

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

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.

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.

For the next few weeks, VK2WI News will continue with bulletins in the morning only.

We would like to thank those members that have responded to our recent calls to volunteer. We still need further volunteers for the VK2WI roster, and are also seeking expressions of interest from members interested in remote roles. Contact the office, or news@arnsw.org.au for more information.

VK2WI Dural is unique facility, built and owned by members of Amateur Radio New South Wales. The site was established in the 1950s and the production and transmission of amateur radio news bulletins has been a core activity of the station – and the membership – since then.

We would also like to thank the operators that join their regional repeaters into our network of automated relays. These Include the Hunter Radio Group with VK2RNC on 146.975; The Central Coast ARC with VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725; in the Blue Mountains, to the west of Sydney, the St.George ARS with VK2RDX on 146.650 and to the south, the Illawarra ARS VK2RMP on 53.650 and 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. We thank these clubs for their continued support of our news service. We also wish to thank the ANZEL group, with John VK3HJQ, Norm ZL4NORM and Dave GW8SZL for relays of our Evening news via the EchoLink network and conference servers.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the Group is coming up in two weeks time, at noon on Sunday the 28th of January.

The meeting starts with the usual "show and tell" where anyone can stand up and share what they have been working on. This may be a radio that they have been experimenting with, or built or repaired, or just something that they find interesting.

After the show and tell, there will be a presentation on "3D printing and laser cutting for Amateur Radio". 3D printing is not new, but in the last few years the prices of machines has dropped to a level where casual hobbyists can now purchase one for only a few hundred dollars. There are many items useful to radio experimenting that can be easily printed; coil formers, PCB holders, antenna parts, mounting hardware, plugs and sockets to name but a few.

In the same way, laser cutters can be used to produce many different items for the amateur radio experimenter - custom boxes, coil formers, mounting hardware etc. It is even possible for an item to have some parts 3D printed and some parts laser-cut.

Various items will be displayed and open-source software for designing 3D prints and laser cuts will be demonstrated.

Any amateur who has items that they have 3D printed or laser cut are invited to bring them along to add to the mix.

So, for those who are looking for something new in Amateur Radio, the Radio Experimenters Group can be what you are looking for. Come along to the members meet up and Trash and Treasure on the morning of Sunday 28th January, then stay around for the Experimenters Group meeting.

*Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.*

HF Antenna Day

Starting our presentation program for 2024, members are invited to the first in a series of HF antenna presentations. Its on Sunday the 25th of February 2024, here at VK2WI Dural.

This event will feature presentations of interest for all levels of expertise. It's a chance to;

- Gain insights into portable operation techniques
- Learn strategies to improve your home station setup
- Engage with practical demonstrations led by experienced operators
- Connects with specialists ready to provide assistance and advice

Reserve your spot now by emailing events@arnsw.org.au

That's events@arnsw.org.au for a day of practical learning about the world of HF antennas, on Sunday the 25th of February.

*Advised by AI VK2OK
Event Co-ordinator for ARNSW.*

Weekend Solar and Geophysical Report

This report takes a brief look at the expected space weather conditions over the next few days, and in particular, events that might affect radio propagation conditions. Data is supplied with thanks to the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.

Solar activity was low on Friday, with no significant flares. Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate, with a slight chance of R1 flaring, for the next few days. 10cm solar flux should be around 190.

There are currently nine numbered sunspot regions visible on the solar disk, but none are particularly large or magnetically complex. A number of CMEs were observed on Friday, but none are considered to be geoeffective.

Geomagnetic conditions in the Australian and Antarctic regions were quiet on Friday, with an isolated period of G1 at Casey. Mostly quiet conditions are expected for the next few days, with a slight chance of G1 conditions later Monday, due to possible glancing blows from recent CMEs.

HF propagation saw Maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) near predicted monthly values, with enhancements of up to 25% in the southern Australian region. Sporadic-E was observed at Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Norfolk Island and Perth during local night and dawn hours. MUFs are expected to be near predicted monthly values to 25% enhanced over the next few days, and persistent sporadic-E is likely.

A T index around 150 is expected for the next few days, above the monthly predicted 106; However, Isolated shortwave fadeouts are possible.

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: 05-FOAR064.wav]

Duration: 2m29s

In: "Radio waves travel..."

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.

[ID 2 and WICEN News]

[Play File: 06-M-ID2-WM0114.wav]

Duration: 2m35s

In: [IDENT 2]

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

[Transcript]

WICEN News

Two Dementia Australia "Memory Walk and Jog" events are coming up next month, and WICEN will be providing communications: on 19 February at Voyager Park in Huskisson, overlooking Jervis Bay, and on 25 February at Barrine Drive in the ACT.

The Memory Walks 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 call in.

