

[ID 1 and BC Team Message]

[Play File: 14-E-ID1-BT10.wav]

Duration: 2m07s

In: [IDENT 1]

Out: "...VK2WI News on the air."

[Transcript]

I'm Mathew VK2YAP, President of ARNSW and a member of the VK2WI Broadcast team.

Today I'm asking for your help, to keep VK2WI News broadcasts on the air.

Amateur Radio New South Wales has produced and transmitted amateur radio news bulletins for many decades. In the early 1980s, because of the challenges of running good quality and reliable broadcasts, we built a dedicated facility at VK2WI Dural – it's still the only one of its kind in Australia.

VK2WI relies on the effort of our members, to volunteer each week in operating news broadcasts. But, the number of volunteers has been falling. At the current level, we will not be able to continue the regular schedule of broadcasts, into the new year.

For safety reasons, we require two people on site during broadcasts, which is one of the reasons we have an announcer and an engineer.... It also makes the callbacks easier.

The bottom line is this – we need more volunteers to step up; for mornings, for evenings – or for both.

We'll train you on the operation of all the systems here at Dural – so you won't be thrown in the deep end. With enough extra volunteers on the team, we would only need a time commitment of once a month, or even less.

Age is no barrier to taking part – we currently have one operator who is 13, and with his father, is now a regular on the team. I'm sure you've all heard him announcing, and I think he's pretty good, too.

If you enjoy VK2WI news broadcasts, and want them to have a future, we need you to volunteer. Contact us – by email to news@arnsw.org.au, or leave a message with the office, 02 9444 0123.

We need your help, to keep VK2WI News on the air.

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 again welcome listeners via 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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27th of October to the 2nd of November.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd
10cm Flux	128	128	135	140	147	159	158
Fredericksburg A-Index	9	13	21	10	6	6	4
Australian A-Index	6	14	14	8	10	6	5 estimated
T index	118	133	100	113	135	137	140

Solar activity reached R1 on the 27th, with one M-class flare, on the 1st of November, with two M-class flares, and on the 2nd with an M1.6 at 1222UTC and an M1.0 at 1921UTC.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was mostly quiet, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted, with some periods of enhancements; 15% during local day on the 27th and 29th of September, 15% through the 28th, 15% during local night on the 31st; 15% during local on the 1st of November, and 15% enhanced on the 2nd of November.

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

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance of R1 activity.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach G1 on the 5th due to glancing CME impacts, and on the 6th through until the 9th, due to high-speed solar wind streams.

Maximum usable frequencies should be from near predicted up to 15% enhanced on monthly values, with a chance of mild depressions on from the 5th to the 7th, depending on geomagnetic activity.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Space Weather Summary for October 2023

Compiled with data from the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre

Solar activity was generally low to moderate throughout October, with only seven low-level M class flares and no X class flares observed. The largest flare for the month was M2.5 on the 1st of October. None of these flares caused significant shortwave fadeouts in the Australian region.

The sunspot number in October was significantly below that of previous months. The Sun had several active sunspot regions on the visible disk at the start of the month, but by the middle of the month most sunspots were simple and not flare productive. This behaviour continued until the end of the month when sunspot numbers began to increase noticeably. Solar radiation storms conditions remained S0 for the entire month.

Australian region geomagnetic conditions remained below warning level throughout October, with a maximum Australian A-index of 16, on the 26th. Planetary geomagnetic conditions reached G1 level on 5th, 21st, 26th, 27th and 29th. These were all due to weak glancing CME blows. The G1 on the 29th was coupled with a co-rotating interaction region (CIR) that was moving ahead of a fairly large coronal hole wind stream.

Ionospheric maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were mostly near predicted monthly values or 15-20% enhanced throughout October. Mild depressions were observed in the Australian region on the 7th, 14th, 20th, 28th and 29th, following geomagnetic activity. The highest recorded daily T-index was 153 on the 16th, and the lowest was 85 on the 22nd.

Minor shortwave fadeouts were observed in the Australian region on the 1st and 10th, with no polar cap absorption or auroral absorption events observed.

