

Silent Keys.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of two silent keys.

The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club has advised of the passing last week of, Winstone Buffrey VK2BS. Winstone passed peacefully at his QTH in Gwandalan surrounded by his family, at the young age of 86.

Winstone was a long-time member of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club and avid radio fan since his teenage years. He was an avid fan of all modes of radio, especially HF; but he was also active with Bulletin Boards and Packet Radio as new modes were coming on-line in the 60's and 70's.

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has also advised us, of the passing of long-time club member, Craig Shubrick Martin VK2CSM ex VK2ZCM of Sancrox near Wauchope. Craig passed away peacefully unexpectedly on Thursday the 22nd of June 2023.

Craig was a very keen foxhunter and was well known for his success in events at both the Port Macquarie Field Days and at the Urunga Easter Conventions for many decades, until illness made it difficult for him to compete. Although he was unable to be present, Craig as usual provided the 2 metre foxes at this year's Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Field Day.

As well as foxhunting, Craig regularly took part in HF radio contests. Craig will be sadly missed and will always be remembered for his infectious enthusiasm for Amateur Radio.

Please pause with us now , while we remember Winstone and Craig.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]

Winstone Buffrey VK2BS and Craig Shubrick Martin VK2CSM.

Our thanks to Alan VK2MG and Henry VK2ZHE for advising us here at VK2WI news.

[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.

A note from our News Editor.

VK2WI News reports on a wide variety of activities relating to Amateur Radio. For over 41 years, VK2WI has been Australia's only dedicated centre, continuously producing and transmitting amateur radio news and information bulletins on a regular basis.

VK2WI News is only possible due to the support and dedication of our broadcast team – members of Amateur Radio News South Wales that put in their time and effort to produce, present and operate these news bulletins every week.

Each quarter, we ask for volunteers to take part in the team's activities – and its that time again, where we call for those to put in the effort for the next three months.

But recently, we have been running rather short of volunteers. Without some broader support and contribution, we may reluctantly need to reduce the output of VK2WI bulletins.

Besides operating VK2WI Announcing and engineering for morning and particularly evening bulletins, there are roles available in producing scripts and audio items. If you can't make it to Dural on a regular basis, much of this work can be done remotely, and some items can be prepared on a schedule that suits you.

Of course, training and support are provided, too.

We receive more than 250 callbacks reported to VK2WI each week, suggesting that many people find VK2WI News a useful service. With your help, we can continue to provide an even better news and information service.

For more information or any enquiries, contact the VK2WI News team via email, news@arnsw.org.au.

*Mathew VK2YAP
News Editor, VK2WI News.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 16th to the 22nd of June.

First, the summary of activity;

| Dates across the columns are | 16 th | 17 th | 18 th | 19 th | 20 th | 21 st | 22 nd |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm Flux | 157 | 158 | 164 | 169 | 180 | 176 | 173 |
| Fredericksburg A-Index | 24 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 8 |
| Australian A-Index | 17 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 estimated |
| T index | 120 | 102 | 100 | 99 | 99 | 103 | 109 |

Solar activity reached R1 level on the 16th, with 3 M-class flares; R1 again on both the 18th and 19th, each with two M-class flares; R3 on the 20th, with four M-class flares and an X1.1 at 1709UTC; then R1 on the 21st and 22nd, each with two M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was at G2 levels on the 16th, with activity afterwards remaining below warning threshold. Planetary geomagnetic activity also reached G2 levels for a single period on the 16th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with enhancement of 20% observed during local day and 25% during local night on the 16th; and enhancement of 20% after local dawn on the 20th.

The forecast, issued on the 23rd of June, through until the 29th;

Solar activity is expected to continue at R1 levels, with a chance of R2.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain below warning levels.

Maximum usable frequencies should be mostly near predicted monthly values.

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 May, we had a;

Minimum of 134, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 12th, and the 20th to the 25th.

So far for June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 144, Average of 166, and a Maximum of 185
With peak dates from the 5th to the 9th, and the 20th to the 30th.

And looking ahead to July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 155, Average of 168, and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 1st to the 11th; and the 26th to the 31st.

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: 15-FOAR071.wav]

Duration: 4m10s

In: "Have you ever been ..."

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-WNS0625.wav]

Duration: 1m46s

In: " WICEN NSW ..."

Out: "... at wicen.org.au."

[Transcript]

Last weekend, WICEN was in the scenic Blue Mountains providing communications for the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon at Glen Davis, Newnes, and the Wolgan Valley. You can see photos on our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

WICEN has meetups here at Dural, on the first Sunday of every month. Next Sunday morning, the topic will be setting up linked DMR repeaters and commsets.

