

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

This morning saw a “Members Morning Meetup” here at VK2WI Dural.

[report if available]

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.

We also have a follow up on last week’s VK2WI News - due to a “production oversight”, there was an unexpected “throwback” item. Our news Editor apologies for this error... and completely unrelated to this error, a reminder that the VK2WI news team is looking for volunteers. If you would like to be involved in the production, operation or even presentation of these bulletins, get in touch via email, to [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au).

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.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July;

This report issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	114	111	107	102	99	98	93
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	11	15	9	8	7	9	9 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	12	7	2	4	5	5 estimated
T index	77	78	68	62	57	50	48

Solar flare activity was low to moderate all week, with only isolated C-class flares; no warnings were issued.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet, except on the 23<sup>rd</sup> where G1 activity was observed; magnetometer data showed a weak impulst of 15 nanoTesla at 0258UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values.

The forecast for the 29<sup>th</sup> of July to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be elevated, possibly reaching R1 warning levels. Geomagnetic conditions are expected to reach G1 warning levels between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, with quiet conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may see depressions from the 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of June, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of August. MUFs near predicted monthly values at other times, with a chance of mild depressions during local night hours.

*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>

And nearly at the end of July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 92, Average of 126 and a Maximum of 176  
With peak dates from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 88, Average of 108 and a Maximum of 130  
With peak dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 20<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>]

## 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 2m16s*

*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.

## WICEN News

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

The Camp Quality Trek, originally scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, has been cancelled. Organisers hope to run this event next year in May.

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 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. The event involves a large number of check points run by WICEN NSW personnel. Please email [mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org](mailto:mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org) if you would like to help out.

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). They are on twitter @wicennsw, and on Facebook.

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).

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## **ARRL DX news**

SPRATLY ISLANDS; Operators 4F2KWT, 4F1OZ, DU1VGX, DU1XX and DU3JA will be active as DX0NE from Kalayaan beginning sometime after August 1, and be there for one month. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

TIMOR-LESTE; Alan, VK1AO is active as 4W/VK1AO from Dili until August 4, and for at least two more times over the next three years. Activity is on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, and 12 metres using SSB, FT8, JS8, and possibly some CW. This may also include some POTA activity on Artauro Island, IOTA OC-232.

MADAGASCAR; Elvira, IV3FSG will be active as 5R8LH from August 1 to September 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

MOROCCO; Radio amateurs in Morocco may use the prefix CN23 until August 7, to commemorate the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the present King's accession to the throne.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS; Patrick, FO5QS is now located on Hiva-Oa, IOTA OC-027. He plans to soon be active on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using all modes, and with 6 metre EME as well.

SOLOMON ISLANDS; Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active as H44MS from Honiara on Guadalcanal Island, IOTA OC-047, until September 15. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and possibly FT8.

THAILAND; A group of operators will be active as HS7AP/p from Chang Island, IOTA AS-125, until August 1. They are active on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

POLAND; Operators 4Z5LA and 4X1VF will be active as 3Z5LA/1 from Wolin Island, IOTA EU- 132, until August 2.

CORSICA; Frans, DJ0TP is active as TK/DJ0TP until September 3.

AUSTRALIA; Grant, VK5GR will be active as VK5GI from Kangaroo Island, IOTA OC-139, until July 31. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

MACQUARIE ISLAND; Matt, VK0MQ is usually active in his spare time on most weekends between 0000 and 0700UTC on 80 to 10 metres using FT8 in DXpedition mode. He is there until October 1.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; about one hours to go in the RSGB IOTA Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Feld Hell Sprint, WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone, Tennessee State Parks on the Air and the ARS CW Flight of the Bumblebees are all on over this weekend.

The ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40 and the Mini-Test 80 are coming up August 1 to 3.

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Next weekend sees the Club's AGM, 2pm 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.

This weekend saw a Foundation Licence training and assessment session; 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 using 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. July 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.

Depending on the weather, the next meeting of the club will be at 1pm on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 6, at the cafe at Mount Penang Gardens. The day will start with a multi-transmitter fox hunt followed by lunch, the meeting and then perhaps a bit of portable HF.

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at 1pm on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, at the Kariong clubrooms. Members are reminded that membership is now due. Details of meetings will be email to members.

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](https://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, this coming 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 and all the details we can't tell you about here; on the web page – at [ccarc.org.au](https://ccarc.org.au) – by phone, 02 43402500 – or social media, search Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to "like" to follow for updates.

*73 Alan VK2MG*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

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## 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.*

## 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

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 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 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.

And a late update on the Society's VK2RDX repeater site at Mt Bindo in the Blue Mountains – the repeater team have been undertaking some installation and maintenance activities this weekend; if you have noticed some periods of the services being off-air, that's why. We hope to bring you more information in next week's news.

Full details about the Society and its activities, can be found on the website, [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

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

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

With COVID is still at large in the community, the Society will be holding a regular on-air net on the 2m repeater, VK2RMB. This is mainly so that members who are unable to make it to the clubhouse can still keep in regular touch with other members. Of course, visitors are welcome to drop into the net as well! The net takes place on the first Wednesday of the month, until further notice. Details are on the club web site.

This Wednesday is lecture night at the Society, where Derry Thomas will speak about his involvement with a twice-yearly car rally that raises money for the Cancer Council. The important entry requirement, however, is that participating cars are worth less than \$1500.

[\[https://www.shitboxrally.com.au/\]](https://www.shitboxrally.com.au/)

The Society expects to activate Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach, for the upcoming International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of August. Look out for VK2MB/portable from lighthouse AU0046..! Operators are still being sought to keep the lighthouse active throughout the entire weekend.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. If you need directions, call in on the society's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the web site for details; the address is [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au).

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY  
MWRS Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's July meeting last week was huge...

Barry VK2AAB, Tony VK2BTL and Chris VK2YMW presented the 46-year History of HADARC;

Dennis VK2PMI recited what is likely to be the first Radio Poetry, written especially for HADARC;

Carmel Morris VK2CAR recounted the evolution of Floppy Disks and presented new and "intelligent road tiles" - Just amazing;

And Matt VK2BAI presented B-24 Liberator radio comms gear; with special reference to the 150kilowatt pulsed radar. There was also a display of an original BC348-R receiver from the first B-24 bomber.

At the August meeting, Steve will be presenting on "the Magic of MOSFETS" and how to tame these great devices.

The Club's committee have been planning the future direction of the Club, and will present this at the next meeting. Radio has a strong future and interest levels in the community remain high.

HADARC welcomes you, as a member or visitor, to join us for 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*

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## 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.

**Manly-Warringah Radio Society** from 8pm on VK2RMB, 146.875MHz.

***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.