

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message on 02 9444 0123.

Daylight Saving Time started last weekend in southeastern Australia. Since VK2WI News bulletins maintain the same local time, the one-hour change may have an effect on HF propagation. If you have reception difficulties, you can also listen to the bulletins streamed live from our website, [arnsw.org.au/audio](http://arnsw.org.au/audio).

Another alternative is EchoLink – and tonight, we are relayed 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.

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## **Jamboree on the Air**

Since 1957, amateur radio has been used by Scouts, and more recently Girl Guides, to get together virtually, from anywhere in the world.

Running this year from Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> until Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA, sees the amateur air waves are thrown open to youthful voices with enthusiasm to make new friends and exchange experiences. Contacts are made with other JOTA stations in the next suburb, interstate or overseas.

As in previous years, subject to delivery VK2WI will relay the official opening address on the afternoon of Saturday the 20th, on all VK2WI frequencies and through automated relays.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	155	159	161	158	154	155	156
Fredericksburg A-Index	13	11	9	10	6	8	11
Australian A-Index	6	9	4	5	4	6	8 estimated
T index	126	108	109	122	137	136	137

Solar activity was at R1 levels from the 30<sup>th</sup> of September until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. Each day had an M-class flare; the largest was M2.5 at 0123UTC on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

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

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia was enhanced 15% during local day and 20% during local night on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Depression of 15% was observed during local daylight on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, recovering to near predicted at night. Enhancements of 20% were observed during local night on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and 15% on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Enhancement of 20% was observed during local day on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 25% on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The forecast, issued on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, through until the 12<sup>th</sup>;

Solar activity is expected to be at R0 to R1.

Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> due to CME and high-speed wind stream effects; otherwise, activity should be at low to moderate levels.

Maximum usable frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> due to geomagnetic activity; otherwise, enhancements are expected, up to 20% over predicted monthly values.

*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 September, we had a;

Minimum of 131, Average of 154, and a Maximum of 176  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

So far for October, we have a;

Minimum of 145, Average of 155, and a Maximum of 162  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 154, Average of 159, and a Maximum of 168  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<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>]

## 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: 15-FOAR085.wav]**

*Duration: 5m53s*

*In: "Beauty is in the ..."*

*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).

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

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## [WICEN News]

And now with this week's WICEN News, here's Richard VK2SKY;

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### [Play File: 17-E-WNS1008.wav]

*Duration: 2m27s*

*In: "The latest issue..."*

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

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*[Transcript]*

*The latest issue of Amateur Radio magazine has the theme "When all else fails", and contains 15 pages devoted to Amateur Radio benefiting the community during emergencies. If you haven't already received a copy in your mailbox, head over to your newsagent to check it out.*

*There will be a Cave Rescue exercise at Bungonia Caves, on 20th to 22nd. Four or five operators are required for this event. Radio operations will be above ground, but there will be the opportunity to enter the caves at the end.*

*On the same weekend, WICEN will be at the Murrumbateman Field Days, just south of Yass.*

*On 28th-29th, WICEN will provide safety communications for The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research. Operators are required to run about 25 checkpoint stations along the 111km course.*

*To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about how to use your Amateur Radio skills in times of need, you can email [wicen.ops@vrarescue.org](mailto:wicen.ops@vrarescue.org). If you're new to this, you can be paired with a more experienced WICEN member.*

*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 join 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 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](http://nsw.wicen.org.au).*

*WICEN is also on Facebook, and on Twitter/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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[WICEN NSW web site: <https://nsw.wicen.org.au/> ]

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

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

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; and coming up this Thursday is the regular Member's Coffee Morning; from 10am at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

The Club's next Friday Night get-together is at 7pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Club station VK2BOR will be active in JOTA, operating from McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

The following Sunday, Members will provide safety communications for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, on the morning of Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

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 September 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The September issue features articles by Paul VK2ICQ, on recent technical presentations at ORARC meetings. You can also find the club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

The Club's Big Bash Field Day is coming up on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, at the club grounds, 6a York St, Teralba.

All the usual Field Day attractions will be there, including cooked bacon & egg rolls for breakfast, and a BBQ lunch; a hot coffee van on site, giant auction, raffles including a major radio raffle drawn at noon, plus a live band.

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.

Last Saturday we had a big roll-up for a combined lecture and show and tell event at the clubhouse. Michael VK2HFN gave us a very informative lecture about Automatic Link Establishment (ALE); covering its purpose, origin, workings and how to use it with Amateur HF radios. He also deftly handled questions from the audience so all ended up with a good understanding and we thank him for an informative lecture.

This was followed by a show and tell. Col VK2ZCO demonstrated a device he had built for monitor power consumption. Glenn VK2GEM showed us some of his portable radios that have been cleverly packaged for “grab and go” use in WICEN or other events. Graham VK2GRA showed several projects including a clever top mounted speaker, and an army whip antenna he is repairing for 6 metres.

The club wishes all the best to those who sat examinations yesterday, before the monthly General meeting.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 23cm repeater is back on air and now linked with the 6m repeater. D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m Echolink services, are fully functional. The Somersby WebSDR is online at [websdr.ccarc.org.au](http://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](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.*

## **St George Amateur Radio Society**

As we mentioned earlier in the bulletin, JOTA 2023 is on from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October this year.

Members of The St George Amateur Radio Society will once again be setting up and operating the Society's station VK2LE over the weekend, as an activity of the Endeavour Boree Regatta at Kurnell, in Sydney.

Guides and Scouts will have an opportunity to communicate with other youth members using the magic of radio, with the SGARS team planning to us FM on local 2 metre repeaters, and using the Australia-wide DMR talk groups.

For more information about the Society and its activities, visit the website at [sgars.org](http://sgars.org).

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

This coming Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the Club's Mid-Monthly meeting will be at the Hornsby RSL rifle club.

At this meeting, we will look at square waves and whether they are really square or not.. Please bring a signal generator and any other items of interest.

If you have recently been on 20 metres, you would have seen some of the best DX for many months, with places like Cologne or Rome at 5/9. So, turn your radio on, build an antenna and join in the DX fun.

73 for now,

*Matt VK2BAI*

*For the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club.*

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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:** now starting at 8pm, still 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.

**Armidale District ARC** net 3:30pm on 7133kHz.

**Hunter Radio Group** net 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.

**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.

***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;***

If you don't want to listen to VK2WI Evening News, the **Armidale District Amateur Radio Club** net is on from 7:30pm on 3633kHz.

**Westlakes** DMR Net, now from 8:00am, usually on Talkgroup 3802.

**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.