

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

The VK2WI News team would like to wish all listeners all the best as we begin 2023.

VK2WI News continues with regular morning and evening bulletins throughout January; we would like to hear from you, if you are planning any activities for the holiday season. Just email the details and contact information, to news@arnsw.org.au. We also welcome reports on recent activities. General enquires can be directed to the ARNSW office via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

Later this month we will be making some changes to VK2WI News transmissions; 80 metre transmissions will change frequency, moving up the band, to 3695kHz; and 6 metre transmissions will move to the VK2RWI repeater, on 53.85MHz.

Tonight, we also 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.

We encourage callbacks and feedback on our news bulletins. Over the last 12 months we average about 250 callbacks per weekend, both direct from VK2WI and via our relay stations. The callbacks are a valuable source of feedback to us on the reach and usefulness of our news bulletins. If callbacks are not taken on your relay outlet, you can contact us directly by email to callbacks@arnsw.org.au with a signal report and any comments. We would like to hear from you.

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

Coming to VK2WI News in 2023...

Is a new segment, in which you can take part. With more, here's Mathew VK2YAP;

[Play File: 15-B-CTR-P2.wav]

Duration: 0m30s

In: Got a question...

Out:....soon to VK2WI News.

Transcript;

Got a question about Amateur Radio?

Connector can help!

It's a new segment, coming soon to VK2WI news, where we connect your questions, with answers from fellow amateurs, that have been there and done that.

Now, Its on the radio, so we want to hear from you.

Call and leave your question on the Connector phone Line; that's 02 9444 0181;

Or attach a recording of your question and email to; connector@arnsw.org.au.

That's connector... coming soon, to VK2WI news..

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23rd to the 29th of December.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
10cm Flux	128	133	144	151	159	160	163
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	19	15	8	19	16	4	8
Australian Index (Aaus)	11	15	6	17	16	4	7 estimated
T index	76	57	59	70	128	57	94

Solar activity reached R1 levels on the 27th with three M-class flares; the largest M2.1 at 0054UTC. The 29th was also R1, with two M-class flares. Activity remained below warning level on other days.

Geomagnetic conditions reached G1 warning level on the 26th, with quiet to unsettled levels on other days.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values. The 24th saw depressions of 25% after local dawn, the 25th was depressed 15% during local daylight; the 27th was depressed 15% after local dawn, recovering during the day and becoming 15% enhanced during local night; and the 28th was 20% during local daylight hours.

The forecast, issued on the 30th of December, through until the 5th of January 2023;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 levels, with R2 possible, due to flares from new and returning active regions. Geomagnetic conditions should remain quiet to unsettled, with a chance of G1 disturbance from the 3rd to the 5th due to a returning coronal hole.

MUFs are likely to be near predicted, with sporadic E likely. Mild degradation is possible from the 3rd to the 5th due to an expected increase in geomagnetic activity.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar Flux Index update

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

In December, we had a;

Minimum of 111, Average of 146, and a Maximum of 166
With peak dates from the 12th to the 30th, and the 27th to the 31st.

As we start January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 135, and a Maximum of 156
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th, and the 24th to the 25th

And looking ahead to February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 132, and a Maximum of 140
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th, and the 25th to the 28th.

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>]

Foundations of Amateur Radio

This series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB, continues a weekly examination, of the building blocks of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: 16-FOAR036.wav]

Duration 5m36s

In: "Foundations of Amateur Radio ..."

Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"

For more information about this series, including audio, transcripts and other useful amateur radio resources, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com; you can follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

[Play File: 17-E-ID2.wav]

WICEN News

Weekly voice nets continue at 6pm Sunday, 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, 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. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net on Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the web at vic.wicen.org.au.

ARRL DX news

OMAN; Members of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society are active with special call sign A450RS, celebrating the Society's 50th anniversary.

CAPE VERDE; Harald, DF2WO will be active as D44TWO from January 3rd to 21st. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4, as well as on Satellite QO-100.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS; Warwick, E51WL will be back on Penrhyn Atoll, IOTA OC-082, after January 1 and expects to be active shortly afterwards. This may include being active on 6 metres.

CROZET ISLAND; Station FT8WW is active and expects to be there until March.

FRENCH GUIANA; Pierre-Jean, F4GPK is active as FY/F4GPK from Kourou until January 8.

ECUADOR; Members of the Ecuador DX Club plan to be active with special call HD1DX on January 1, from 0000 to 2359UTC. Activity will be on all bands.

HAITI; Members of the Radio Club d'Haiti will be active as HH75RCH from January 1 to May 1, to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary.

THAILAND; Rong, E23IBS is active from Lan Sang National Park, POTA HS-0060, until December 31. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using FT8.

