

March 2024

# INTERFACE

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

## Club Calendar

**AGM;**..... 14 March, 7.30pm, EOC  
**Social Group;** ..... 21 March, Dodson St Beer Garden  
**Committee Meeting;** 28 March, 7.30pm, Zoom

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

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

## Branch 22 Notices

1. Carluke Combined BBQ..... 9 March
2. AGM ..... 14 March
3. Weld Cone Repeater Visit & Picnic (TBC) ..... 20 April



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

**Net Controller;**  
Rob Carter, ZL2IW

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

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## OUT STANDING IN THEIR FIELD!



### JOCK WHITE FIELD DAY PARTICIPANTS

## Marlborough Amateur Radio Club General Meeting

at EOC, 8th February 2024 at 19:30 Hours

**Present:** John Errington (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Greg Barton (Treasurer), Ron Harris, Paul Rennie, Gary Lodge, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Stuart Watchman, Graeme Dillon, Ian Conway, Don Jamieson, Tony Whitaker, Graeme McKay, Nick Batt, Kaye Hannagan, Rob Carter, Antony Winter, Grant Simpson

**Apologies:** Bill Cousins, Helen Harris, Ken Menzies, Ken Hynds, David Rothwell, Wayne Parker

**Visitors:** Doug Mason ZL1KHZ

**Health & Safety:** No issues raised

**Previous Minutes:** As published in Interface agreed by those present as a true and correct record

D. Laing / J. Errington / **Carried**

**Matters Arising:** None

**Correspondence:** (since Committee Meet 23/11/23)

### Inward

26/12/23	Kiwibank	Statement
16/01/24	Mark McGowan	Re subscription reminder
22/01/24	Blenheim Accounting	Audit/Review documentation
26/01/24	D. Laing	Onamalutu BBQ surplus meat
07/02/24	Gregory Kenley	Picton operating places for visiting USA Hams
07/02/24	Kiwibank	PO Box 2024 invoice

### Outward

02/02/24	Luca Ghinazzi	Remote station user requirements
29/01/24	EOC operators	Final schedule Feb~May 2024
07/02/24	Blenheim Accounting	MARC annual accounts for review

Responses & distribution of the Inwards as applicable

*Motion: The Inwards correspondence be accepted and the Outwards endorsed. D. Laing / J. Errington / **Carried***

**Matters Arising:** Included in following business

### Finance & Membership:

Membership	56 members (45 full with 3 transfers out, 4 Life, 7 Partner), 12 unpaid
Accounts (available upon request)	
Income	Subs (7 individual & 4 family) & Interest
Payments	Duplicate keys & Onamalutu BBQ expenses

*Motion: The financial report be accepted and payments approved*

G. Barton / J. Errington / **Carried**

### Events:

- 10 Feb 2024 - **Wine & Food Festival**. S. Watchman is issuing Passes **SW**
- 24/25 Feb 2024 - **Jock White Field Day**. D. Laing has booked PortaLoo. **SW/DL**
- Attendees to contact Stuart or Don
- 9 Mar 2024 - **Nelson & Marlborough** combined function at **Carluka**
- April 2024 - **Weld Cone** repeater visit & picnic

### Repeaters & Systems:

**Kaikoura** - No change **DR**

**Picton Battery Replacement** - No change **DR**

**6m Beacon** - Original Beacon operational for 2 months however being a bit unstable during hot weather.

New Beacon kits delivered. Exciter assembled and being soak tested.

Amplifier kit to be assembled **BC/TW**

**Brayshaw Park** - System operating OK. Rotator control interlink cable still missing and replacement to be made up. Some issues with user PC software that needs to be reset to refresh link. **GvA**

**LandSAR Building** - No change

### Speaker Schedule

14 March	AGM & possible Marlborough Lines talk re new solar installations
24 April	Weld Cone visit
13 April	Winery site visit

### SAR / AREC **PR**

- 2 Call-Outs. A lost woman on Mt Riley track and a female tramper dehydrated in Rainbow area

- A&P Show Remittance – LandSAR expect payment Feb/March

- AREC District Manager role has been disestablished. Now all managed by employed South Island manager based at Dunedin.



**General Business:**

- Parts donated by John Neal available.
- Constitution. Needs to be revised to comply with new legislation. Await model constitution from NZART to proceed. Understand that needs to be completed by October 2026.

**Meeting closed:** 19:55

**Next Committee meeting:** 22nd February 2024 by Zoom, 7:30pm

**Next AGM meeting:** 14th March 2024 at EOC, 7:30pm



**WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL REPORT**

On Saturday February 11 the wine festival was held at the Renwick domain for the second time having left the original Brancott Rd site for good. As usual we were there helping out with communications for the festival organisers, watching chillers and comms for the security staff. Our members also take enquiries from the vendors and pass then on to the organisers for action.

There were more festival goers this year and twice as many food vendors as last year. It seems that many vendors held back to see how the new site went. There are only positives at the new site as far as I can see: its larger, site access is much easier and we get a room in the sports pavilion with a toilet and a concrete floor, a big improvement on the tent days at the old site. The old 45 minute car queue getting out of the old site at the end of the day has completely gone.

