

## **In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;**

General enquires can be directed to the ARNSW office via email, to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message on 02 9444 0123.

With many radio clubs suspend activities over the holiday period, VK2WI News would like updates on activities planned for 2024. You can email the details about your upcoming events, to [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au).

This morning, is the last VK2WI News Bulletin for 2023. Bulletins will resume – in the morning only – on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

We would like to thank those members that have responded to our recent calls to volunteer. We still need further volunteers for the VK2WI roster, and are also seeking expressions of interest from members interested in remote roles. Contact the office, or [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au) for more information.

VK2WI Dural is unique facility, built and owned by members of Amateur Radio New South Wales. The site was established in the 1950s and the production and transmission of amateur radio news bulletins has been a core activity of the station – and the membership – since then.

We would also like to thank the operators that join their regional repeaters into our network of automated relays. These Include the Hunter Radio Group with VK2RNC on 146.975; The Central Coast ARC with VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725; in the Blue Mountains, to the west of Sydney, the St.George ARS with VK2RDX on 146.650 and to the south, the Illawarra ARS VK2RMP on 53.650 and 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. We thank these clubs for their continued support of our news service. We also wish to thank the ANZEL group, with John VK3HJQ, Norm ZL4NORM and Dave GW8SZL for relays of our Evening news via the EchoLink network and conference servers.

## ***Weekend Solar and Geophysical Report***

This report takes a brief look at the expected space weather conditions over the next few days, and in particular, events that might affect radio propagation conditions. Data is supplied with thanks to the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar activity reached R1 level on Friday, due to an M3.3 flare at 0004UTC. Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate, with a slight chance of R1 flaring, for the next few days. 10cm solar flux should be around 180.

There are currently ten numbered sunspot regions visible on the solar disk, but none are particularly large or magnetically complex. A number of CMEs were observed on Friday, but none are considered to be geoeffective.

Geomagnetic conditions in the Australian and Antarctic regions were quiet on Friday and are expected to remain quiet until at least Monday.

Geomagnetic conditions in the Australian region were mostly quiet on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and are expected to remain quiet on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

HF propagation saw Maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) near predicted monthly values, with enhancements of up to 15% visible in the northern Australian region during local night. Spread F was observed at Hobart during local night. Sporadic E was observed at Brisbane and Canberra at the end of the day. MUFs are generally expected to be near predicted monthly values over the weekend and until Monday. A T index around 100 is expected for the next few days, matching the monthly predicted value. However, Shortwave fadeouts are possible.

## Foundations of Amateur Radio

This series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB, continues a weekly examination, of the building blocks of Amateur Radio.

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*Duration: 3m00s*

*In: "Today I want..."*

*Out: "...I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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For more information about this series, including audio, transcripts and other useful amateur radio resources, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com); and you can contact Onno by email, to [cq@vk6flab.com](mailto:cq@vk6flab.com).

## [ID 2 and WICEN News]

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### [Play File: 06-M-ID2-WM1224.wav]

*Duration: 2m42s*

*In: [IDENT 2]*

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

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*[Transcript]*

*WICEN News*

*Despite the recent rain, around Sydney at least, many fires (and floods) are still occurring around the state, so there's always a chance of WICEN activations this summer.*

*A reminder that Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events will be back, starting in February. WICEN will provide communications for many of these events, so there are opportunities for members to participate, both in Sydney and in regional towns. These are great "starter" events for new or rusty WICEN members, as they last only a couple of hours. WICEN also provides the radios for these events, so you don't even need to bring your own gear. Why not give one a go? You'll find a link to the events list 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 to benefit the community, you can email [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org).*

*WICEN nets have finished for 2023, so that our net controllers can enjoy an end of year break. Nets will resume on 7 January 2024, with the 6pm net 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](http://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](http://wicen.org.au).*

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[ Memory Walk and Jog Events: <https://www.memorywalk.com.au/find-an-event> ]

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

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

[ WICEN NSW on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WICENNSW> ]

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

[ WICEN NSW on X: <https://twitter.com/wicennsw> ]

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and starting off the Club's activities for 2024 is the January General meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, in the SES building, Port Macquarie.

Then, the next Coffee Morning is at 10am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster; and the January Friday Night Get together is at 7pm on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The club's very popular 2024 calendar will be available at all of the upcoming Club gatherings.

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend will be held early next year once the new arrangements with ACMA are in place. Candidates for the Foundation Licence and for assessments for all grades of licence should register their interest via the contact form on the ORARC website.

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](http://orarc.org). The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The November 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The club would like to wish all a happy and enjoyable Christmas season along with some great DX. The club rooms at Kariong are now closed, and will reopen for the January general meeting on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 6 metre repeater is currently off the air. D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink and 70cm, are fully functional.

The Somersby WebSDR is online at [websdr.ccarc.org.au](https://websdr.ccarc.org.au); its configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

The Club's Regular Morning Tea Net, and the Thursday Night net, will resume mid-January.

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](https://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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

An update on the Society's November training and assessment weekend; the results have come through, and all seven Foundation candidates, and one advanced, were successful. So listen out on air for some new callsigns.

The Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest will again be held next year, with the 80-metre segment on the evening of Saturday 18th 2024 and 40-metre segment on the afternoon of Sunday 19th May 2024.

The Society's weekly 2 metre net on the VK2RLE repeater, 146.800MHz, will continue on Thursday nights without a break.

Finally, the committee of the St. George Amateur Radio Society wishes all listeners a Healthy and Safe Christmas and New Year and looking forward to working you on air in 2024.

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

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## Activities on the air

Note that some activities may be on break or modified over the holiday period.

### *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.

**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

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

*[...continues]*



**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.

***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.