OGASAWARA ISLANDS; Harry, JG7PSJ is active as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until January 2nd; Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and RTTY.

BONAIRE; Heli, DD0VR and Bigi, DE3BWR will be active as PJ4/DD0VR until from January 13.

POLAND, SP. Special event stations SP90ENIGMA and SP90ENG are active until January 15 to commemorate the 90th anniversary since Polish cryptologists first broke the Enigma cipher.

GABON; Roland, F8EN is active as TR8CR from Libreville until March 15. Activity is on 30 to 10 metres using CW.

ANTARCTICA; A group of operators are active as RI1ANC from Vostok Station, IOTA AN-016, until March 2024, and as RI30ANT from January 1 to March 31st. Activity is in their spare time on various bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special call signs R2023NY and UE23NY are active until January 8 for the annual Russian New Year radio marathon organized by the Miller DX Club.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Marcelo, ZL1MTO is active as VK9MTO until January 5. Activity is holiday style on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB, FT8, and FT4, generally between 0600 to 1100UTC.

MONTSERRAT; Thaire W2APF will be active as VP2MDX from January 2 to 31.

INDIA; Members of the West Bengal Radio Club will be active as AT2WBRC from Sagar Island, IOTA AS-153, from January 5 to 17.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Edmondo, VA3ITA is active as ZF2IT from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, until January 5. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; ARRL Straight Key Night, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YOTA Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Bogor Old and New SSB Contest, AGB New Year Snowball 80-Metre Contest, SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, AGCW Happy New Year CW Contest and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are all on this New Year's weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest are scheduled for January 2 to 4.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Their next general meeting will be at 2pm Saturday the 7th of January 2023, at the SES building in Port Macquarie. This is a great opportunity for Amateurs visiting the area to meet up with the locals. Copies of the Club's 2023 calendar will be available at the meeting.

The VK2RCN 2-metre repeater is back on air, operating from the new Telegraph Point site. Its on 147.0MHz with the usual minus 600kHz offset, and no tone required for access. It has been very active and is providing excellent coverage. On 70cm, 438.525MHz temporarily is running in the FM mode, to enable UHF coverage to be assessed. It is operating with minus 5 Mhz offset and 123 Hz CTCSS required for access. This will be replaced by the RadNet DMR repeater early in the New Year.

The site will be formally commissioned later in the month once fitout of the equipment shelter has been completed and all the VK2RCN repeaters have been permanently installed and tested.

Candidates wishing to undertake Foundation training and assessment early in the new year, or an assessment for Standard or 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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The November 2022 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, with past issues are on the website as well. The January 2023 issue is in preparation and will be published later in the month. 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 club wishes you all the very best for a safe and DX-full new year.

The Kariong Clubrooms are currently closed for the Christmas and New Year break, they will re-open on the 14th of January.

Mayham will not run in 2023; the event group are refocusing and re-aligning the direction of the event, and hope to return in 2024.

The third “Christmas Ham” event was postponed; it will be rescheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; 23cm is temporarily down; and BrandMeister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list.

The Somersby WebSDR is online at websdr.ccarc.org.au; its configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

Club nets are currently on a break, and will return in January.

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 – 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.

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; select VK2RTS Sydney. 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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The last club net for 2022 was on Friday the 30th of December; Rod VK2DAY hosted a large number of operators and great conversations to farewell 2022.

Now as we start 2023, HADARC wishes all the listeners to VK2WI News, a Happy New Year. Given it's the holiday season, don't forget to pack the radio and antenna on your travels and if that proves too bulky, then load a Web SDR on your Phone or PC to listen to a net while you are travelling. We do hope your news year's resolution is to start a new radio or antenna project.

In January, it is customary for the Club to start the new year with a BBQ get-together; January 24th is now set for the BBQ at the Hornsby RSL Rifle Club, who have kindly allowed us to use their club facility. Please see the HADARC Web site and QUA Magazine for further details.

In the meantime, the Club Nets continue on Monday Nights on VK2RNS, Wednesday Nights on 80 metres, and Friday Mornings on 40 metres. Its also a good time to finish a project or to call a colleague to give you a hand sorting out any shack problems.

73 and let's keep radio-active,

*Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President.*

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Activities on the air

During the holiday season, many nets and activities are continuing...

Daily;

Manly-Warringah “early bird” net, 6:30am on or near 3690kHz LSB; if that’s too early, the “morning” net is from 8am on or near 7189kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net; 1pm 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 now back on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz with 91.5Hz tone. 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.

Fridays;

Morning tea with HADARC at 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm on VK2RCW.

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.

WICEN NSW nets from 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater; see website for details.