

THE MUSE



-----MAY 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 Signs ZL1ZLD, ZL1ZLF.
BRANCH 86 NZART NET- TUESDAYS, 7.30PM, 145.775 MHz, Musick Point Repeater (ZL1HK). All welcome!
SPAM WEB SDR Remote Receiver - <http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901/>
MPRG 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 May 18th@ 1pm. Coffee and tea provided. Please make an effort to attend
this one- we need your vote for the remits and the reviewed accounts.**



Kiwi SDR Aerial going up in the driveway of the Musick Point Radio Station. Rob ZL1ROB, Harry ZL1BK, Mark ZL1MRT successfully positioning a vertical wire up the side of the existing feeder pole for the 500KHz flat top. The results can be viewed on- <http://musickpoint.ddns.net:8073>

From the Chair

Firstly, I have to apologise for this column being missing last month. Although I had made a start quite early, events quickly piled up and I missed the deadline. This month, I have started really early but with reference to Murphy's law, I'll probably only just make it this time round.

A man noted for his tact was awakened one morning at four o'clock by his ringing telephone. "Your dog's barking and it's keeping me awake," said an irate voice. The man thanked his caller and politely asked his name before hanging up. The next morning, he called his neighbour back. "Sir," he said, "I don't have a dog."

So the AGM last Sunday went off quite well and relatively uneventfully. We had intended to discuss the new Constitution and, hopefully, get it accepted so that we can move on and send it in to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. The latest Break In had recently arrived in most member's letterboxes and, fortunately, it had been noticed that there is a remit about membership, for the NZART Conference in June that affects a section in our constitution (and most likely that of every other NZART Branch as well). Obviously, the decision was quickly made to delay any decisions on the constitution until the outcomes of the NZART AGM were clear.

I bought a little bag of air today... The company that made it was kind enough to put some potato crisps in it as well.

Some weeks ago, Dave, ZL1DL was messing around with easy-to-make VHF antennas so that he could pass on the information to a group of new 'Hams' along the East Coast. He had been down there one weekend to be the second Exam Supervisor at a Ham Cram and wanted to help them get something up in the air so that they might get more RF coverage and didn't have to rely on their little 'rubber duckies'.

This got me thinking about a J-pole that I made for myself, which I slid into a 20mm PVC conduit and have mounted it atop an old TV aerial 'J' bracket above second storey roof level. It is the dual band version of an Ed Fong antenna called the DBJ-1. This version is his improved one which provides a better UHF match than the DBJ version. The difference is that better resonance is achieved at UHF than relying on a harmonic of the VHF leg, which does not quite resonate correctly. It is a simple antenna, made from 300 Ohm twin lead – the old TV aerial stuff.

Ed has devised three versions, the two mentioned here plus a version that is designed for roll up and go portability – think POTA, SOTA, or anything else where you need lightweight portability. A useful link that provides all three versions is: <https://edsantennas.weebly.com/about.html> - there are pdf files at the bottom after you see all his products. I wouldn't guarantee that any are still for sale, so try that at your own risk, just beware the tariffs ☺. I built one of a similar design, for CB, about 45 years ago and found it very effective. Of course, when I set about making it, all the "experts" declared that I was wasting my time as I would only ever get a 300 Ohm impedance using 300 Ohm ribbon cable when I needed 50. It wasn't long before they all wanted a copy of the plans. I have an idea that I might have been using a hand-drawn copy of Ed's DBJ version that I had acquired.

I just saw a Facebook status.... Lonely man seeks wife.... He had 265 replies, all of them saying: "You can have mine!"

We are drawing close to King's Birthday weekend which means that it is NZART Conference time. Details can be found in the latest Break In. Next year is the NZART 100th Anniversary Conference, which will be held in Auckland. No one Branch will be organising the conference, but it will be a joint effort of all the Branches in Auckland. The first meeting of Branch representatives is being held on Wednesday 30th to get the ball rolling. Keep your eyes and ears open for more news about it as the year rolls along.

Also, give some thought to attending this year's Conference. There is still time to register for an interesting weekend.

"SIRI, how do I always mess it up with women?"

"Umm, this is ALEXA."

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

Silent Key Howard Buxton ZL1BXA

Howard passed away Wednesday 19th March 2025. peacefully with the family around him. A memorial gathering was held on 12th April 2025 at RSA Birkenhead. Howard became a member at Musick Point relatively recently, but he had already made a significant contribution to NZART as Northern Councillor for some years. He will be missed at Musick Point, and we send our condolences to Alison and the family.

