

[ID 1 and BC Team Message]

[Play File: 14-E-ID1-BT11.wav]

Duration: 1m53s

In: [IDENT 1]

Out: "...office, 02 9444 0123."

[Transcript]

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

For the past few weeks, I've been asking for volunteers, to help run VK2WI News broadcasts from Dural. Several of our current volunteers have also added their own personal requests and reflections.

Some members have expressed an interest in participating, but they're unable to make it to Dural – including those members with reduced mobility, and those outside of the greater Sydney region. I want to thank those members for their interest, and we will be turning our attention to new ways you can participate, later in the new year.

But right now, our priority is to maintain our regular roster, and so far, it's coming up short. We really need a few more members – particularly those we regularly see at events here at Dural - to join us on the team.

Our last bulletin for 2023 will be the Morning of the 24th of December. We will resume our bulletins, in the Morning only, from the 14th of January 2024.

I would like to personally thank those members that have responded so far, especially those that have told us how the news broadcasts are useful to them.

VK2WI Dural is unique facility, built and owned by members of Amateur Radio New South Wales. We think this helps us provide a high-quality service with content based on the needs of our members and listeners.

But that's a two-way deal – we need the participation of our members and listeners, as well. So, contact us by email; news@arnsw.org.au or leave a message with the office, 02 9444 0123.

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

With many radio clubs suspend activities over the holiday period, VK2WI News would like updates on activities planned for 2024. You can email the details about your upcoming events, to news@arnsw.org.au.

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.

HMAS Vampire Update

VK2VMP continues operation from HMAS Vampire, at the Australian National Maritime Museum. With more, here's Colin VK2JCC;

[Play File: 15-B-2VMP-3.wav]

Duration: 1m47s

In: The establishment of ...

Out:....Vampire Project.

[Transcript]

The establishment of an amateur radio station on board HMAS Vampire continues to create considerable excitement and interest for visitors and amateur operators alike. This section of the ship is again alive with radio traffic and visitors enjoy hearing information we have gleaned from ex Navy radio operators.

We have almost daily ex sailors who served on Vampire visit our operation. From hearing how encrypted messages were processed and given to the captain, to the arrangement where the ship's crew being able to arrange the delivery of flowers to their families for special occasions back home. As soon as stations hear CQ, CQ, CQ, Destroyer Vampire, VK2VMP, the pile up begins.

Recent on air contacts from the ship into New Zealand and Japan resulted in two amateurs arranging to spend their holidays in Australia, and visit the radio room on board the ship. If you hold an amateur radio license, we could give you the unique opportunity to operate from the ship's radio room.

Voice and CW have been in operation for some time. Recently, we have added slow scan television. and FT8 modes and other digital modes such as Winlink will be added in due course. All contacts, no matter what the mode is, are logged in QRZ logbook and over 31 countries have been contacted on various frequencies.

I think this is the only continuous promotion of amateur radio to the general public in New South Wales. Why not take advantage of the summer school holidays and come on down to visit us at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Until next time, keep those antennas tuned and those signals strong.

Colin, VK2JCC, Vampire Project.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of December.

First, the summary of activity;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm Flux	133	128	127	126	126	135	155
Fredericksburg A-Index	4	2	4	3	8	7	11
Australian A-Index	3	1	2	1	5	7	7 estimated
T index	103	100	112	114	113	110	102

Solar activity reached R2 on the 8th with an M5.4 flare, R1 on the 9th and 10th each with two M-class flares, and R1 on the 12th with one M class flare. The 14th reached R3 with an M5.8 at 0744UTC, M2.3 at 1348UTC, and an X2.8 at 1702UTC.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was low to moderate, remaining below warning threshold.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancements of 15% were observed during local night on the 10th, and local day on the 11th.

The forecast, issued on the 15th of December, through until the 21st;

Solar activity is expected to be R1 to R2, with a chance of R3 during the first half of the week due to the possible of continuing flaring from active solar regions.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be low to moderate, with G1 possible on the 16th, 17th and 19th.

Maximum usable frequencies are expected to be depressed 20% late on the 17th and early on the 18th, otherwise near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished November, we had a;

Minimum of 118, Average of 152, and a Maximum of 194
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 6th, and the 21st to the 30th.

So far for December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 122, Average of 144, and a Maximum of 167
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd, and the 18th to the 30th

And looking ahead to January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 118, Average of 135, and a Maximum of 155
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd, and the 20th to the 29th.

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: 16-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: 17-FOAR057.wav]

Duration: 4m49s

In: "When you use..."

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.

