

April 2023

INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN
MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 432 BLENHEIM NZ

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;.... 13 April, 7.30pm, EOC
Social Group; 20 April, Dodson St Beer Garden
Committee Meeting; 27 April, 7.30pm, via Zoom



HF Net Tuesdays & Saturdays
2030 hrs 3876kHz

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays
1930 hrs 144.150MHz

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Marl. Lines Comm System presentation 13 April
2. Antennas Part 2 (waterproof joints)..... 11 May
3. Antennas Part 3 (antenna software)..... 8 June
4. Nick Batt WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Report) 13 July

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,
147.225MHz

Net Controller; Rob Carter, ZL2IW

Website: www.zl2ks.org.nz

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WE WON AGAIN!

Jim Meachen, Nelson's Vice President, presents Greg Barton, Marlborough's Treasurer, with the trophy.

Further details and photos on P8, 9, 10

It needs to be noted that Nelson only had 6 members attend after a few dropped out at the last minute with illness.

We lent them 6 members for the quiz but when it came to Toss The Tait, some of their members threw multiple times to match our number of tossers.



This poor Tait has been annually tossed for 8 years now. A few internal bits continue to rattle and it is a bit unbalanced but that adds to the fun (and trajectory wobble).

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 91st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Marlborough EOC 9 March 2023, 07:36 pm.

Present: Nelson Bateman, Greg Barton, Nick Batt, Bill Cousins, Graeme Dillon, Chris Grant, Gary Lodge, Graeme McKay, Ken Menzies, John Neal, Wayne Parker, Paul Rennie, Caryl Simpson, Grant Simpson, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Tony Whitaker, Antony Winter.

Apologies: John Errington, Derek Harding, Don Laing, Ian McKercher, Stuart Watchman.

Welcome: Acting Chairman Nick Batt, standing in for the President, John Errington, welcomed members to the meeting.

Health & Safety: There were no health & safety issues raised.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM: The minutes of the previous AGM as published in the latest edition of Interface were agreed by those present to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Nick Batt. Seconded: Greg Barton. Carried.

Matters Arising: None.

Correspondence: None

Reports: The following reports were published in the latest edition of Interface and were accepted: President's Report, Examiner's Report, Webmaster/Librarian Report, AREC Report, Social Luncheon Report, QSL Manager's Report and Repeater Report.

The Balance Sheet for 2022, which has been accepted by the auditor, was circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted.

Reports accepted;

Proposed: Nick Batt. Seconded Ken Menzies. Carried.

Election of Officers: Nominations were received for the following positions prior to the meeting and were agreed by the meeting.

Proposed: Bill Cousins. Seconded Graeme Dillon. Carried.

President: John Errington ZL3TIL

Vice President: (vacant)

Secretary: Don Laing ZL3DN

Treasurer: Greg Barton ZL2GBX

AREC Section Leader: Paul Rennie ZL2RE

Committee (5):

Nick Batt ZL2NEB

Gerard Van Antwerpen ZL2GVA

David Rothwell ZL2WDR

Graeme McKay ZL1BDS

Stuart Watchman ZL2TW

Examiners (2):

Bill Cousins ZL2AYZ

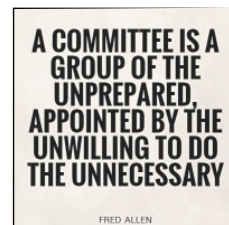
(vacant)

QSL Manager: Bill Cousins ZL2AYZ

Webmaster/Librarian: Gerard Van Antwerpen ZL2GVA

Interface Editor: Caryl Simpson

*The strength of the team is each individual member.
The strength of each member is the team.*



Positions of Callsign Trustees and Repeater Trustees did not have prior nominations and current appointments were not present at this meeting to confirm their continued service. This was also the case for the position of Social Group Coordinator.

The Chairman thanked outgoing committee members Bill Cousins and Grant Simpson for their service.

General Business: None

Meeting Closed: 07:50 pm.



Somebody has bought himself a new toy.

A Yaesu FTDX10

Thanks to a temporary aerial he set up, he made contact with a Ham in Bulgaria the other day.

