

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

As mentioned last week, the VK2RWI 23cm repeater is back on air using a backup antenna, with limited coverage. Tonight, we have also made some changes to our transmission on 160 metres. We are interested in reports on the operation of these services – callbacks are taken at the end of this news bulletin, or you can email, to [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au).

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 welcome any updates from clubs 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.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September;

This report issued on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm Flux	131	132	136	128	137	137	137
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	9	7	6	4	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	3	8	7	4	3	4 estimated
T index	87	77	88	79	74	78	77

Solar flare activity reached R2 warning level on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with an M7.9 flare at 0949UTC, and an M6.2 at 1559UTC. The 17<sup>th</sup> saw R1 levels of activity with 3 M-class flares, while the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> saw low levels of activity with some small C-class flares. The 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> each reached R1 warning level with a single low-level M-class flare, then the 22<sup>nd</sup> saw low levels of flare activity.

Geomagnetic activity remained at low levels all week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some enhanced conditions earlier in the week; 20% after local dawn on the 16<sup>th</sup>; 25% during local night on the 17<sup>th</sup>; 15% during the day and 20% during local night on the 18<sup>th</sup>; and 20% during local night on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The forecast for the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of September;

Mostly low levels of solar activity are expected, with possible R1 activity at times.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet levels, with periods of G1 activity possible from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> due to coronal hole wind stream effects.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly degraded from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, otherwise near predicted.

*Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 118 and a Maximum of 252  
With peak dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 113, Average of 132 and a Maximum of 154  
With peak dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 116, Average of 123 and a Maximum of 138  
With peak dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<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 2m13s*

*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 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is on over the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Participants paddle 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. WICEN NSW is providing safety communications; if you would like to help out, please email [mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org](mailto:mark.cheeseman@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, the web address is [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au), 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**

TANZANIA; Tév, TA1HZ is active as 5H8HZ while working in Tabor. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. He is there until the beginning of 2023.

OMAN; Members of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society are active as special event station A43KSA until September 26.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; Tom, DL2RMS is active as A65/DL2RMC from Al Ain. Activity is on 30 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8, and may include 160 and 6 metres as well.

MADEIRA ISLANDS; Operators CT1BOL, CT1DSV, CT1ENV, CT3KN and CT3MD are active as CR3SI from Selvagens Islands, IOTA AF-047, until September 26. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8 as part of the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reserva Natural das Ilhas Selvagens.

GERMANY; Dieter, DF2SD is active with special callsign DR100RY until the end of 2022, to celebrate the centenary of Radioteletype.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Vincent, K6VVK will be active as FO/K6VVK from Moorea, IOTA OC-046, from September 27 to October 5. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.

SWITZERLAND; Special event station HB175RAIL is active until the end of October, to celebrate the first Swiss Rail Service in 1847.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA; A group of operators are active as 5J0DX, 5K0C, 5K0T, and 5K0YD from San Andres, IOTA NA-033, until September 26. Activity is on 60 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.

PUERTO RICO; Operators W2VQ, WP3C and WP3TT will be active as WP3C in the CQ Worldwide RTTY DX contest as a Multi Single/Low Power entry. This includes activity for WLOTA from Lighthouse LH-2802.

JAPAN ; Take, JI3DST will be active as JI3DST/5, JJ5RBH, JS6RRR/5, and JS6RRR/p from Shodo Island, IOTA AS-200, until November 4. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8, depending on call sign.

NAMIBIA; Hanspeter, HB9BFM will be active as V5/HB9BFM from September 28 to October 11. Activity will generally be from 1600 to 1900UTC, on 20 metre Olivia frequencies.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; Stephen, VK3SN is active as VK9XX and is there for a week. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres during his afternoons, evenings, and some early mornings using mostly FT8 with some SSB.

FALKLAND ISLANDS; Nathan, 2E0HSV is a technician at Port Stanley's radio station and plans to be active as VP8AAE using SSB and various digital modes. He plans to activate some SOTA references along the east and west coast.

INDONESIA; Members of the ORARI Daerah Jawa Timur, Lokal Pasuruan are active with special call sign 8A1093PAS from Java Island, IOTA OC-021, to celebrate the 1093rd anniversary of the Pasuruan Regency. Their length of stay is unknown. Activity is on various HF and VHF bands.

VANUATU; Darren, VK4MAP is active as YJ0DA and YJ0DA/p from New Hebrides, IOTA OC-035, and Shepherd Island, IOTA OC-111, respectively, until October 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Maine QSO Party, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest, Masonic Lodges on the Air, AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party and the UBA ON 6-Metre Contest are all on this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB FT4 Contest, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and the UKEICC 80-Metre Contest are scheduled for September 26 to 28.

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; their next meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, in the SES Building, Port Macquarie. There will be a short 15-minute business meeting, followed by a talk on ADS(B) aircraft tracking by Paul VK2ICQ. The meeting will be held in accordance with the Club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

The VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point are currently off air following a lightning strike in March destroyed the underground mains to site, which has not yet been repaired. Work is progressing at the new VK2RCN site; with mast and antennas now erected, equipment shelter fitout is underway. It is expected the new site will be commissioned in November.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, and those interested in assessments for Standard and Advanced licences, can contact the club at PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 or via 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, and on EchoLink as VK2RPM-R. 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 July 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The September 2022 issue of Oxtales is running a little late, but will be out by the end of the week; it features a progress report on the new VK2RCN site. 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.*



## Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The club's annual field day is on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October at the Club grounds, 2E York Street Teralba.