Tonight, the 6pm net will be on the Kurrajong 70cm FM repeater, 439.825MHz and a 91.5Hz tone, with net controller VK2WIB; and 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

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; and coming up is the January Friday Night Get together at 7pm this Friday the 19th of January, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The Next Monthly General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of February, also in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's very popular 2024 calendar will be available at all of the upcoming Club gatherings.

Twelve members enjoyed the Coffee Morning on Thursday the 11th of January at Brooklyn's Burger Bar Thrumster. Afterwards, five members went to the VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point for a working bee. The major task was weed control; the site now looks nice and tidy.

The next Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend will be held 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 site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The January 2024 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is currently in preparation, 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 open on Saturdays from 10:30am, and as always, members and visitors are most welcome.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 6 metre repeater is back on the air thanks to some investigative work by Don VK2ZCZ. D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink, 70cm and 23cm, 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 Regular Morning Tea Net returns this week, at 10am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Thursday Night net, resumes at 8pm this coming 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: 07-M-ID3.wav]

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

There are only 24 hours left to get your entry in for the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge. Entries are currently open for the October to December 2023 period, and you can find more details on the web, at contest.fgarc.org.au.

The next meeting of the Club is on Wednesday the 31st of January, 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.

Submitted by Peter VK2PR

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 7th of February.

After more than 20 years at the Kyle Bay Scout Hall, the Society will now be holding their gatherings at Mortdale RSL club. The Club is in Macquarie Place, a 5-minute walk from Mortdale railway station. The club has excellent dining facilities and members are encouraged to arrive early for a bite to eat before the gathering.

At the first gathering, Peter VK2KFP will be sharing his experience building modern 2m, 6m and 70cm power amplifiers. Topics include system design, test equipment, tune-up and sourcing of hard-to-find components. We will also cover pitfalls and traps, and what happens when things go wrong!

All are invited to the next gathering of the Society, now at Mortdale RSL club, 7:30pm on Wednesday the 7th of February.

73 de Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The December meeting of the Society was given over to our Christmas dinner and a great evening was had by all in attendance.

Now that 2024 is with us, the first meeting of the Society is on this coming Wednesday the 17th, where some interesting developments will be discussed.

A new email reflector has been created for members based on the groups.io platform, as many members weren't receiving society emails for one reason or another. So far, it seems to be working very well and any members who haven't yet found it, go to groups.io and search for the Society's name.

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 from Midday 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", with the next one coming up on the 3rd of February. This will be the first project day with the newest project being started by Skip, based on an Arduino style processor. Come along and build a simple project and learn how to program it.

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.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

[Manly-Warringah Radio Society]

And now with news from the Manly-Warringah Radio Society, here's Richard VK2SKY;

[Play File: 08-M-MRS0114-ID4.wav]

Duration: 1m48s

In: " This Wednesday is..."

[Out:....IDENT 4]

[Transcript]

This Wednesday is lecture night at the Society when Clifford Heath VK2CLF will speak about the using LTSpice to simulate oscillators and filters.

The November lecture, "Underwater Explosives, or How to Sink a Submarine" by Mike VK2MDP, is now up on the Society's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV.

The 31st of the month is the club's Fifth Wednesday Show and Tell night, with the theme of Solar Projects. There are prizes for the best solar goodies and the best story

With the Society's "centennial year" drawing to a close next month, we hope to give the special event callsign V1100MB a good workout before the end of February. Keep an ear out on the bands!

As reported recently on WIA National News, the club is teaming up with Danish company, ADSB Support, to help extend its network of flight monitoring receivers in Australia. If your club is interested in trying out ADS-B, check out the link in the text edition of this news.

And, after a very long wait, the next generation of KiwiSDR web-connected receivers will soon be available. We have ordered one and will be installing it as soon as it arrives!

Fire Season is officially still with us, so a reminder that the featured blog post on the club web site is "Your Fire Season Toolkit", an update on the article first posted during the Black Summer fires of 2019-2020. It contains a rundown of useful apps and web sites, plus some of the best emergency services audio feeds, so you can stay safe and informed this summer. A direct link can be found in the text edition of this news, and you'll also find it on the front page of the club web site.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the club web site for details. The web site address is mwrs.org.au. The club is also on Facebook, X, and YouTube: just search for the club callsign, Victor Kilo 2 Mike Bravo.

*73 Richard VK2SKY,
Publicity Officer for the Manly-Warringah Radio Society*

[ADSB Support: <https://www.adsbsupport.com/join-our-adsb-network/>]

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

[MWRS on the web: <https://www.mwrs.org.au/>]

[MWRS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ManlyWarringahRadioSociety>]

[MWRS on X: <https://twitter.com/VK2MB>]

[MWRS on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@VK2MB>]

Activities on the air

Note that some activities may be on break over the holiday period.

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** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 10am on 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.

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.

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.

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;

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.