

[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.

Coming up next Sunday the 26th of November, is another “Members Morning Meetup” here at VK2WI Dural.

The site will be open from about 9:30am, with Trash and Treasure, boot sales and disposals tables available. The Centenary Building will be open as well, with tea, coffee, and cold drinks; and, 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 once again welcome members interested in the Radio Experimenter’s Group.

We received a note from the St George Amateur Radio Society, about their VK2RDX repeater at Mount Bindo in the Western Blue Mountains. This repeater team was on site yesterday to undertake some maintenance, so the 2m repeater was off air for a little while; we understand that everything is now back on air and working well.

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.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the Group is coming up next weekend; Sunday the 26th of November, after the Member's Morning Meetup and Trash & Treasure.

The group aims to support those members interested in building, repairing, or modifying their own radio equipment. The meeting will start at noon in the Centenary building here at VK2WI Dural, and includes a show-and-tell for attendees to show some piece of equipment that they have been working on, followed by a technical presentation and discussion of experimentation with radio and electronic equipment.

For those who are looking for something new in Amateur Radio, the Radio Experimenters Group can be what you are looking for.

So come along to the members meet up and Trash and Treasure next Sunday morning, then stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting from noon.

*Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.*

RadNet Update

We've had a bit of news about the ARNSW RadNet over the last few weeks; if you're still a bit unsure what its all about, Matt VK2FLY has the story...

[Play File: 15-B-RNT-9.wav]

Duration: 2m37s

In: Amateur Radio New South ...

Out:....For ARNSW RadNet.

[Transcript]

Amateur Radio New South Wales' radio network's 13 repeaters form part of the VKDMR network, a network of almost 60 repeaters and over 250 hotspots. The network is not only large by amateur standards but also large by commercial standards, rivaling the NSW Government GRN and dwarfing even some commercial networks.

It's an amazingly powerful resource for the amateur community. Being digital, the network has a lot in common with a modern mobile phone network, as it uses TDMA technology. This means multiple people can use the same frequency at the same time to have different conversations, just like mobile handsets.

With the hard work of radio clubs, especially on the east coast, coverage is getting better and better. The Sydney basin is very well covered, with almost seamless handheld coverage from Wollongong to the Central Coast. Thanks to the help from Newcastle clubs, there is excellent coverage in the Newcastle, Port Stephens, and Maitland areas. Coverage extends through the Great Lakes and up to Coffs Harbour, with clubs like Oxley hosting two repeaters.

DMR handsets are relatively inexpensive, ranging from less than \$200. And because it's digital, even a cheap handheld performs as well as a \$2,000 mobile radio. Some handsets even boast roaming features, allowing you to simply dial up a talk group and go, no matter where you are.

The best thing about DMR is its ability to host multiple users and multiple QSOs at the same time. Users can be listening to their favourite club news broadcast while another club hosts a net, all the while the call channel is available for someone to call a mate to coordinate that eyeball, just like you would on a mobile phone. Some radios can even send text messages, just like on your mobile.

So, if your club is thinking of hosting an event, consider how it can utilize the VKDMR network. And if your club currently doesn't have any DMR repeaters and wants to join the network, check out our website at arnsw.net for details on how to apply.

Users can find out more detail about the VKDMR Network on the website vkdmr.net or ask a question on the official VKDMR Facebook page.

Better still, pull out your handheld and give us a call on 505. There are plenty of people who would love to head to one of the 10 talk groups and have a chat or share more on DMR setup and configuration.

Till next time, this has been Matt VK2FLY for VKDMR and the ARNSW Radnet.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 10th to the 16th of November.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm Flux	144	142	137	134	124	119	118
Fredericksburg A-Index	7	4	10	15	5	11	7
Australian A-Index	6	1	9	10	7	9	6 estimated
T index	128	131	132	115	125	108	109

Solar activity reached R1 on the 11th with an M1.2 flare at 1730UTC, on the 14th with an M1.0, and on the 15th with another M1.0. Activity remained below warning threshold on other days.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region remained below warning threshold, but a weak geomagnetic impulse of 22 nanoTesla, was observed on the 12th at 0612UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with enhancement of 20% observed during local day on the 11th; depression of 15% during local day on the 13th; and enhancement of 20% during the day and 15% at night on the 14th.

The forecast, issued on the 17th of November, through until the 23rd;

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

Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 on the 19th or 20th, due to the arrival of a CME first observed on the 16th.

