

September 2023

# INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

## CLUB CALENDAR

**General Meeting;**.... 14 Sept, 7.30pm, EOC  
**Social Group;** ..... 21 Sept, Dodson St Beer Garden  
**Committee Meeting;** 28 Sept, 7.30pm, via Zoom



**HF Net** Tuesdays & Saturdays  
2030 hrs 3876kHz

**VHF - USB Net** Wednesdays  
1930 hrs 144.150MHz

## BRANCH 22 NOTICES



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

1. CONSTRUCTORS AWARD ..... 14 Sept
2. Marl. Lines DMR system construction, Paul R.... 12 Oct
3. Astronomy, Graeme McKay ..... 9 Nov
4. Xmas Lunch, Woodbourne Tavern ..... 16 Dec?

**Net Controller;**  
Rob Carter, ZL2IW

**Website:** [www.zl2ks.org.nz](http://www.zl2ks.org.nz)

**Editor:** Caryl Simpson [caryl@simtronics.co.nz](mailto:caryl@simtronics.co.nz) **MARC Contact:** [marcbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marcbranch22@gmail.com)

## CONSTRUCTORS AWARD

### 14 September

Have you finished your entry/entries for this year's CONSTRUCTORS AWARD?!

Bring them along to the September meeting.

*Make the judges work for their bribes!*

*(Entering the competition means you won't be asked to judge)*



I got this out of the letterbox on my way to the supermarket and dropped it on the front seat. I realised, once at the supermarket, I needed to cover it up as some may take the magazine title as a suggestion or invitation!

*(I didn't want to turn it over as name & address could be seen on the other side)*

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## GRANT



Grant and Bill were presented with certificates thanking them for their long and dedicated support of the club. Originally meant to be presented at the AGM but Covid postponed the presentation.

**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING**  
**at EOC, 10th August 2023 at 19.30hrs**

**Present:** John Errington (Chair), Don Laing (Sec), Greg Barton (Treas), Bill Cousins, Helen & Ron Harris, Grant Simpson, Link Teale, Paul Rennie, Gary Lodge, Graeme Dillon, Stuart Watchman, Graham McKay, Rob Carter

**Apologies:** Ken Menzies, Gerard Van Antwerpen, David Rothwell, Nick Batt, Wayne Parker, Sheila Cunningham

**Visitors:** Kerstin Mueller

**Health & Safety:** No issues raised

**Correspondence:** (since Committee Meeting 27/07/23)

**Inward**

28/07/23 NZART	Confirmation of appointment of Gerard as an Examiner
28/07/23 NZART	HQ closed for foreseeable future
28/07/23 AON Insurance	Insurance renewal due 03/09/23
30/07/23 CARC	August auction catalogue
04/08/23 Blenheim Electric House	Invoice for power supply repair
06/08/23 Kerstin Mueller	Confirmation of Thursday meeting
10/08/23 NZ Companies Office	Incorporated Societies registration starts October

**Outward**

Responses & distribution of the Inwards as applicable

**Matters Arising:** Included in following business

**Finance & Membership:**

Membership	56 paid, 1 unpaid
Accounts	(available upon request)
Income	Interest
Payments	Portable repeater charger repair

**Building & Equipment Insurance Renewal:** Discussion considering that quoted premium now \$1360 (18% increase) which is more than 50% of subscription income and that excesses are \$500, \$1000 for burglary & theft, \$2,500 for natural disaster. It was noted that Public Liability insurance was covered by the NZART national scheme.

*Motion: That Insurance cover is cancelled*

*D. Laing / J. Errington / Carried*

**Replacement Remote Tuner:** Stuart W to present proposal at next Committee meeting **Action: Stuart**

**Watchman**

**Events:**

12 August	Mid-Winter lunch
19/20/21 August	Lighthouse weekend

**Interest requested for following positive events:** All positive

10-Pin Bowling, Field trip to Weld repeater, Public demonstration field station

**Repeaters & Systems:**

**Kaikoura** - Await return of David Rothwell

**Antenna pole replacement & Cabinet key** – to follow up with Dolphin Encounters **Action: Paul Rennie**

**Picton** - Temporary battery installed - David Rothwell to propose permanent battery solution

**Speaker Schedule**

September	Constructors Award
October	Paul R – Marlborough Lines DMR system construction
November	Graeme McK - Astronomy

**SAR / AREC** - Paul Rennie

Productive meetings held at Marlborough, Nelson & Motueka with Lindsay Ross, AREC Regional Manager.