The field day will include organised activities in the club's classroom, radio shack, and other areas; member's equipment auction along with a commercial vendor; drawing of the club's major raffle prize - check website for details.

There will also be a coffee van on site, live music delivered by a quartet of radio amateurs from the club, and of course, an opportunity to catch up with all your friends. So put Sunday 16 October in your diary!

Westlakes also conducts a number of regular nets. All welcome to join.

The 40 metre Net is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 9:30am on 7115kHz.

The Stone the Crows 80 metre Net from 6am on Saturdays, on 3588kHz.

The Club's 2metre Nets are conducted weekly on the club's repeater VK2RTZ; 146.775MHz with 91.50Hz sub-audible tone:

- SSTV Net; Tuesday at 7:30pm
- Stay Safe Net; Thursdays from 8pm;
- EZB Met; Saturdays at 8am;
- and the Club Broadcast; from Sunday at 9am.

There is also a DMR Net on Sundays at from 8:30am on Talkgroup 8.

You can find more information about the Club on the website at; [westlakesarc.org.au](http://westlakesarc.org.au), and there is a link from the Clubs page on the ARNSW website.

*Stephen VK2KWH  
Secretary, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.*

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## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday; Yesterday included a successful “Show & Tell Saturday”, which is scheduled for the last Saturday of every month.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. The D-Star connection timetable now includes the Monday morning International D-Star net, Wednesday AR Newsline and Sunday WIA news. Voice announcements have been added for notifications of timed changes. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list. The Somersby WebSDR is online at [websdr.ccarc.org.au](https://websdr.ccarc.org.au); its configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

The club is planning a special “Christmas Ham” raffle and wants your input; links to the survey are on the Club’s website and social media.

There will be a “Portable and Picnic” at Terrigal Haven on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, from 11:30am to 4pm. Members, family, and visiting or prospective hams are more than welcome. More details closer to the event.

The Morning Tea net continues at 10am daily, and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Club’s weekly net is on Thursday night from 8pm, hosted by Alan VK2MG. Both club 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 30<sup>th</sup> of September 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.*

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

The next meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, at Macdonald's Woodbine, starting at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

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

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or 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

The Society's next gathering will be on Wednesday the 7th of October, at Kyle Bay.

As well as catching up with the general happenings of the society, there will be a presentation by Peter VK2EMU, about how a chance remark about wanting to get away to a quiet location for some portable HF operating resulted in the twin adventures of walking the Great North Walk from Sydney to Newcastle, and the Hume and Hovell Walking Track from Yass to Albury; a combined total of over 600km.

Peter did some of the walks solo, but others with a variety of walking companions. Hear about working some DX, messages to home and when a 2-metre handheld saved the day. Encounters with a variety of animals and other walkers.

As well as hearing Peter's stories, you can catch up with fellow amateur radio operators, check out the disposal items for a bargain 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 available on the society's website, [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

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

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Last week was the last meeting of the Society in the Scout Hall; this meeting included a mini-auction, to clear some surplus items.

For the foreseeable future, meetings will be in the ANZAC room of the RSL club next door. The committee is working on some alternative venues, although possibly the most promising one probably won't come available until the second half of next year.

The society is planning a special, hands-on project day for the first Saturday in December, the 3rd. This will be an SMD soldering workshop and at this stage they are seeking expressions of interest to make sure that there will be sufficient interest to run it. It is being run by Skip VK2ALR and there are more details on the website, [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org); just click on the link in the lefthand side and then click on the link to register your interest.

Regular Monday evening nets on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125 MHz with -5.4 MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone for access, from 8pm.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's monthly meeting is coming up this Tuesday at 8pm, featuring David VK2GZ, who will speaking on "Professional Antenna Modelling" and show us how to use software from his deep experience in designing and building antennas. David is a Senior Life Member of the IEEE and has been a ham for 50 years. This will be a great evening to ask lots of questions and perhaps seek ideas for putting up that new antenna, all ready for summer-time use.

For those who purchased and are making the popular Balun kits, please follow the instructions carefully, especially winding the toroid. If you have not had a chance to collect your kit, they will be available at the Club meeting this Tuesday night. Please bring the exact cash to cover what you ordered. If you forgot what is due, please email the President using the HADARC web site inquiry section.

Have you noticed how good propagation on 40 metres has been recently? It's a good time to get on air, or join a nat. HADARC has several each week; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres.

73 for now, and don't forget to keep Radio Active.

*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.

### *Mondays;*

**Westlakes ARC** nets 9:30am 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, also available via EchoLink.

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

### *Tuesdays;*

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

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

### *Wednesdays;*

**Westlakes ARC** net 9:30am on 7115kHz.

**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.

***Thursdays;***

**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.

***Fridays;***

**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 30<sup>th</sup> of September; 147.125MHz with 91.5Hz tone.

***Saturdays;***

**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.

**Westlakes** Stone the Crows net; 6am on 3588kHz.

***Sundays;***

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

**Westlakes** DMR Net from 8:30am on Talkgroup 8. 2 Metre nets throughout the week, see website for details.