Musick Point News

It has been a very busy month at the station. Much effort has been put in to the Kiwi SDR's new aerial which has been very successfully relocated to the old fibreglass power pole used for the feeder line for the 500KHz flat top. This means that we can now transmit on all our various transmitters without risking damage to the receiver.

Work has proceeded to trim down our collection of radio equipment aiming to achieve a tidy workshop and storage area. Some surplus items were taken to the recent Vintage Radio Society meeting and a small profit was achieved. More will be following! Dave ZL1DL has led the charge with mop and bucket cleaning the mould off the more obvious internal station walls. There is much left to be done and any assistance will be appreciated. Graham ZL1TOF has taken on repairs to the aging curtains with alacrity! Of course none of this has interfered with usual activities (like chatting over coffee, etc!)

Note! Next Meeting- REMITS to be voted on by NZART members. Please read them and have a think.

SPAM News

The email below was received only just in time and resulted in a very successful and busy ANZAC day AM event on Friday last-

"Martyn,

I have organized the above event for 16 years and it aligns on 2 points- ANZAC - Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and AM encouragement - which is your group's interest.

We use 7.125 AM from Townsville all day on ANZAC day and it is usually going late in the day and also across Australia there are countless others using AM and CW.

It would be great to have New Zealand come in as well.

It's interesting as since it started many who had never used AM have been pleasantly surprised in the old mode. Could you please advertise this event through your AM group and NZART as it would be great to have our ANZAC Partners involved.

Thanks in anticipation,

Mike Patterson VK4MIK"

[The Wireless Institute of Australia](http://www.wirelessinstituteofaustralia.com.au)

Unfortunately Mike's email wasn't quite in time to be in "Infoline" but we did manage to round up about 25 ZL AM stations, and 3 in Australia, including Mike VK4MIK in Townsville. It's the longest run time ever to date (in our service) for the 7.125MHz Collier and Beale T98 AM transmitter, and it did a great job. The C & B 941 40 meter receiver is good to operate on AM as it has AGC which makes it a lot easier to use than the 80 meter one which doesn't. The usual Friday night AM net on 3.850 was run in between the ANZAC 40 meter activities so not much time for the Pizza (Thanks Dave) until rather late in the day!

So- put it in your diaries for next year- **ANZAC Activities Day** will be on Saturday and in '27 will be on a Sunday- on 25th April of course!

From **David ZL4DK** in Dunedin who's been valiantly working the 80 meter AM net recently-

"Hi Martyn,

Great that Gary could hear me tonight at least. I really enjoy using the ZC1 but contacts are few and far between.

I am working on building a replica of ZA1 amplifier which hopefully will improve my signal significantly. I have the ZA1 working to some level, but it is still running only about 30 watts out and the modulation level is a little on the low side, so I have a little more work to do yet. Possibly my screen (and maybe plate) voltages are a little low, the RF is upsetting my voltmeter making these hard to read.

Anyway, I will try and join tonight. It should be a big step up from the ZC1 barefoot.

Building more ZA1s won't be easy, I was very lucky to obtain an appropriate RF ammeter and modulation transformer. I'm not sure how common these are and where to get more.

Regards,
David ZL4DK"

GROTA update for April 2025 from Kelvin ZL3KB-

The GROTA clubroom meeting was honoured to have our Auckland GROTA team member **Martyn ZL3CK** visit us. Martyn is the Secretary of Branch 86, and he gave a talk on their heritage listed Musick Memorial Radio Station building. Unfortunately, I could not attend, but by all accounts, the presentation was extremely interesting.



ZL3CK showing the golf course's 19th hole at Musick Point ZL1ZLD at the Christchurch Amateur Radio club...

It was decided the Sunday trial for April 13th would be a gathering around Pegasus Bay, testing the sea path with some 'height' at one end. **Des ZL3AK** setup on the port hills summit road with his WS48, overlooking **Noel ZL4OW** (WS48) at Brooklands, whilst **Bruce ZL3TFM** with grandson **Mason ZL3MBS** (WS48), and **Ray ZL3RAM** (WS48 & ZC1) setup around Waikuku beach. Further up Pegasus bay on Leithfield beach sat **Peter ZL3LTP** with a ZC1, and way up north we had **Aidan ZL3APB** at Motunau beach with his restored WS62.