A late health problem meant two extra radio club members were needed at short notice, thanks to Gerard and Gary for helping out.



Apologies for not having photos of everyone, I only thought of this in the afternoon so missed the am staff. A PRS h/h antenna has gone AWOL and a ear piece mic lead was snapped in a forklift but otherwise things were uneventful.

Thanks to:

Sheila, Don, Linda, Gary, Ron (who also helped with set up on Friday morning), Helen, John, Ian, Greg, Rob Carpenter, Anthony and Gerard.

**- Stuart ZL2TW**

*Looking at the sign beside Ian, if this is a Young Winemaker finalist, I'd hate to see the old ones!*

*(Sorry Ian, Stuart made me do it)*



**The AGM is the cut-off for 2024 subscriptions**

After that date, members who have not paid will have their membership and membership privileges suspended.



**CONDOLENCES**

The club sends heartfelt condolences to Ken, ZL2BJV, and Dianne Menzies after their son, Scott, finally lost his long, hard, fight.

*"Words, no matter how kind, can't mend your heartache. However, those who care for you wish you comfort and peace of mind."*

A hug for you and your loved ones



Sam Tennant is also mourning the loss of his mum.

*"A mother's love will forever shine in our memories."*

# MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

via Zoom 18th February 2024 at 19:30 Hours

**Present:** John Errington (Chair), Greg Barton, Don Laing, Paul Rennie, David Rothwell, Gerard van Antwerpen, Nick Batt

**Apologies:** Graeme McKay, Stuart Watchman

**Health & Safety:** Hot weather during Field Day

**Minutes of last meeting;** Minutes 18/01/24 confirmed. No matters arising. *Moved JE/ Seconded PR, Passed All*

**Correspondence:** (since GM MOM 08/02/24)

## Inward:

10/02/24	Doug Mason	Membership application
13/02/24	Neville Marr	40m SDR project
18/02/24	Karl Zuk N2KZ	Request for Brayshaw remote HF permission
19/02/24	Stuart Watchman	Re Jock White Field Day
19/02/24	Peter Mott (hfradio.nz)	Alpine Fault net contact
21/02/24	NZ Companies Office	Law change review of Incorporated Societies
20/02/24	Bill Cousins	Ham-Cram dates
21/02/24	NZART	Break In Jan-Feb 2024
21/02/24	David Rothwell	Annual repeater report
21/02/24	Gerard van Antwerpen	Apologies, website & reverse beacon upcoming costs, Brayshaw access

**Outward:** Responses & distribution of the above Inwards as applicable

14/02/24	Greg Barton	2024 AGM nomination forms for membership distribution
19/02/24	NZART	Branch model constitution release
19/02/24	Dalley's Dummies	Portaloo booking confirmation
20/02/24	Gerard van Antwerpen	Copy of Branch 22 constitution plus amendments
20/02/24	W&F Festival	Invoice

Motion: The Inwards correspondence be accepted and the Outwards endorsed

*Moved: DL / Seconded: JE / Passed: All*

## Finance: (In Committee)

Treasurer presented his report

- Membership is now 57 with 9 unpaid
- Income since last meeting
  - Subscriptions
  - Interest

## - Payments

Onamalutu picnic expense to date

## Upcoming payments:

Club BBQ Onamalutu  
Jock White field day  
Nelson combined picnic Carluke  
Repeater batteries  
Installation Kaikoura repeater

Motion: *The Accounts be accepted and the payments approved*

*Moved: GB / Seconded: PR / Passed: All*

## Unpaid Membership:

Motion: *Final notice to be sent to all unpaid members. If not received by AGM they will be removed from the membership*

*Moved: GB / Seconded: JE / Passed:*

**PO Box;** Still to confirm with NZSAR committee and await their response.

**Action PR**

Question - What does the Registered Society law & regulations require?

**Future Expenses** - 2024/25 long term expenses budget to be prepared to enable anticipated costs **Action GB**

**Web Site Hosting** - Gerard vA advised that due beginning of March. Presently \$84, but expect to be about \$105 for next year.

## Events:

**Wine & Food Festival** - Invoice has been submitted at same value as 2023

**Jock White Field Day** - 24/25 Feb.

**Carluke Combined BBQ** - 9 March. Apologies from P. Rennie

## Repeaters & Systems:

### 6m Beacon

Operational but being affected by hot weather.  
Can not presently access due to Wither Hills access ban.

**JE/BC**

### Kaikoura

Duplex Filter severely internally corroded  
Motion: *D Rothwell authorised to dismantle and investigate repair options*

**DR**





Moved: JE / Seconded: DL / Passed

Further contacts to temporary installation would be helpful to prove operation.

