

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, 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.

For the next couple of weeks, VK2WI News will continue with bulletins in the morning only. 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 for more information.

Coming up next Sunday the 28th of January, 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.

[Play File: 04-M-ID1.wav]

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

Following on from the Member's Morning Meetup next Sunday, the next meeting of the Group is at noon, Sunday the 28th of January.

After the usual "show and tell" where attendees can stand up and share what they have been working on, there will be a presentation on "3D printing and laser cutting for Amateur Radio".

While 3D printing is not new, in the last few years the prices of machines has dropped, and they are now affordable for casual hobbyists. Many items useful to radio experimenting can be printed, such as; coil formers, PCB holders, antenna parts, mounting hardware, plugs and sockets to name but a few. In the same way, laser cutters can be used to produce items, like - custom boxes, coil formers, and mounting hardware.

Various items will be displayed and open-source software for designing 3D prints and laser cuts will be demonstrated, and attendees with items that they have 3D printed or laser cut are invited to bring them along.

If you're a member looking for something new in Amateur Radio, the Radio Experimenters Group can be what you are looking for. Come along to the members meet up and Trash and Treasure on the morning of Sunday 28th January, then stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting.

Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.

HF Antenna Day

Starting our presentation program for 2024, members are invited to the first in a series of HF antenna presentations. Its on Sunday the 25th of February 2024, here at VK2WI Dural.

This event will feature presentations of interest for all levels of expertise. It's a chance to;

- Gain insights into portable operation techniques
- Learn strategies to improve your home station setup
- Engage with practical demonstrations led by experienced operators
- Connects with specialists ready to provide assistance and advice

Reserve your spot now by emailing events@arnsw.org.au

That's events@arnsw.org.au for a day of practical learning about the world of HF antennas, on Sunday the 25th of February.

*Advised by AI VK2OK
Event Co-ordinator for ARNSW.*

ARNSW 2024 AGM

The 2024 AGM of Amateur Radio New South Wales will be a hybrid meeting, both online and here at VK2WI Dural, on Saturday the 13th of April.

At each AGM, either four or five board members stand down and are eligible for re-election, depending on the year.

To be eligible to be a board member, the constitution requires that you have been a member of ARNSW for a minimum of the past three consecutive years, as must your proposer and seconder. As you are standing to become a board member of a registered company, you are also required to obtain a director ID upon election, if you don't already have one.

This year, we have five board members standing down. While all are eligible for re-election, some may choose not to renominate. So, if you are an eligible member, please consider nominating for the board - bring your skills and passion for Amateur Radio, to help ARNSW continue to evolve and grow into the future.

Nominations close 42 days prior to the AGM, on Friday the 1st of March 2024. This is also the closing date for notification of any Special Resolutions to be put to the members at the AGM.

*73 Eric van de Weyer VK2VE
Secretary, Amateur Radio NSW*

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 was low on Friday, with no significant solar flares. Solar activity is expected to remain low to moderate, with a slight chance of R1 flaring, for the next few days. 10cm solar flux should be around 145.

There are currently nine numbered sunspot regions visible on the solar disk, but they all appear to be stable. A very faint CMEs was observed on Friday, but modelling suggests it will not have a significant impact on the Earth.

Geomagnetic conditions in the Australian and Antarctic regions were quiet on Friday, with an isolated period of G1 at Mawson. Mostly quiet conditions are expected for the next few days.

HF propagation saw Maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) enhancements of up to 15% in the southern Australian region, during local daylight hours. Sporadic-E was observed at Hobart, Niue Island Norfolk Island and Canberra, during local dawn hours. MUFs are expected to be enhanced 15-40% over the next few days.

A T index around 160 is expected for the next few days, well above the monthly predicted 106; However, isolated 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.

[Play File: 05-FOAR064.wav]

Duration: 2m03s

In: "A recurring topic ... "

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 WICEN News]

[Play File: 06-M-ID2-WM0121.wav]

Duration: 2m36s

In: [IDENT 2]

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

[Transcript]

WICEN News

WICEN will provide communications for Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events throughout 2024. The next one is at Barrine Drive in the ACT on 25 February.

The Memory Walks are great "starter" events for new or rusty WICEN members, as they take 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.

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 call in.

Tonight, 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 HF, on or near 7110kHz LSB. Net controller VK2WIZ will announce the call-in sequence and other information.

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; there, you can find photos and information about recent and upcoming WICEN activities. Links are in the text edition of this news.

For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at wicen.org.au.

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

[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 their February general meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The Next Coffee Morning is at 10am on Thursday the 8th of February, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster. 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 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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The January 2024 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" will be published this week, and past issues are on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

This year is the 60th anniversary of Westlakes; and their first regular car boot sale for 2024, is coming up on Saturday the 24th of February. 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, and a raffle as well. 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*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 7th of February.

After more than 20 years at the Kyle Bay Scout Hall, the Society will now be holding their gatherings at Mortdale RSL club. The Club is in Macquarie Place, a 5-minute walk from Mortdale railway station. The club has excellent dining facilities and members are encouraged to arrive early for a bite to eat before the gathering.

At this gathering, Peter VK2KFP will be sharing his experience building modern 2m, 6m and 70cm power amplifiers. Topics include system design, test equipment, tune-up and sourcing of hard-to-find components. We will also cover pitfalls and traps, and what happens when things go wrong!

Listeners are also reminded of the Society's weekly voice net on Thursday night at 8pm on the 2 metre Engadine repeater – 146.800 MHz with a negative 600kHz offset and no subtone. There is also a digital net on Tuesday evening at 8pm, with various slow scan TV modes and other data modes.

And don't forget, the society's VHF 2m Summer Contest on now, until the 29th of February. It's open to all licence grades, including Foundation, and both analogue and digital modes. For more details, check the website, at www.sgars.org.

All are invited to the next gathering of the Society, now at Mortdale RSL club, 7:30pm on Wednesday the 7th of February.

*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 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.

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 10am on 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.