

Silent Key.

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

Ross Mudie VK2ZRQ, Late of Berowra, passed away peacefully on the 23rd of September at the age of 75, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Ross was very active in the early days of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, and later on with his son working on repeaters for HADARC. He leaves behind his wife Sue, sons Sam and Peter, and grandchildren, Cameron, Emily and Hamish. He will be dearly missed.

A Service for Ross will be at All Saints Anglican Church, 295 Malton Road, North Epping on Thursday 13th October at 10:30am. If you want to make contact or to advise you attendance at the funeral, please email Peter at petermudie100@gmail.com.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Ross.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ross Mudie VK2ZRQ.

Advised by Peter VK2JT (previously VK2XZP)

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

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 welcome any updates from clubs and groups; simply email 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.

You can direct any general enquires to the ARNSW office via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

Tonight, we again 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.

This morning saw the start of Daylight Saving Time in New South Wales. Since VK2WI News remains at the same local time, propagation conditions may have changed. If you are having difficulty with this news bulletin on your usual frequency, news bulletins can also be streamed live, or downloaded later, from the audio page of our website, <https://arnsw.org.au/audio>.

Special Event at the Australian National Maritime Museum

Stuart VK2BMX, Colin VK2JCC, and two other amateurs will be operating a Special Event station on board HMAS Vampire, which is permanently berthed at the Australian National Maritime Museum located at Darling Harbour in Sydney.

This event will take place on Saturday the 29th of October from 10am to 2pm.

The HMAS Vampire is a Daring-class destroyer, launched on the 27th of October 1956. It has an extensive service record including the Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation in 1966, and escorted the troop transport HMAS Sydney on six of the latter's twenty-five transport voyages to South Vietnam. In 1977, the destroyer escorted the Royal Yacht Britannia during Queens Elizabeth's and Prince Phillips visit to Australia in 1980, finally being decommissioned on the 13 August 1986.

The special event station will operate on 40 metres; SSB on 7150kHz, and CW on 7050kHz, +/- depending on conditions; also, listening on VHF frequencies. The team hopes to contact as many stations as possible.

If you have never visited the Australian National Maritime Museum, you are in for a great treat; it boasts extensive displays of maritime artefacts as well as a number of extremely interesting experiences, such as going on board a Collins class submarine.

Why not come on down to the museum on the day to visit, and while you're there see the special event station on board the ship; the team look forward to both working you on the air and meeting you in person.

If you hear the callsigns on the air, be sure to give them a call.

Submitted by Stuart VK2BMX and Colin VK2JCC.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23rd to the 29th of September;

This report issued on the 30th of September.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
10cm Flux	146	147	135	135	135	135	137
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	12	10	5	5	33	3	7 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	9	6	3	3	18	1	7 estimated
T index	78	69	74	78	90	79	90

Solar flare activity reached R1 warning level on the 23rd, with an M1.7 flare at 1810UTC. Solar activity for the rest of the week was low to moderate, with no warnings issued. Geomagnetic activity remained at low levels all week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhanced conditions; 20% during local night on the 23rd; 15% during the day and 20% during the night on the 27th and again on the 29th; and 20% after local dawn on the 28th.

The forecast for the 30th of September to the 6th of October;

Solar activity may increase to R1 warning level, and possibly R2 with the expected return of a previously active flare region, to the northeast solar limb.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at G1 on the 1st and 2nd of October due to a solar coronal hole wind stream. Quiet conditions are expected on other days.

Degraded ionospheric conditions are expected in the Southern Australian region from the 1st to the 3rd of October, due to the anticipated increase in geomagnetic activity. MUFs expected to be near predicted monthly values on other days.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished September, we had a;

Minimum of 113, Average of 134 and a Maximum of 154
With peak dates from the 11th to the 30th

So far for October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 125, Average of 136 and a Maximum of 148
With peak dates from the 1st to the 17th, and the 24th to the 27th

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 125, Average of 133 and a Maximum of 145
With peak dates from the 1st to the 14th, and the 20th to the 24th.

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>]

What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with this series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: 15-FCAL070.wav]

Duration 1m23s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

WICEN News

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is on over the weekend of the 29th and 30th of October. Participants paddle 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. WICEN NSW is providing safety communications; if you would like to help out, please email mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org.

WICEN NSW voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the website for details. WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW, the web address is nsw.wicen.org.au, on twitter @wicennsw, and on Facebook.

For information about other WICEN groups; WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information and can be found at www.crarc.org.au. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net on Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the web at vic.wicen.org.au.

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Special Activation – 4X0VK

We have been informed by Gil 4Z1KD from the Israeli Amateur Radio Club, of a special activation on October 14th and 15th.

Australian are invited to contact Station 4X0VK, which will be operating from a restored train station in Zemach. The activation is to commemorate the Battle of Zemach in September 1918, which saw participation by Australian soldiers.

For more Information, visit the QRZ page by searching for 4X0VK.

