

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

We have been advised of the passing of Neville Chivers VK2YO, at Tweed Heads on Friday the 2nd of February, at the age of 85.

Neville had been a licenced radio amateur for over 50 years, and was a long-time member of ARNSW and the WIA.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Neville.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Neville Chivers VK2YO.

[ID 1 and ARNSW Message]

[Play File: 14-E-ID1-AR1.wav]

Duration: 2m59s

In: [IDENT 1]

Out: "...Matt VK2FLY for ARNSW."

[Transcript]

Amateur radio operators are a remarkably diverse ensemble, each of us tuning into the world's frequencies from all walks of life.

We represent every age, ethnicity, and personality type—from those of us who relish the sound of our own voices to the quiet observer, content to listen from the sidelines. What unites us is our shared passion for amateur radio; a hobby that transcends mere interest to become a cornerstone of our community and camaraderie.

Since 1919, local amateur radio clubs across Australia have been the heartbeat of this hobby. They offer more than just meetings; they are a hub for contesting, field days, sniffer hunts, auctions, and regular catch-up. These clubs stand as proud promoters of our cherished hobby, safeguarding the airwaves and fostering a spirit of innovation and friendship among their members.

However, like any community, we face our share of challenges. It's natural for a group as varied as ours to encounter conflicts, but it's how we handle these disagreements, that define us.

History has shown that when punitive actions replace dialogue and understanding, everybody loses. It's not the differences of opinion that are the issue; it's the reluctance to embrace diversity and learn from it.

This weekend, let's all take a moment to reflect on the values of our local clubs and the bonds we share as members. Think about what the club means to you, and consider what it means to your fellow operators.

How can you contribute to a more inclusive and supportive environment? If disagreements arise, remember the bigger picture, and agree to disagree when necessary. Our hobby, and the clubs that support it, are far greater than the sum of their parts.

The strength of our community lies in our ability to unite in the face of adversity, to celebrate our differences, and to forge ahead with mutual respect and understanding. Let's commit to being ambassadors of goodwill within our clubs, ensure that the legacy of amateur radio in Australia continues to be one of innovation, friendship, and inclusiveness.

Together, we can ensure that amateur radio remains not just a hobby, but a lifeline that connects us to the world and to each other in meaningful ways.

At ARNSW, we believe in these ideals and will rigorously promote them and ask that our members, friends and fellow amateurs do the same.

This has been Matt VK2FLY for ARNSW.

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

VK2WI News has now resumed both Morning and Evening News bulletins on Sunday. Morning Bulletins will continue with a relay of WIA National News, the Local news including news features, weekend propagation report, club items and a summary of activities on the air.

Evening News bulletins contain expanded club news, technical reports on propagation, along with news and technical features. Coming up next week is the first in a new technical feature series about DMR – Digital Mobile Radio – presented by Matt VK2FLY. We will also be introducing some new segments to evening bulletins over the coming months.

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.

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.

HF Antenna Day

Starting our presentation program for 2024, members are invited to the first in a series of HF antenna presentations. It starts at 10am 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, from 10am 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 will be 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. There's a link to a nomination form on the home page of the ARNSW website.

Nominations close 42 days prior to the AGM, at 10am on Saturday the 2nd of March 2024. This is also the closing date for notification of any Special Resolutions to be put to the members at the AGM. Note that if you are sending an item or nomination by mail, please post them in time to arrive by Friday the 1st of March.

*73 Eric VK2VE
Secretary, Amateur Radio NSW*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 26th of January to the 1st of February.
First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st
10cm Flux	157	148	141	140	135	136	137
Fredericksburg A-Index	4	4	5	7	8	7	4
Australian A-Index	6	4	8	8	5	4	5 estimated
T index	133	128	140	128	137	114	140

Solar activity reached R2 warning level on the 29th, with an M1.2 flare at 0140UTC, and an M6.8 at 0438UTC. Otherwise, activity was at low to moderate levels, remaining below warning threshold.

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

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancement of 15% during local day and 20% during the night were observed on the 28th of January. The 30th saw enhancement of 20% during the day and 25% at night; the 31st was depressed 20% during local daylight hours, and the 1st of February saw enhancement of 15% during local night.

The forecast, issued on the 2nd of February, through until the 8th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1, with increasing activity likely at the end of the week.

Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 if G2 on the 4th due to a combination coronal hole and CME impact G1 is possible on the 5th, otherwise activity should be at low to moderate levels.

Maximum usable frequencies may be depressed up to 15% on the 4th and 5th; otherwise near predicted with some enhancements expected.

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 January, we had a;

Minimum of 126, Average of 167, and a Maximum of 196
With peak dates from the 9th to the 18th, and the 22nd to the 25th

As we start February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 135, Average of 155, and a Maximum of 175
With peak dates from the 11th to the 24th

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 145, Average of 163, and a Maximum of 175
With peak dates from the 6th to the 19th.

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: 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-FOAR083.wav]

Duration: 3m06s

In: "During the week ... "

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-WNS0204.wav]

Duration: 1m58s

In: " WICEN NSW ..."

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

[Transcript]

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events throughout 2024. The next one is near Jervis Bay on 17 February. Operators are now being sought for the following event in the ACT on the 25th.

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.

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 user-activated 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; 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/>]

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

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

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

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and their February Coffee Morning is at 10am this coming Thursday the 8th of February, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

The February Friday Night Get together is at 7pm on Friday the 19th at the SES Building in 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 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" 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.

*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*

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.

The next General Meeting of the club will be held at 1pm at the club premises. Details will be distributed by email this week.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 6-metre repeater, D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink, 70cm and 23cm, are all fully functional. The WICEN UHF MMDVM is still having problems.

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 Regular Morning Tea Net is on at 10am on weekdays. The weekly club net is on Thursday Night at 8pm, with last week's discussion, speculating what we'd do if we won that night's Powerball. There were some imaginative responses...

Both club 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.

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!

And don't forget, the society's VHF 2m Summer Contest continues 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.*

[ID4 and Activities on the air]

[Play File: 18-E-ID4-AOTA1.wav]

Duration: 5m40s

In: [IDENT 4]

Out: "...the office phone, 02 9444 0123."

[Transcript]

I'm Mathew VK2YAP.... And I'm Stuart VK2BMX.

It's time for your quick trip around the bands for this week, with; 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 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.

St George ARS digital net, 8pm on 146.8MHz

Illawarra ARS 80m net at 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

[...continues]

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.

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.

*Don't forget to get your activities on the air here... send us through the details of your activity!
Email the details, to news@arnsw.org.au... or leave a message on the office phone, 02 9444 0123.*