Hopefully he will provide a radio review in the next Interface!

*The club has radios available, as well as an antenna analyser, for members to borrow when required.
Contact a committee member for more details if you would like to avail yourself of any of these.
marcbranch22@gmail.com*

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Marlborough EOC, 9 March 2023, 7:36 pm.

Present: Nelson Bateman, Greg Barton, Nick Batt (Acting Chairman), Bill Cousins, Graeme Dillon, Chris Grant, Gary Lodge, Graeme McKay (Acting Secretary), Ken Menzies, John Neal, Wayne Parker, Paul Rennie, Caryl Simpson, Grant Simpson, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Tony Whitaker, Antony Winter.

Apologies: John Errington, Derek Harding, Don Laing, Ian McKercher, Stuart Watchman.

Visitors: Caryl Simpson

Minutes of Previous Meeting: As published in latest Interface.

Proposed: Gerard Van Antwerpen. Seconded: Ken Menzies. Carried.

Matters Arising: None.

Correspondence: No correspondence presented as regular Club Secretary was not present at this meeting.

Finance and Membership:

- The current membership is 54 paid members and one unpaid member.
- Income was gained from Interest, Subs and AREC antenna work.
- Payments were made for Field Day reimbursements, shared PO Box fee, and annual web hosting fees.
- A detailed Treasurer's Report is available on request.

Proposed Greg Barton. Seconded: Gerard Van Antwerpen. Carried.

Events:

Wine & Food Festival: Support to this event went well. Stuart Watchman, who managed MARC participation, was not available to comment.

Carluka: The Carluka BBQ event takes place next weekend. 15 club members have responded to take part.

Repeaters and Systems:

Operations - Nothing to update on the operation of the current repeater systems.

Kaikoura repeater installation - Seeking the right contacts to confirm access to the site.

Repeater Development - No new information.

Reverse Beacon Network - Operating at Gerard's home using a wire antenna. Operating satisfactorily. Seems to be the only current NZ based RBN station. Observed to respond to heightened activity during contests.

Speaker Schedule:

April: Marlborough Lines Comms System.

May: David Rothwell on waterproof joints (Antennas, Part 2)

June: John Errington on Antenna Software (Antennas, Part 3)

July: Nick Batt on WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter)

AREC:

Three of five ex-Police SAR repeaters have been collected.

AREC members inspected one of the new Police repeaters at EOC last weekend. An AREC webinar on the repeaters will be broadcast on 14 March.

AREC members attended and IMT training session at the Police SAR Shed last Tuesday.

AREC has a new procedure for issue of field clothing.

The AREC General Manager has written a report of ham radio use during the recent severe weather events in the North Island, available from Paul.

General Business and Notices:

Grant Simpson reported some unusual and unidentified activity on the Ned repeater during late afternoon last Saturday.

Confirmation of Date of Next Meetings:

Committee Meeting, Tuesday 21 March by Zoom at 07:30pm.

General Meeting, Thursday 13 April, TBC.

Close: The meeting was closed at 8:17pm



This link was sent to me by a member who thought it may be of interest...

<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>

He did some checking and it appears to be legit and not in breach of any copyright etc.

Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications.

The Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications is a library of materials and collections related to amateur radio and early communications. The DLARC is funded by a significant grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications, a private foundation, to create a digital library that documents, preserves, and provides open access to the history of this community.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
via Zoom 21st March 2023 at 19:35 Hours

Present: John Errington (Chair), Don Laing, Gerard van Antwerpen, Nick Batt, Stuart Watchman, Paul Rennie, Greg Barton, Graeme McKay

Apologies: David Rothwell

Correspondence: (since CM MOM 23/02/23)