WS 62 set at Motunau (**Aidan ZL3APB**)



Harper, ZL3KID? checking out Grandad **Peter ZL3LTP's ZC1** at Leithfield Beach



Bruce ZL3TFM at Waikuku beach..



Des ZL3AK's "perch" on the Port Hills overlooking the Canterbury beaches, Kaikoura somewhere in the distant haze on the far right. Waikuku and Leithfield beaches also line of sight (but you'd need a telescope to see them) in the mid distance.

All comms were completed on 40 meters AM, as well as a CW contact completed between Des and Aidan.

On the day, nearly all stations worked all stations, with good communications over a range of up to 40 miles, and as a bonus all wireless sets, and their operators, went home safe and well.

Theory states that the sea water conductivity will give a propagation distance some twenty times that of average soil, and we would expect to get around five miles over land. In this trial nearly all the paths were over the sea, so good communications over forty miles is not surprising. Interestingly, Des was a long way inland, but that handicap was offset by his height of 350m above sea level.

As usual, the team had fun and learnt a few things, and even Peter's two year old granddaughter **Harper** had a QSO with Des at one point, so we have another GROTA youth member coming along.

Kelvin ZL3KB

How to Mould Plastic

by Graham, ZL1TOF

On the evening of 23rd December a low-life decided he needed the brass newspaper flange on my letterbox. I discovered when I went for a walk that he had been down the road and removed brass numbers and other letterbox fittings. I could get a new one, but that could be stolen as well. I decided to make a new one out of PVC plumbing. I have a short length of 90 mm diameter drain pipe that could make the centre part. The newspaper tube is a 110 mm PVC tube. I needed to expand the drain pipe by 15 mm to fit inside. I cut a length wise slot and need to add about 40 mm more in the gap. Well, that was not easy as the material wants to return to the original size and shape. What to do?

If I soften that material by heating, how hot, will it stay in the new position. A bit of looking in Wikipedia found a chart for various materials with melting (T_m) and glass transition (T_g) temperatures along with an explanation. As the temperature goes above the T_g the material softens from stiff to floppy and can be moulded to almost any shape. The closer to T_m the softer and floppier the material gets. When the temperature is lowered below the T_g , the new shape is frozen. Glass blowers use this for making glass trinkets and laboratory glassware. Blow moulding and vacuum forming use this material characteristic as well. Pop bottles are moulded small for transport then blown up just before filling. These will shrink when heated.

I made a cardboard mandrel over a glass jar and used that in the oven to reform the drain pipe to the new size. Ninety degrees Celsius requires oven mitts. The result was better than I expected. I Glued all the bits together with PVC cement and purchased a plumbing flange to finish it off. Painted it with a metallic paint makes it look a bit like brass.



Nice job Graham!

It's Christchurch, Jim, but not as we knew it. Turnbull and Jones- then....



....And now.



Manchester street, where Tricity house used to be. Now an open air dance studio!

Dave ZL1DL's "How Convenient" corner-



NZ Straight Key Night

New Zealand Straight Key Night (Winter Edition) will be held on Sunday 8 June from 8pm to 9pm NZT (0800 to 0900 UTC) on 80 metres.

SKN honours the original amateur radio mode in an easy-going style.

Operators send signal report, name, location, type of key, type of transmitter and power output. Stations are limited to 100W output power. SKN is not a contest - but the operator who gets the most votes for the quality of their sending will win the Bruce Scahill Best Fist Award. This certificate honours Bruce ZL1BWG (SK), who was a dedicated supporter of SKN. Please email your nomination to ZL1NZ within one week following the event.

SKN uses the QSY Rule. Any station that calls CQ must QSY after making a contact.

Full details about SKN are available at <https://zl1.nz/skn> or you can email neil@zl1.nz or call ZL1NZ during or after the NZ Net.

