

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

The Oxley Region ARC have advised of the passing of their friend and club member Diane Wilson VK2DNE, on the 10th of May.

Diane was an active member of ALARA as well at the Oxley Regio ARC; Last year she took over running ALARA stands at NSW Field Days from Dot Bishop VK2DB. Diane always looked forward to attending the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Field Day each year; she ran the very popular ALARA stand at the ORARC 2022 Field Day, and in previous years she had assisted Dot VK2DB in running the stands.

In November 2022 Diane and her husband Richard VK2OKR/VK2AUS were officially recognised for a combined total 68 years of service to Lemon Tree Passage Marine Rescue.

Diane will be very sadly missed.

Please pause with us, while we remember Diane.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Diane Wilson VK2DNE.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

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

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 9444 0123.

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.

Events at ARNSW

The next few weeks see a return of some popular events to VK2WI Dural.

The last Sunday this month will be another Couple of events coming up here at VK2WI Dural.

In two weeks' time – the last Sunday of the month – is the May “Members Morning Meetup”.

The site will be open from about 9:30am, with Trash and Treasure, boot sales and disposals tables available; and the Centenary Building will be open as well, with tea, coffee and cold drinks. While the BBQ is currently not available, there are several food retailers nearby, and the VK2WI site provides pleasant surrounds and a covered picnic area.

Later in the day – from just after noon – we welcome back those members interested in the Radio Experimenter's Group.

After a 'short' break brought about by the pandemic, the Board of ARNSW has reviewed ways to better support those members interested in experimentation with the technology of radio and in building their own radio equipment.

The Radio Experimenter's group returns with a broadened scope and renewed terms of reference, with plans to support a broader range of activities and interest in radio homebrewing and experimentation.

We invite members to come along to share their recent activities and projects, along with ideas for future activities and further developing the group. An ARNSW board representative will be in attendance, and we hope to have online facilities available.

Finally, if you aren't planning on travelling for the King's birthday long weekend, don't forget the buildathon on Sunday the 11th of June. Starting at 10am, members will be able to build baluns and dipoles, with balun kits and high-quality Kevlar antenna wire at a discount price. All items must be pre-ordered and paid for on the day.

For buildathon enquiries or bookings, you can email balun@arnsw.org.au or leave a phone message with the office, on 02 9444 0123.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5th to the 11th of May;
First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
10cm Flux	162	152	157	172	180	170	163
Fredericksburg A-Index	4	21	8	13	11	19	110
Australian A-Index	2	13	9	9	6	20	5 estimated
T index	97	111	108	111	114	119	109

Solar activity reached R1 level on the 5th and the 8th, then R2 on the 9th with five M-class flares - the largest, M6.5 at 0354UTC. Activity continued at R1 level on the 10th and 11th.

Geomagnetic activity reached G1 levels on the 7th, and the 10th, and was low to moderate on other days. However, several weak geomagnetic impulses were observed; 11 nanoTesla at 0130UTC on the 6th and 1358UTC on the 8th; and 10 nanoTesla at 2248UTC on the 9th and 0713UTC on the 10th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted, with enhancement of 15% during the day on the 6th; enhancement of 15% to 20% on the 8th; enhancement of 20% during local day on the 9th; and enhancement of 15% to 20% throughout the 11th.

The forecast, issued on the 12th of May, through until the 18th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 levels with a chance of R2. Geomagnetic activity may reach G2 on the 12th due to the anticipated arrival of a CME, with G1 conditions possible on the 13th. G0 conditions expected on other days.

Maximum usable frequencies in the Southern Australian are expected to be slightly degraded on the weekend due to geomagnetic disturbances. MUFs near predicted are expected, on other days.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Space Weather Summary for April 2023

Compiled with data from the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre

Solar activity was generally mostly low to moderate in April, with R1 activity observed on the 6th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 21, 27th and 30th. The largest flare was an M3.0, on the 6th. A total 9 flares were observed.

Two confirmed geoeffective Coronal Mass Ejections were observed; one glanced Earth on the 18th of April, the other was a full halo CME travelling at about 1800 km/s. This CME produced geomagnetic activity at the G4 level globally.

Solar wind speed enhancements in March were mostly due to enhancements from coronal holes; the two CMEs also contributed significant wind speed enhancements. Proton flux was mostly quiet for April; an enhancement of the proton flux levels produced a short period of S1 conditions from on the 24th of April; this enhanced period was due to the arrival of the aforementioned high speed halo CME.

That CME was also the cause of Geomagnetic disturbance on the 23rd and 24th; with Australian regional conditions reaching G2, isolated periods of G3 observed at Hobart during the storm, and planetary geomagnetic conditions reaching G4 levels. Auroral observations were reported from several Australian sites during this geomagnetic storm period.

In the aftermath of this, the deepest ionospheric depression for the month was observed on the 24th, with southern Australian regional Maximum Usable Frequencies (MUFs) depressed up to 55%. The effects were short-lived, however, with MUFs reaching 20% enhanced from monthly predicted, on the next day. Mild Southern Australian regional MUF depressions of 15% were also observed on the 30th. Minor shortwave fadeouts affecting lower frequencies were observed on the 6th, 8th and 10th.