Inward:	26/02/23	G. McKay	EOC radio check sheet revisions
	27/02/23	MW&FF	Accounts email notification
	27/02/23	J. Errington	Kaikoura repeater check list
	01/03/23	NZ Companies Office	Reminder financial statements due
	04/03/23	Ian McKercher ZL3IDM	AGM apology
	05/03/23	CARC	Auction listing
	05/03/23	CARC	CARC activities
	16/03/23	Mark McGowan	HAM license inquiry
	21/02/23	CARC	'Hamlarks' newsletter
Outward:	23/02/23	B. Fletcher	Subs reminder
	27/02/23	Richard CARC	MARC repeater functionality list
	27/02/23	MW&FF	MARC invoice
	19/03/23	Mrs C. Conway	Condolence Card

Matters Arising: - CARC be included on the Interface distribution list

Finance: (In Committee) Treasurer presented his report. Membership 54 (paid)

- Wine & Food Festival have paid their invoice
- Annual financial report submitted to Companies Office 21/03/23
- Kiwibank have increased deposit interest from 4.1% to 4.9%
- Revised Constitution - Await NZART model Branch constitution

Events:

Field Day – Good to have more operators especially CW

Nelson / MARC Combined BBQ – Good day had by all & MARC retained trophy

Repeaters & Systems:

- **Kaikoura Site** visit to review action list – probably May PR
 - **Repeater Development**
 - MARC requirements functional description has been forwarded to Richard Smart ZL4FZ Branch 05 CARC.
 - To follow up. Paul R can meet Richard when in Christchurch. DL/PR
 - **Proposed Repeater Site**
 - Site marked up on Topo & MDC property maps
 - Await FENZ (who have repeater at same location) reply to access inquiry. PR
 - To ask helicopter pilot to check access track when next over flight. PR
 - **Site Licenses** - Discussed at length
- Motion: Stop paying licenses for 6m Beacon & Kaikoura Digipeater. Move: JE, Second: SW, Passed: All*
- **Police Repeaters**
 - 3 sets have been recovered and more to be collected from west Coast.
 - Deployment of these sets to be considered

Speaker Schedule:

April Marlborough Lines Comms system. Bill C has confirmed at last GM

May Antenna Part 2 – David Rothwell on waterproof joints

June Antenna Part 3 – John E on antenna software.

July Nick Batt -WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Report) / Mini presentations - to request presenters

Aug ??

Sept Constructors Award

Speakers for remainder of 2023 to be arranged

AREC: PR

- AREC CEO Don Robertson to visit 25~26/4/23
- SAR exercise at Dip Flat 6~12 May 2023. Volunteers welcome
- DMR set installed at EOC.
- Report re AREC response on Gabrielle Cyclone issued

General Business: NZART Conference - No issues identified to be raised

Meeting Closed: 20:25

Next Committee Meeting: 24th April 2023 (via Zoom)



AREC ZL TRBO DMR gets to Marlborough on VHF By AREC Technical Advisor John Yaldwyn ZL4JY

Marlborough is a difficult area to cover on the VHF/UHF bands. With dramatic topography, ranging from the wide valleys of the Wairau River to the jagged Inland Kaikouras, the region is home to some 40,000 New Zealanders. With exceptional recreational opportunities, the AREC sections in the area see plenty of action over the busy tourist season.

The investigation of a suitable site for the AREC ZL TRBO DMR network coverage has been made difficult by terrain dominated by two major faults, the roughly parallel Wairau and Awatere faults run north-east and south-west directions and form the Marlborough Fault System.

The area has resonance with long time VHF Groups members, including the late David Andrews, who operated for many years during the December contest weekend from the old Carter Observatory on the Black Birch Range near the summit of Altmarloch at 1,693m. This range divides the Awatere and Wairau Valleys.

There is no one site in the region that covers the main population centre of Blenheim and the many surrounding areas. To address 2m FM coverage, the area branches have cooperated in installing an extensive network of linked 2m repeaters in Golden Bay, Nelson, Picton, Blenheim, and Ward with another repeater at Kaikoura. Providing DMR coverage of the same area on the UHF 70cm band would be a challenging exercise involving at least as many repeaters.

Those familiar with Wellington's rugged south coast on a good day know that views south to the Marlborough region are spectacular, and the thought has slowly grown that perhaps the region could be covered from a suitable location above the rugged south coast. Using repeaters on the other side of Cook Strait for coastal coverage is not a new idea. Many years ago, a major SAR exercise along the Wellington south coast used DOC repeaters located in the South Island to cover the shoreline which is completely isolated RF-wise from Wellington.



