

# Early History of the Marlborough Branch

BRANCH No. 22, N.Z.A.R.T.  
by W. E. Dance, ZL2LK

I feel at a disadvantage in trying to write this short history of "The Marlborough Branch". For one thing I am not exactly certain of the date when the first meeting was held except that I do know the place. Before the decision to form a Branch was made I mentioned it to another member who thought it a good idea. My partner was Mr H. Simonsen and under our joint names we placed in the local newspaper a notice to the effect that those interested in forming a Radio Club should meet upstairs in a disused room above a motor garage which incidentally was partly under the control of one of our members (ZL2PT). I feel the date must have been about 1932-33 as I have a photograph of the members who were very keen during 1933-34. One does not like to dwell on the condition of the room where the meeting was held but after it had been decided to form the club it did not take long with willing members to clean the place up. Further to the first advertisement in the "local" another was printed as a news item to the effect that a Branch of N.Z.A.R.T. had been formed and affiliated with Headquarters.

I take it upon myself to assume that those whose photograph I have (group photograph) were the foundation members of the Marlborough Branch and are as follows: Date 1933-34. J. Furness, 2K.S., "Knight", J. Cuddon, K. Satherly, D. Best, L. Craven, A. Reilly, R. Gibson, L. Copp, 2NK, W. E. Dance, 2LK. (President), L. Coker, 2PT. (Vice-President), H. Simonsen, 2KY, R. Jordan, E. Coker, J. Dermody, H. Ryan. I regret to state that five of the above members have over the years passed on.

The Branch has had a chequered career over the years and in fact many or at least nearly all Branches suffered the same fate and in that I refer to "World War II" where our equipment was impounded until the war finished. The Club continued to flourish and regular meetings were held. At one stage we joined up with the Modellers' Club. This was a good move as members could be coached in C.W. and Theory, etc. Besides, if things got a little boring on the radio side a member could spend some time with the other club.

Later we rented our own club room. It was only small, but at one shilling per week one could not expect riches. The land and building was

under the control of the Lands and Survey Department.

Many of our members went to various parts of the war, in my case to New Caledonia, where I spent about two years. During the war period it was found that the C.W., etc., had not been wasted time as it is surprising how many were drafted into signals, either Army, Navy or Air Force.

Today the Branch is a flourishing one with a very good membership, good equipment including a F.T. 10 plus, of course, about nine or more Z.C.I.s. Our club rooms are in the same building as the Civil Defence organisation but there is the chance that we may have to move later as the Council requires the land for other purposes.

*John W. St.*

## What Bands?

\$80,000,000,000 is the estimated world-wide value of the electronics industry by 1980. Of this \$25,000,000,000 is the telecommunication share which will lift the world total of telephone subscribers from 340,000,000 now to over 400,000,000 then. What has this to do with us? Only that space has to be found in the radio spectrum for those subscribers who use radio links, be they HF, VHF, UHF or SHF, and it is just an indication of the type of money involved in the battle for spectrum space which will be fought at Geneva in 1979.

Inflation hit the R.S.G.B. to the tune of a \$36,000 loss last year; just to stay afloat that means a \$2 increase in subscriptions. Interestingly, 10 per cent of R.S.G.B. membership is overseas.

## How's this for DX?

One of the latest projects carried out by NASA Jet propulsion Laboratory was a radar probe of Ganymede, the largest moon of Jupiter. The 64 metre dish radiated a 400 kW beam on 2.4 GHz over a path of over 600,000,000 km.

In another project 2 Viking spacecraft are travelling 815,000,000 km to land automatic laboratories on Mars later this year.

—ZL1HV