

[ID 1 and BC Team Message]

[Play File: 14-E-ID1-BT1022.wav]

Duration: 2m07s

In: [IDENT 1]

Out: "...VK2WI News on the air."

[Transcript]

I'm Mathew VK2YAP, President of ARNSW and a member of the VK2WI Broadcast team.

Today I'm asking for your help, to keep VK2WI News broadcasts on the air.

Amateur Radio New South Wales has produced and transmitted amateur radio news bulletins for many decades. In the early 1980s, because of the challenges of running good quality and reliable broadcasts, we built a dedicated facility at VK2WI Dural – it's still the only one of its kind in Australia.

VK2WI relies on the effort of our members, to volunteer each week in operating news broadcasts. But, the number of volunteers has been falling. At the current level, we will not be able to continue the regular schedule of broadcasts, into the new year.

For safety reasons, we require two people on site during broadcasts, which is one of the reasons we have an announcer and an engineer.... It also makes the callbacks easier.

The bottom line is this – we need more volunteers to step up; for mornings, for evenings – or for both.

We'll train you on the operation of all the systems here at Dural – so you won't be thrown in the deep end. With enough extra volunteers on the team, we would only need a time commitment of once a month, or even less.

Age is no barrier to taking part – we currently have one operator who is 13, and with his father, is now a regular on the team. I'm sure you've all heard him announcing, and I think he's pretty good, too.

If you enjoy VK2WI news broadcasts, and want them to have a future, we need you to volunteer. Contact us – by email to news@arnsw.org.au, or leave a message with the office, 02 9444 0123.

We need your help, to keep VK2WI News on the air.

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 again welcome listeners via 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.

RadNet Update

With the latest on RadNet and the VKDMR network at large, here's Matt VK2FLY;

[Play File: 15-B-RNT-8.wav]

Duration: 2m38s

In: "For the DMR ..."

Out: "can be found at arnsw.net."

[Transcript]

For the DMR enthusiasts among us, you're probably well aware that the ARNSW RadNet forms part of the VKDMR network. The network consists of around 65 repeaters and at times up to 300 hotspots.

The network's administration falls under the responsibility of the VKDMR working group. In a recent development, the working group introduced a comprehensive set of guidelines for all users on the network.

These guidelines aim to harmonise network use, ensuring smooth technical operations while maximising the network's capacity. Importantly, these guidelines also ensure that solar sites optimise content for local users without exceeding the available power budget.

Here are the Key Points. The network's main objective is to allow seamless communication for all users.

Talk group 505 has been *Designated as a calling channel, users can initiate communication and are advised to switch to another talk group for extended discussions. This protocol helps conserve power at battery and solar-powered repeater sites, especially during winter. It also allows users who want to directly contact other users to do so with minimum time and interruption. Please, no rag chews on 505.*

Hotspot Connections: *Users can connect hotspot devices or soft radios, but they must ensure good audio quality. There is a parrot - please use it.*

Network Linking: *Unauthorised linking of other networks is strictly prohibited; this maintains the network's integrity. Remember the VKDMR network's primary role is intercommunications. There's plenty of other DMR networks that concentrate on experimentation.*

Transmission Etiquette: *A brief pause between transmissions is recommended for smooth communication, consider the vast size of the network and varying connection speeds in rural areas and leave a few second's gap.*

Please remember, The VK DMR Working Group, are a team of volunteers, maintaining the network is very time consuming we welcome your comments or suggestions but if something doesn't go the way you would like keep in mind the network is extremely large even by commercial standards. To keep the network running smoothly we can't always accommodate all user's needs.

For comprehensive information on these guidelines and more, visit the official VKDMR website at <http://vkdmr.com>. Additionally, details about the ARNSW RadNet can be found at <http://arnsw.net>.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of October.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm Flux	126	123	119	122	121	126	126
Fredericksburg A-Index	8	13	7	2	2	3	18
Australian A-Index	6	8	5	1	4	3	16 estimated
T index	106	138	107	112	126	128	133

Solar activity was below warning levels from the 20th to the 25th, but reached R1 on the 26th, with an M1.4 flare at 2324UTC.

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

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted, with some periods of enhancements; 15% during night on the 21st; 15% during the day and 20% after local dawn on the 24th; and 15% during the day and 20% during local night on both the 25th, and 26th.

The forecast, issued on the 27th of October, through until the 2nd of November;

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance of R1 activity.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels, with a chance of G1 on the 27th and on the 31st.

Maximum usable frequencies should be near predicted, with depressions up to 20% possible on the 1st and 2nd of November.

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 8th to the 12th, and the 19th to the 28th

Nearing the end of October, we have a;

Minimum of 119, Average of 144, and a Maximum of 166
With peak dates from the 1st to the 16th.

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 141, and a Maximum of 150
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 6th, and the 22nd to the 30th.

