

## **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](mailto:office@arnsw.org.au), or by leaving a phone message on 02 9444 0123.

Here at VK2WI Dural this morning, the “Members Morning Meetup” is already underway. Then from noon, we welcome those members interested in the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group. At todays meeting, the main topic will be “3D printing and laser cutting for Amateur Radio”. Various items will be displayed and open-source software for designing 3D prints and laser cuts will be demonstrated. Attendees with items that they have 3D printed or laser cut are invited to bring them along.

From next week, VK2WI News will resume evening bulletins. 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](mailto:news@arnsw.org.au) for more information.

## HF Antenna Day

Starting our presentation program for 2024, members are invited to the first in a series of HF antenna presentations. It starts at 10am on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:events@arnsw.org.au)

That's [events@arnsw.org.au](mailto:events@arnsw.org.au) for a day of practical learning about the world of HF antennas, 10am on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

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

## **ARNSW 2024 AGM**

The 2024 AGM of Amateur Radio New South Wales will be a hybrid meeting, both online and here at VK2WI Dural, on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

At each AGM, either four or five board members stand down and are eligible for re-election, depending on the year.

To be eligible to be a board member, the constitution requires that you have been a member of ARNSW for a minimum of the past three consecutive years, as must your proposer and seconder. As you are standing to become a board member of a registered company, you are also required to obtain a director ID upon election, if you don't already have one.

This year, we have five board members standing down. While all are eligible for re-election, some may choose not to renominate. So, if you are an eligible member, please consider nominating for the board - bring your skills and passion for Amateur Radio, to help ARNSW continue to evolve and grow into the future.

Nominations close 42 days prior to the AGM, at 10am on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024. This is also the closing date for notification of any Special Resolutions to be put to the members at the AGM. Note that if you are sending an item or nomination by mail, please post them in time to arrive by Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

*73 Eric VK2VE  
Secretary, Amateur Radio NSW*

## ***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.

Despite significant flaring earlier in the week, solar activity was moderate on Friday, with only a few C-class flares. Solar activity is expected to remain low to moderate, with a slight chance of R1 flaring, for the next few days. 10cm solar flux should be around 140.

There are currently three numbered sunspot regions visible on the solar disk; while one is growing in extent, it does not appear to be magnetically complex. No Earth-directed CMEs were observed on Friday.

Geomagnetic conditions in the Australian and Antarctic regions were quiet on Friday. Mostly quiet conditions are expected for the next few days. While the recent CME impacts are not expected to induce significant geomagnetic activity, there is a slight chance of isolated periods of G1 late on Sunday or early Monday, due to possible coronal hole activity.

HF propagation saw Maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) enhanced up to 20% across the Australian region, during local daylight hours. Sporadic-E was observed at Hobart, Perth and Norfolk Island during local night hours.

MUFs are expected to be up to 20% enhanced over the weekend and the start of next week, although some depressions are possible late Sunday or Early Monday, due to possible coronal hole activity.

A T index around 135 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.

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### **[Play File: 05-FOAR042.wav]**

*Duration: 2m48s*

*In: "In the past ... "*

*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).

## [ID 2 and WICEN News]

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### [Play File: 06-M-ID2-WM0128.wav]

*Duration: 2m28s*

*In: [IDENT 2]*

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

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*[Transcript]*

*WICEN News*

*WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia's "Memory Walk and Jog" events throughout 2024. Operators are now being sought for the next event in the ACT on 25 February.*

*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](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 call in.*

*Tonight, the 6pm net will be on the Chatswood 2m FM repeater, 147.150MHz, with net controller VK2WIC; and 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](http://nsw.wicen.org.au)*

*WICEN is also on Facebook, and on X; there, you can find photos and information about recent and upcoming WICEN activities. Links are in the text edition of this news.*

*For information about other WICEN groups around Australia, visit the web at [wicen.org.au](http://wicen.org.au).*

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

[ 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 their February general meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The Next Coffee Morning is at 10am on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, at Brooklyn's Burger Bar, Thrumster. The club's very popular 2024 calendar will be available at all of the upcoming Club gatherings.

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](http://orarc.org). The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The newly published January 2024 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now available, 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.*

## **Westlakes Amateur Radio Club**

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Westlakes; and their first regular car boot sale for 2024, is coming up on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Its at the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8am.

You can set up a stall at no charge; but bring your own table. There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available, and a raffle as well. 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.

The next General Meeting of the club will be held at 1pm at the club premises. Details will be distributed by email this week.

At the VK2RAG Somersby repeater site, the 6-metre repeater, D-Star, Rad-Net DMR and 2m EchoLink, 70cm and 23cm, are all fully functional. The UHF MMDVM is being rebuilt and will hopefully be back online, this week.

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 Regular Morning Tea Net is on at 10am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. The weekly club net is on Thursday Night at 8pm.

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

Results for the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge are now published on the contest website, [contest.fgarc.org.au](http://contest.fgarc.org.au). Congratulations to the winners and the Club thanks everyone who entered.

The next General meeting is on this Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, at McDonald's, Woodbine, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

Members are reminded that their membership fees are now due, and members need to be financial to vote at the AGM in February.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club's repeater, VK2RFG, on 438.65MHz. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access - its also available via EchoLink.

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

*Advised by Peter VK2PR  
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society will be on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 this 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!

Listeners are also reminded of the Society's weekly voice net on Thursday night at 8pm on the 2 metre Engadine repeater – 146.800 MHz with a negative 600kHz offset and no subtone. There is also a digital net on Tuesday evening at 8pm, with various slow scan TV modes and other data modes.

And don't forget, the society's VHF 2m Summer Contest on now, until the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. It's open to all licence grades, including Foundation, and both analogue and digital modes. For more details, check the website, at [www.sgars.org](http://www.sgars.org).

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

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

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The January meeting of the society was held a couple of weeks ago with a discussion on topics for the coming year.

Coming up on the first Saturday in February will be a project day led by Skip, to build a small Arduino based VFO using the ubiquitous Si5313 frequency generator. This should be an interesting, hands-on day and sounds like it will be well attended. Participants will need to bring their own tools as listed in the workshop instructions which have been sent out to all participants. If you would like to join the workshop, contact Skip for details. The date is Saturday, February 3rd in the ANZAC room of the Rose Bay RSL club and will commence at 1 pm.

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. Net control is usually Richard VK2XRC or Bob VK2NRC.

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

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](http://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;

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### [Play File: 08-M-MRS0128-ID4.wav]

*Duration: 2m01s*

*In: " This Month's Lecture..."*

*[Out:....IDENT 4]*

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*[Transcript]*

*This month's lecture, presented by Clifford Heath VK2CLF, was on simulating oscillators and filters using LTSpice. Video of the lecture is now up on the Society's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV. While you're there, check out many other videos of interest. There's a link in the text edition of this news.*

*This Wednesday, 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. Come along and let the sun shine!*

*With the club'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!*

*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 [mwr.org.au](http://mwr.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*

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[ Lecture: Simulating Oscillators and Filters using LTSpice:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLH84NJ1xBNgitBvH2U4yuhlvWasvFI7qP> ]

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

[ MWRS on the web: <https://www.mwr.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

### *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 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.

**St George ARS** digital net, 8pm on 146.8MHz

**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.