

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

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from both Sydney, and across New South Wales. We would welcome any updates from club and groups; simply email [news@arnsw.org.au](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au) – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. Don't forget, we always welcome reports on the outcome of recent activities, as well.

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.

Tonight, we welcome listeners on 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.

## From the Secretary

An update for members of Amateur Radio New South Wales, on the Ballot and upcoming AGM.

The AGM and election material went was sent to members early last week, by post or email. Hopefully, even accounting for postal delays, all material has been received by now.

If you are a member and have not received all the material, please contact the office urgently. It may be because you are no longer financial and need to renew, as both sets of information only go out to current financial members. You can contact us by email at [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), by mail to PO Box 6044, Dural DC 2158 or by phone to 02 9444 0123 and leave a message on the voicemail.

A note about proxies for the AGM – they must NOT be sent in your ballot envelope, as we will not receive them in time. The deadline for proxies is 48 hours before the meeting, but the ballot is not collected and processed until after this date.

Proxy forms should either be posted to PO Box 6044 Dural DC 2158 (NOT 6014, which is for ballot material only) or by email to [office@arnsw.org.au](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au) in time to reach us by the proxy deadline, which is 11am on Thursday 25th of April. Since this is ANZAC day, posted items will need to arrive by last mail on Wednesday 24th April – and it is advisable to allow enough time for delays in the postal network.

*Eric VK2VE  
Secretary, Amateur Radio NSW.*

## HF Antenna Day – part two...

Continuing with our presentation program for 2024, members of Amateur Radio NSW are invited to the second part of our HF antenna presentation. It starts at 10am on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, here at VK2WI Dural – that's the day after the AGM.

This event will feature presentations of interest for all levels of expertise, and a further range of specialist presenters. It's an opportunity to;

Gain insights into portable operation;  
Learn techniques and strategies to enhance your home station;  
And connect with specialists, eager to assist and guide others.

The event is catered, and RSVP are essential for seating and catering purposes – we are not able to admit 'walk-ins' on the day.

Places are limited, so reserve your spot now by emailing [events@arnsw.org.au](mailto:events@arnsw.org.au), including your name, callsign and contact information.

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

## HMAS Vampire Update

We're celebrating one year of Amateur Radio on board HMAS Vampire, at the Australian National Maritime Museum. With more, here's Colin VK2JCC;

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**[Play File: 15-B-2VMP-4.wav]**

Duration: 1m17s

In: Join us in...

Out:....Vampire Project.

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[Transcript]

*Join us in commemorating an incredible milestone, the one-year anniversary of amateur radio operations aboard HMAS Vampire, moored at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Since its inception, our dedicated team of 11 operators have been making waves in the amateur radio community, showcasing the rich history and vibrant presence of maritime communication.*

*Every week, mainly Saturdays, our radio room comes alive with activity, offering a diverse range of CW, voice, slow scan TV, FT8 and 2 metre FM. In just the past 12 months, we've established contact with 40 countries, connecting enthusiasts from around the globe and fostering cultural exchange. But our impact extends beyond the airwaves, with approximately 50 visitors frequenting the radio room, many of whom are international guests.*

*We're becoming a focal point for maritime history enthusiasts and radio aficionados alike. Step aboard HMAS Vampire, and experience firsthand the nostalgia of bygone era as our radio room echoes the days when the ship was commissioned and served as a vital hub for receiving and sending messages. Our array of antennas includes a 20 meter vertical, 40 meter vertical, an off-centre fed dipole, and the unique flower pot antenna for two meters, which ensures that we're always ready to make connections and share our passion for amateur radio.*

*As we reflect on the past year's achievements, we invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of camaraderie, exploration, and innovation that defines amateur radio aboard HMAS Vampire. Whether you're a seasoned operator or a curious visitor, there's something for everyone at our radio room. Visit us at the Australian National Maritime Museum and dive into the fascinating world of amateur radio aboard one of Australia's most iconic naval vessels. Keep those antennas tuned and your signals strong.*

*Colin, VK2JCC, team leader of the HMAS Vampire project.*

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# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of April.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	121	123	125	125	124	131	144
Fredericksburg A-Index	10	8	5	8	10	7	6
Australian A-Index	10	7	5	3	5	5	2 estimated
T index	115	115	114	111	111	117	117

Solar activity remained below warning level from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, activity was R2 with an M5.4 flare at 1706UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values.

The forecast, issued on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, through until the 18<sup>th</sup>;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1 levels, with a slight chance of R2.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain low.

Maximum usable frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values.

*Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.*

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished March, we had a;

Minimum of 127, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 209  
With peak dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

So far for April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 112, Average of 136, and a Maximum of 160  
With peak dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 129, and a Maximum of 135  
With peak dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*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>]

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**[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]**

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## 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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### **[Play File: 17-FOAR106.wav]**

*Duration: 3m13s*

*In: You know you've ...*

*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).

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. At the April meeting, it was decided to move Friday Night informal get-togethers and Monthly Committee Meetings to the Friday night *before* each Monthly General Meeting. So, there will not be a Friday Night Get together in April – the next one will be 7pm on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre repeater now transmits a 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone on its output, so that stations suffering from interference on 147.0 MHz can utilize CTCSS to mute receivers in the absence of a transmission from the repeater. CTCSS is not required to access the repeater.

It is now time to plan to attend the Club's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day. It is at the Wauchope Showground Hall on Saturday and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June, during the Kings Birthday Long Weekend. The Field Day Dinner will be at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. Don't forget to book accommodation early, as the area is a very popular holiday destination during the Long Weekend. You can camp at the Wauchope Showground in your tent, caravan, or motor home; details are on the Wauchope Showground 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 newly published March 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.*



## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Kariong club rooms are open on Saturdays from 10:30am. As always, members and visitors are most welcome.