Maximum usable frequencies may be depressed up to 15% on the 20th at local dawn due to possible geomagnetic activity. MUFs near predicted monthly values to 15% enhanced on other days.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Looking back to October, we had a;

Minimum of 119, Average of 144, and a Maximum of 166
With peak dates from the 1st to the 16th.

So far for November, we have a;

Minimum of 118, Average of 137, and a Maximum of 159
With peak dates from the 1st to the 12th, and the 27th to the 30th.

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 139, and a Maximum of 155
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th, and the 23rd 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>]

[Play File: 16-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: 17-FOAR102.wav]

Duration: 2m25s

In: "The evolution of..."

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: 18-E-WNS1119.wav]

Duration: 1m30s

In: "There are no ..."

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

[Transcript]

There are no events to report this week, but fire season is upon us, so WICEN expects to be busy in the coming weeks.

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 Chatswood 2m FM repeater, 147.150MHz, with net controller VK2WIC; the 6.30pm net will be on the WICEN VHF DMR network, followed at 6.45pm by a net on WICEN's VRA P25 channel.

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.

Yesterday, a working bee at the VK2RPM site on Middle Brother Mountain saw the 70cm RadNet DMR repeater put on the air. The repeater is on 438.525 MHz with a minus 5 MHz offset, replacing the analogue FM/C4FM repeater previously on this frequency. This repeater is provided with the support of ARNSW RadNet, and the Club would like to thank the working bee participants; Paul VK2ICQ, Lyle VK2SMI, Rob VK2CRF, Henry VK2ZHE, Stuart VK2BMX and Charlie VK2GMT. Special thanks go to Stuart and Charlie for travelling up from Sydney for the day to assist with installation.

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend will be held in Port Macquarie on Saturday and Sunday the 25th and 26th of November.

Coming up in December is the Club's Christmas party; at 10:30am on Saturday the 2nd in the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery at Lake Cathie. The December Coffee Morning is at 10am on Thursday the 14th of December at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster; and the December Friday Night Get is at 7pm on Friday the 15th in the SES Building in 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. The November issue is in preparation and will be published soon. 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: 19-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The club rooms at Kariong are open on Saturdays from 10:30am, and next Saturday the 25th of November, is the Club's regular Show & Tell. Come along and talk about something that interests you. Feel free to either bring something physically or use our data projector. 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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Christmas dinner is at Camden Golf Club "Studley Park", 50 Lodges Rd Narellan, on 25 November commencing at 7:00pm. Members wishing to attend must RSVP to Derrick VK2DEK by tomorrow, that's Monday the 20th of November.

The final Monthly General Meeting for 2023 will be on Wednesday the 29th of November, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown.

The meeting starts at 7:30pm, and visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

Weekly nets are on Thursday evenings from 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access, and is also on EchoLink.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au, and Facebook, by searching for VK2FG.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

[Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

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

[Play File: 20-E-MRS1119-ID4.wav]

Duration: 2m19s

In: " This Wednesday is..."

[Out:....IDENT 4]

[Transcript]

VK2MB portable (or who knows, maybe VI100MB portable!) will be active next weekend in the Spring VHF/UHF Field Day. Hope to catch you on the air!

The club's September lecture from Tim VK2BT about his trip to the Friedrichshafen hamfest and various European museums, is now up on the YouTube channel VK2MB-TV: just search for the club callsign VK2 Mike Bravo.

November has five Wednesdays, which means that it will soon be time for another Fifth Wednesday Show and Tell night at the club. The theme for this one is "Computer-based gear or projects". Bring out your Raspberry Pis and computer- or microcontroller-based projects. As usual there are prizes for Best Gear and Best Story, with a bonus prize this time of a book, "Raspberry Pi for Radio Amateurs", published by Elektor Electronics.

A reminder that the featured blog post on the club web site is "Your Fire Season Toolkit", an update on the article first posted during the Black Summer fires of 2019-2020. It contains a rundown of useful apps and web sites, plus some of the best emergency services audio feeds, so you can stay safe and informed this summer. A direct link can be found in the text edition of this news, and you'll also find it on the front page of the club web site.

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](https://www.mwrs.org.au). The club is also on Facebook, X, and YouTube: just search for the club callsign, Victor Kilo 2 Mike Bravo.

*73 Richard VK2SKY,
Publicity Officer for the Manly-Warringah Radio Society*

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

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

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

[MWRS on X: <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, 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.

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.

Armidale District ARC net 8:30pm on 3633kHz.

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 8:00am, usually on Talkgroup 3802.

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM.

WICEN NSW nets; 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater, 6:30pm on DMR or HF, and 6:45pm on P25. Check website for details.