

# THE MUSE



-----March 2025-----

The newsletter of the MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC.) NZART BRANCH 86  
*Incorporating* The Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation (SPAM)  
and **Green Radios On The Air (GROTA) News.**

Musick Memorial Radio Station, Bucklands Beach, Auckland. Call Sign-ZL1ZLD.

BRANCH 86 NZART NET- TUESDAYS, 7.30PM, 145.775 MHz, Musick Point Repeater. All welcome!

SPAM WEB SDR Remote Receiver - <http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901/>

SPAM KIWI SDR Remote Receiver- <http://musickpoint.ddns.net:8073/>

Musick Point Website- <https://musickpointradio.org> Webmaster-Neil ZL1NZ.

SPAM ZL6AM or ZL1ZLD AM Nets- Fridays 8.30PM, 3.850MHz, Wednesdays at 11.30Hrs, 7.125MHz

Museletter Editor- Martyn, ZL3CK.

Meeting- Second Sunday of the Month (Except May-Third Sunday, to avoid Mothers' Day)

**NEXT MEETING- Sunday March 9th at 1pm. Coffee and tea provided.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING to approve new constitution-  
Sunday 13 April 2025. This is your official notification.**



Aidan ZL3APB from Christchurch who visited the station last week.

## From the Chair

Well we're back to it again, but first I must explain the mix up in the second "dad jokes" section last month. Thank you to Kevin, ZL3KE for pointing out what he thought was an error on my part. Well, I was really checking to see how many of you knew your alphabet, hihi. Actually, I must blame my fingers which did not concentrate much, when it came to the alphabet, in school nor do they have OCD (or should that be CDO?) Yes, I checked on my fingers work this time. And if I really had that problem, I would be using a very different call sign – 1DLRVZ – that burnt up a few of my brain cells to work out. Try it on your call sign for fun.

Before my surgery, my anaesthetist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle. It was an ether/oar situation

Friday nights at Musick Point continue, but with very limited participation. Last week, we tried to do some work in the generator room (now store room) but found that the lighting was not that good after sunset. There are two lights suspended from the ceiling but both do not work. After a bit of investigation, we decided that the old sensor switch was definitely heading for the junk bin and would be replaced with a real light switch. The challenge was that we needed to find which 'circuit breaker' protected that circuit. Maurice, ZL1MPU produced a fancy tracing set and pretty soon, we knew which it was. On the Sunday following, the fuse was pulled, wires were cut away from back of the bad switch and a real switch was connected. Hooray, let there be light. I think that Graham, ZL1TOF took it home to have a post mortem. No doubt he will figure it out, but we will not be putting it back into service in the generator room.

The man who drank furniture polish came to a nasty end but he had a nice finish

The first Sunday in March is my XYL's birthday and I have been told that I am obliged to stay home and help with the celebrations. The words were really more like: "You are not going to Musick Point on my birthday!" but I thought that I would keep it polite. It will be quite interesting, actually, as my sister and brother in law were here last weekend for a granddaughter's fourth birthday but are not available this weekend. Before they left on Sunday morning, my sister slipped me a gift to give to her on Sunday. She also left a gift with the XYL for another granddaughter's ninth birthday later in March. Much later, we noticed that the card attached to the granddaughter's gift had my XYL's name on it. I provided the one with her name on it and took the other away. Now all bets are off to see which card is in the ZLX's envelope when it is opened on Sunday.

I pulled out a nose hair today to see if it would hurt... judging by the reaction of the man asleep next to me on the bus, it seems pretty painful..

With our Annual General Meeting coming up in April, Martyn, ZL3CK has sent out a link to everyone so that we can review the DRAFT new Constitution and fix any typos or errors, so that we can accept the new constitution at the AGM. Please do read it, ask questions and suggest corrections so that we can get it right well before the AGM.

Once accepted at the AGM, it will be sent to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies who will, hopefully, accept it. Once we are notified of acceptance, it will be our official Constitution.

From what I can see, it seems to be much in line with our present one but has much more in the way of provisions covering numerous events and eventualities not covered in our present one. This, I think is the reason that all incorporated societies have to renew their constitutions. It will be good to get this behind us, and I am sure that Martyn will rejoice when it is all over. He has put a lot into this major project and I, for one, am extremely grateful to him for undertaking such an onerous but important task. Thank you Martyn.

**1N73LL1G3NC3 15 7H3 4B1L17Y 70 4D4P7 70 CH4NG3**

**573PH3N H4WK1NG**

A wise man once told his wife... nothing, because he was a wise man.

Until next month:  
73, and call CQ  
David, ZL1DRV

## Musick Point News-

Friday nights are continuing to attract several members, led by **Dave ZL1DL** who opens the station up in good time at 7PM so the 80 meter (SP)AM net can be run from there. **Rob ZL4ROB** has been invaluable in stepping in to run the net on a number of occasions- thank you Rob!