Two surplus laptops are being reconfigured to be donated for installation in EOC truck.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **APRS Repeater** - Query from North Island if Branch 22 APRS repeater at Jamie's Knob is operational. Confirmed that it is not. Whether to put into service to be considered and if not cancel license
- **EOC Radio Volunteers** - Request for additional volunteers for Thursday morning CD radio check schedule
- **Branch 22 VHF & HF Nets** - Request for support for Branch 22 Nets on Mon, Tues & Sat evenings

**Meeting closed:** 20:25

**Next Committee meeting:** 24th August by Zoom, 7:30pm

**Next General meeting:** 14th September 2023 at EOC, 7:30pm

**Presentation:** Amusing video of pre-WW2 attempt at driving vehicles to Carrington Hut, Waimakariri River, Arthurs Pass.

*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.*  
[marchbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marchbranch22@gmail.com)

**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**via Zoom 23rd August 2023 at 19:30 Hours**

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

**Apologies:** Nick Batt

**Health & Safety:** No issues identified

**Matters Arising:** None

**Correspondence:** (since GM MOM 11/08/23)

**Inward:**

10/08/23	NZ Companies Office	Registration of Incorporated Societies
13/08/23	CARC	Eastfest 9~10 September 2023
14/08/23	Paul Rennie	Weld Cone visit report
15/08/23	RSM	License renewal reminder
22/08/23	ILLW website	Call sign registration
22/08/23	NZART	'Break-In' magazine

**Outward:**

14/08/23	Caryl Simpson	Eastfest membership advice & Interface
15/08/23	Aon NZ	Commercial insurance cancellation
19/08/23	Caryl Simpson	Interface notice re Repeater Licence cancellation

**Finance: (In Committee)** Treasurer presented his report

Income: Interest

Payments: Battery Charger repair

Repeater RSM license fees in September

**Events:**

- **International Lighthouse weekend** - Reported to have gone well. Some suggestions may be forthcoming.
- **VHF/UHF Field Day 8 ~ 9 Dec 23** - To advertise in Interface with any interested participants to contact GvA directly
- **Weld Cone Visit** To request volunteer leader at next GM and maybe combine with working party. Cannot proceed until after lambing season
- **Field Day** - GvA to lead

**Repeaters & Systems:**

- **RSM License Renewal** - Notice to be posted in Interface re continuing licences for 6m Beacon & Kaikoura APRS
- **Kaikoura Pole replacement** – No response to telephone calls but yet to contact Dolphin Watch **PR**  
Further discussion regarding independent cabinet & installation **DR**  
Estimated to complete repeater testing for installation within two months
- **Weld Cone** - Site visit to be arranged to scope repair work for corroded shed base frame & get cost estimate **PR**
- **Brayshaw Park** - Grant S has picked up to repair. **GvA**
- GvA & NB to recommend replacement PC when GvA returns
- Standard battery specifications to be formulated **DR**

**Speaker Schedule:**

September	Constructors Award
October	Paul R - Marlborough Lines DMR system construction
November	Graeme McK - Astronomy

**AREC:**

**EOC Replacement Tuner** - LDG Tuner ordered and being delivered **PR**

**Generator fuel containers & Yagi aerial bag** - Estimated cost \$100 ~ \$150

*Motion: To proceed with purchase Moved PR, Seconded JE, Passed: All*

**Laptop / Starlink** - Follow up with EOC management. Maybe 2 ruggedised PC's via SAR

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Branch 22 Second Examiner.  
Await formal notification but advised GvA accepted and has been posted on NZART website. **DL**
- Offered Estate – to suggest that they bring to next meeting and offer to members.

**Meeting Closed:** 20:40

**Next General Meeting:** 14th September 2023

**Next Committee Meeting:** 26th September 2023 via Zoom (**NB** Tuesday instead of normal Thursday)





## CANCELLATION OF REPEATER LICENSES

It is proposed that the RSM commercial licenses for the 6m beacon ZL2SIX at Wither Hills & the Kaikoura APRS digipeater be cancelled due to these being inoperable for several years and no present intent to rectify. This will be discussed and decided at the next MARC General meeting 14 September 2023 prior to license renewal due September.

