



# THE MUSE



-----January2026-----

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.  
AM Nets- Fridays ZL6AM (SPAM) net at 8.30PM, 3.850MHz, Wednesdays ZL1ZLD 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 JANUARY 11 @ 1pm. Next AFN Check-In : Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January starting at 0830**



Happy Hams at the Musick Point Annual BBQ on a recent Sunday.

Back Row- Mark ZL1MRT, Mark ZL2MOH, Murray ZL1MBZ, (hiding behind Mark) Phil ZL1FTH, Two Visitors from North Shore? Simon ZL1SWW, ED ZL1EC.  
Front row- David ZL1DRV, Graham ZL1TOF, Dave ZL1DL, Neil ZL1NZ, Alex ZL3Xj.

**HAPPY HEW YEAR FROM ALL THE TEAM at ZL1ZLD!**

**David ZL1DRV and the Committee of the Musick Point Radio Group wish all our readers a healthy and prosperous 2026.**

**From the Editor- Here's a New Year's Resolution for you- attend the Club more often!**

### **Musick Point Radio Group News-**

The Naughty Collier and Beale 941- as seen below. After performing perfectly for "H" night, when **Rob ZL4ROB** came to run the Friday AM net recently, all sorts of problems appeared with the receiver. The frequency calibration shifted a bit and there was a lot of additional "RF" type noise, with audio distortion as well, just to add to Rob's woes! (No-one said AM was easy, eh!)

So 'out she came' the other Wednesday, and the skills of **ZL1BK, ZL1TOF, ZL4ROB, ZL1DRV, ZL1DL** and others were put to the test. First, an unstable local oscillator frequency was confirmed, using the VNA as a signal generator, so the problem was located to the 6C4 triode oscillator circuit. Much tapping and wiggling and cleaning of contacts ensued but did not solve the problem. The cast aluminum coil box was carefully withdrawn and the oscillator circuit observed to look normal except for some damage on the trimmer, which was thought to be a possible cause.

At this point ZL3CK gave up and went home! Later on, however, the others carried on doggedly and investigation of the under-chassis components of the relatively simple oscillator circuit was done. A close look at a small mica cap finally revealed a dry joint at the valve socket tag! Resoldering this cured the problem; albeit temporarily. A few days later, the instability returned. The capacitor was decidedly suspect as the problem came and went with application of hot air (from a blower, that is - not the assembled group of ponderers).

As with many variations of capacitors, silver mica types have had a history of longevity problems in earlier versions, with silver oxidizing and or migrating and older epoxy coatings becoming hygroscopic. A quick replacement of the dodgy cap and immediately, the RF noise fell dramatically. The sensitivity was now about -120dBm with detectable audio down to around -130 dBm – bring back tuned front ends! All the noise was caused by an unstable oscillator! We must let C & B know...



Graham ZL1TOF and Rob ZL4ROB puzzling over the C & B 941's circuit with Dave ZL1DRV supervising. Coffee time was overdue...



Out with the old and in with the new – 50pF Silver Mica caps

## **"H" Night- Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

A small but happy gathering at The Station on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> made "H" night another good one to remember. Pizzas were provided and fueled a good effort from 7.30 to 10PM. Conditions on the air were quite reasonable, and we had our contact with **ZL6H**, operator **Kaye**, (**Rob ZL2IW's XYL**) in the bag once it got dark down south at 9PM.

There was a total of 39 contacts with 15 stations, with a score of 76 (To be confirmed by the contest manager Rob ZL2IW in due course). Mercifully our vintage transmitter (RCA/NZPO 1309) and receiver (C & B 941- see above) held together so we were able to give out 3 points every time.

It has been suggested that the contest be extended another half hour to 2230, in order to give the southerners a bit more time in the dark. What do others think? Let the Editor know.

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## **Received from Mike VK4MIK-**

### **AM and CW on ANZAC Day event on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026-**

I have included the info that NZ hams may be on 7.125 AM for the above event.

Hopefully it will see our fellow hams involved as the event runs all day.

When we made contact last Anzac day you said it would be on the list of events - is this still correct ? (YES!)

Can you also alert NZART to the event please. (It will be done!)

Thanks.

**Mike Patterson VK4MIK.**

(Replied in the affirmative. We could activate Musick Point on 7.125 AM)

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The exam trainer app at <http://musickpoint.ddns.net:8080> is now updated to incorporate the new questions (that are applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026)

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

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

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



Ferrite & Iron Powder  
cores available at:  
[intelec.nz/passives](http://intelec.nz/passives)