

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

VK2WI News would like to hear from clubs and groups planning Amateur Radio activities; just email the details and contact information, to [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

In last week's news, we mentioned that the planned frequency changes to VK2WI transmissions, have been postponed. We will let you know about the new date, in a future news bulletin.

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.

## **ARNSW Elections**

As previously announced, the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2023.

Nominations are open for eligible members who wish to be a director for the years 2023 and 2024. The term of a director elected in 2023 is two years – until the AGM in 2025.

Nomination forms are now available for download from the website, [arnsw.org.au](https://arnsw.org.au), or from the office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

[link to form [https://arnsw.org.au/Nomination\\_2023a.pdf](https://arnsw.org.au/Nomination_2023a.pdf)]

*Peter VK2EMU*  
*Returning Officer*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
10cm Flux	343	167	169	160	161	152	148
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	4	5	4	6	15	4	16
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	3	6	7	12	5	14 estimated
T index	111	112	132	117	134	111	118

Solar activity was at R3 level on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with an X2.3 flare at 2017UTC. Activity was at R0 levels for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, then R1 on the 20<sup>th</sup> with an M4.4 flare. The 21<sup>st</sup> was at R2 with three M-class flares, the 22<sup>nd</sup> at R1 with two M-class flares, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> was at R1, with three M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity remained below warning threshold from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, then reached G1 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, returning to quiet conditions on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Magnetometer data recorded a weak geomagnetic impulse of 12 nanoTesla, at 1036UTC on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were enhanced by 20% during local night hours, and up to 35% on the 19<sup>th</sup>. During local daylight hours, there were also some periods of enhanced conditions – from 15 to 35% on the 19<sup>th</sup>; 15% on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>; and 20% on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The forecast, issued on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, through until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 to R2 levels from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, then R0 to R1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Geomagnetic conditions should mostly remain quiet. There is a possibility of G1 conditions from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> due to coronal hole effects.

Maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region are expected to be near predicted monthly values, up to 15% enhanced; but mild depressions are possible from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> if geomagnetic disturbance occurs.

*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.

Having finished January, we had a;

Minimum of 136, Average of 185 and a Maximum of 234  
With peak dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>

Nearing the end of February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 134, Average of 171 and a Maximum of 343  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 125, Average of 156 and a Maximum of 180  
With peak dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.*

## Foundations of Amateur Radio

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

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### **[Play File: 15-FOAR052.wav]**

*Duration: 3m55s*

*In: "Foundations of Amateur Radio ..."*

*Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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

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## WICEN News

WICEN will be providing comms support for True Grit at Lower Portland next weekend, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March.

There also five Memory Walk events in March: Western Sydney on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Illawarra on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Canberra on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and in both Cronulla and the Hunter, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Memory Walks last for just a few hours, so they are good “starter events” for newer WICEN members to get some experience. If you would like to participate, or to find out more, email [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org).

The latest WICEN newsletter is now ready for download; on the website, just click the “Newsletters” link on the left side of the page.

Weekly voice nets are at 6pm and 6:30pm on Sunday evening, using FM voice, DMR or HF voice, depending on the week. All WICEN members and other Amateurs are welcome to join in.

Next Sunday; the 6pm net will be on the Chatswood 2m FM repeater, 147.150MHz, with net controller VK2WIC; the 6.30pm net will be on the WICEN VHF DMR repeater network.

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW, providing skilled radio communicators, in times of emergency. WICEN also supports local community events; providing practical training in tactical field communications, and to build other radio skills.

For more details of WICEN net schedules, and other information, check out the WICEN NSW web site, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au), that's

N - S - W DOT W - I - C - E - N DOT O - R - G DOT A - U

WICEN is also on Facebook and on Twitter @wicennsw [at WICEN N S W]; there, you can find photos and information about current and previous activations. For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at [wicen.org.au](http://wicen.org.au) – and click on the map.

[[https://nsw.wicen.org.au/files/newsletter/WICEN\\_NSW\\_Newsletter\\_2023-02.pdf](https://nsw.wicen.org.au/files/newsletter/WICEN_NSW_Newsletter_2023-02.pdf) ]

[True Grit: <https://truegrit.com.au/event/nsw-10km-obstacle-course-2023/>]

[Memory Walks: <https://www.memorywalk.com.au/find-an-event>]

[WICEN NSW facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WICENNSW> ]

[WICEN NSW twitter at <https://twitter.com/wicennsw> ]

## **ARRL DX news**

**AGALEGA AND ST. BRANDON ISLANDS;** A group of operators are active as 3B7M from Saint Brandon Island, IOTA AF-015, until March 5. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with four stations. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100.