If you can not attend the meeting please forward your opinion to the Secretary at [marcbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marcbranch22@gmail.com)

### SO LONG, FAREWELL and thanks for all the fish!

(Sorry for combining *The Sound of Music* with *So Long*, & *Thanks for All the Fish*, the 4th book of Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series.)

It is with sadness that we will be saying farewell to Gavin ZL4IY and Chris Piercy. Although they love where they live, and don't want to leave, having to drive 2 - 3 times a week from Picton to Nelson for dialysis has taken its toll and they will be moving to Feilding, which is only 20 minutes from the dialysis unit in Palmerston North.

John ZL3LI and Pam Neal have also had health issues, including recent heart surgery for John. They will be moving to Manawatu at the end of year to be near family. We are sad to see you go but at least you can still stay in touch via amateur radio!



### Does anyone want a free marine HF whip antenna?

If that's you - contact Ron on 579 6181 or [ronlenharris@gmail.com](mailto:ronlenharris@gmail.com)



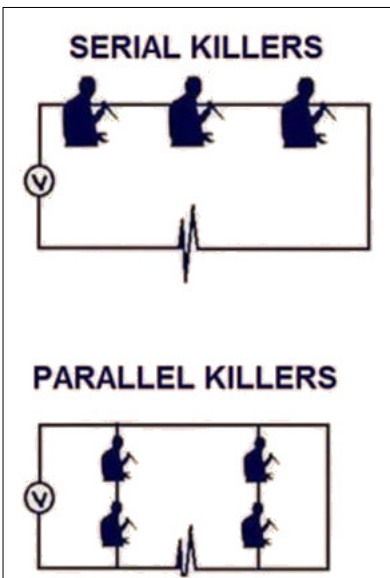
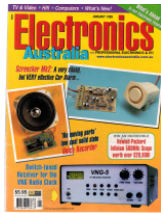
### OLD ELECTRONICS MAGAZINES from 70's - 90's

Does anyone have any early electronic magazines (1970's onwards) they would be willing to sell or give away?

We have an ex MARC member with dementia, now living in Tauranga.

He still has a good head knowledge of electronics from this earlier period and has been getting some enjoyment from looking at electronics magazines from the era eg. *Electronics Australia*, *Electronics Today*, *Practical Wireless*... etc.

If you have any magazines from this era that you no longer want, please contact Wayne Parker ZL2AIE [wayne.new.zealand@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.new.zealand@gmail.com), who will arrange to send them on, thanks.



Gerard, ZL2GVA, was runner-up in the Sangster Shield CW contest earlier this year, beaten only by ZL1PC who nobody beats if he is in the contest and taking it seriously.

Gerard also won the Arthur Stevens trophy for the top-scoring South Island station.

These are fitting achievements for Gerard who only got into CW a few years ago but has done extremely well since then! In doing so he has put Branch 22 on the map again. Thanks Gerard!





## CAPE CAMPBELL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND – ZL6CC – 19-21 AUGUST 2023

After two years of missing out on ILLW, the first through Covid restrictions and the second because the access road was closed by slips, there was a keen group of participants for the 2023 edition.

The “weekend” is based around UTC so officially starts at midday Saturday till midday Monday and most were able to participate for the full weekend.

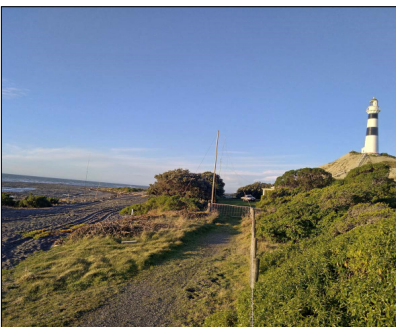
A convoy of seven vehicles met at 9am on Saturday, at the turnoff from SH1, under a rather leaden sky with a stiff northerly making it a cool start. We drove out to the lighthouse via the farm road through locked gates and fields of sheep, cattle and chickens, arriving just before 10am.



As the weather was forecast to deteriorate, the first objective was to get our antennas erected and cabled. Our poles, carefully stored in the long grass behind the old henhouse, were recovered and erected along the fence line. As before, we had Rob's (ZL2IW) off-centre fed multi-band dipole on the lawn in front of the accommodation and Bill's (ZL2AYZ) verticals (with raised radials) down at the high-water mark for 20 and 40 metres. We also set up antennas on the verandah for 6M, 2M and 70cm with access to the National system, DMR, and the Ned repeater.



