

## Silent Key.

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

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and Club life member, David Pilley VKK2AYD, on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. He was aged 93 years.

David was an avid CW operator and contester, well-known internationally. He also had UK and US callsigns, and a few years ago was recognised for 70 years of continuous membership of the RSGB. He was also a member of the ARRL and the WIA. As well as participating in many contests from Australia, David represented Australia at the World Radio Sport Team Championship in 1996 in San Francisco.

David had a distinguished naval career which took him from the UK to Malta and the USA, before settling in Australia for the latter part of his life. He was past president of Manly Warringah Radio Society when living in Sydney, joining the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club when he moved to King Creek near Wauchope. He was a very active member of the club, holding many positions including President, Secretary and Repeater Chairman; and was awarded Life Membership, in 2015. At the recent 2023 Field Day, he was on the registration desk and had a couple of his projects in the Home Brew display. Since then, he gave presentations at Meetings on subjects such as the contribution of Radio Amateurs to the wartime work at Bletchley Park and the history of computing.

David had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of international affairs and role of communications and Amateur Radio throughout the decades. He made many contributions to Amateur Radio and will be sadly missed by the Amateur Radio Fraternity throughout the world.

Please pause with us, while we remember David.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] David Pilley VK2AYD.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE  
on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

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## **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.

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.

## Jamboree on the Air 2023

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.

Members and friends of The St George Amateur Radio Society will once again be operating the club radio station VK2LE as an activity of the Boree Regatta at Kurnell, over the JOTA weekend.

Friday afternoon is setting up the radio station on site. Operation will be during Saturday with "on air" radio contacts and "fox hunting" activities, and further "on air" operation is possible Saturday evening. Sunday is packing up the radio station and leaving site.

Preparation for the weekend is currently underway, and if you would like to assist, please contact the Society's JOTA co-ordinator by email, to [jota@sgars.org](mailto:jota@sgars.org) as soon as possible. Prior experience with JOTA is not essential as there will be a number of experienced operators to buddy up with you; however, you will need to have a current NSW Working With Children Check.

As in previous years, VK2WI will relay the official opening address on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, on all VK2WI frequencies and through automated relays.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
10cm Flux	139	140	145	155	166	156	168
Fredericksburg A-Index	7	5	14	21	38	15	7
Australian A-Index	5	4	11	18	24	9	9 estimated
T index	97	100	102	102	66	99	105

Solar activity was at R1 levels on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>, and R2 levels on the 20<sup>th</sup>, with an M8.2 flare, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> with an M8.7 at 1245UTC.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region reached G1 level on the 19<sup>th</sup>, remaining below warning threshold on other days. A weak geomagnetic impulse of 15 nanoTesla was observed at 0232UTC on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and an impulse of 17 nanoTesla was observed at 1329UTC on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 15% during local night on the 17<sup>th</sup>; depression of 35% during local day and 15% during local night on the 19<sup>th</sup>; depression of 15% after local dawn on the 20<sup>th</sup>; and depression of 15% during local day on the 21<sup>st</sup>, recovering at night to near predicted values.

The forecast, issued on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, through until the 28<sup>th</sup>;

Solar activity is expected to be at R1 to R2 levels with a chance of an R3 event; solar region AR3435 was responsible for the R2 flares on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and is likely to produce further activity. There are some other solar regions also showing development.

Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, otherwise, activity should be at low to moderate levels. Maximum usable frequencies may be briefly depressed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> otherwise near predicted monthly values. Fadeouts possible on daylight HF circuits.

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

## Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 139, Average of 156, and a Maximum of 177  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>

Nearing the end of September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 131, Average of 152, and a Maximum of 176  
With peak dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 142, and a Maximum of 155  
With peak dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</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-FOAR120.wav]**

*Duration: 3m34s*

*In: "You've always been taught..."*

*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-WNS0924.wav]

*Duration: 2m08s*

*In: "Apart from all the..."*

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

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*[Transcript]*

*WICEN has meetups here at Dural on the first Sunday of every month; the next one will be on next Sunday, 1 October.*

*WICEN will be assisting at the Australian Pickleball Championships in Stanhope Gardens this Friday and next Monday.*

*There will be a Cave Rescue exercise at Bungonia Caves, east of Goulburn. Four or five operators are required for this event on the 20th to 22nd October.*

*On the same weekend, the 21st-22nd, WICEN will be at the Murrumbateman Field Days, just south of Yass.*

*And, of course, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research, is on the following weekend, 28th-29th October. WICEN will provide safety communications for the event, which takes place on the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney.*

*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).*

*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 Chatswood 2m FM repeater, 147.150MHz, with net controller VK2WIC; the 6.30pm net will be on the WICEN VHF DMR network, followed at 6.45pm by a new net on WICEN's VRA P25 channel.*

*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.

The Club's next meeting is the October Monthly General Meeting, 2pm on Saturday the 7th of October 2023 at the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Installation of the VK2RPM RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother has been delayed due to unavoidable circumstances. We will have an update on progress in a future bulletin.

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.

At 11am next Saturday September 30, there will be a presentation by Michael VK2HFN, on Automatic Link Establishment (A.L.E.), which is used in both government and amateur circles to find the best frequency to use and establish a link between stations. Having extensive experience in this area, Michael will explain how this happens and why.

A general show and tell will follow and people encouraged to bring along anything of interest or display pictures from a USB stick on the data projector.

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](https://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](https://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.*

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## Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, at Macdonald's Woodbine, starting at 7:30pm. 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 repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater frequency is 438.650MHz. It has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone is required for FM access. The repeater is also accessible via EchoLink.

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

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR*

*On behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's next gathering will be on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, at Kyle Bay.

This gathering will be a VNA Festival. Over the last few years, small and cheap Vector Network Analyzers, or VNAs, have become available to radio amateurs and experimenters. Using a VSWR meter to tune antennas, just shows total power being reflected; but, a VNA will display both the magnitude and phase of signals, showing the true impedance of a circuit. Members and visitors are encouraged to share their experience using a Vector Network Analyzer, and bring along your VNA project and demonstrate to others how a VNA can be a useful tool in the radio shack.

The gathering is at the first Kyle Bay Scout Hall at Donnelly Park; Kyle Parade Connells Point, near South Hurstville. By public transport, take the 953 bus from Hurstville station.

Doors open about 7:15pm for a 7:30 start. After the show and tell, members and visitors can have a chat and partake in the Tea, Coffee, biscuits, and cake.

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

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

## **Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club**

A reminder about the next meeting of the Club- its this coming Tuesday night the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, at Mt Colah Community Centre, starting at 8pm.

Following on from the ARNSW Trash and Treasure earlier today, those that find “actual treasure” are invited to bring it along and show it off at the meeting. For those that didn't, or simply missed out, please bring along your latest project and show that off.

It's set to be a great night with fellow amateurs; be they members or not, as all amateurs are always welcome.

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**[Play File: 19-E-ID4.wav]**

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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.

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

**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;***

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.