**PHILIPPINES;** David, VE3OI is active as DU2WAA near Currimao, Ilocos Norte. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres.

**KYRGYZSTAN;** Bob, DU7ET is active as EX0ET from Bishkek until the end of March.

**GUINEA-BISSAU;** Livio, IZ3BUR is active as J52EC. Activity is on 15 and 10 metres using mostly SSB.

**ST. VINCENT;** Sandro, VE7NY, Allan, VE7SZ and Rob, N7QT are active as J8NY from the main island of St. Vincent, IOTA NA-109, until March 7. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes a M/2 entry in the upcoming ARRL International SSB DX contest.

**WAKE ISLAND;** Tom, NL7RR is active as NL7RR/KH9 for two weeks. Activity is generally around 0630UTC on 20 to 6 metres using SSB.

**ARGENTINA;** Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will celebrate their 55th anniversary on the air until March 5. Activity is on the HF, and V/UHF bands using QRS CW, SSB, SSTV, and FT8.

**PALAU;** Operators JH7IPR and JF6CHA are active as T88UW and T88CH, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until March 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using mainly FT8 with CW and SSB if operating conditions permit.

**BELIZE;** Walt, W0CP and Mary, K0ZV are active as V31DJ and V31DK, respectively, from Placencia until March 11. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

**MICRONESIA;** John, V63JB is active from Ulithi Atoll, IOTA OC-078, where he is a staff member at a local school. Activity is currently on 30 metres using FT8 but hopes to expand to 20 metres, and use SSB.

AUSTRALIA; Special event station VI100MB will be active until February 25, 2024 to celebrate 100 years of the Manly-Warringah Radio Society.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS; Gopan, VU3HPF and Ram, VU2JXN will be active as VU4T from Port Blair, South Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, from March 2 to 5. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and possibly SSB. They may also be active on Satellite QO-100.

MYANMAR; Akio, JE2QIZ is active as XZ2B from Yangon. He is active in his spare time on 15, 12, 10, and 6 metres using CW.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is again active as Z81D.

CHATHAM ISLANDS; Volker, ZL1VV is active as ZL7/ZL1VV from Te One until March 2. Activity is in his spare time on 20, 17, 15, and 10 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ 160-Metre SSB Contest, North American RTTY QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, REF SSB Contest, UBA DX CW Contest, South Carolina QSO Party, North America Collegiate RTTY Championship, High Speed Club CW Contest and the North Carolina QSO Party are all on over this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, RSGB FT4 Contest, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, 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 the UKEICC 80-Metre Contest are scheduled for February 27 to March 1.

The AWA John Rollins Memorial DX CW Contest runs from March 1 to 5.



## Club News

We start this week from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; their March general meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March at the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. After a brief business meeting, David VK2AYD will present part two of his very interesting history, of the contribution by Amateur Radio operators to the success of the work at Bletchley Park during the second World War.

Intensive working bees continue at the new VK2RCN site, which is nearing completion. The 2 Metre voice repeater on 147.0MHz is working well, and the 70cm RadNet DMR repeater now has transient filter installed on the 12 Volt DC supply. Installation of the APRS digipeater and 6-metre repeater have been delayed by additional site works, but will be installed soon.

Foundation training and assessments, along with examinations for Standard or Advanced licences, are planned for either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> of March. To register, contact the club via the contact form on the website, or write to PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

There are two club nets each week; the mid-week net from 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net at 9am Sunday mornings. Both 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.

To find out more 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 club information. The January 2023 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, with past issues 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.*

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## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Kariong Clubrooms are open even Saturday from 10am. Yesterday was the regular "Show and Tell", with this month's theme "Your Favourite Collection". Collections on display included kerosene powered lanterns and blow-torches, a number of different Phillips radios, a function generator, a spectrum analyser, and various antennas to go with an IC-705. There was also discussion on the repeater controller and building cavities.

