

## **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 early this morning 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.

## **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.

We mentioned last week the operation by the St George Amateur Radio Society, with VK2LE active from Boree Regatta across two days. We've been contacted by David VK2DU, with information on some additional JOTA stations in VK2;

- The Garigal and Northern Beaches Districts Scouts will be at Terrey Hills Public School, with JOTA call sign VK2SNR.
- Glenfield Scout Activity Centre is running JOTA activities for Scouts and Venturer Scouts, across the weekend, With two call signs – VK2SRA for GWS and VK2SHR for Hume. A Fusion Wires-X room 69904 will be active as well.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club is hosting a one-day event for the younger Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts. The call sign is VK2HZ.
- And, At Berrima Scout Camp, the Hume Region Scout Fellowship is assisting with bringing JOTA to the Southern Highlands. The amateur radio activities will include HF radio, digital and other radio activities to reach Scouts from everywhere. Their call sign is VK2HU.

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

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	176	173	174	170	165	156	148
Fredericksburg A-Index	7	9	17	15	26	12	9
Australian A-Index	7	6	14	18	18	14	2 estimated
T index	109	112	113	105	129	113	107

Solar activity was at R1 levels on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with three M-class flares; on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with 2 M-class flares; the 24<sup>th</sup> with four flares, the largest an M4.4 at 0328UTC; and the 28<sup>th</sup>, with one M1.3 flare.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region reached G1 level on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and at some Australian sites for brief periods on the 25<sup>th</sup>, remaining below warning threshold otherwise. A weak geomagnetic impulse of 26 nanoTesla was observed at 2041UTC on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia saw enhancement of 20% after local dawn on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; the 25<sup>th</sup> saw enhancement of 45% just after local dawn, quickly dropping into depression of 15% during local day, but recovering to near predicted at night. The 26<sup>th</sup> saw enhancement of 20% during local night; and the 28<sup>th</sup> saw enhancement of 20% at local dawn.

The forecast, issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, through until the 5<sup>th</sup> of October;

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

Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 on the 29<sup>th</sup>; otherwise, activity should be at low to moderate levels.

Maximum usable frequencies may be enhanced 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 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>

Having just finished 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 30<sup>th</sup>

And as we start October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 143, Average of 155, and a Maximum of 168  
With peak dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<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>]

---

**[Play File: 15-E-ID2.wav]**

---

## 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-FOAR092.wav]**

*Duration: 4m32s*

*In: "The other day..."*

*Out: "...I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

---

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).

## [WICEN News]

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

---

### [Play File: 17-E-WNS1001.wav]

*Duration: 2m13s*

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

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

---

*[Transcript]*

*Starting a busy month, WICEN had a meetup here at Dural this morning; the next one will be will be 5 November.*

*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; the 6.30pm net will be on DMR Talk Group 3810, with net controller VK2WID.*

*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).*

---

[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.

Later in the month is the informal Member's Coffee Morning; that's at 10am on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster.

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.

Yesterday's open day included a presentation on HF Automatic Link Establishment (A.L.E.), along with a general show and tell.

Next Saturday, October 7, is an examination session for various grades of license; we wish those sitting, all the very best. Later in the day, will be the monthly general meeting at 1pm. Details will be emailed to members, this week.

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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

Starting with a correction from last week – there is a gathering of the Society in October – in fact, it's on this coming week - Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 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.*

---

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

---

## 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:** moves to an 8pm start, 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.....

**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.