View to Marlborough from Te Kopahou

With site access kindly arranged by Ian ZL1HUT, Peter ZL3TC, and Ray ZL2RAY the time came to put the long-held idea to the test. A 2m DMR STSP has been temporarily installed at Te Kopahou (*folded feather*) to trial the concept with AREC members in Marlborough cooperating with coverage checks. While all AREC ZL TRBO network DMR repeaters are UHF, the goal of covering Marlborough made the 2m band a logical choice. To date, the AREC DMR repeaters have been installed close to city areas to maximise coverage for UHF handhelds. The idea of a DX repeater operating at VHF on 2m is relatively novel. While 2m DMR equipment is not particularly common its use is growing with most amateur DMR radios now being dual band and of course the AREC TP9300 radios also cover 2m.

To see if this hairbrained idea would work, a pair of ex-TradeMe DM4400 25W mobiles were sent to AREC Tasman Manager Paul Rennie ZL2RE who at the time of writing is doing an extensive range of mobile coverage checks in the area with the help of other local AREC members. Testing from home with a Yagi antenna, Paul was received at a very strong -87.5 dBm at the repeater.

To complement Paul's mobile coverage tests Peter Cobb ZL3TC happened to have a trip to Christchurch scheduled Wednesday 10 November, two days after the STSP was installed. Peter, using with a 5W Motorola DP4400 handheld fitted with a 15cm helical antenna, was able to access the STSP DMR repeater from Springs Junction through to Blenheim then down through Ward and finishing up at Point Kean Lookout, Kaikoura. Peter's signal from Kaikoura was solid copy, ranging from -111 to -113 dBm. There were a few errors during overs as expected due to the extreme range (approximately 150 km) and probably some multipath.

The STSP is operating with a power of 30W from a Motorola into a modified Wacom WP-629B duplexer provided by John ZL4JY. A circulator protects the transmitter from mismatch and antenna system faults. The antenna is a three element RFI YH03 Yagi-Uda type with a manufacturer's claimed gain of gain of 8 dBi. Feeder is LD4-50 Heliac. My thanks to Gavin ZL2ACT, the duplexer tuning expert at 4RF for setting up the duplexer. Connection to the rest of the ZL TRBO network is provided by an LTE Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) modem provided by Steve ZL2KG operating at 700 MHz to a Vodafone site located some 250m away.

Thanks to Ian ZL2HUT, Steve ZL2KG, Peter ZL3TC have made the job of antenna rigging and feeder wrangling look easy. Ray ZL2RAY 'found' the RFI antennas. Doug ZL2TAR has provided invaluable antenna design advice

as options for a possible permanent installation have been proposed.

Thanks also to Paul ZL2RE, Paul ZL1BEZ, and Jeff ZL2JG for their assistance.

This sort of capability is what the AREC and the AREC DMR network provides. It's the connectedness between amateurs while providing a dedicated system of response to emergency communications requirements.

Image credits: Steve ZL2KG, Andre ZL2ATL, and John ZL4JY



**Steve ZL2KG installing the RFI Yagi at 8m AGL
Note the ladder is tied off to the pole as per the safety plan for
working at height and that Steve is wearing full PPE including
full body safety harness and climbing helmet**



NEW ADVENTURES IN HAM RADIO: THE FIRST TWO YEARS FOR MATT KERR, ZL4HZ

Part 1: The Back Story

Well, it has now been a couple of years since obtaining my HAM license through our Branch 22 Ham Cram in January 2020. Although I'm seldom able to attend our club nights due to conflicting commitments I thought I'd share a little of the fun I've been having in case it inspires anyone else to get involved or try something new.