Next Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March will be the monthly business meeting, starting at 1pm. Information will be distributed to members by email during the week. There is an antenna workshop coming up on March 18<sup>th</sup>. As always, members and visitors are most welcome.

Its nearly time for some more "Christmas Ham"... Entries open on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, until midday March 24. If you think you might be interested in either a Rigexpert AA-1500 Antenna Analyser, or a DX Commander Classic 80-10m Vertical Antenna kit; check the club's website and social media for details.

At VK2RAG Somersby, D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; and BrandMeister 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. In an effort to reduce "ker-chunking", the 146.725 repeater now has a key-up delay; meaning that you'll need to hold the PTT button down for half a second to key it.

The Club's Morning Tea Net is on each weekday from 10am, and the weekly Net is at 8pm on Thursday night. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater - 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone, and on the CCARCNSW and HAM EchoLink conferences. The Thursday evening net is also live video-streamed on the club's Facebook page.

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 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.*

## Sydney ATV Group

If you are interested in finding out more about ATV, Group member Gary VK2CRJ, assisted by John VK2ATU, will be guest presenters at the March meeting of the St George Amateur Radio Society.

Gary will be talking about amateur TV from his early days in the UK being involved in setting up ATV repeaters and working DX to Europe.

Being professionally trained in electronic engineering, Gary will be taking you through the early analogue days, the transition to digital then to full HD digital, the latest trends in ATV and narrow band digital transatlantic transmissions and much more.

The talk will be backed up with informative slides and ATV hardware on display.

Be sure not to miss this most interesting talk, this Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, starting at 7:15pm at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point. The talk will also be video recorded.

*Advised by John VK2ATU  
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

## Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Well, today is THE day!

On this day, 100 years ago, was the first meeting of The Manly and District Radio Club, on Sydney's Northern Beaches. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the Society is activating Special Event Callsign VI100MB, starting today and continuing throughout 2023. To find out more, check out VI100MB on QRZ dot com, and see the society's website for updates.

The Society's Publicity Officer, Richard VK2SKY, had a conversation with "Macca" last Sunday, on ABC Radio's popular "Australia All Over" program. Macca revealed that his father had been an Amateur, and so he was conversant with Amateur lingo. You can hear the conversation on the "Australia All Over" web site - the link is in the text edition.

This month's lecture by former club president and author, Rod VK2ZZM, is now available on YouTube. Rod talks about his book, "The Lost Women of Rabaul"; the true story of a group of Australian nurses, captured by Japanese forces during the Second World War. An early draft of the book became the basis for the award-winning ABC TV production, "Sisters of War", which can be seen on ABC iView.

To see the lecture, go to the club's YouTube channel, V K 2 M B - TV, or the Society's web site, which has a blog post about the lecture. Finally, the Society is back on Twitter! Follow @VK2MB for updates. Facebook updates coming soon...

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, 7 Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the club web site for details.

The web site address is [mwrs.org.au](http://mwrs.org.au), that's M-W-R-S dot O-R-G dot A-U.

*73 Richard VK2SKY*

*Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.*

[ Australia All Over (skip to the 3:11:30 mark:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/australiaallover/australia-all-over/101969282> ]

[ Sisters of war on iView; <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/sisters-of-war>]

[ Lecture - "The Lost Women of Rabaul" on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Sl-sLCtYcSQ> ]

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's next gathering is on Wednesday the 1st of March, at Kyle Bay.

48 years ago, on the 1st of March 1975, Australia officially launched colour television with the slogan "March first into colour".

Entirely by coincidence, this month's gathering will feature a presentation by the Sydney ATV Group, tracing the development of amateur television from the early days of low definition black and white, to high-definition digital. Truly a presentation not to be missed.

There also will be an opportunity for those attending to peruse the disposals tables for a bargain and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake while catching up with friends.

The gathering will be at the 1st Kyle Bay Scout Hall in Donnelly Park; Kyle Parade Connells Point – near South Hurstville, starting at 7:30pm this Wednesday 1st March.

Details about all of the Society's activities can be found on the website, [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

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

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## Activities on the air

### *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.

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** on *weekdays* from 10am; VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, also on EchoLink.

### *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 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.

**Hunter Radio Group** net 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.

***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.

The **CCARC weekly net** from 8pm on VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and EchoLink.

***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; and from 6:30pm on DMR or HF. Check website for details.