A real effort is being made to tidy up the workshop and generator room, partly in view of possible visits from those attending the 100 year celebrations of NZART next year. More items are up for sale on the ZLHAM website too. (See below)

Discussions and planning for emergency operations at MP has continued, food, water, and other essentials will be stored at the station for an event we hope never happens. Radios will be operated from a 12V or possibly 24V supply with converter from deep cycle batteries. The 24V supply compensates for the voltage drop over the supply wiring and allows more of the battery capacity to be extracted while maintaining the full 12V. Solar panels to top up the batteries and our generator will also be needed. **Mark ZL2MOH** has kept the generator in good operational condition, thank you Mark.

As noted by David **ZL1DRV** above, the draft constitution (attached to this newsletter) will be presented for approval at a SGM before the AGM which is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note in your diary/phone, we need a good turnout for this one, thank you.

A recent visitor to the station was **Aidan Barnsdale ZL3APB** who is one of the famous GROTarians from Christchurch. He spends his weekends running up and down hills with ZC1's and No.48 sets on their backs! (See below). We hope we get more visits from Aidan and his (self confessed) loonies in the future!

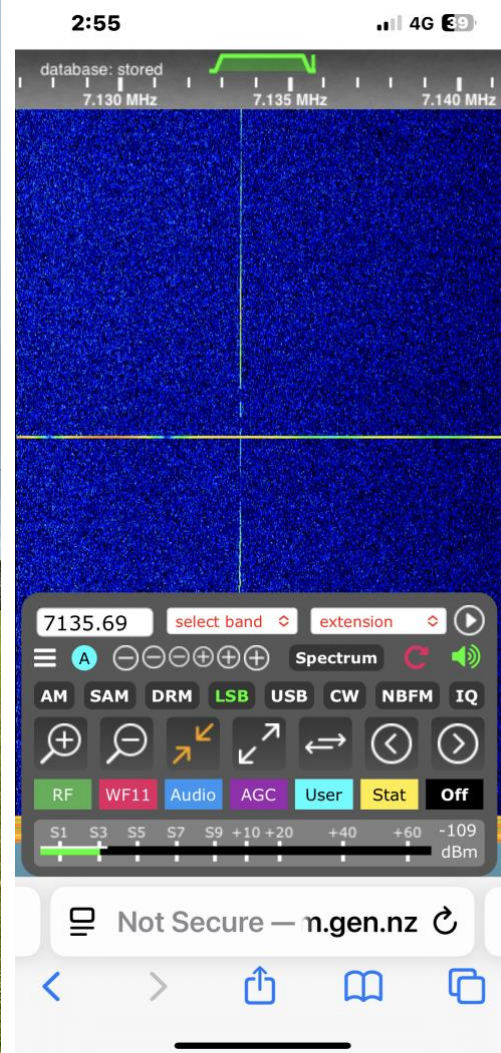
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## AM News-

ZC1 trials at Musick Point- In an attempt to see how the full 34 feet length of the standard vertical ZC1 aerial can be used on 40 meters, a ZC1 was set up in the reserve, and field strengths were ascertained using the nearby Musick Point SDRs. Unfortunately they showed 60dB over 9 so no comparison could be made as far as ground wave was concerned. Sky wave on 80 meters was nil seen at Marahau, but on 40, the carrier was visible about S5.



Matching is the problem on 40 meters, with an exactly  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave vertical and the ZC1's 12 ohm output it will never work with the standard set-up. However, 80 meters is no problem to match using the switched inductances in the set. But on 40, shortening the aerial by removing part or all of the top whip, and with 150Pf in series, a reasonable output (by field strength meter) was obtained. A short 'counterpoise' also helped. The current shown on the ZC1's meter variably showed a dip, or a peak, depending on the particular aerial and counterpoise set-up. A sensitive FSM would be more useful than the set's meter it seems.



ZC1 with shortened aerial under test at Musick Point Reserve.

40mt. signal as seen on Marahau SDR.

Next time the rig will be set up further away from the station so hopefully the SDR's will show a useful indication of ground wave strength. Other capacitor values can be tried. Watch this space!

Your editor had the opportunity to go along to the last GROTA expedition (see below) and had a ball! Unfortunately Air NZ doesn't take ZC1's as carry on baggage (!) so had to rely on the locals for a radio to play with. And what a great day it was! Hot, sunny and windy for the first few hours, but a wind change to the south had us dragging on the jersys then packing up as the temperature dropped about 15 degrees in an hour. The clouds rolled over the top of the hills and one became aware that Little River is in a south-facing valley! Brrrr!

**Mike ZL3MWD** was most hospitable, and let me play with his '48 and ZC1. It was nice to visit his home, have a cuppa with his YL and have a look in his tidy and spacious workshop. Thank you Mike!