With good teamwork, and spurred on by the approaching showers, we were inside and on the air just after midday. The main HF transceivers were Gary's (ZL1GA) IC-7600 and Stuart's (ZL2TW) IC-7300 with a range of mostly Yaesu for the VHF/UHF channels. Several other units were shown and shared by participants over the weekend. Neville (ZL2BNE) demonstrated (and modified) some of his extensive home-brewed collection, although in an unguarded moment he was observed operating an Icom without either him or the rig self-destructing!



There were other NZ lighthouses on the air and we quickly made contact with them followed soon after by VKs and later some further afield.



The accommodation at the Cape is very comfortable with the old generator shed now refurbished as the main cottage comprising a large kitchen, living room, bedroom, bathroom and utility room, and large verandah. This became our operational HQ. The “cowshed”, “single-man's quarters” and the “weather office” provided



comfortable sleeping quarters for the team.

Rob and Kaye (ZL2KU), having done the hard yards in setting everything up, returned to Blenheim late afternoon.

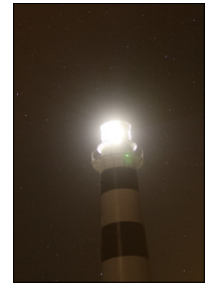


Meals over the weekend were a highlight, thanks to Ian (ZL2BGL) and Christine, and Gary (ZL1GA) and Carol for the dinners.



back-stories being shared by participants. So engrossed in this, we completely overlooked the regular Branch 22 HF net at 20:30.

Sunday was a better day with bright sun but still a wicked wind. With a bit of adjustment to the guys the antennas stood up well and participants who were "off-watch" got out and about exploring the surroundings. Neville, rather heroically, ran the 24km loop back to Marfells Beach then back out via the road. Stuart checked out the long rocky point below the high-water mark that was thrust up by the 2016 earthquake and Greg (ZL2GBX) found a few sleepy seals sheltering from the wind in the tussock. Graeme (ZL1BDS) took the opportunity of a clear sky to do some astro-photography in the evening with some fantastic results.



Throughout the day we operated at least one rig continuously and it was a good opportunity for Link (ZL2CLT), one of newer members, to get some experience before he returned home in the evening.

Overnight the wind switched around and at dawn Monday our verticals were at best "slopers." Bill found that one of the verticals, now almost horizontal at ground level, was giving him good contact into Italy thus proving the benefits of having "wet-feet" at high tide. A quick readjustment and reinstatement of guys was required.

By 10am, with the wind continuing and rain threatening, and with contacts drying up we decided to pack up while it was still dry and were back out on the main road just after midday after a fun and friendly weekend.

Total SSB contacts: 115

CW 1

Total FT8 contacts: 80

Total VHF/UHF contacts: 17 (DMR, DSTAR and National System)

42 of the FT8 contacts were with only 10W! Contacts on this mode/power were mainly with Australia and Asia, but a few also to USA.



Other NZ lighthouse stations that were active were Cape Egmont, Cape Palliser, Tiri Tiri Matangi, and Nugget. We worked all of them as well as 15 Australian LH stations. The furthest LH station worked was N7N on Patos Island north of Seattle. Two other LH stations were worked on FT8 - 9M4LHJ in Malaya and VK6CNL in Western Australia, both on 10W.

Other non-LH stations of note were GW2HFR (Nth Wales), CS2SP (Portugal), F5PFP (France) and VK2VMP (HMAS Vampire, a Destroyer in Darling Harbour, Sydney), all on SSB.

The one CW contact we had was requested but we had to use the mic pressel switch as we didn't have a key on hand!

A big thanks to all participants and to those who loaned equipment, provided meals, organised facilities and general support and encouragement.

Thanks to Greg ZL2GBX and Bill ZL2AYZ for the report and Graeme ZL1BDS and Greg ZL2GBX for the photos.

On the right is Graeme's photo of a plane flying overhead. He took a beaut of the pointers near the Southern Cross (Alpha and Beta Centauri?) but the detail could not be seen when shrunk to fit the Interface. 😞



# EastFest 2023

Saturday 9th September 0900-1730

Sunday 10th 0900-1230

## Venue - Christchurch Amateur Radio Clubrooms 5 Idris Rd Fendalton

We will provide Morning & Afternoon refreshments but no lunches or evening meals. However, Fendalton Village Centre and Fendalton Mall are both approx 5-10 min drive away. The Saturday evening meal will be at the Garden Restaurant 110 Marshlands Road, Shirley at 1830. This will be a Buffet Meal, cost \$45pp to be paid on the night.