It is with regret that the Club announces the cancellation of the Central Coast field day, for this year. The venue has cancelled the booking, and the Club was unable to find a suitable replacement site on short notice.

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 repeater has been replaced by a Quantar, so is currently only operates in P25 or Analogue FM modes.

The Club's Weekly net is on Thursday Nights at 8pm. It's on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater – 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone, and on the CCARCNSW and HAM EchoLink conferences. It 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](http://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 next meeting of the Club's is on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May at the clubrooms, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm.

The guest speaker for May will be Russell Bryant; who was originally planned to present in April but had to postpone. Russel will provide a presentation on radio scanning.

The clubrooms are also open twice a month from about 10am, on the morning of the first and third Saturdays – unless otherwise noted on the Club's Facebook page.

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome.

The Clubs has several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin – and a new net time, Sunday nights at 8pm. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, the net is on the Club's 6 metre repeater, and on the 70cm repeater on the second and fourth Sunday.

Licence Upgrade classes continue on Wednesday nights, both on Zoom and in-person at the Glenbrook clubrooms. With a 98% pass rate, the Club's courses and exam days do fill-up quickly; please contact Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN via email to; [secretary@bmarc.org](mailto:secretary@bmarc.org) for class dates, to register, or for more information.

More information about the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club, can be found on the website, at [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

*Steven VK2TSG*

*President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

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## Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

There are only a few hours left to submit your entry for the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge. Entries for Period 1 of 2024, close at 2359UTC on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April. Head to the contest page, [contest.fgarc.org.au](https://contest.fgarc.org.au), to find out more about this fun challenge and how you can submit your entry.

The next meeting of the club is at 7:30pm on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, at McDonald's Woodbine. Visitors wishing to learn more about Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club's repeater, VK2RFG, on 438.65MHz. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access - its also available via EchoLink.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at [fgarc.org.au](https://fgarc.org.au); and the Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG.

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

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest returns this year, on the weekend after Mother's Day – Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

The contest commemorates Don VK2NV, whose operating was almost exclusively on CW. Don was always willing to assist other amateur to learn, or to improve, their Morse Code.

The contest aims to encourage all amateurs – but especially those who don't usually operate Morse – to take part. Contest rules are simple – sent by hand and received by ear, no more than 10 words per minute. Past contests have seen many successful contacts at 5 words per minute or less.

If you learnt Morse code years ago to get you HF licences and then hid your Morse key at the back of the cupboard, this is a good opportunity to dig it out again and get practicing.

For some receiving practice, the ARNSW Morse practice beacon transmits at a variety of speeds on 3699kHz, and is on air 24 hours a day except during VK2WI News bulletins.

The Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest times – on 80 metres on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, and on 40 metres, Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

For more details on the contest, and other activities of the St George Amateur Radio Society's, visit the website, [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

*73 de Peter VK2EMU.*

## [Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

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

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### [Play File: 19-B-MRS0414.wav]

*Duration: 1m17s*

*In: "This Wednesday is..."*

*Out:....Manly-Warringah Radio Society*

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*[Transcript]*

*This Wednesday is lecture night at the Society, when Richard Hinsley VK2ARH (and W5ARH) will talk about the ADX (the Arduino Digital Transceiver) and the buildathon program he ran in 2023 for the Cowtown Amateur Radio Club in Forth Worth, Texas. His presentation will include a live demonstration of the transceiver.*

*The club had a working bee on Saturday, so as this goes to air our new KiwiSDR web-connected HF receiver should be performing well on its new antenna. You can access it via the club web site, or the link in the text edition of this news. Give it a try and tell us what you think!*

*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 [mwr.org.au](http://mwr.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*

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

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

[ MWRS on X: <https://x.com/VK2MB> ]

[ MWRS on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@VK2MB> ]

[ VK2MB KiwiSDR: <http://websdr.mwr.org.au:8073/> ]

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, and will be an audience participation night. Continuing the theme from last month, "*Bring and demonstrate your favourite amateur app*", it is expanded to include a "Show and Tell" of your favourite: antenna, handheld, SWR meter, QRP rig, measuring Instrument, etcetera. So come along and enjoy yourself with fellow Hams.

Many members and friends meet up in the bistro at the Rose Bay RSL club around 6 pm, prior to the meeting for dinner, and all are welcome.

Looking ahead... the June meeting is scheduled to be the Society's AGM. A special event is planned for July, which will be both in-person and streamed, which should be of interest to anybody with a licence. More details in future bulletins.

Weekly nets continue on Monday evenings, at 8pm on the VK2RBV repeater, with net controller usually Richard VK2XRC or Bob VK2NRC.

With most members on the new email reflector, the old platform will soon be discontinued. For any members yet to make the move, details can be found on the Society's website.

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, continue from Midday in the RSL bistro; these now adjourn after lunch to the ANZAC room for some practical activities.

Other activities – including monthly meetings – are continuing both in person and on Zoom. See the society's website for details.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to send in any enquiries.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## [ID4 and Activities on the air]

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### [Play File: 20-E-ID4-AOTA3.wav]

Duration: 5m32s

In: [IDENT 4]

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

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[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.

**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, on 146.975MHz.

The **Blue Mountains ARC** D MR Net at 7:30pm on Brandmeister 50520, hosted by Ben VK2AFK.

**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 7pm 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](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au)... or leave a message on the office phone, 02 9444 0123.*

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