Spread-F was observed at mid and low latitude sites over the period on the 4th, 5th, 13th to 16th, 18th to 21st, 23rd to 25th, and 28th to the 30th of October. Sporadic-E was frequently seen at low latitude sites during local night hours. Ionospheric scintillation was observed on the 7th, 12th, 13th, 17th, and 28th.

Australian T-index average for the month was 130.

[Play File: 15-E-ID2.wav]

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-FOAR063.wav]

Duration: 5m04s

In: "The other day..."

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.

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 17-E-WNS1105.wav]

Duration: 1m47s

In: "There are no ..."

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

[Transcript]

There are no WICEN events to report this week, but fire season is upon us, so let's be ready to assist. Listeners might like to check out the featured "Fire Season Toolkit" post on the Manly-Warringah Radio Society web site, which has a list of apps and websites to keep you safe and informed this summer. There's a link in the text edition of this news.

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about how you can 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, P25, 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.

WICEN is also on Facebook, and on X @wicennsw; 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 X: <https://twitter.com/wicennsw>]

["National" WICEN on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124735400158>]

[MWRS Fire Season Toolkit: <https://www.mwrs.org.au/2019/12/14/your-fire-season-toolkit/>]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Last Sunday morning on the 29th of October the club provided safety communications for the popular 42nd Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic. After several days in the lead up to the weekend, the weather was perfect for the event which recorded very fast times for the lead bilycarts. The main race was followed by a well-supported children's race over a short course. There were no incidents.

Coming up later this week is the monthly coffee morning, at 10am this Thursday the 9th of November, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

Later in the month is the Club's November Friday Night Get together, 7pm on Friday the 17th, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

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 September 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The September issue features articles by Paul VK2ICQ, on recent technical presentations at ORARC meetings. 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.*

[Play File: 18-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.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink services, are fully functional.

The 23cm repeater is now linked with the 6m repeater.

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

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome; the Club is family friendly and will be introducing new activities in the new year, suitable for everyone.

There are several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin – and the Club is continuing to ‘trial’ DMR and 6 metre nets – see the Club's website for details.

The Club's next Foundation Weekend is on the 9th and 10th of December, with assessments for Standard and Advanced licences available on Sunday the 10th as well. The next Upgrade class series will start in February 2024.

Courses and exam days do fill-up quickly, so please contact Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN via email to; 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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Firstly, we have an update about the Society's 2m VK2RDX repeater, at Mt Bindo. This repeater has been operating for over 40 years, covering much of Sydney and over the western side of the Blue Mountains. But last summer, the repeater suffered from a weak but recurring interfering digital signal on the input. Due to the large footprint of the repeater, attempts to locate the source, were unsuccessful.

It was reluctantly decided to add CTCSS tone access to activate the receiver. While this won't stop the interference from blocking weaker signals, it will prevent the repeater from keying up constantly and putting excessive drain on the batteries.

From midday yesterday, users of the repeater will now need to transmit a 91.5Hz tone when accessing the repeater. VK2RDX is still on 146.65MHz with -600kHz offset, and the UHF RadNet DMR repeater remains unchanged. Thanks to Josh VK2MES for his efforts in implementing this change.

The Society's next Foundation course and licence assessment session is on the weekend of the 25th and 26th of November, at Sutherland. The Foundation course includes a review of the Foundation Licence Manual, practical training, and assessments of theory, regulations and practical. Candidates will need to get a copy of the Foundation Licence Manual, and be familiar with the contents, prior to the weekend.

Standard and Advanced licence assessments are also available on Sunday the 26th. Candidates will need to have undertaken self-study for these assessments, prior to attending the session.

Bookings close this coming Friday the 10th of November, to meet the lead time requirements of the government-selected outsourced examination provider, AMC; and Late bookings cannot be accepted. For any further information please contact our education team via email to education@sgars.org.

More information about the St George Amateur Radio Society can be found on the web, at sgars.org.

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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.

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, now on 146.975MHz.

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: starts at 8pm 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 146.975MHz and EchoLink node 1474.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

[...continues]

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;

Besides VK2WI Evening News, the **Armidale District Amateur Radio Club** net is also 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.