[\[https://www.qrz.com/db/4X0VK\]](https://www.qrz.com/db/4X0VK)

And with other DX activity this week, here is

ARRL DX news

EQUATORIAL GUINEA; Ersoy, TA2OM is active as 3C3W from Malabo, Bioko Island, IOTA AF-010. He is there for one to two months.

Activity of late has been on the HF bands using FT8.

MALDIVES; Gianpi, IK1TTD will be active as 8Q7TD from Fasmendhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, until October 17. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

ANGOLA; Mikalai, UT6UY is active as D2UY from Cabinda, on 20 to 10 metres using FT8. He has also been active on 6 metres using FT8.

GERMANY; Special call DR45HAAN will be active until September 30, 2023 to celebrate 45 years of DARC organization Ortsverband Haan.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS; Jim E51JD is active on 20 to 10 metres using SSB.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS; Didier, F6BCW will be active as TX7G from Iva Oa, IOTA OC-027, until October 15. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 if possible, daily from 0300 to 0700UTC, and then 1500 to 1700UTC, depending on band conditions.

MINAMI TORISHIMA; Take, JG8NQJ/JD1 is active until December 15 and has been using CW on 17 metres around 0900UTC.

SVALBARD; Just, JW9DL, Erling, JW6VM and Halvard, JW7XK will be active from Spitsbergen, IOTA EU-026, from October 5 to 10. In addition, look for JW7XK to be active from Longyearbyen, Grid Square JQ78tf, on Satellite RS-44 between October 5 to 10. Activity will be with CW and SSB.

LITHUANIA; Special event station LY770CT is active until October 14 to celebrate the 770th anniversary of the city of Klaipeda.

TURKEY; Berkin, TA3J is active as TA3J/0 from Yassica Island, IOTA AS-099, until the end of October.

MALI; Jeff, TZ4AM has been active on 6 metres using SSB between 1800 and 1900UTC.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; John, W5JON will be active as V47JA from Calypso Bay from until October 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

NAMIBIA; Hanspeter, HB9BFM is active as V5/HB9BFM until October 11. Activity is generally from 1600 to 1900UTC, on 20 metre Olivia frequencies.

ANTARCTICA; Warren, VK0WN is active from the Casey Research Base while on work assignment. Activity is holiday style on 20 metres usually between 0500 to 0600UTC.

NEW ZEALAND; Members of the Whangarei Amateur Radio Club will be active as ZL75AWRC until December 31 from North Island, IOTA OC-036, to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Oceania DX Phone Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Collegiate QSO Party, Worked All Provinces of China DX CW Contest, Russian Worldwide Digital Contest, IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest, California QSO Party, International HELL-Contest, SKCC CW QSO Party, UBA ON SSB Contest, RSGB DX Contest and the Peanut Power QRP Sprint are all on this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, German Telegraphy CW Contest, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Autumn CW Series, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club CW AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and the UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest run from October 3 to 5.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; the next Friday Night Get together is at 7pm on the 21st of October, in the SES Building, Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the Club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

The next Coffee Morning is at 10am on Thursday the 13th of October 2022 at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

The VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point are currently off air following a lightning strike in March destroyed the underground mains to site. Work is progressing at the new VK2RCN site; with mast and antennas now erected, equipment shelter fitout is underway. VK2RCN repeaters will return to air when the new site is commissioned in November.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, and those interested in assessments for Standard and Advanced licences, can contact the club at PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 or via the contact form, on the website.

There are two club nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am Sunday mornings. Both nets 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 the club information. The newly published September 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. This month's "Oxtales" features a progress report on the new VK2RCN site. You can also find the Club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The club's annual field day is on Sunday the 16th of October at the Club grounds, 2E York Street Teralba.

The field day will include organised activities in the club's classroom, radio shack, and other areas; member's equipment auction along with a commercial vendor; drawing of the club's major raffle prize - check website for details.

There will also be a coffee van on site, live music delivered by a quartet of radio amateurs from the club, and of course, an opportunity to catch up with all your friends. So put Sunday 16 October in your diary!

Westlakes also conducts a number of regular nets. All welcome to join.

The 40 metre Net is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 9:30am on 7115kHz.

The Stone the Crows 80 metre Net from 6am on Saturdays, on 3588kHz.

The Club's 2metre Nets are conducted weekly on the club's repeater VK2RTZ; 146.775MHz with 91.50Hz sub-audible tone:

- SSTV Net; Tuesday at 7:30pm
- Stay Safe Net; Thursdays from 8pm;
- EZB Met; Saturdays at 8am;
- and the Club Broadcast; from Sunday at 9am.

There is also a DMR Net on Sundays at from 8:30am on Talkgroup 8.

You can find more information about the Club on the website at; westlakesarc.org.au, and there is a link from the Clubs page on the ARNSW website.