**Picton Batteries** Working OK DR

**Weld Cone** Maintenance after fire season (see below)

**Brayshaw Park** Wood Workers Guild WiFi finally connected  
Temporary remote access: Modification to Policy  
*Motion: Require MARC associate membership for one year's access. After one year require full MARC membership which includes NZART Transmitting membership*

Moved: JE / Seconded: NB / Passed

To advise prior applicant DL  
Investigate PayPal account for international payments

**Remote Beacon** Donated redundant PC being used has died. PC  
*Motion: Authorise Gerard van Antwerpen to purchase suitable replacement*  
Moved: DR / Seconded: DL / Passed

**Speaker Schedule:**

- March 24 AGM - Talk from Marlborough Lines rep to be confirmed by PR (*note, subsequent to the meeting the proposed speaker was still on holiday and we accepted an offer from Nick to speak. Paul will see if the speaker is available for later in the year.*)
- April 24 Weld Cone visit - Propose 20 April subject to weather & fire ban
- May 24 Duplexes by JE & DR
- June 24 (TBC) Winery Tour site visit
- July 24 Lightning characteristics & protection

**AREC:** PR  
A & P Show - NZSAR awaiting payment from A&P

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Gerard van Antwerpen advised that he has obtained an import license for radios and is willing to explain process to anybody interested. (*Look for his article on this on page 14*)
- HFRadio – Several members have joined recently formed HFRadio Net and await initiation
- Ham Cram – Bill C has advised on dates and JE will liaise further.
- John Neal Parts Donation – to check with Ian Conway as to where they went. JE
- New Constitution – Await ratification of new NZART constitution at the next NZART conference following which NZART will issue a model Branch constitution.

**Meeting Closed:** 21:00

**Next AGM & General Meeting:** 14th March 2024, 7:30pm at EOC

**Next Committee Meeting:** 28th March 2024, 7:30pm (via Zoom)



I received the following email from John Elvy, ZL2BH...

Changes to the UK Ham service, and you can subscribe to OFCOM should you wish to be kept up to date

**From:** [cdxc@groups.io](mailto:cdxc@groups.io) <[cdxc@groups.io](mailto:cdxc@groups.io)>  
**On Behalf Of** M0JWB - Jim Bryant  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 10:40 AM  
**To:** [cdxc@groups.io](mailto:cdxc@groups.io)  
**Subject:** [cdxc] Changes to Amateur Radio Licensing Framework

Here it is.....

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2024/amateur-radio-more-freedom-to-innovate>

Jim, M0JWB

**NB: These are last year's Minutes, to be taken as read before this year's AGM 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**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):**

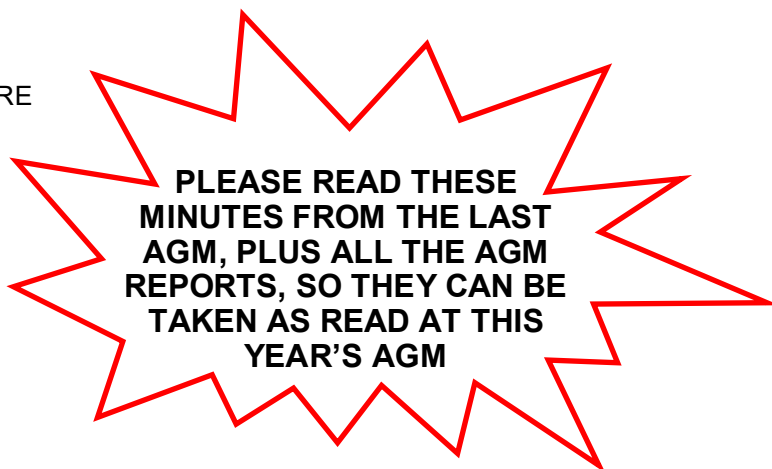
Bill Cousins ZL2AYZ

(vacant)

**QSL Manager:** Bill Cousins ZL2AYZ

**Webmaster/Librarian:** Gerard Van Antwerpen ZL2GVA

**Interface Editor:** Caryl Simpson



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.

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**MARLBOROUGH NELSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS'**  
**COMBINED BBQ AND FOX HUNT**

**WHEN:** Saturday March 9th,

**TIME:** 11am onwards

**WHERE:** Carluke Hall, Rai Valley (*More details P10*)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2024

This year went well, with meetings running as planned. Covid and weather-related issues had less impact than in previous years.

Our speakers covered a fascinating variety of topics including Astronomy, weak signal propagation, pre-WW2 stories of taking cars up the Carrington River, the provision of power supply to DMR repeaters and several presentations on aspects of antenna design and construction.

The constructors evening in September was well supported, as was a round table briefing on SOTA, with associated discussion of equipment and antenna options.

Individual members and the club participated in a variety of contests and events. We will compete again in the Jock White Field Day. The Lighthouse Weekend in August also went well.

My thanks to the members involved in the notable efforts to recommission the Kaikoura Repeater, the Brayshaw Park Remote site, and the 6M beacon. Particular thanks also to Grant Simpson who supported much of our infrastructure alone for many years. It is great to see some of the load being shared around in the last year.

We enjoyed a number of social events. As usual the Christmas meeting and the January Barbeque were highlights. The Social Group lunch was consistently well attended each month.

Many thanks again to Christine for her continued work in rounding up the lunch group. Thanks also to Caryl for her long-time commitment to preparing Interface each month, and for her support of many other matters.