Typical of most new HAMs I imagine, UHF/VHF repeaters were the first and easily accessible option for me. It was always a fun challenge to see if I could "hit the repeater" from wherever I was. For our 695 repeater this has included Wakamarina Rd (Canvastown), Lake Argyle and Kaiuma Bay. DMR then became of interest to me with its clarity of audio and ability to reach around NZ and the wider globe (albeit using the internet). I was most surprised to have a QSO with two other stations from south of Arthurs Pass back through the Christchurch repeater. This was most certainly not line of sight but I guess there was enough reflection and other black magic happening for a low-strength digital signal to connect into the repeater. However, I'm not sure anything will beat the excitement of being a new HAM and talking to Australia on a VHF handheld through the ISS repeater as it flew overhead! Certainly a day to remember for anyone new to the hobby, and still satisfying a little further down the log.

HF, using my humble Yaesu FT-891, has perhaps been the most exciting dimension I have found so far. I'm no romantic, but there is something to be said for "suffering" first-principle technologies. The antenna has to be right (in many ways!), the atmosphere has to be right and sometimes you have to brute-force your way through with a little more power or using phonetics or words-twice. I'm probably quite fortunate to have joined the hobby while the solar cycle favours HF propagation. My "stealth" longwire, strung poorly around my residential fence at a horrific 1.8m elevation is adequate for HF digital modes on most bands and for our domestic 80m nets. However, my 40/20 fan dipole at a still-humble 7.5m has earned SSB QSOs across Mediterranean and continental Europe and Asia, which again is always satisfying.

Digital modes, again, blew me away on HF. While FT8 has interest and appeal for collecting stations around the world, I have found VarAC to be a superb up and coming mode allowing file transfers and broadcast or P2P chats using the VARA HF modem. In a couple of cases I have been able to hold a 90min QSO over 12000km into the US for a live "rag-chew" chat session. Similarly, good old Winlink (email over HF) using the VARA HF modem is also an incredibly robust system. I was astounded to be able to connect to a Portuguese maritime station on 20M one evening and send an email through their node - 19860km from my QTH. Old-school for sure, but really cool! The best bit was getting an unexpected reply from the station's systems operator congratulating me on the contact and telling me that's what the HAM spirit was all about.

As an avid outdoorsman, ex military and emergency management planner I felt an itch to pull together a few ideas and projects to keep my interests going in preparedness and the use of resilient technologies. Stay tuned (dad jokes are my super power) for upcoming contributions covering Deployable HF Digital, QRP and LORAWAN using Meshtastic.

Part 2: Deployable Digital HF.

Living in a small urban section, my "shack" consists of a small desk in the corner of the main living area. Humble is an understatement. So, the absence of space, along with my underlying bent towards resilience and preparedness, led me to want to streamline my HF setup away from soundcards and CAT control widget-thingees and cables and computers on the desk. While it was completely possible to simply tidy the desk / shack and stack a few things and add some cable ties... I still wanted to go places with my HF rig and not be tied to the shack. After all, it is an FT-891; hardly a desktop rig for the home QTH.

I had seen some operators online build go-bags and boxes and operate off nothing more than a battery, a solar panel and a Windows-based tablet. Oh, and a seemingly expensive portable HF set like an ICOM IC-705. I

wanted to achieve similar capabilities but using only what I had - or cheap and available alternatives.

Not wanting to lug a somewhat-fragile laptop around, I found an Asus mini-PC on TradeMe. While it runs off 19v, an Ali-Express step-up transformer allows me to run it from a 12v battery, with an impressively low current draw of around 2A. Yes, this is still a lot, particularly when added to the 1A rx draw on my 891. While the transformer does generate HF noise, this is largely mitigated by choking the output power and shielding the entire unit with mesh. Glamorous - certainly not; but it is functional.

The PC, about half the size of a block of butter, is entirely solid state and capably runs windows 10 and all HAM software I require, including WSJT-X, FL-Digi, VarAC, VARAHF, Winlink, etc etc. Why Windows? Ease of use, familiarity and very broad HAM software options.

Ali Express again helped out with two 7" USB powered HDMI touch screens, and Facebook marketplace provided me with a \$5 PC cooling fan to circulate air through the box, given the demands of digital duty-cycles on the radio; even at modest power levels. This is manually switched to allow for operator control and noise reduction if simply sitting on receive. The fans internal to the FT-891 remain thermally controlled by the radio.