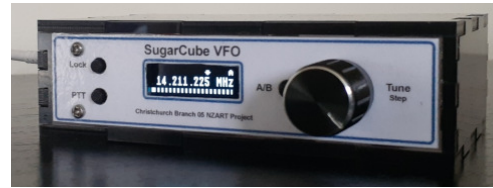
**There will be an Amateur Radio Equipment Auction held on the Sunday.  
Catalogue out when items finalised.**

Cost for the Weekend \$10 (including a raffle)

EastFest is only for Paid/Registered Attendees. Sunday Auction open to all.

### Saturday 9th September

- 0900 Doors open, Registration and auction items can be inspected/tested.
- 1000 Andrew, ZL2PD "Sugar Cube VFO"
- 1045 Morning Tea 15 mins
- 1100 Craig, ZL3TOO "Technoman"
- 1200 Lunch 60 mins
- 1300 Rod, ZL3NW "Practical VHF Antenna Aspects"
- 1400 Richard, ZL4FZ "VNAs"
- 1500 Afternoon Tea 15 mins
- 1515 Kelvin, ZL3KB "B05 RadioTek Reboot: An Introduction to Electronics & Radio for Young & Old"
- 1615 Roger, ZL3RC "SDR Transceivers: Some Practical Experience"
- 1730 *Raffle Drawn & Close*
- 1830 Dinner at Garden Restaurant



Scan the QR code for the map on your phone

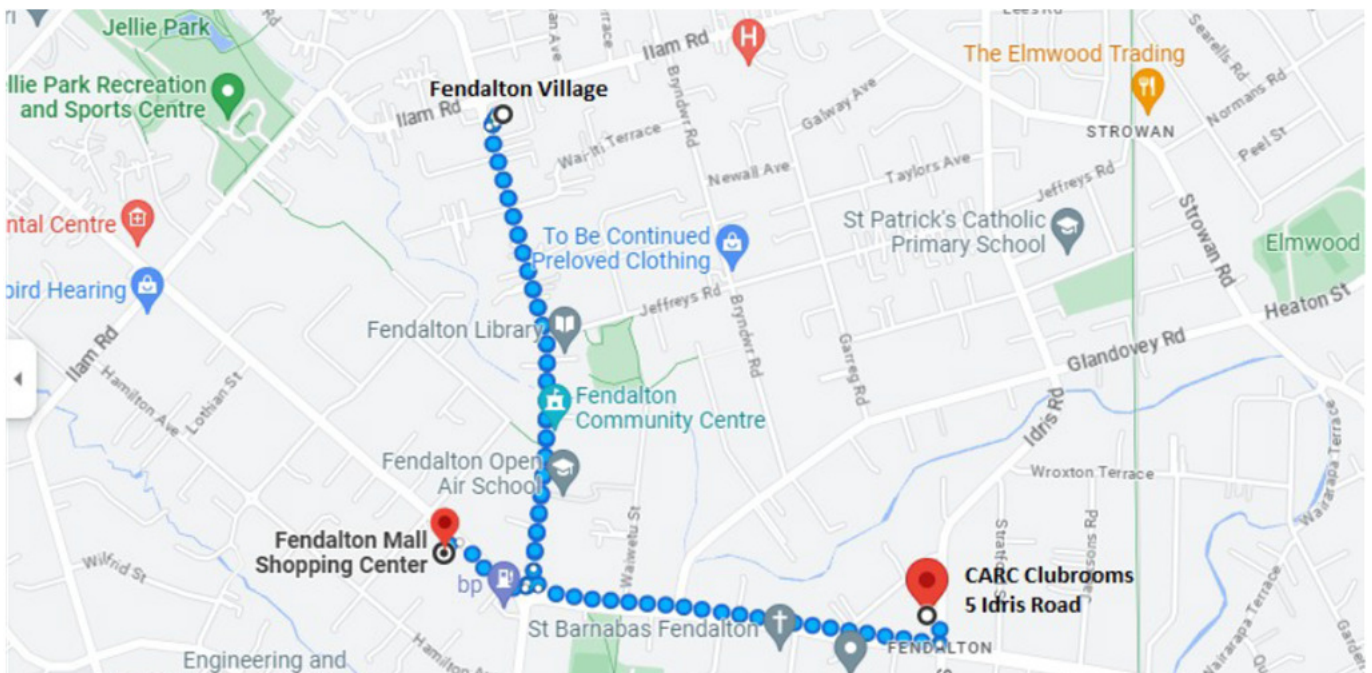
### Sunday 10th September

- 0900 Doors open
- 1000 Stuart, ZL2STR "NZART Awards"
- 1100 Morning Tea 15 mins
- 1115 September Branch 05 Auction
- 1230 Close after the September Auction has concluded