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.

[Play File: 16-FOAR063.wav]

Duration: 3m23s

In: "One question I get..."

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; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

[Play File: 17-E-ID2.wav]

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 18-E-WNS1029.wav]

Duration: 1m54s

In: "This weekend..."

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

[Transcript]

This weekend, WICEN has been providing safety communications for The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a canoe marathon that helps raise money to fund bone marrow transfer research.

For now, it's "all quiet on the western front", but fire season is upon us, so let's be ready to assist. You might also like to check out the featured "Fire Season Toolkit" post on the Manly-Warringah Radio Society web site, which has a list of apps and websites to keep you safe and informed this summer. There's a link in the text edition of this news.

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.

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 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

WICEN is also on Facebook, and on 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.

[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>]

["National" WICEN on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124735400158>]

[MWRS Fire Season Toolkit: <https://www.mwrs.org.au/2019/12/14/your-fire-season-toolkit/>]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; coming up is the November general meeting, at 2pm this Saturday the 4th of November, in the SES building, Port Macquarie.

Earlier this morning, Club members provided safety communications for the 42nd Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic.

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 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.*

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 was the Club's monthly "Show and Tell" – we'll have more details, next week.

Coming up next Saturday at 1pm is the Club's monthly general meeting. Details have been distributed by email to members.

At the start of the month, the Club supervised licence exams. The results have been returned and distributed; congratulations to the successful candidates.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the issue affecting the relay of the VK2WI Morning news last week, has now been fixed. 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; 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.

[Play File: 18-E-ID3.wav]

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's regular monthly meetings are on the first Friday of the month at 7:30pm. Meetings are at the Club Rooms, 4 Moore Street GLENBROOK, in the Blue Mountains – doors open from 7pm.

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome; the Club is family friendly and will be introducing new activities in the new year, suitable for everyone.

There are several weekly nets – we have details in “Activities on the air” later in this bulletin – and the Club is continuing to ‘trial’ DMR and 6 metre nets – see the Club's website for details.

The Club's next Foundation Weekend is on the 9th and 10th of December, with assessments for Standard and Advanced licences available on Sunday the 10th as well. The next Upgrade class series will start in February 2024.

Courses and exam days do fill-up quickly, so please contact Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN via email to; secretary@bmarc.org to register, or for more information.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*Advised by Steven VK2TSG
President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this coming Wednesday the 1st of November.

A recent ACMA public consultation process sought comments on numerous proposed changes to Amateur Radio in Australia, including:

1. The proposed, new Class Licence Framework
2. Proposed new qualifications framework
3. Proposed new examination service framework
4. Fees for service Cost Recovery Implementation Statement, and
5. Satellite filing procedures.

Cameron VK2RA has carefully studied the proposed changes and formally responded to each of these items as part of the public consultation processes. He will be presenting the proposed changes and his opinions on the benefits to amateur radio, while also highlighting some potential challenges and future opportunities.

Wednesday's gathering will be at the Kyle Bay Sea Scouts Hall, Donnelly Park, Connells Point. 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.

Next month, the Society is planning a Foundation course, along with Licence assessments for all grades, at Sutherland. The course will run over the weekend of the 25th and 26th of November. Candidates will need to get a copy of the Foundation Licence Manual, and be familiar with the contents, prior to the weekend.

The course will include a review of the Foundation Licence Manual and practical training, followed by assessment in theory, regulations and practical.

Sunday the 26th will also have bookings available for Standard and Advanced licence assessments; candidates will need to have undertaken self-study in theory and regulations for these licences, prior to attending the assessment session.

Advance booking is necessary to meet the current lead time requirements of the government selected outsourced examination provider, AMC. Bookings required by COB Friday the 10th of November. Late bookings cannot be accepted, as examination materials are provided specifically for each candidate.

For any further information please contact our education team via email to education@sgars.org.

More information about the St George Amateur Radio Society can be found on the web, at sgars.org.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Last week's meeting included a great talk by Mick VK2CMO, outlining the exciting ways to use EME, or Earth-Moon-Earth communication. It's an incredible way to operate an amateur station and Mick certainly had a lot of experience to share. The topic was so interesting, that Mick will again talk more on this topic in early 2024.

The HADARC back table is a place to find bargains each month. Last month Walter VK2XWB donated some great items which is greatly appreciated. Errol VK2BET also brought a range of great items for wider use by Club members; many thanks, Errol.

At the next HADARC Meeting, Steve VK2KHA will talk about what it means to "go portable". Steve has a great setup and great portable signal, so come along next meeting and hear his stories and expertise.

For more details on HADARC meetings and other activities, visit the website, hadarc.org.au.

73 for now,

Matt VK2BAI

For the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club.

[Play File: 19-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, now on 146.975MHz.

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: starts at 8pm 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 146.975MHz and EchoLink node 1474.

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.