Frequent brief periods of ionospheric scintillation were observed throughout the month at Darwin, Weipa and Niue Island.

Australian T-index average for the month was 119.

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-FOAR028.wav]

Duration: 3m59s

In: "On a regular basis ..."

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]

And now with this week's WICEN News, here's Richard VK2SKY;

[Play File: 17-E-WNS0514.wav]

Duration: 2m45s

In: "WICEN was activated..."

Out:....click on the map.

[Transcript]

WICEN was activated last weekend to assist with a major land search operation, involving Police, VRA, SES, RFS, and NSW Ambulance. Members from the Sydney, Central Coast, and Mid-North Coast regions answered the call and travelled to Hampton State Forest on the Central Tablelands, to provide communications for the search teams. You can see photos of the operation on our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

The next WICEN event will be Dementia Australia's Memory Walk next Sunday, at Leichhardt Oval, in Sydney. The Memory Walks last just a few hours, so they are ideal "starter events" for new (or rusty) WICEN members to get some field experience. Why not give it a go?

Then, on 16-18 June, WICEN will provide safety comms support for the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon in the Blue Mountains.

Finally, NSW State Emergency Services have their Bush Search and Rescue "NavShield" event on the weekend of 15-16 July, with setup on the Friday afternoon. Five WICEN operators are needed for this event: two at Base, and one at each of three course checkpoints.

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about WICEN, you can email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN has meetups here at Dural on the first Sunday of every month; the next one will be on 4 June. WICEN nets take place every Sunday evening at 6pm and 6.30pm, 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 and a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB; and the 6.30pm net will be on HF, on or near 7110kHz LSB. Net controller VK2WIZ will announce the call-in sequence and other information.

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

To find out more, 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 recent and upcoming WICEN activities.

For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at wicen.org.au – and click on the map.

[WICEN NSW web site: <https://nsw.wicen.org.au/>]

[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; today was the Club's annual antenna shootout at Huntingdon and earlier in the week, many members enjoyed Thursday's May Coffee Morning, at Thrumster.

Next on the Club calendar is the May Friday Night Get-together; its in the SES Building, Central Road Port Macquarie, at 7pm this coming Friday the 19th of May.

Its now only four weeks until the Club's annual Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th of June 2023; during the Kings Birthday long weekend. The field day is at the spacious Wauchope Showground Hall, with Field Day dinner at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night.

The Field Day will have all the usual activities including fox hunts, trade displays on both days, trash and treasure, and home brew competition and display. Breakfast and lunch from the barbeque will be available on both days. Camp sites at the showground or accommodation should be booked soon, as the area is a popular tourist destination for the June long weekend.

Those interested in Foundation training weekends, or assessments for the Standard or Advanced licence, can contact the club the web site contact form, or by mail to PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. The next date will be set when sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

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 March 2023 edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Last Friday, Club members Graham VK2GRA and Ryan VK2FRTS undertook a “Mini DX-pedition”. They set off on a clear sunny day, from Girakool Picnic area, Southwest of Kariong NSW.

A little early bad luck crossing a creek, saw Ryan getting an early shower; but soon some beautiful views were to be had, making their way up and down valleys and across a suspension bridge over the river, to their destination - a rock shelf directly across from Gosford District Rifle Club. They set up a Squid Pole Antenna on a telescopic mast and started dialling around 15, 20 and 40 metres. After some time, they heard the Travelers Net and decided to check in – after all, they were Pedestrian Mobile... getting a response back from Harvey Bay showed that everything was working well. Another contact on 40m to Mudgee was made before lunch, before they returned to the track, heading for Wondabyne.

Onto the Rifle Range Fire trail and down the hill, they encountered a baby Brown snake on the trail edge, warming up in the sun. They continued, giving him a wide berth, soon seeing the water and Wondabyne station – marking the end of the Mini DX-pedition. After a 15min wait for the next train, giving some time for a rest and some food and water, they returned to civilization; having thoroughly enjoyed the challenging 11km walk, the plant life, birds and scenery along the way, and making some contacts on the air.

The Club’s Kariong Clubrooms are open every Saturday from 10am; and, as always, members and visitors are most welcome. Yesterday’s antenna day saw members doing further work on the Club’s tri-band beam. It’s going to take just a little more work to get it tweaked just right, which will open up the possibility of mid-week HF operating nights for members.

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.

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID3.wav]

St George Amateur Radio Society

Coming up next weekend is the Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse Contest.

This contest commemorates Don VK2NV, who became a silent key in early 2021. Don's operating was almost exclusively on CW, and he often encouraged club members to either learn Morse or increase their speed.

No matter what speed, this contest is an opportunity to give Morse a go. Contest rules are that contacts should be no more than 10 words per minute; many contacts in last year's contest were 5 words per minute or less. If you learnt Morse code years ago to get you HF licence, and then hid your Morse key at the back of the cupboard - it's a good opportunity to dig it out again and have a go.

If you have never learnt Morse code, there are many online training websites. For a quick refresher, the ARNSW's Morse practice beacon operates on 3699kHz, on air 24 hours a day except during VK2WI News bulletins. Also, the American Radio Relay League produce Morse practice MP3 files which can be downloaded from their website, www.arrl.org.

The Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest will be held in two parts. Saturday the 20th of May from 6pm to 9pm on 80 metres, then Sunday 21st, 1pm to 4pm on 40 metres. The Society looks forward to working you on air.

Details about the contest, along with the Society's other activities, are on the website, www.sgars.org.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting is at 7:30pm this Wednesday the 17th of May – which also happens to be World Telecommunications Day, when the AX prefix may be used. Its in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL Club, Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay.

At the meeting, Skip VK2ALR will be giving a talk on RF Impedance matching using Pictures ... that is, a discussion of Smith Charts. This should be an interesting talk demystifying those circular charts and what they tell us. The meeting will commence at 7:30 pm. It may also be streamed on Zoom.

Many members partake of dinner in the club's bistro prior to the meeting from about 6 pm and all are welcome; especially any visitors from other clubs or out of town.

Regular Monday evening nets are at 8pm on VK2RBV, 438.1125 MHz with a -5.4 MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone for access.

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, continue in the RSL bistro; these now adjourn after lunch to the ANZAC room for some practical activities.

The first Saturday of the month is "project day", also in the ANZAC room at the RSL. The next one is scheduled for the 3rd of June.

Other activities are continuing either in person and on Zoom. See the society's website for details.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at 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

This week was HADARC's mid monthly meeting. These have moved to the Hornsby Rifle Club which has easier access and easier parking. In fact, the warm heaters and comfier chairs means our radio catch-ups are better than ever.

This week we decided to compare older and newer hand-held radios; pairing up 1970's clunkers to the latest state of the art handhelds shows just how far technology has come over the decades. Rod VK2DAY told the story of how his handheld withstood a fall from the roof without flinching at all; some of the older tech was indeed well built. Many older radios can be given a new lease on life with a battery refurb; some minor modifications to fit modern lithium or other rechargeable cells can get the on air again. If you're not using an old handheld, perhaps give it to someone in your own club and help get them on air.

Did you know where Ohms law came from? Georg Ohm was a German physicist and mathematician, born in 1789. He first published his work on the subject in 1827 – before the discovery of the electron. By the 1850s, Ohm's law was considered well-known, and today, almost obvious – we still use it daily. What a legend!

73 for now and let's keep radio-active,

*Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President.*

[Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

And now with an update from the Manly-Warringah Radio Society, here's Richard VK2SKY;

[Play File: 19-E-MRS0514-ID4.wav]

Duration: 2m22s

In: " Club member Colin ..."

[Out:....IDENT 4]

[Transcript]

Club member Colin VK2JCC has been busy promoting Amateur Radio this week: on Wednesday, he gave a presentation about the hobby to a meeting of the Hornsby RSL subbranch. As a result, he has been invited to give a talk to one of the local Probus clubs as well. Success breeds success, as they say! Colin also gave out some of the club's new business cards to interested RSL members. Check out the club web site for a blog post about it.

Colin was also busy on Friday, along with Carmel VK2CAR, Stuart VK2BMX and other "Park Rangers", operating portable at Ruddock Park in Westleigh, here in northern Sydney. No doubt they gave out more club business cards to potential Amateurs there!

But wait, there's more... next Wednesday is lecture night at the Society, when our guest speaker will be - you guessed it - Colin VK2JCC! Colin will talk about, and give demonstrations of, "Recycling Plastic for Amateur Radio Use". He will demonstrate how to manufacture products using homemade moulds, and you'll be surprised how easy it is using commonly available inexpensive equipment.

Previous lectures, and videos on many other Amateur Radio topics, can be found on the club's YouTube channel VK2MB-TV. Just go to YouTube and search for the club callsign, VK2MB.

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, 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, MWRS Publicity Officer

[MWRS on the web: <https://www.mwrs.org.au/>]

[MWRS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ManlyWarringahRadioSociety>]

[MWRS on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VK2MB>]

[MWRS on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@VK2MB>]

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.

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

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net; 1pm on VK2RCW.

Mondays;

Westlakes ARC net 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.

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 with 91.5Hz tone.
Activities online and on air; see website.

Tuesdays;

National VKDMR Net: from 7:30pm on Talkgroup 505.

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm, 3543kHz.

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

Wednesdays;

Westlakes ARC net 9:30am on 7115kHz. 2 Metre nets throughout the week, see website for details.

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

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

Blue Mountains ARC 8pm on VK2RBM, 147.05MHz, 123Hz tone.

Amateur Radio Central West Group from 8pm on 3653kHz.

Thursdays;

Illawarra ARS net 12pm; VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone; also, on EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC 7:30pm on VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

St George ARS 8pm, VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

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

Fridays;

Morning tea with HADARC 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm, VK2RCW.

Saturdays;

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

Illawarra ARS net 9:30am on VK2RMP and VK2RUW.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm on Southeast network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

Sundays;

Westlakes DMR Net from 8:30am, usually on Talkgroup 3802; listen to Talkgroup 505 at 8:28am.

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM.

WICEN NSW nets; 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater; and 6:30pm on DMR or HF. Check website for details.