

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.

HMAS Vampire Update

VK2VMP continues operation from HMAS Vampire, at the Australian National Maritime Museum. With more, here's Colin VK2JCC;

[Play File: 15-B-2VMP-1.wav]

Duration: 2m34s

In: I'm standing on ...

Out:....Vampire Project.

[Transcript]

I'm standing on the deck of H M A S Vampire and have some exciting updates for you. Our radio setup has expanded to new heights. Quite literally. We've added two antennas to the top deck of the ship. Our lineup now boasts an off-centre fed dipole, a 20-meter vertical antenna, a 40 meter vertical antenna, as well as a two meter 70 centimetre flower pot antenna. The results and signal reports have been astonishing. Over the past few months, we've managed to contact 23 different countries. It's truly a testament to the power of radio and the incredible reach it offers even out at sea.

Now, let me take you to a recent adventure we embarked upon. The International Lighthouse weekend, we had the honour of activating two historic landmarks, the Cape Bowling Lighthouse, operated by myself and a museum second operator, and the Carpenter Light ship by Stewart VK2BMX, and Steve VK2KHA; Both nestled at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

The airwaves were buzzing as we contacted fellow enthusiasts worldwide during this event. And speaking of enthusiasts, our radio room has become a hotspot for curious minds every day, where welcoming 50 to 60 visitors who are absolutely captivated by the magic of radio transmissions.

They're not just passive observers. They get to experience both voice and Morse code transmissions to keep the excitement alive even after they leave the ship, we've set up a QR code that links directly to Amateur Radio New South Wales website. It's a treasure trove of resources for those eager to learn more about this fascinating hobby and obtaining their license.

Before I wrap up, I'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the AR New South Wales Board. They generously provided us on extended loan, a HF radio, which has played a pivotal role in our endeavours. The distances might be vast, but with the power of radio, we have managed to bridge gaps, connect enthusiasts, and spark a whole new level of curiosity and amateur radio.

I encourage all of you to think about how you can promote this fantastic hobby by getting out and going portable. Until next time; Keep those antennas tuned and those signals strong. Colin VK2JCC, Vampire Project.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25th to the 31st of August.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st
10cm Flux	139	139	142	142	142	139	140
Fredericksburg A-Index	7	9	13	8	7	9	8
Australian A-Index	1	4	5	4	3	3	4 estimated
T index	118	115	115	114	104	100	111

Solar activity reached R1 levels on the 25th, with an M1.4 flare at 0104UTC, and again on the 26th, with an M1.1 at 2253UTC. Activity remained below warning threshold on other days.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 20% during local day and after dawn on the 25th; 15% enhancement on the 26th; 15% during local night on the 27th and 28th; and enhancement of 20% during local night on the 31st.

The forecast, issued on the 1st of September, through until the 7th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 levels with a chance of R2

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach G2 with a chance of G3 on the 2nd and 3rd; otherwise, activity should be at low to moderate levels.

Maximum usable frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 3rd and 4th, and near predicted monthly values afterwards.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 139, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 177
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th, and the 16th to the 17th

As we start September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 145, Average of 153, and a Maximum of 168
With peak dates from the 15th to the 23rd

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 140, Average of 151, and a Maximum of 168
With peak dates from the 6th to the 7th, and the 14th to the 16th.

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-FOAR082.wav]

Duration: 2m53s

In: "Today I was going ..."

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; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

[ID 2 and HRG item]

The Hunter Radio Group will be hosting a special presentation next week, which you can also join online. Here's Graham VK2FA with the details.

[Play File: 17-E-HRG0903-ID2.wav]

Duration: 1m29s

In: "If you've ever..."

Out: [IDENT 2]

[Transcript]

If you've ever used EchoLink, you're invited to a special talk here in Australia by the ham who created it.

Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, who developed EchoLink, the Voice over Internet Protocol network for linking repeaters and amateurs, will be a guest of the Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX in Newcastle on the 14th of September. EchoLink has a global reach of nearly half a million amateur radio users.

For those who cannot attend the talk in person, Amateur Radio New South Wales will provide a link via Zoom, where Jonathan will deliver his talk remotely. Jonathan, a resident of Connecticut USA, was inducted into the CQ magazine Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2005. The programme will take place between 18:00 and 22:00 AEST

The Zoom link can be found in the text version of this newscast.

on behalf of the Hunter Radio Group, I'm Grahame, VK2FA.

[Zoom Meeting link]

[<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884640439?pwd=OTFVTjFjM2tteUhNQmRuc1p2RVpLZz09>]

[Meeting ID: 898 8464 0439 Passcode: 898540]

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 18-E-WNS0903.wav]

Duration: 2m03s

In: " WICEN had its ..."

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

[Transcript]

WICEN had its monthly meetup here at Dural this morning; the next one will on the 1st of October.

The next big event on the WICEN calendar is the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research. WICEN will provide safety communications for the event, which takes place on the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney at the end of October.

Operators are required to staff about 25 checkpoints along the 111km course from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. This is a great event to get out and operate portable for the weekend. If you're new to this kind of thing, you can be paired up with a more experienced WICEN operator. Why not give it a go?

