

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. 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.

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.

Scam Alert

As most listeners will be aware, WICEN NSW is a member squad of VRA Rescue NSW. Unfortunately, someone has been fraudulently claiming to fundraise on behalf of VRA Rescue NSW.

Please be advised that no such external body has been authorised to do this, and any such request for payment or donation should be referred to the NSW Police Assistance Line: 131 444.

VRA Rescue NSW has been cooperating with NSW Police Force to investigate these matters, and will continue to work to protect the name and reputation of the organisation and members.

If you have been contacted or impacted, please contact your financial institution, NSW Police, and inform VRA Rescue NSW.

[VRA Facebook post on the matter:

<https://www.facebook.com/VRARescueNSW/posts/pfbid034jLuxZCiSw6JFWK8vZaTSCuRhNhMz5eZJSosGdJ2wneqTeQb9Z1woC2wYwAjHDq7I>]

ARNSW Elections

The Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 22nd 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, or from the office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday the 11th of March 2023.

[link to form https://arnsw.org.au/Nomination_2023a.pdf]

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 24th of February to the 2nd of March.
First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	1 st	2 nd
10cm Flux	164	152	159	161	161	162	169
Fredericksburg A-Index (AFr)	4	9	18	60	19	6	8
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	9	21	46	12	6	9 estimated
T index	125	142	135	90	69	116	141

Solar activity was at R1 level on the 24th, with 2 M-class flares; R2 on the 25th with an M1.1 at 140UTC, and M6.4 at 1945UTC. The 26th and 27th were both at R0, but the 28th was at R2 level with an M8.6 flare at 1750UTC; and the 1st and 2nd of March were both at R1, with single, low-level M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity remained below warning threshold on the 24th and 25th; then reached G2 warning level on the 26th and 27th, before activity reduced to below warning levels, from the 28th to the 2nd of March. Magnetometer data recorded a weak geomagnetic impulse of 21 nanoTesla, at 1923UTC on the 26th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were enhanced 25% during local night hours on the 24th; 20% at day and 35% at night on the 25th; 25% day and 20% night on the 26th. The 27th saw depressions of 35% after local dawn; the 28th was depressed 35% during local day and 15% at night. The 1st of March returned to enhancement of 20%, and the 2nd was enhanced 25% during the day and 30% during local night.

The forecast, issued on the 3rd of March, through until the 9th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 level, with a chance of R2. Geomagnetic conditions should mostly remain quiet, with a chance of G1 on the 5th. Maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region are expected to be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 5th; otherwise, enhancements of up to 25% are likely.

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 February, we had a;

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

As we start March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 145, Average of 167 and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 7th to the 21st.

And looking ahead to April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 140, Average of 164 and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 6th to the 18th.

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.

[Play File: 15-FOAR029.wav]

Duration: 3m32s

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: 16-E-ID2.wav]

WICEN News

This weekend, WICEN provided support for True Grit at Lower Portland, and Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog in Western Sydney.

There are four more Memory Walks this month: Illawarra next Sunday, Canberra on the 19th, and events in Cronulla and the Hunter on the 26th. Memory Walks last for just a few hours, making them good “starter events” for newer WICEN members. If you would like to participate, or to find out more, email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

Earlier today, WICEN also had a meetup here at Dural. On the first Sunday of the month, anyone interested in finding out how WICEN serves the community is welcome to come along; the next meetup is on the 2nd of April.

Weekly voice nets are at 6pm and 6:30pm on Sunday, 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 Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz with a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB; and the 6.30pm net will be on DMR Talk Group 3810, with net controller VK2WID.

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, 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 – and click on the map.

[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>]

Club News

We start this week from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. At yesterday's March General Meeting, Paul VK2ICQ delivered a very enlightening presentation on ChatGPT complete with demonstrations using questions from the audience. Everyone learned a lot about Artificial Intelligence. Part 2 of the presentation by David VK2AYD on Bletchley Park has been held over until the next General Meeting, scheduled for the 1st of April.

The next monthly Club Coffee Morning is at 10am this Thursday the 9th of March, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

Intensive working bees continue at the new VK2RCN site. The site is close to completion, all that remains is installation of the APRS digipeater, and the 6-metre FM repeater on 53.8MHz.

The next Foundation training and assessment weekend is on the 1st and 2nd of April, along with examinations for Standard or Advanced licences. 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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The March 2023 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is in preparation, and past issues are 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The Next Monthly Meeting, and the Group's 2023 AGM, is coming up this Thursday the 9th of March.