A miniature Bluetooth keyboard and mouse combo allows full mouse control and keyboard entry when deployed. Although for home use, I use a full sized keyboard and mouse for comfort.

In terms of power, I went for the Anderson 50A sized connector on the box. Not because I need 50A but because the fittings are ubiquitous and can be found on many vehicles (eg 4WD), some generators, and other alternative power supplies. Overkill, yes, but again, ubiquitous. Into this plug I connect a cheap power meter to monitor peak current, power consumption and any voltage drops. Feeding this is a small 12AH / 153WH LifePO4 Powertech battery. Why only 153WH? This is just within the upper limit of Air NZ's lithium battery allowance on their aircraft, so I can take this radio box or its battery as carry on should I wish.

Because such a low capacity battery will be consumed quickly if I'm operating continuously on digital modes or rag chewing on the phone at higher outputs, I have a foldable solar panel and Bluetooth charge controller that allows me to monitor the draw and the charge of the battery. Suffice to say, our Marlborough weather generally allows continuous solar operation, or certainly a day time recharge from evening use.

I term a set-up of this size to be a "medium" deployable unit, ie it's really made to go in a caravan or vehicle rather than in a backpack. Of course, you could take this up a mountain in a backpack, but it is by no means a QRP setup and you would arguably have the most HF capability of anyone on a hilltop anywhere in the world if you were to do so.

Afterthought - What's inside the box you ask? Well, I would show you but frankly, its an embarrassing spaghetti mix of USB cables, hardware bits from Mitre 10, a CAT & audio control unit, fan, fuses, a mini PC and a voltage step-up unit. Oh, and its all dressed up and made presentable with cor-flute panels. Like I said, it's not glamorous but it really is functional.

Matt's story will be continued in the next Interface. Stay Tuned!



The working 100W deployable HF digi-box.



CARYL'S LAMENT

From Nov 2002 Interface

Our Stuart is running classes.
He tries so very hard,
To teach us all the answers,
So our hand holds all the cards.
I have a Training Manual,
To help me learn "The Way",
In hopes that in the future,
I'll be a Ham one day.
But at the rate I'm going,
My mind keeps doing a rover,
& the day I pass my Ham Exam,
Is the day Hell freezes over!



CARLUKE COMBINED BBQ

After wondering whether we would have many attend, we ended up with 19! In contrast, poor Nelson had a number of last minute apologies and could only field 6. It didn't matter though and a total of 25 combined club members enjoyed perfect weather, an ideal location, great food and conversation.

As we had nobody who could get the BBQ out to Carluke, it was decided to cook everything on the two stoves in the hall instead. This worked well and no cleaning the BBQ when we got home!

The clubs provided potatoes, onions, bacon, sausages, patties, tomato sauce and bread, while attendees brought salads, crackers and cheese, stuffed eggs, frittatas, and/or desserts and fresh fruit. As usual, we had a good selection, although I think the dessert selection was a bit smaller than previous years.

While Heather (Nelson) and I set up and started cooking the potatoes, patties and sausages, Garth (Marlborough) and Andrew (Nelson) came along and cooked the onions and bacon. We soon had everything laid out on tables for everyone to help themselves then sit inside or out, sun or shade. Quite a few chose to sit inside as it had got quite hot in the sun. In past years we had sat under a large tree beside the hall but, since our last visit, they had added new toilet blocks and a septic tank system beside the tree and you could just smell a whiff of the tank contents (probably well used as they had their A&P Show last weekend) so we moved around to the other side of the building.

After lunch, it was time for the quiz while everyone digested. Six of our members volunteered to be on Nelson's team to even up the numbers. I have attached the quiz, complete with answers, as a separate pdf for those interested. Feel free to use it elsewhere. There were 3 sections, one worth 20 points and the other two worth 10. Marlborough won the quiz, 31 to Nelson's 26.

The attached pdf has a bonus round (not used at the BBQ) based on the 70's. You might find this a fun quiz to use at another event.