**These are usually very interesting.**

**Perhaps we could organise a carpool if several members are interested in attending?**

**If carpooling to this interests YOU, let Don know [marchbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marchbranch22@gmail.com)**



You should have received an email from the secretary with a copy of the above agenda and an auction catalogue



## MID WINTER DINNER AT ARMADILLO'S RESTAURANT

24 members (and a grandchild) enjoyed a delicious lunch at Armadillo's in the Springlands Tavern. Service was a little slow but the staff were helpful. Everyone enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and a chat before meal orders were taken. John Errington then presented certificates of thanks to Bill Cousins and Grant Simpson, thanking them both for their long service and dedicated support to the club. Both these members recently stood down from long-held positions. These were supposed to be presented at the AGM but several, including the president, were away (thanks to Covid) so it was decided to hold off until more members could observe the presentation.

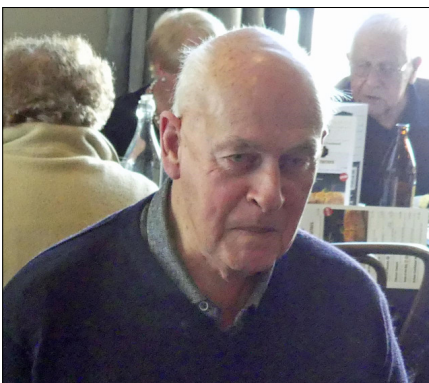
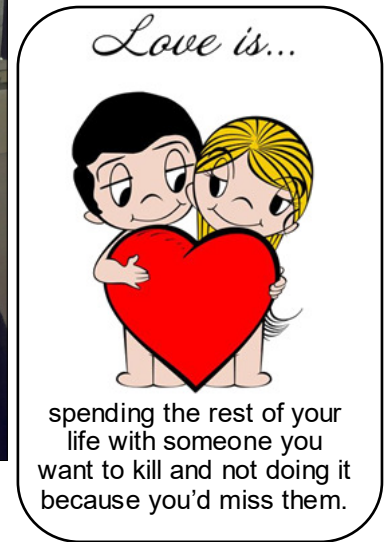
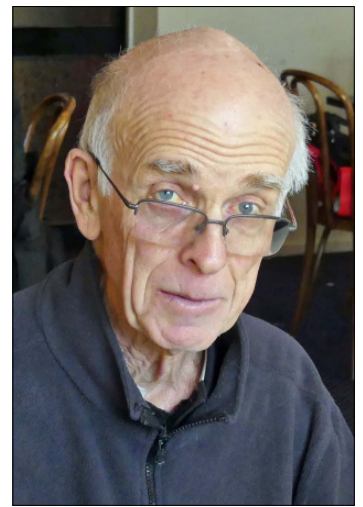
It was now time for a quick, fun, culinary quiz. A copy of the quiz and the answers, with full explanations, was with this newsletter attachment. The joint winners, with 8 out of 10, were Deborah Errington and Don Laing followed by Linda Laing with 7 out of 10.

More chatting and catching up with some not seen for a while before meals started arriving at the tables and the noise level dropped while everyone ate. Soon though, there was more chatting going on with moving from table to table to talk to different people. A few of us had room for dessert but eventually members started leaving. The last of us left at 2.35pm. We were pleased to note, as we were last to pay, that everyone prior had remembered to do so and there was nothing outstanding on the tab!

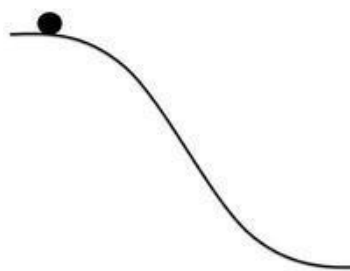
Look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas lunch, if not before.







I HAVE POTENTIAL



This is not a drill