The club's finances are reported elsewhere, but I observe that increasing interest rates have made a satisfying and material difference to our income.

Fund Raising is always a focus for the committee. This year, members helped staff the gates at the A&P Show and supported the Wine and Food Festival. A big thank you to all who contributed. These events are the bulk of our income. Our subscriptions are significantly lower as a result.

AREC is a public service of Amateur Radio, and I would like us to recognise the extensive time and effort put in to AREC by this section of the club membership. There are more details in the AREC report. However, I note with concern the changing structure of AREC and the lack of investment in, and support of, grass roots efforts and people. We need to remember that in times of emergency, restoring communications will require committed and skilled individuals more than it will require a nationally led bureaucracy.

Every week, the club provides operators to the EOC to test the local emergency communication network. If you can spare the time, more operators are always welcome.

Finally, I would like to profoundly thank the committee. All the effort that runs the club is voluntary. The committee members put in more time than most and for some committee members that commitment goes back many years.

- 73, John Errington, ZL3TIL

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### EXAMINER'S REPORT - 2024

No HamCram this year but we did have two good keen men attempt the exam, namely Mark McGowan (ZL2MHZ) and Lincoln (Linc) Teale (ZL2CLT), who are active in the club and most will have met by now. They both passed comfortably, having essentially done their own study.

Sadly, my co-examiner John ZL3LI has now moved north, having been in the position for some years. Thank you John for your support and assistance - it was very much appreciated! Fortunately Gerard, ZL2GVA, has offered to fill the vacancy, so I look forward to working with him in the future.

- Bill, ZL2AYZ

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### QSL MANAGER'S REPORT - 2024

As over 90% of cards received via the Bureau in recent years are for ZL2AYZ/ZL3VZ, some may have wondered why the Branch stands the postage cost for Bureau QSL cards instead of ZL2AYZ. For this reason, as from the next SAE replenishment, I will pay the cost.

The few other Marlborough Branch members QSL cards that do arrive, however, will continue to be distributed as usual. The one card that did arrive this year, other than those for ZL2AYZ/ZL3VZ, was for Don, ZL2BJS.

- Bill, ZL2AYZ

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### SILENT KEY: Noel Laing, ZL2TNL (no relation to Don Laing, ZL3DN)

Noel was a member of the club early this century and lived out at Seddon. He later moved to Te Aroha to be closer to family. Some may remember him from a talk he gave at the club on his flying days as a pilot in Papua New Guinea, as it was recalled as one of the most interesting talks for some years afterwards! The newspaper described him as an "adventurer", and he certainly was in his younger days apparently.

He had an army Indian motorcycle with his callsign on the fuel tank. Marie and Bill Cousins were in Te Aroha some years ago and Bill remembers seeing the bike, with its callsign, parked in the town but didn't register it was Noel, until they were in a cafe nearby and heard the motorcycle started up with a roar. At that instant it hit him who ZL2TNL was! He rushed out but was too late, which he has always regretted since!

A very interesting and likeable guy!

## SOCIAL LUNCHEON REPORT – 2023

We have continued to meet at Dodson's Beer Garden this year, and have managed 12 events, with no interference from COVID. Dietmar continues to be very accommodating, and there is plenty of easy parking. This arrangement is not set in concrete, and any discussion on another venue would be welcome if members would like a change.

We continue to have an average of 10 members attending; with January and August mustering 14 each, a good turnout. It's good to see more partners coming occasionally, it helps to boost the numbers, and it's good to get to know the 'other half' of the Club.

We were saddened at the sudden passing of Chris Grant in April. Chris has been a stalwart of the Social lunch for much of the time it has been held, and took over the organising of it for a number of years, after Ross Holdaway became unwell. We had a moment's silence at the May lunch in respect of Chris, and we greatly miss her contribution and knowledge on many topics, including her interesting travels and walking expeditions. We have also farewelled John Neal, and wish both him and Pam every happiness on their move up north. John has done much for the Club over many years, and we will miss him.

Thanks to Caryl again, for producing the Club newsletter each month. There is much work that goes in behind the scenes to enable such a newsy and informative bulletin to go out. The Social Lunch is always advertised, and we continue to text or phone all members on our list to get numbers wishing to attend, so a table can be booked. If anyone else would like to be included on the list, please don't hesitate to contact me, or a committee member, and you will be welcomed at any stage.

- Christine Conway



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## WEBMASTER / LIBRARIAN REPORT

Our website, ZL2KS.org.nz, has now been going for 8 years (set up in 2016), and there have been no problems that I'm aware of in the last year. As per previous years, not much has changed in the last year.

I'm not sure on the numbers of people using the site, there are stats available, but many hits are not from real persons. I've not had any feedback in the last year, so assume everyone is fairly happy.

We are using about 600 Mb, a bit over half of what we've got available (1 Gb), we paid \$84.40 (\$25 for the domain name, and \$59.40 for the webhosting) for this in 2023, the same as in 2022. It's going to increase this coming year to about \$110 in total.

