and getting rid of the junk. Please come along and help if you can.

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, from midday are back on in the RSL bistro. There have been good rollups to them, and consensus is that the food is good.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the website, [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). You can purchase kits, pay membership, or get in touch using the contact form.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next monthly meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July welcomes four new members, along with all the usual activities.

When you have a great story, it's time to tell everyone. This month, it's the History of HADARC with Barry VK2AAB, Tony VK2BTL and Chris VK2YMW. Radio is a great story to tell, and we will hear from the Club's longest serving and founding members. 46 years of history had its highs and lows – and today the Club is still growing and more relevant than ever.

Carmel Morris VK2CAR will talk on the latest technologies that are making a real impact on our lives.

Is there such a thing as Radio Poetry? HADARC's membership has skilled professionals across many industries; so, if you combine engineering, radio, and writing, you end up with... Radio Poetry. In a first, hear directly from acclaimed poet Dennis VK2PMI whom has written a special poem just for HADARC.

And there's more; Australia has one of the few surviving B-24 Liberator planes in the world. And it holds some incredible comms gear, radios, transmitters, radar and more. Matthew VK2BAI will talk about the B-24 radio equipment, how advanced it was for its day, and surprisingly how advanced it remains even to today's standards.

HADARC welcomes you to another top evening for Radio Amateurs, and don't forget to keep Radio Active; join the Club's weekly nets; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres.

*73, Matt VK2BAI  
HADARC President*

---

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

---

## Activities on the air

### *Daily;*

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** is on at 10am, and after VK2WI News on Sundays. VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, also on EchoLink.

**Amateur Radio Central West Group** lunchtime net 1pm daily on VK2RCW.

### *Monday;*

**Westlakes ARC** nets 9:30am, now on 40 metres, 7115kHz, VK2ATZ Portable.

**Great Lakes Radio Club** net 7pm on VK2RGL; 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

**Hunter Radio Group** VK2AWX News 7:30pm, 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

**Sydney ATV Group** net 7:30pm; call in on 2m repeater 147.325MHz.

**Amateur Radio Central West Group** net at 8pm on VK2RCW.

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

**HADARC** net 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz

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

### *Tuesday;*

**Blue Mountains ARC** net from 8pm on 3543kHz.

**Illawarra ARS** 80m net at 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

### *Wednesday;*

**Westlakes ARC** net 9:30am on 7115kHz. 2 Metre nets, see website for details.

**HADARC** 8pm on 3608.5kHz

**Blue Mountains ARC** 8pm on VK2RBM, 147.05MHz with 123Hz tone.

**Amateur Radio Central West Group** from 8pm on 3653kHz.

***Thursday;***

**Fishers Ghost ARC** net from 7:30pm on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone; also, on EchoLink.

**Oxley Region ARC** from 7:30pm on VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

**St George ARS** 8pm on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

**Central Coast ARC** net 8pm on VK2RAG.

***Friday;***

**Morning tea with HADARC** at 9am on 7106kHz.

**Westlakes** at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

**Amateur Radio Central West Group** at 8pm on VK2RCW.

The next **CCARC SSTV Net** is at 7:30pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August; 147.125MHz with 91.5Hz tone.

***Saturday;***

**Illawarra ARS** net 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

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

***Sunday;***

**Oxley Region ARC** from 9am, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.