It will be at the Tighes Hill TAFE, in the School of Electronics Telecommunication Lecture Room, Building J off Chin Chen Street. The meeting starts at 6:30pm.

After meeting formalities, a lecture will also be presented.

The Group operates three repeaters at Mt. Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. They are on 146.9MHz; 146.975Mhz with EchoLink; and on 438.025MHz. There is a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz, with CW ident and digital information.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Kariong Clubrooms are open even Saturday from 10am.

On the 18th of March, there will be an antenna workshop to look at the tri-band beam. As always, members and visitors are most welcome.

Its running! If you want some more "Christmas Ham"... the event is now open, until midday on 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. The Somersby WebSDR is online at websdr.ccarc.org.au; its configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

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 – 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 14th of March. 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.

This coming meeting will include an historical presentation by Barry VK2ADQ on the EME, or Moon Bounce, project that existed first at Dapto south of Wollongong, then near Cataract to the west.

Several IARS members were involved, but none more so than Lyle VK2ALU, now Silent Key. The project operated under the IARS Club callsign VK2AMW and made hundreds of contacts around the world and also broke many records while originally operating on either 433 or 1296 Megahertz, then later on 10 Gigahertz. Barry has unearthed lots of old photos and videos of the building, the large dish, and operating of the station, so his presentation will be very interesting and informative. The meeting will conclude with the usual excellent supper of coffee, tea, cake and biscuits.

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, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; 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 14th of March, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

Rob VK2MT

President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Sydney ATV Group

At the March meeting of the St. George Amateur Radio Society, Members of the Group - Gary VK2CRJ, and John VK2ATU – gave a presentation on digital amateur television.

Gary covered the early analogue days setting up ATV repeaters in the UK and later moving to France then emigrating to Australia. Going through the early analogue days, the different TV systems then onto digital TV theory, upgrading the Lawson ATV repeater controller and converting it to high-definition digital.

The talk was well received with over 40 people attending. A video of the talk will be uploaded to the internet and available on demand from the repeater.

All agreed it was a most informative and enjoyable evening.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and the company beyond compare! Last Sunday was a great day – to celebrate 100 years since the formation of the original Manly & District Radio Club in 1923.

Even Dick VK2DIK dropped in to say hello and to operate the club station (Dick is an honorary life member of the Society). You can see photos from the day on the web site, and a video of highlights will soon be posted on the Society's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV.

The fun continues into the Society's second century, with Special Event Station VI100MB now in operation. The Society aims to have the station active on meeting nights (Wednesdays). A group of the Society's hard-core contesters and DXers, along with other members, will keep the station active throughout the whole year. To find out more, check out VI100MB on QRZ dot com, and see the club web site and social media for operational updates.

Speaking of social media, the Society is once again active on Facebook as "ManlyWarringahRadioSociety" (all one word), and on Twitter and YouTube, @VK2MB ["at V K 2 M B"]. Follow, like, subscribe, or whatever to keep up with the latest happenings at the club!

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, that's M-W-R-S dot O-R-G dot A-U.

73 Richard VK2SKY

Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

2023 launched with a big monthly Club evening at HADARC.

The night started with an overview of the Australian Signal Directorate 75-year anniversary. From early origins intercepting critical radio signals during World War 2; in 1947 the Defence Signal Bureau was established, based in Melbourne. In 1992 it moved to Canberra, and in 2013 the name was changed to Australian Signals Directorate (ASD).

ASD and Amateur Radio have a lot of parallels, with a shared history of Morse code, Radio and Communications. For those with an interest in this history, ASD have released a 75 year book, available on their web site.

The Evening then moved to looking at a range of Technologies. Chris VK2YMW lamented over the money spent on the development for nuclear power and reviewed its history; In conclusion, Chris felt a just a few too many billions had been spent to date, with not enough to show for it.

The meeting then moved to Morse. Matt VK2BAI ran a live survey and it was clear the largest issue preventing the use of morse, was decoding it; people just found this hard. A solution was presented using the App call the Hot Paw Morse Decoder. This software worked well on a smart phone or on an iPad. A live demonstration was setup for people to decode their own morse code.

It must be said that Barry VK2AAB skills in morse is second to none. Barry almost melted the keyer with his morse sending, which seemed close to 40 words per minute.

HADARC was pleased to have it members all together again at the Club rooms where we also signed up a new member.

We look forward to chatting on air or at a Club meeting.

73 and let's keep radio-active,

*Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President.*

[ASD link; <https://www.asd.gov.au/75th-anniversary>]

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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.