Every month the newsletter is put on the site, and occasionally some other information is added or updated. There are currently 13 pages on the site, with information on our repeaters, remote HF-station, newsletter, some committee matters, AREC, and some presentations. If there is anything you feel we need to add please let the committee know and it will be considered.

On the library front not much to report either for 2023, it's still available to members, but no requests for books were received. An overview of the material held is available on our website. Bill ZL2AYZ regularly brings in the RSGB RadCom and some other magazines for members to take home and share. These have not been added to the library, but are a welcome addition to the 'floating' collection, please bring them along for others to look through once you have had them for a while.

- Gerard ZL2GVA



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## MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB REPEATER REPORT 2023/2024

### VHF Blenheim 695 Repeater

**Status:** Fully operational with no issues reported.

### VHF Picton 7225 Repeater

**Status:** Fully Operational, currently using long-term loan batteries.

### VHF Ward 560 Repeater

**Status:** Operational, potential intermittent fault observed.

Reports vary, with some indicating non-responsiveness and others normal operation.

Also scratching and after my finding of the coax fitting on 690 makes you think.

**Request for Assistance:** All members who are within range of 560 are asked if they can help monitor Ward 560, as it is currently out of range from my location. Thanks

**Action:** Based on collective monitoring feedback, a plan will be formulated and a site visit might be required.

### VHF Kaikoura 690 Repeater

**Status:** Online at temporary location, operating without a duplexer and utilizing separate TX and RX antennas.

I have now acquired a new enclosure for the repeater and going to fit rack mount system.

**Issues Identified:** Significant internal corrosion within the filter cavities, open circuit coax "tee."



**Current Actions:** Pending approval from the committee, efforts will be underway to open and clean the cavity, with plans to re-polish if possible.

**Request for Assistance:** It would be good if people could use this repeater, if possible, to put some usage time and voice traffic through it and report any issues. Thanks.

**INSTALLATION PHOTOS**



*Kaikoura 690 repeater in "rack pod" transport case*



*Kaikoura 690 repeater*



*690 separate receive antenna because no duplexer*



*Antenna for Kaikoura 690 installed on mast*



*690 on hilltop hut bench*



**Detailed Findings and Actions:** I set up the 690 on the test bench on the hill-top and installed the main antenna and link antenna. It is powered by an NS70 battery on a mains power charger. The repeater is online and can be used, but it may not link. I have received reports that Kaikoura 690 was, in fact, linking to Ward 560, but I have not been able to verify this. Also, given the potential of 560 to have a fault, this has made the conclusion more difficult.

There was an issue with the repeater receiving overwhelming white noise, which was wiping out the received station calling the repeater. I isolated it down to what I thought to be a duplexer issue. I was talking to ZL2TW and concluded it should be checked for alignment. Before starting on alignment I wanted to first check the mechanical state because I was very concerned about the surface corrosion on the top of the filters, and after connecting my VNA and running a series of tests, I concluded there were major problems. The VNA showed a very low Q value and strange resonances which did not make sense. After some amount of testing, I found one of the filters coax "tees" open circuit. After replacing and retesting with the VNA, the duplexer was not much better.

I removed one of the blanking plugs in the top of one of the filter cavities and was horrified to find the level of corrosion inside the cavity; there was at least two tablespoons of white powder in the bottom. The only option for me now is to try to open the cavity so I can try to clean and re-polish if possible, please see below the best photos I could through a small hole.

After cutting the coax "tee" open I found the side connection only touching (sometimes) the side of the through conductor

I have a new enclosure for the repeater that I am working on installing a rack mount system into, and insulating, and painting green to match the existing.

**- David ZL2WDR**



*Inside open circuit tee*

*Removing blanking plug*



*Surface corrosion on top of filters*



*Corrosion inside cavity*



*New enclosure for 690*



## AREC REPORT

We still work very closely with CD with Ron, Graeme and myself upgrading the antenna system at the fire station in Okiwi Bay, which improved communications from there remarkably. This involved 3 trips overall to carry out testing of what fixed repeaters we could access, with eventually having 3 different channels from there. A vast improvement from the previous set up.

We were asked to provide operators for the clued up Kids session for a week and thanks must go to all who volunteered. Most thought it was a worthwhile exercise with some hilarious comments from the younger participants. I think everyone enjoyed themselves with morning tea and lunch provided.

In August we had a visit from the AREC Regional Manager, Lindsey Ross from Dunedin, with a field trip to Blenheim, Nelson CD Staff, AREC personnel in Motueka and Nelson finishing up with a very nice evening meal supplied by Stuart Robinson and his wife, which was really appreciated after a days visiting and travelling. Thanks Stuart for your hospitality.

We participated in the usual week of communications training with the Police at Dip Flat but with inclement weather ALL week, finishing with a low dusting of snow around the Valley. Thanks to Greg and Gary for their participation and trying having to leave my vehicle on one side of a flooded ford with boulders rolling down, a wise decision, thanks Gary.