**Dave ZL3TRX** joined us after an hour or so with his '48 and BC221 frequency meter! It was a real thrill to actually work a few stations with the '48- the bandwidth is so wide the tiny scale of the tuning didn't really matter. Those AM signals were easy to copy as we had no QRM to speak of. Stations copied and QSO'd at Little River were- **ZL1AK** readability 5, **ZL3KB** very strong R5, **ZL3BHS** R5, **ZL3APB** R4, and on CW R5, **ZL3LEO** R4 (was it the '38? Amazing!). However one of the closer stations was **ZL3TFM** at Birdling's Flat, just around the corner, almost line of sight? But absolutely no copy at all!

The day finished with a bit of a search for the TaiTapu pub- I'm sure it has been moved since I went there last century. I finally found it, and had a wonderful catch-up with some of the 'crew', very few of whom I had met in person before. Warning- I may come again!

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### **New Modes dept- Kite Portable on AM at Musick Point!**

After the 40 meter AM net today there was a very loud call from Harry ZL1BK who announced he was flying a kite aerial on the park. POTA-KOTA – yet another new “OTA”.



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! Its **Harry ZL1BK** and **Dave ZL1DL** operating “Kite portable” at Musick Point



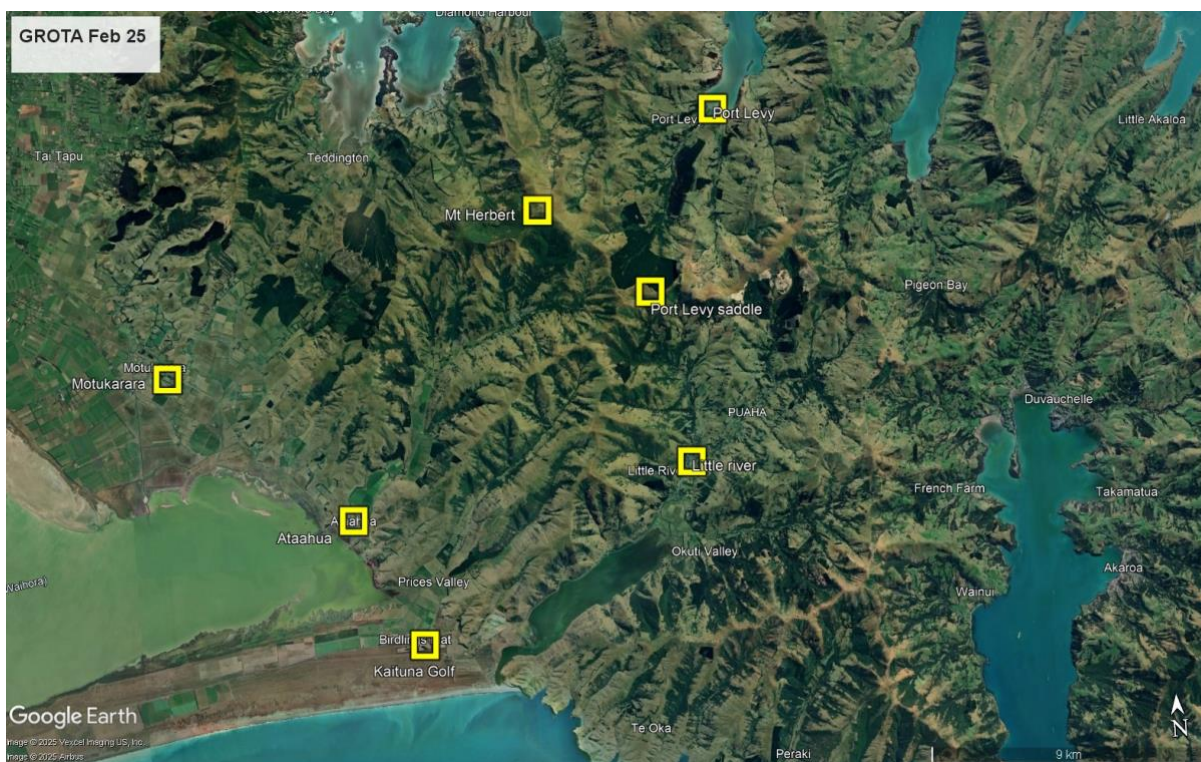
**Harry ZL1BK** managed AM QSO's with **ZL1ZLD** and **Gary ZL3SV** using the kite aerial.