*Stephen VK2KWH
Secretary, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As previously mentioned in this bulletin, we note the passing of long-time member, Ross VK2ZRQ. Ross was a founding member of the CCARC and much of the equipment he was involved in constructing is still in use at VK2RAG. The club passes it's condolences to his family. Vale Ross.

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday. Last Saturday's Show and Tell was a success, especially considering the weather. Col VK2ZCO showed his AC volt monitor and his SLA battery capacity tester. He gave a short presentation on how the tester works and its application, which was quite informative.

Show and Tell is on the last Saturday of each month. The next is on October 29th with the theme: *What powers your shack?* Bring along your power supply and any other odds and ends that help power your shack. There will be a short lecture on how to modify an ATX computer power supply to run other equipment.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; BrandMeister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list. The Somersby WebSDR is online at websdr.ccarc.org.au; its configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

There will be a "Portable and Picnic" at Terrigal Haven on the 15th of October, from 11:30am to 4pm, with Members, family, and visiting or prospective hams all welcome. More details on the Club's social media.

The Morning Tea net continues at 10am daily, and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Club's weekly net is on Thursday night from 8pm, hosted by Alan VK2MG. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on the EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences. The Thursday night net is also video streamed live on the club's Facebook page and recordings can be found in the "Videos" section.

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 page – 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 Society's next gathering will be this coming Wednesday the 7th of October, at Kyle Bay.

As well as catching up with the general happenings of the society, there will be a presentation by Peter VK2EMU, about how a chance remark about wanting to get away to a quiet location for some portable HF operating resulted in the twin adventures of walking the Great North Walk from Sydney to Newcastle, and the Hume and Hovell Walking Track from Yass to Albury; a combined total of over 600km.

Peter did some of the walks solo, but others with a variety of walking companions. Hear about working some DX, messages to home and when a 2-metre handheld saved the day. Encounters with a variety of animals and other walkers.

As well as hearing Peter's stories, you can catch up with fellow amateur radio operators, check out the disposal items for a bargain and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake.

The gathering will be "in person" at the Society's meeting rooms; Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point – near South Hurstville. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start. All members and visitors will need to sign-in. Full details available on the society's website, www.sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

For the foreseeable future, meetings will be in the ANZAC room of the RSL club next door. The committee is working on some alternative venues, although possibly the most promising one probably won't come available until the second half of next year.

The society is planning a special, hands-on project day for the first Saturday in December, the 3rd. This will be an SMD soldering workshop and at this stage they are seeking expressions of interest to make sure that there will be sufficient interest to run it. It is being run by Skip VK2ALR and there are more details on the website, vk2bv.org; just click on the link in the lefthand side and then click on the link to register your interest.

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

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*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's September monthly meeting was last Tuesday night, and what a great night it was... Carmel VK2CAR presented the largest Low-frequency coil the club had seen; at 3.8metres tall and 1.5m diameter, it is used to detect objects underwater.

The Club was privileged to hear David VK2CZ explain different antenna modelling software packages and how he has used them to optimise beams and other antennas. It was impressive to hear about the trade-offs between SWR vs Gain vs Noise, and you can't have perfection on all three at once. Despite the challenges of a torrential downpour mid presentation, David's session and expertise was well received.

HADARC was pleased to have a new member joining the club and also have a visitor attend with a strong interest in obtaining a Foundation licence. It's great to see the new WIA foundation manual hot off the press to aid prospective new amateurs.

At next mid-monthly experimenters meeting, bring your soldering iron, solder and pliers; we will be helping club members build balun kits and also having a look at how they perform using a restored BC-221 Frequency Meter.

Have you noticed how good the DX conditions have been on 20 meters? Club member Jack VK2PCH was heard working Italy, England and Bosnia just this week. Local conditions have been noisy, so turn on your noise blanker and join one of the weekly HADARC nets; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres 3608.5kHz, and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres, 7106kHz.

73 for now, and let's keep Radio Active...

Matt VK2BAI, HADARC President.

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

Activities on the air

Daily;

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** is on at 10am, and after VK2WI News on Sundays. VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, also on EchoLink.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily on VK2RCW.

Mondays;

Westlakes ARC nets 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.

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm; call in on 2m repeater 147.325MHz.

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, also available via EchoLink.

Waverley ARS net 8pm on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air; see website.

Tuesdays;

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm on 3543kHz.

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

Wednesdays;

Westlakes ARC net 9:30am on 7115kHz.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

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

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

Thursdays;

Fishers Ghost ARC net from 7:30pm on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone; also, on EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC from 7:30pm on VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

St George ARS 8pm on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

Central Coast ARC net 8pm on VK2RAG.

Fridays;

Morning tea with HADARC at 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm on VK2RCW.

Saturdays;

Illawarra ARS net 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm on Southeast network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

Westlakes Stone the Crows net; 6am on 3588kHz.

Sundays;

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

Westlakes DMR Net from 8:30am on Talkgroup 8. 2 Metre nets throughout the week, see website for details.