We had a visit from the CEO AREC Don Robertson, who met up with the staff at EOC to discuss where communications are heading to in the future. Gary and myself were involved with the local SAR group SAREX up the Wye Valley in providing and showcasing what communications facilities are available for a search. It was a great weekend with the use of a Starlink unit setup for the SAREX. We have provided communications for the last 2 SAROPS with the first one of escorting a tramper, lost on the slopes of Mt Riley, back to her vehicle. A successful outcome. The other was a recovery for a tramper who was in a distressed situation up the Rainbow Valley, which was going to be high frequency communications, but we were stood down approximately 1.5 hours after the call out as the Nelson Rescue had uplifted her. We also provided communications at the SAR shed for a missing female in the Shakespeare Bay area who was located further afield by the police.

My thanks to Helen, Ron, Gary, Greg, Bill, Bernie, Don, Graeme, Lincoln and their respective spouses who are always there when contacted, or supporting the members when away from home. We also supported the local SAR group with operators for their fundraising by manning the gates at the A & P Show, which will result in a financial gain to the local Branch.

I am holding an AREC training weekend at Carluke Domain at the end of March, co-ordinating staff from Nelson as well. AREC National have appointed a Regional Manager based in Dunedin which will culminate in my position as AREC District Manager Tasman SAR being discontinued.

In closing, my grateful thanks to ALL who have been there for AREC when the balloon goes up 24/7. Your support is gratefully appreciated. My thanks also to the AREC Members in Nelson for their continued support throughout the year. The building up of their numbers is pleasing to see.

Thanks, Paul

AREC DISTRICT MANAGER.

TASMAN SAR.



## EDITOR'S REPORT

I know you don't usually get an editor's report but I am requesting more technical articles from members. Other club newsletters are full of (interesting I assume) technical stuff, something I can't provide.

As this is *your* newsletter, more input from *you* would be appreciated for the benefit of members and other clubs who read Interface. A bit ironic to put this in a 15 page edition but they are mostly reports. Thank you.

- Caryl Simpson



## MARLBOROUGH / NELSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS' COMBINED BBQ AND FOX HUNT

**WHEN:** Saturday March 9th, 2024    **TIME:** 11am onwards    **WHERE:** Carluke Hall, Rai Valley  
**BRING:** Salad and/or dessert to share plus drink, plates & eating utensils, chair, sun hat, sun screen, handheld for Fox Hunt (and a spare if you have one to lend to someone who hasn't).



Both clubs will be providing meats, bread, onions, sauce.

You may stay overnight on Friday if you wish, the toilets will be open for your convenience. Plenty of space for campervans/tents. I think it still costs only \$10 for a powered site.

If there is anyone who would like to attend but needs transport, let me know and I am sure something can be arranged.

RSVP to [caryl@simtronics.co.nz](mailto:caryl@simtronics.co.nz) by 3 March for catering purposes!

We need the numbers to beat Nelson again!





## JOCK WHITE FIELD DAY REPORT 2024

Another great Branch 22 effort with ZL2KS being active on the weekend 24 and 25 February from our usual site down the end of Dillons Point Rd. A wee hitch when Don and John arrived on site, the gate to the field was locked, with the owner's permission the gate was lifted off its hinges and we were in.

Set up this year was a bit tricky with a pretty strong nor'wester. The tent suffered a minor tear due to the wind, this will need a trip to Brooks Brothers for a repair. The 80 meter dipole was held up as usual by Ian's telescoping irrigation pipe creation and 40 metres this year was on a 10 metre fibre glass ex US military pole. Fortunately Stuart realised early enough that he had left the power lead for the IC7300 in town to retrieve it in time before the start. Plenty of coax allowed the antennas to be widely separated as usual.

We had plenty of helpers for the set up, some who just came out for set up and tear down which was much appreciated. We had several new faces present this year which was great, let's get you all operating next year!

The wind died down not long after operating started at 1500. There was a brief bit of rain overnight but everything dried out in the morning. We had quite a social gathering Saturday afternoon after set up and the leftover meat from the Xmas BBQ was enjoyed with the help of Don's BBQ in the evening.

Bill and Gary stayed overnight on site and were joined by Russ at 0600 to kick things off on Sunday. Propagation on 40 metres was excellent this year however 80 metres went down a hole late Sunday morning so making contacts was a struggle up to the end at 1500. Gary and Bill kept the tea and coffee supplied from their mobile accommodations.

Gerard surprised us by demonstrating satellite operations when he produced his hand held Yagi and radio and made two contacts on FM via the ISS repeater and another CubeSat.

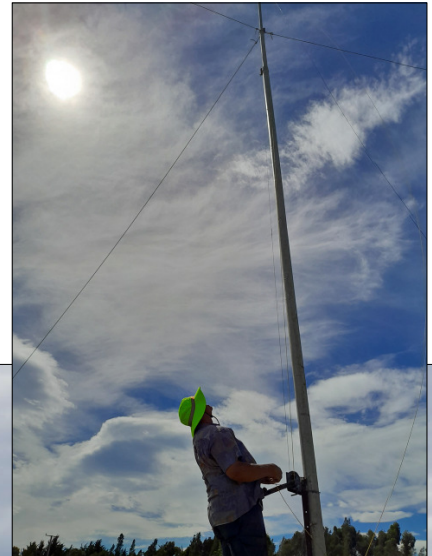
Bill has already scored this year's entry with preliminary results: 80m: 209 phone and 113 CW contacts with 30 phone and 9 CW multipliers 40m: 266 phone and 122 CW contacts with 30 phone and 11 CW multipliers. This is a similar result to last year but note that the multiplier numbers normally drop as some are invalid.