It was handed out at a recent 50th wedding anniversary we attended and was a great ice breaker to get people talking. At the end of the quiz, you will find the answers and then the full photos from the Who Is This? round.

The two questions which started the most conversation, and laughter for the latter, were -

1. What would you do with a djembe? Correct answer - it is a drum similar to a bongo.
One team was correct saying it was a musical instrument. The other team thought you would eat it.
2. Tsantsas is the process of doing what by the Jivaroan tribes of the Amazon rainforest?
One team thought it referred to ritualised circumcision, although some on their side thought it was blowing poison darts at enemies. The other team thought they were brewing some sort of drink.

The actual answer is - shrinking heads.



Those wanting to go on the Fox Hunt then assembled at the front of the hall ready to hear the call - a bit hard when the farmer was cutting the grass verge next door with his ride-on mower! The successful winner was Jim Meachen (Nelson) so we now had the clubs neck and neck with Toss The Tait to be the decider.

Nine Marlborough members wanted to give a toss so Nelson had 4 of their members throw twice then their student visitor had a go. Everyone else lined up at the start to cheer on

their respective team. The total feet (old tape measure) were added together and Marlborough won with 412.8 and Nelson's added up to 325.3.

It was a great, relaxing day out and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all who attended, helped cook and/or clean up, or participated in the competition. Thanks also to Andrew (Nelson) for setting up the Fox Hunt.



Grant (with his trusty new set of wheels), Andrew & Dianne. Dianne is not making a rude gesture, despite what it looks like!



Tony & Ken



Garth



Gordy (Nelson), Graeme, Judy (Nelson) & Tony, who wins the award for the biggest aerial (or is it an antenna?), at the start of the Fox Hunt



Garth winds up



Ken lets fly while John watches



Gavin, just before complaining of a strained shoulder



Tait in action

Gary in action

John inaction



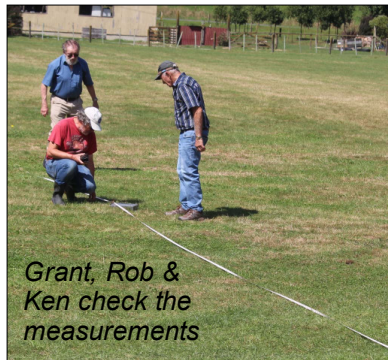
John lines up the target



Ron's balancing act



Greg. DUCK!!



Grant, Rob & Ken check the measurements



Rob & Tait part company

Tony. How'd I do??



Ken, Tony & Ron enjoy a laugh





*Peanut Gallery
watching Toss the Tait*



*View the camera man got of the airborne
Tait just before he got out of the way!*

*Thanks to Jim (for toilet block photos) and
Greg, for most of the rest of the photos.
I took the 1st one plus the Fox Hunt photos.*



*View of Carluke Hall
across the Tait tossing field*



Line-up after watching the Toss The Tait competition

CHOCOLATE CHIP BISCUIT LOG (for those who asked)

- 250g pkt chocolate chip biscuits
- ½ C sherry, brandy, or orange juice
- 300ml cream
- 1 Tbs golden syrup
- 2 tsp cocoa



Beat cream, golden syrup & cocoa until firm & holds its shape.
Put booze or juice in small container big enough to dunk biscuit.
Spread a thin layer of cream along oblong serving dish (helps hold biscuits up).
Dip a biscuit quickly in liquid (don't soak, it'll crumble) & spread one side with cream.
Do second biscuit & sandwich them together.
Place upright at one end of serving dish.
Continue until biscuits are all used & you have a "log" of alternating cream & biscuits.
Spread remaining cream over log to enclose the biscuits then decorate as desired.
Place in fridge at least 2 hours before serving, but preferably overnight.
Overnight gives the biscuits time to soften. Especially important for Ginger nut Log

GINGERNUT LOG

- 250g pkt ginger nuts
- ½ C sherry, brandy, or orange juice
- 300ml cream
- 2 Tbs icing sugar OR
- 1 Tbs honey
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Beat cream, juice, icing sugar or honey & vanilla until firm.
Follow instructions for choc chip log.
Refrigerate overnight.