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**GROTA Report from Kelvin ZL3KB- Update for February 2025:**



**ZL3KB** in action at the Port Levy Saddle with the A13.

It was time to challenge the operating skills of the GROTA (Green Radios On The Air) team, so we headed to the Banks Peninsular mountains around Little River and Mt Herbert. The terrain would consist of valleys and hills up to 900m ASL, so with no NVI Skywave at 7MHz to speak of, we would only depend on ground wave, with path distances be up to 20km. Many stations had a low power (200mW) set, such as the WS48 or WS38, and a “high” power (10W) set like the C12 or A13, all operating into vertical rod antennas. Actually, the extreme easterly gale made them not so “vertical”!



GROTA Map for the day

We were honoured (well...encumbered?-Ed.) to have **Martyn ZL3CK** join us on the day from the Auckland chapter of GROTA, ably supporting **Mike ZL3MWD** and **Dave ZL3TRX** at Little River domain with their ZC1 and WS48 sets.



**Mike ZL3MWD** and **Dave ZL3TRX** getting hot at Little River.



**Aidan ZL3ABP** checking out the morse key at the summit of Mt Herbert.

The prize for the most extreme station has to go to **Aidan ZL3APB** and **Leo ZL2LEO** for climbing 3000' Mt Herbert with 20kg of WS48 and WS38, and completing a SOTA summit at the same time. Who says SOTA radios are lightweight? Interestingly, they beat a couple of mountain bikers to the summit, and they discovered the Green Radios weighed more than their bikes!



**Leo ZL2LEO** pushing out the milliwatt(s) from the '38 set.

**Des ZL3AK** and **James ZL3RTD** setup on the Akaroa Road with a C12 and WS48, and just down the road **Bruce ZL3TFM** and **Kevin ZL3ABY** at Birdlings Flat with a WS48.

The furthest Western station was **Ray ZL3RAM** and **Peter ZL3LTP** at Motukarara domain. On the eastern side, **Bryan ZL3BHS** and **James ZL3KDOT** were sunning themselves on the Port Levy beach with a WS48 and PRC320. The author setup at Port Levy saddle with a WS48 and A13 set.

With so many paths and so many different operators and radios It is almost impossible to analyse all the propagation results of the day. Better “net control” would have helped test each path, but that required a level of discipline foreign to our group!



**Bruce ZL3TFM** tuning up the '48 at Birdlings Flat

Predictably the Mt Herbert crew could hear everyone, but strangely not everyone could hear them. Valley to adjacent valley ground wave comms were good if the distance was not too great, but the 20km Port Levy to Motukarara path was a “hill and valley” too far. A strange opening happened at the very end of the day, when Bruce 13km away on his WS48 suddenly came loud and clear to me, for no apparent reason. As many of the GROTA team are learning morse, we finished with a healthy but slow CW session.

After operating for a couple of hours, the wind turned southerly and the high stations were suddenly wrapped in cloud. It was time to end a great day, and adjourn to the pub. The final count was fourteen GROTA lunatics operating fifteen Green radios during the day, and no failures of either must be a record.

**Kelvin ZL3KB**



Happy Grotarians 'comparing notes' at the TaiTapu pub.

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**Used and New Equipment Sales-**

<https://z1dl.zlham.net.nz/2025/01/26/26-1-25-new-quansheng-ht/>

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**Saturday March 8th 2025, Te Puke Amateur Radio Club Market Day branch 53 NZART**

**At Paengaroa Community Hall 4 Old Coach Rd. Paengaroa.**

Venue opens for vendors 6.30 AM. Table (1.8 Mt) prices- presale \$20. On day of sale \$25 .

Half table \$12.00 or \$15 son day of sale.

Sale time 9:30 AM. Door charge \$2.00 per person.

For further information contact **Syd Rowe ZL1LWR** (07) 533-1029 or 0272488664

E-mail – [sydrowe@extra.co.nz](mailto:sydrowe@extra.co.nz)

Breakfast available from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM at reasonable prices.

**Free Amateur Radio Buy, Sell and Wanted website-**

See "ZL Ham Ads" and "The Machine", the MPRG Blog-

<https://ZLham.net.nz>

<https://MPRG.zlham.net.nz>

## **Musick Point Radio Group Inc.**

### **Minutes of General Meeting held at Musick Memorial Radio Station on 09/02/25**

Present: Per attendance book    Apologies: Martyn ZL3CK

Minutes of previous meeting: - Accepted as circulated: Phil ZL1FTH / Graham ZL1TOF

Financial: Total of \$11,674.84 in bank. 1 subscription renewal plus donation and sale of recyclables ( batteries) leaves us with a current surplus of \$1051.02 for year to date.

Treasurer's report accepted: Maurice ZL1MPU / David ZL1DRV

#### **General Business:**

Trial of the clubrooms being open on Friday evenings has reasonably attended and so will continue.

We had a request for an Art Deco Society to tour the building – have referred them to Spark for permission.

The Secretary would like feedback on the proposed replacement Constitution for the Club, so it can be presented for member's acceptance in the near future.

Meeting closed at 13:31

Minutes taken by ZL1DL.