Unfortunately it looks like ZL3RR, North Canterbury will have beaten us again this year in the midland (Canterbury, West Coast and Nelson-Marlborough) section, looking at the numbers they were giving out.

Thanks again to all those who loaned gear for the weekend, transported the gear to the site and to all who came out to the site to help operate, set up, tear down and to sit around and chat. Field Day is something we need to make an effort for every year, we are a radio club after all!

### - Stuart ZL2TW

Thanks to Greg Barton, pictured here on the right, for the photos. There are more on the next pages.



Field Day camp.  
Note the good, sensible, distance  
between the tent & the PortaLoo





Apparently they had trouble putting up the tent  
- until someone finally read the instructions







# PICKLES



When Grant first tested the generator at home, to check it was working OK, he couldn't get it to start. He finally remembered there was a wee switch on the back labelled *On & Off*. Perhaps that is what Stuart is looking for here?



**But Wait...  
THERE'S  
MORE!**

TWO PAGES MORE IN FACT!!



## IMPORTING LICENSE FOR UNRESTRICTED TWO-WAY RADIOS

For quite a few years you have needed to have a license to import radio transmitting equipment. Getting this license is not hard, and there's no cost either! But there are a few little things that can trip you up. It took me about a month in total, but this was over the Christmas period and another delay in my case.

The RSM uses the RealMe system to control the login to their site. This is easy to get if you are a NZ passport holder, and it can be done on-line. But as I don't have a NZ passport I had to get it the hard way. Filling in on-line forms, getting a code text'ed to me and a photo taken at the AA!

Then onto the RSM website to log into your user account, which I had never done. I thought that as a call-sign holder I'd be in the system, so rather than setting up a new account (via their on-boarding (!) process), I email for help. This was promptly (the same day or the next) given to me. I could now log on and do what I set out to do in the first place.

First up you need to apply for a license to *supply* radio transmitters, there is a link for this on the RSM website: <https://www.rsm.govt.nz/about/news-and-updates/licence-to-supply-radio-transmitting-equipment/>

Confusingly this is called a license to *supply* radios, but it also covers the *import* of radios. I duly applied for a license and was expecting an email to confirm the issuing of this. After one or two days of no news, I decided to log in and check my account. To my surprise it was listed there that I was an approved supplier and importer!

I knew (from some articles in Break-in by Jim Reed ZL1LC) that there was an extra step to take before you can import unrestricted two-way radios. Unrestricted here means radios that you can program onto any frequency other than the range allocated to us radio amateurs via the front panel or computer.

This step is emailing [supply@rsm.govt.nz](mailto:supply@rsm.govt.nz) to apply for an endorsement to your supply/import license. It took a few days to get a reply, but it was nicely worded and it also stipulated the additional requirements of this endorsement. These are that you need to provide a monthly (!) report on your imports and sales. No problem if this is a nil return, as I guess it will be for most amateurs, but it has to be done.

Another slightly strange thing about the importing of radios is that, if you define importing as bringing into the country, you apparently don't need one if you buy a radio from an overseas dealer. This may only apply to Australian dealers? Obviously the aim of the RSM is to limit imports of the unrestricted two-way radios, and these regulations cover that. Sometimes reading these things you can come to different conclusions depending on the emphasis you put on certain words!

Anyway, I've got a Quancheng K6 two-way radio on its way in. The nice thing about this is that with custom firmware you can receive AM/SSB and FM from 18 MHz to over 1 GHz! The AM is nice to have for aircraft traffic, and I miss this on my Boafeng UV-5.

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## WESTFEST 2024 MURCHISON 17<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024

This is to inform you and your club members that we, Br26, will be organising WESTFEST 2024 in Murchison.

Programme is in its infancy and if any of your members would like to present a topic then please get in touch.

Programme will start at 10am, go through to around 5pm, then again on Sunday from 9am finishing around 1pm.

Please can you let your members know and, if going, they need to organise their own accommodation.

We will only be providing morning/afternoon teas.

We will be in touch when we get a programme together and other items finalised.

Any questions, potential presenters, please get in touch.

Stewart Robinson ZL2STR

HamCram organiser for Nelson ARC Br 26.