[WICEN News]

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

[Play File: 18-E-WNS1217.wav]

Duration: 2m14s

In: "It's been another quiet..."

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

[Transcript]

It's been another quiet week, but remember that fire and floods are not too far away, so there's always a chance of real activations this summer. Be ready! A link to the Fire Season Toolkit blog post is in the text edition of this news.

A reminder that Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events will be back in 2024. WICEN will be providing communications for these events all over New South Wales, the ACT, and beyond, so there will be opportunities for members outside of Sydney to participate. These are great "starter" events for new or rusty WICEN members, as they take only a couple of hours. WICEN also provides the radios for these events, so you don't even need to bring your own gear. Why not give one a go? You'll find a link to the events list in the text edition of this news.

To participate in any WICEN event, or just find out more about how you can use your Amateur Radio skills to benefit the community, 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.

However, for the next two Sundays, the 24th and 31st of December, there will be no nets, so the regular net controllers can enjoy an end of year break. WICEN nets will resume on 7 January 2024, with the 6pm net 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.

[Memory Walk and Jog Events: <https://www.memorywalk.com.au/find-an-event>]

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

[WICEN NSW web site: <https://nsw.wicen.org.au/>]

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

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

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

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Following the very well attended Coffee Morning last Thursday the 14th of December, six club members met Matt VK2FLY at the VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point. They investigated a problem which had developed in the VK2RCN DMR repeater which resulted in some transceivers being unable to access Talk Group 505 via the repeater. Matt was able fix the problem and the repeater is again operating normally. Thank you Matt.

The December Friday Night Get together on Friday the 15th of December, was the final club activity for 2023. The next General Meeting of the club will be at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of January 2024, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend will be held early next year once the new arrangements with ACMA are in place. Candidates for the Foundation Licence and for assessments for all grades of licence should register their interest via the contact form on the ORARC website.

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 November 2023 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The club is also 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 now closed until the 12th of January.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink services, are fully functional.

The 23cm repeater is now linked with the 6m repeater.

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 Regular Morning Tea Net, and the Thursday Night net, will resume mid-January.

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.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The December meeting of the Society each year is given over to a Christmas dinner; it on this coming Wednesday the 20th, commencing at about 6 or 6:30pm. It will take place in the ANZAC room of the Rose Bay RSL Club in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay.

If you haven't already done so, please let Al, VK2OK, know you are coming and how many in your party so he can make certain that there is sufficient seating available. You will order and pay for your meal at the bistro and then it will all be served at about 7:30 pm in the ANZAC room.

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

Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, continue in the RSL bistro; these now adjourn after lunch to the ANZAC room for some practical activities.

The first Saturday of the month is "project day", also in the ANZAC room at the RSL. The next one is coming up on the 6th of January.

Other activities are continuing either in person and on Zoom. See the society's website for details.

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 send in any enquiries.

The Society would like to wish everyone season's greetings, whatever way you celebrate.

*73 and Season's Greetings from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Earlier in the month was the Society's Annual General Meeting; all previous committee members returned to their positions and with the addition of two new faces, Peter VK2KFP and Con VK2MDB.

In late November, the St. George Amateur Radio Society held a training and assessment weekend with seven candidates sitting for their Foundation licences and one candidate sitting for a full call upgrade. At the time of writing, their results have not yet arrived, but all are confident of success. The next training and assessment weekend will be held in a few months' time once the new arrangements for amateur radio exams have been finalized.

The Society's Don Edwards memorial slow Morse contest will again be held next year, with the 80-metre segment on the evening of Saturday 18th 2024 and 40-metre segment on the afternoon of Sunday 19th May 2024. Please note that the dates as published in the current issue of *Amateur Radio Magazine* are incorrect. The contest is held on the weekend *after* Mother's Day - thereby relieving possible contestants with having to choose between their Mother's Day commitments and spending 3 hours on the radio.

The Society's weekly 2 metre net on the VK2RLE repeater, 146.800MHz, will continue on Thursday nights without a break.

Finally, the committee of the St. George Amateur Radio Society wishes all listeners a Healthy and Safe Christmas and New Year and looking forward to working you on air in 2024.

*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.

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.

Hunter Radio Group net 7:30pm, on 146.975MHz and EchoLink node 1474.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

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

[...continues]

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

Armidale District ARC net 8:30pm on 3633kHz.

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.

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;

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

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM.

WICEN NSW nets; 6pm on Chatswood 2m or Kurrajong 70cm repeater, 6:30pm on DMR or HF, and 6:45pm on P25. Check website for details.