SKN welcomes all straight key operators, regardless of skill level or speed. 73, Neil ZL1NZ, SKN Manager

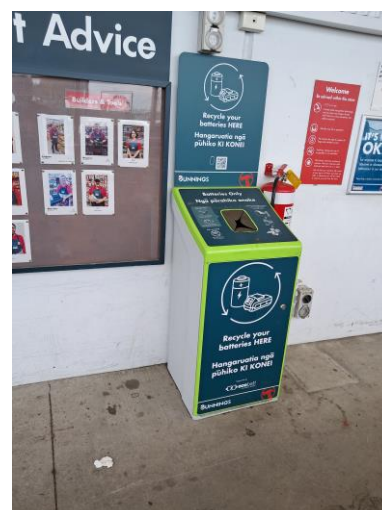
Look What They've Done To My Truck, Ma

They might be a relatively rare occurrence, but rubbish truck fires are certainly a risk that can be lessened. It is believed that discarded batteries are responsible for the instigation of the majority of these fires. The supposed difficulty in dealing with unwanted and supposedly "flat" batteries, often results in the batteries being slipped into the household rubbish for collection.



Bunnings offer a battery collection facility at their retail stores. The battery collection box (as pictured) is located at the entrance to the stores and provides for household batteries (including Lithium types), but excludes lead acid.

So no excuse now for slipping the old batteries into the rubbish collection!



Radio Electronics Group Inc.

ANNUAL EQUIPMENT SALE

New & used electronic components, amateur radios of all description, 26MHz & 27MHz CB radios, PRS UHF CB radios, general coverage communication receivers, shortwave radios, vintage radios, power supplies & communication equipment accessories!

WHERE

Glenview Club Inc

211 Peacocks Road

Glenview, Hamilton

- Easy access
- Plenty of parking for vehicles and motorhomes

WHEN

Saturday 10th May 2025

Vendor entry: 8:30AM

Public entry: 10:00AM

COST

Entry fee

Public Lucky

Ticket entry: \$2

Table fee

Prebooked: \$20

On the day: \$25

Vendor registration contact:

Steve Miller

dion4cy@gmail.com



**Radio Electronics Group Inc.
Annual New and Used Equipment Sale.**

**Saturday, 10th May 2025.
Vendor Registration Form**

**Venue: Glenview Club Inc.
211 Peacockes Road,
Fitzroy,
Hamilton 3200**

**Vendors access to the venue from 8.30am.
Public \$2 Lucky ticket entry.**

**Please note: Sale and trading starts from 10am
Breakfast from the kitchen and dinning area opening early.
Menu to follow !**

Name: Call:,,,

Address:

.....

Contact Phone: (.....) Mob:

e-mail:

**Trading Table Hirage (approx 1.5m)
\$20.00 pre-booked preferred or else \$25 on the day.**

Number of tables required Number attending Mains Required?.....

**Please make payment direct to our Kiwi Bank account
by using REG SALE as Particulars / Reference followed by your Name.**

**Account name: Radio Electronics Group
Account number: 38-9005-0697813-00**

Following your payment please email this completed form to

**Steve Millar ZL1FS
email: dion4cy@gmail.com**

Mobile: 021-0228-9002

Call in Repeater 147.125 MHz

Free Amateur Radio Buy, Sell and Wanted website-

See "ZL Ham Ads" at- <https://ZLham.net.nz>

Recently listed items for sale include -a BC211 frequency meter, a genuine No. 19 set linear amplifier and a for free: a 2.4m dia antenna dish with tracking controller.

"The Machine", the FAMOUS MPRG Blog is found at- <https://MPRG.zlham.net.nz>

Your Advertisement Could be Here!

Contact the editor if you have something you need to find a new home for.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Musick Point Radio Group April 13, 2025 Commenced at 1301.

Present- ZL1DRV, ZL1EK, ZL1BQE,ZL4ROB, ZL1TGS, ZL1TOF, ZL1MRT, ZL1OJ, ZL1DL, ZL3CK, ZL1NZ

Apologies- ZL2JDH, ZL1MPU.

February minutes- Nil arising-

Accept as published- Moved- ZL1EC, Seconded- ZL1TOF -Passed.

Matters arising- Nil.

Finance- ZL1DL- (Financial report held over to the AGM to follow).

Annual Summary for 1/4/24 to 28/3/25 - \$11620.53

Total income for year- \$3380.56 Total Outgoings for the year- \$2383.85

Correspondence-

Re Art Deco Society visit- referred to Spark but they have had no response to date from Spark.

From Barbara Bryant- ZLD photos from her late father Walter Stanley Bryant have been received. Neil ZL1NZ will research them and scan for the website. The photos can be returned to the station per Mrs Bryant's wishes.

Other business- held over to the AGM to follow.

Meeting concluded at 1305.

Minutes taken by ZL3CK