[strobzn@gmail.com](mailto:strobzn@gmail.com)

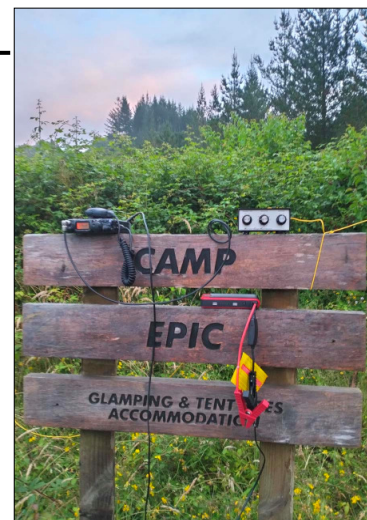
022 459 0415

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## ZL2TW OPERATING PORTABLE FROM THE TIMBER TRAIL

In January Jody and I biked the timber trail, a mountain bike ride in the central North island. The start is at the Pureora forest and finish is near Taumaranui. This is a 2 day trip, 40 km on day 1 and 45 km day 2, with a total 1400 m climb. It is well organised with a ride from the finish where we left the car to the start with our bikes, and overnight bags and food transported for us to the camp Epic at the half way mark, a glamping camp.

At the camp I set up the station pictured, my FT-817 (4 watts) powered by a lithium car jump starter with a long wire and counterpoise earth tuned with a manual ATU. I checked in with the branch 22 80 metre net and could hear everyone well but only Mark and David could hear me well enough to make a contact. The antenna was pretty poor, I couldn't get the end very high, three to four metres max but it shows what can be done operating portable. A better antenna would have made all the difference. I was pretty sore at the end of the trail but still had a few km left in me!



## REPORT ON YES INTRODUCTORY MEETING: Gary Lodge

I attended this meeting, held on Thursday 29 February, as I had seen the advert below in the Marlborough Weekly newspaper, 16/01/24, and wondered what it was about.

The YES programme involves the major Emergency Services all of which, except for Police, were present at the introductory meeting.

### Interested in learning more about the Emergency Services in Marlborough?

Offering a wealth of programmes and activities Marlborough Youth Trust (MYT) run a Youth in Emergency Services (YES) programme aimed at those with a passion to work alongside some of Marlborough's greatest heroes.

The YES programme began as an initiative designed to strengthen the connection between young people and their communities by way of hands-on engagement with the work of volunteer emergency services in their area.

Organiser Aaron Waters says, "Keen to become a team member in either Fire and Emergency NZ (Urban & Rural), Coastguard, St John, Civil Defense Emer-

gency Management, Surf Life Saving, or Land Search & Rescue? Join the Y.E.S Marlborough program and learn some valuable life skills and possibly become a volunteer for an emergency service.

"This 8-week program will help you understand what it takes to volunteer for one of the above emergency services and gain valuable skills that will help you in many situations. This program will help build resilience, teamwork and problem solving along with having a whole lot of fun!"

If you are between the ages of 16 and 24 get in touch with @ Marlborough Youth Trust via [www.myt.org.nz/yes.html](http://www.myt.org.nz/yes.html) or e-mail [yes@myt.org.nz](mailto:yes@myt.org.nz) to learn more.

The meeting was attended by over 20 enthusiastic young people aged 16 - 24, with some teenagers accompanied by their parents. The programme involves weekly theory nights with each emergency service, with practical experience on Sundays.

The course culminates with the Big Day Out in May involving St. John, Fire Service, Civil Defence, Emergency Management, Surf Life Saving and LandSAR. Representatives of all these groups were in attendance at the meeting.

This would seem to be a programme which we, as a group, and AREC should become involved in with both as a way of sharing our expertise and as a way of attracting new members.

### Youth in **EMERGENCY SERVICES** programme

**YES INFO NIGHT** Thursday 29 Feb. 7-9pm  
MySpace Youth Centre, 18 Kinross St. Blenheim  
Email: [yes@myt.org.nz](mailto:yes@myt.org.nz) | Phone: (03) 579 3143  
**Ages 16-24 years**

**8 WEEK COURSE - APRIL 2024**  
Thursday 5pm & Sunday 8am  
Taster course for each Emergency Service in Marlborough. First Aid course, learn life-saving techniques. FREE hoodie AND MORE.  
**Applications due 4 March.**



Proudly sponsored by  



### The AGM is the cut-off for 2024 subscriptions.

*After that date, members who have not paid will have their membership and membership privileges suspended.*

04/03/2024, 19:15

[hfradio.nz](http://hfradio.nz) | alpine fault net roll call

**Hf RADIO.NZ**

**HF RADIO CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Roll Call (03/03/'J-.Y**

The amateur radio operators below have committed to serving their community by participating in our Alpine Fault Net.

- Nelson/ Marlborough - ZL2GVA, ZL1GA, ZL3DN, ZL2GBX, ZL2MHZ, ZL2NEB
- Canterbury - ZL3RX, ZLZVTH, ZL3LR, ZL4DRB, ZL1DRB, ZL3TMB, ZL3PWM (ZL3EQ Base)
- West Coast - ZL4LO, ZL3KDT, ZL4WPS
- Otago / Southland - ZL4MDX, ZL1HAZ, ZL4JW, ZL4KS, ZL4KX, ZL4FM, ZL4FOX
- Northland / . Auckland - ZL1VOA, ZL1RKO
- Waikato / Bay of Plenty -
- Gisborne / Hawkes Bay -
- Taranaki / Whanganui - ZL2AHA
- Wellington - ZLZDR