Weekend after next, WICEN will provide comms support for the New South Wales SES "NavShield" bush navigation event.

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

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

WICEN NSW is a support squad of VRA Rescue NSW, specialising in tactical radio communications. In between activations, WICEN supports local community events: these provide practical training for members, and help raise the public profile of Amateur Radio.

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.

[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; and their July general meeting is on next weekend; at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of July, in the SES building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The new VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater will be installed at Middle Brother Mountain early in July; this will be done in conjunction with implementation of linking between the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater on 146.7MHz, and the VK2RCN 2 metre repeater at Telegraph Point, on 147.0MHz.

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 May 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well; and on Facebook, just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*From Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The next car boot sale is on Saturday the 15th of July. Its at the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8am.

You can set up a stall at no charge; but bring your own table. There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available.

All are welcome.

Westlakes has several on air nets each week, details are a little later on in this bulletin.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

A reminder about the Club's monthly meetings on the first Friday of the month. Meetings are at the Club Rooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome.

There are several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin – and the Club is trialling a DMR Net on Monday nights on Brandmeister channel 50520.

The Club has Foundation Classes bi-monthly, and Upgrade classes on Wednesday evenings, both online and at the Glenbrook clubrooms. Exams for other licence grades are also available on Foundation weekends.

Courses and exam days do fill-up quickly, so please contact the Club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN, via email secretary@bmarc.org to register, or for more information.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*Advised by Steven VK2TSG
President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday saw members bring along a wide range of equipment for the show and tell, "I made this, could you?" More on this, in next week's broadcast.

The club's next monthly business meeting is at the club rooms on Saturday July 1 at 1pm. Details have been emailed to members. Members are reminded that renewals are due at the end of June - Membership forms have been sent out.

The club rooms at Kariong are open on Saturdays from 10:30am. As always, members and visitors are most welcome.

There are rumours of something brewing in the Central Coast area. It's not clear exactly what, but it might be a good idea to write down Sunday the 5th of May, 2024 in your diary... and keep an ear out for updates.

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]

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday the 28th of June, 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.

Submitted by Peter VK2PR

On behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's next gathering is on Wednesday the 6th of July at Kyle Bay. You are probably familiar with your local repeater, you may even be listening to this broadcast through a repeater. But, have you ever wondered how does this happen every week, and how do repeaters actually work?

At the next gathering of the St George Amateur Radio Society, Paul VK2GX will give a presentation on the magic of repeaters, in particular the three repeaters sponsored by the society.

Paul will give an insight into how full duplex operation is achieved with such narrow frequency separation, how the ARNSW broadcast is re-transmitted, and from where do those unfamiliar voices and call signs originate. More importantly, what is involved in keeping a repeater operational.

The Foundation Licence is the entry-level accreditation for Amateur Radio - You don't need any prior technical qualifications, there is no morse code to learn, and there are no age limits.

The Society's next training and assessment weekend is on the 15th and 16th of July, at the Society's training venue in Sutherland. Examinations for Standard and Advanced Licences are also available on Sunday the 16th. To meet the requirements of the government selected outsourced examination provider, AMC, bookings close this coming Friday, 30th June, and late bookings cannot be accepted.

The Foundation Licence course takes a single weekend; including a review of the Foundation Licence Manual, practical training, followed by assessment in theory, regulations and practical. Candidates will need to have read and be familiar with the contents of Foundation Licence Manual, prior to attending the weekend course. For further information and bookings, please contact the education team via email; education@sgars.org.

And finally, a reminder about the VK2RDX 2 metre repeater; from early July, a 91.5Hz tone will be required to access the repeater. Details about all of the Society's repeaters, 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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Last weeks “Bring a Valve” evening was a great success. One valve was so big the table creaked – it was a 4CX10,000.. yes, just a little 10-kilowatt valve. The 6146’s seemed rather compact in comparison.

At the June monthly meeting on the 27th, the show and tell topic is... was there something you bought - online or elsewhere – where the item did not live up to the hype or work as expected? Bring it along for a 5-minute show and tell. It doesn’t matter what it is, as it doesn’t have to be strictly amateur radio related. If it is too big or heavy, then simply bring a picture or two along, on a USB stick, to be projected on the screen.

Members and visitors are welcome to join the discussion on the 27th June, at the Mount Colah Community Centre.

Finally, did you know... in 1819 that Hans Christian Oersted (a Danish man) observed that an electric current flowing on a wire deflected a compass – thus showing electricity and magnetism were, somehow, linked. The rest is history.

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

Matt VK2BAI

For the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club.

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

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.