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about how to use your Amateur Radio skills in times of need, you can email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN nets take place every 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 Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz and 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 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 with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

At the Clubs general meeting yesterday, Paul VK2ICQ spoke about enhancements in the latest version of Chirp Next radio programming software. He followed this with presentations on the latest OpenGD77 firmware for the Retevis RT3S and similar radios, and the enhanced firmware for the very popular Quansheng hand-held transceivers.

Thank you to the many members who have recently paid their renewals. Those who have not yet renewed are requested to please do so as soon as possible; see July Oxtales for details. The Members portal on the Club website will go live soon; club members have been emailed with further information, including how to activate their TidyHQ account to access the portal.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother was further delayed due to unavoidable circumstances, but is now scheduled for early September.

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.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The July 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The July issue features a detailed report on the Annual Field Day. You can also find the club 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 Club's Big Bash Field Day is coming up on Sunday the 22nd of October, at the club grounds, 6a York St, Teralba.

All the usual Field Day attractions will be there, including cooked bacon & egg rolls for breakfast, and a BBQ lunch; a hot coffee van on site, giant auction, raffles including a major radio raffle drawn at noon, plus a live band.

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*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 12th of September. 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.

At the September meeting, The Society's Projects organiser, Simon VK2KU, will be doing a presentation on his many projects that he has built or is planning; including LCD SWR meters, temperature-controlled solder stations, APRS units, noise cancellers and crowbar circuits; to name just a few. Come along and see what else he's got planned, that you could use in your own shack. Following Simon's presentation there is the usual excellent supper while enjoying a chinwag with your fellow Hams.

On Saturday the 16th of September, both the Mid-South Coast ARC and the IARS are having a picnic day at Fitzroy Falls on the Southern Highlands. These days always prove to be very popular – and all listeners are most welcome to come along. It's at the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Area, starting at 9:30am. There's a free sausage sizzle and drinks for all Club Members with the cost for visitors being just \$5. There will be lots of fun activities, in particular a 2-meter Fox Hunt. Please RSVP to IARS Secretary Keith VK2KQB via email on iars.keithb@gmail.com

The Society has three weekly Nets. The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. This Net often has check-ins from all over Australia and the world and is usually an open topic forum. You can join via the 2 metre repeaters, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, or from out of town via EchoLink, VK2BGL-R.

The Thursday afternoon net starts at noon, run by Chris VK2CY. This Net is made up of many retired Marine Radio Operators and Radio Inspectors, but everyone is welcome. As you can imagine their topics of discussion can be far reaching, informative and enlightening. The Net is also on the 2 metre repeaters 6850 and 6675, while out-of-towners can check-in on Echolink via VK2MT-R.

The third weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights, at 8:30pm; this Net is a get together of Society members having a casual chin-wag. 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, 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12th of September, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre, just south of Wollongong city.

Rob VK2MT

Vice-President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

[Play File: 19-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

Last week's Saturday Show and Tell featured a display of Philips radios, which progressed to an impromptu lecture historical presentation, before an enthusiastic group of visitors. Spanning the development of the FM320 through to the FM650 with all variations in between; specifications, and features; and examples of these radios, were on display.

All those attending were extremely satisfied – our thanks to Glenn for hosting the Show and Tell.

At Yesterday's September Business Meeting, remaining committee positions were appointed. The Club thanks those members who retired their positions for their efforts, and welcomes those volunteering their time for the coming year. We also welcome new Club members, Luis [*LOO-ee*] and Cheong [*CHONG*].

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 23cm repeater is back on site, and now linked with the 6m repeater. Today's VK2WI News bulletins will also be relayed through the 23cm repeater, along with 6m and 2m. D-Star, Rad-Net 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.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Clubs annual Springfest is on again this year, on Sunday the 17th of September.

Its at the Club Rooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – gates open from 8:30am.

Those interested in selling any type of radio gear can participate by booking a place for a table or car boot – the fee is payable in cash on the day.

There will also be a sausage sizzle lunch.

For details, contact the Club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN, via email secretary@bmarc.org or by phone on 0438 606 740.

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

*Advised by Irene VK2VAN
Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is this coming Wednesday the 6th of September, at the First Kyle Bay Scout Hall, Connells Point.

It's the Society's annual show and tell night - Members and visitors are encouraged to bring along items of radio and electronic equipment, or anything else that they find interesting and think that others would find interesting as well. It could be something that you have been working on last week, or something that you have had for decades. Variety is the spice of life.

The gathering is at the first Kyle Bay Scout Hall at Donnelly Park; Kyle Parade Connells Point, near South Hurstville. By public transport, take the 953 bus from Hurstville station.

Doors open about 7:15pm for a 7:30 start. After the show and tell, members and visitors can have a chat and partake in the Tea, Coffee, biscuits, and cake.

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.*

[Play File: 20-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.

Armidale District ARC net 3:30pm on 7133kHz.

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;

If you don't want to listen to VK2WI Evening News, the **Armidale District Amateur Radio Club** net is on from 7:30pm on 3633kHz.

Westlakes DMR Net, now from 8:00am, usually on Talkgroup 3802.

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.