

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.

Tonight, we also 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.

Events at ARNSW

Coming up in two weeks' time, Sunday the 29th of July, 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 invite members to come along to share their recent activities and projects, along with ideas for future activities and further developing the group. An ARNSW board representative will be in attendance, and we hope to have online facilities available.

A note from our News Editor.

For over 41 years, VK2WI has been Australia's only dedicated centre, continuously producing and transmitting amateur radio news and information bulletins on a regular basis.

We are still seeking volunteers to take on various roles. Many can be done remotely on a schedule that suits you, so you won't have to turn up at Dural on Sunday morning or Evening. Of course, if you would like to visit Dural on a Sunday, there's announcing and engineering places available, too.

We receive more than 250 callbacks reported to VK2WI each week, suggesting that many people find VK2WI News a useful service. With your help, we can continue to provide an even better news and information service.

For more information or any enquiries, contact the VK2WI News team via email, news@arnsw.org.au.

*Mathew VK2YAP
News Editor, VK2WI News.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of 7th to the 13th of July.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
10cm Flux	161	161	179	191	214	193	203
Fredericksburg A-Index	16	6	4	6	8	6	9
Australian A-Index	13	2	1	3	3	3	4 estimated
T index	96	85	82	82	86	96	100

Solar activity was at R1 level on the 7th of July, with one M-class flare, and the 10th of July, with two M-class flares. R2 conditions were observed on the 11th of July, with six M-class flares, the largest M6.8 at 1808UTC; and on the 12th, with four M-class flares. The 13th returned to R1 levels with one M2.1 flare.

Geomagnetic activity was low to moderate all week, remaining below warning threshold. A weak geomagnetic impulse of 10 nanoTesla, was observed at 1649UTC on the 13th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with enhancement of 35% observed during local night on the 7th.

The forecast, issued on the 14th of July, through until the 20th;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 to R2 levels, with a chance of R3 due to active solar region AR3372 which has been consistently producing M-class flares. Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach G1 to G2 levels on the 15th, and G1 on the 16th, due to anticipated effects of a CME first observed on the 11th. G0 conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum usable frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 16th and 17th resulting from increased geomagnetic activity; otherwise, mostly near predicted monthly values. Shortwave fadeouts are probable.

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 June, we had a;

Minimum of 144, Average of 162, and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 10th, and the 19th to the 24th.

So far for July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 154, Average of 179, and a Maximum of 214
With peak dates from the 11th to the 22nd

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 155, Average of 166, and a Maximum of 175
With peak dates from the 6th to the 9th, and the 14th to the 18th.

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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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-FOAR081.wav]

Duration: 7m06s

In: "Last week I went ..."

Out: "...not quite a goat yet"

For more information about this series, including audio, transcripts and other useful amateur radio resources, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com; you can follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

WICEN News

WICEN has been active this weekend at Murrumbo, northwest of Sydney, providing comms support for the SES “NavShield” bush navigation event. Hopefully there will be photos of the action on social media in the next few days.

The next WICEN monthly meetup is on 6 August, with another communications exercise being planned.

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about WICEN, you can email wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

WICEN nets are on every Sunday evening, using FM voice, DMR, 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.

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, that's

N - S - W DOT W - I - C - E - N DOT O - R - G DOT A - U

WICEN is also on Facebook, and on Twitter @wicennsw [at WICEN N S W]; 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 twitter at <https://twitter.com/wicennsw>]

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Club News

We start this week from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The July Coffee Morning saw a larger than usual number of members in attendance. Several in the group indulged in a second cup of coffee, over the wide-ranging extended discussion.

The next Friday night get together is at 7pm this coming Friday the 21st of July, in the SES building, Port Macquarie.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother has been delayed, but the club is hoping to get it installed on air soon.

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 May 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well; and on Facebook, just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The Group's "Christmas in July" luncheon will on Saturday the 29th of July, at Windale Bowling Club. The booking is for 12 noon, to eat by 1 pm.

There will be alternate plates of chicken & beef, a bread roll, and a dessert.

Members wishing to attend should contact the Social Secretary, Ardel Prout or the President, Richard VK2AUS, as soon as possible so that the Restaurant can be advised of numbers attending.

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.

Due to a lot of interest, the club will be holding a workshop introducing the Arduino microcontroller. This workshop will be a practical introduction; not teaching lots of theory or how to program, rather, covering the basics you need to get started. The workshop will be on Saturday the 29th of July, at 10:30am for an 11am start.

Notifications have been emailed out for the club's Annual General Meeting, which will be at the clubrooms at 1pm, Saturday the 5th of August. Note that only current financial members are eligible to vote and be nominated for positions. On that note, members are reminded that renewals are due; membership forms have been sent out and need to be completed, as Unfinancial members will be removed from contact lists after July 30.

There are rumours of something brewing in the Central Coast area. It's not clear exactly what, but it might be a good idea to write down Sunday the 5th of May, 2024 in your diary... and keep an ear out for updates.

At VK2RAG Somersby, D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; the 23cm repeater is currently off-air, as it is being replaced. 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.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next Amateur Radio Repeater Group foxhunt is in the Macarthur area, on Sunday the 23rd of July. The location will be somewhere in the vicinity of the Hume Hwy corridor, between Casula and Narellan Rd. There will be 4 foxes transmitting on different frequencies for 30 seconds on with 60 seconds off between transmissions. Coordination will be on the VK2RFG repeater, starting at 9am. See the website, arrg.club for details.

The July Monthly General Meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is on Wednesday the 26th of July, in Block M, Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Road 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.

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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting is at 7:30pm this Wednesday the 19th of July, in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL Club, Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay.

Many members enjoy dinner in the club's bistro prior to the meeting from about 6pm and all are welcome; especially any visitors from other clubs or out of town.

Regular Monday evening nets are at 8pm on VK2RBV, 438.1125 MHz with a -5.4 MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone for access.

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

The first Saturday of the month is "project day", also in the ANZAC room at the RSL. The next one is coming up on the 5th of August. Other activities are continuing either 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. On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

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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, 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

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: from 7:30pm 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 146.9MHz.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

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

Amateur Radio Central West Group from 8pm on 3653kHz.

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 8:30am, usually on Talkgroup 3802; listen to Talkgroup 505 at 8:28am.

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM.

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