

May  
2026

# THE MUSE



Our totally unbiased inhouse survey still puts the Muse at the top of the readership ratings. No other newsletters were included in the survey.

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*

<b>Club Open Times</b>		
Sundays	10:00 ~ 16:00	
Wednesdays	10:00 ~ 16:00	
Fridays	19:00 ~ 22:00	
<b>Online</b>		
Musick Point Website	<a href="https://musickpointradio.org">https://musickpointradio.org</a>	Webmaster: ZL1NZ
Musick Point Blog	<a href="https://mprg.zlham.net.nz">https://mprg.zlham.net.nz</a>	
SoftRock SDR (80m / 40m)	<a href="http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901">http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901</a>	
KIWI SDR	<a href="http://musickpoint.ddns.net:8073">http://musickpoint.ddns.net:8073</a>	
<b>Nets</b>		
ZL6AM: 3.850 MHz, AM	Fridays at 20.30	SPAM Net
ZL1ZLD: 7.125 MHz, AM	Wednesdays at 11.30	
ZL1ZLD: 145.575, FM	Tuesdays at 19:30	Musick Point Repeater
<b>General</b>		
Club Meetings	Second Sunday of Month	Except May: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month
MuseLetter Editor	ZL3CK	musickpointradio@gmail.com

- **Next Meeting – AGM (Postponed) Sunday May 17th @ 1pm.**
- **Next AFN Net- Sunday May 3rd.**



*Rangitoto looking benign on a recent autumn day at Musick Point*

## Musick Point Radio Group News

To MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC) members

**NOTICE OF (POSTPONED) AGM AND GENERAL MEETING to be held on  
SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 1.00PM At the Station.**

Please find attached the minutes of the 2025 AGM, the agenda for the upcoming AGM, and the minutes from the last General Meeting in March.

There was no April meeting due to the predicted weather event, and no quorum.

Please note that the FIVE remits (See April Break-In) for the upcoming NZART AGM need to be voted on, and a delegate to be selected.

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## ANZAC Weekend Activity

On ANZAC day, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, we will be attempting to join in the ANZAC HF activity, that is especially strong in VK. Whilst CW and AM are the traditional modes (that probably means AM for most of us...), SSB is also OK. We will likely utilise the valve based transmitters for AM, and also the “modern” equipment, as this offers us frequency agility, compared with the fixed crystal frequencies of the old equipment.

We expect to be onsite from 10:00am, so feel free to drop in! The main net frequency / mode is 7125 khz AM.



## NZART Conference 2026

Please consider attending the NZART 100 year conference on May 30-31. **We need Aucklanders to attend!** You have minimal travel and no accommodation costs compared with our southern attendees, so PLEASE get that form filled out On-Line or paper (Back of latest Break-In) and we'll see you there.

<https://nzart100conference.nzart.org.nz/registration-form/>

We have some very interesting displays planned as well as commercial suppliers who are offering good discounts at the conference, with an excellent line up of speakers. Your Association will be underwriting any loss from the Conference, which will depend entirely on the number who attend and pay. We need another 100 attendees to sign up now!

Check out the conference website for more information including the raffle prizes (that include an ICOM IC-7300 Mk2 !). Raffle tickets are only available to conference attendees!!!



**100**  
1926 2026

# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF NZART

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND • 30–31 MAY 2026

- Centenary History Book for All Fully Paid Attendees
- Fascinating Forums & Gala Dinner
- Meet Operators from NZ & Overseas!

**ALTERNATIVE PARTNERS' PROGRAM!**  
Wonderful Tours & Activities in and around Auckland

- Candle Making
- Historic Devonport & Parnell
- The Maritime Museum
- IKEA Shopping

Special VIP Guests from IARU & WIA  
'Celebrating Our Past – Exploring Our Future!'  
Amazing Raffle Prizes To Be Won!

Win an ICOM IC-7300 Mark 2

**REGISTER NOW - DON'T MISS OUT!**  
JOIN US FOR THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT!

[www.nzart100conference.nzart.org.nz](http://www.nzart100conference.nzart.org.nz)



Conference Raffle Prizes !!!

<https://nzart.org.nz>

We are also asking MPRG members to **volunteer to help** with displays on the afternoon on Friday 29 May at Waipuna Lodge for setting up displays, welcoming the Commercial suppliers, and helping the reception of the delegates. Parking is free and right at the venue.

We also need **volunteers to be at the Station** on Monday 1 June to help show visitors around the station.

Please contact the writer, or Dave ZL1DL if you can help.

Martyn ZL3CK Secretary [Martyn.seay@gmail.com](mailto:Martyn.seay@gmail.com) 0274-803171

## The Collier and Beale 941 Receivers Project

80 m AM Receiver Power Supply Mods.

Graham ZL1TOF 2026-04-18

Last month I made the output sockets the same so the power supplies on the AM desk could be swapped. Well, the 80 m supply was powered through a 3 core parallel webbed cable or Tru-Rip with a knot for cable retention. Both were OK in the 1950s, but, not now. The power cord was replaced with a modern one and fitted with a cable gland.

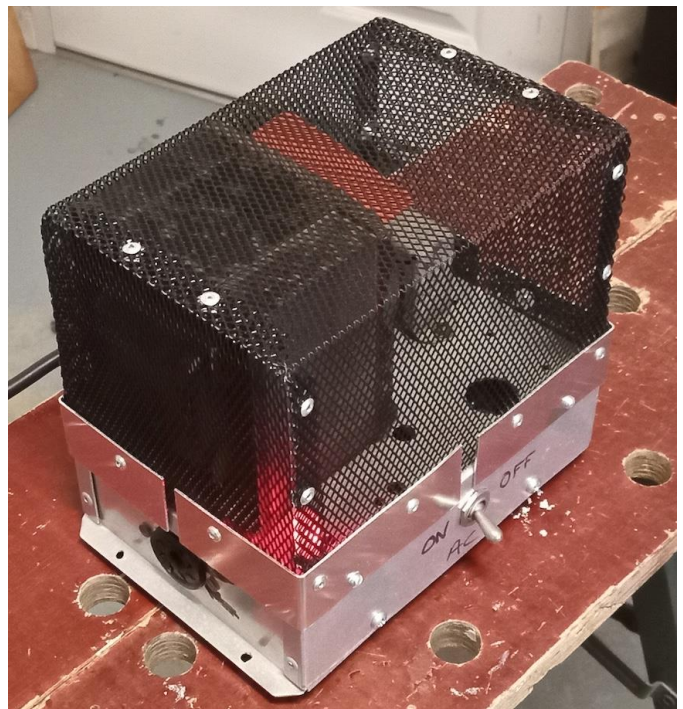
There was no cover on the bottom of the chassis meaning live parts could be touched easily. An aluminium sheet folded at the sides the same as the 40 m supply was made. Thanks to Ed, ZL1EC, for a basic sheet metal folder. After folding the base edges the width was be a bit less than I wanted. There must be a technique to make accurate folds. A one millimetre thick strip of aluminium was cut with a jigsaw using a fine metal cutting blade. Noisy, yes, that's what ear muffs are for. The aluminium strips are held in place by spire clips for number 6 self tapping screws. That solved the base panel fit. Then four rubber feet from my collection of recovered parts were fitted.

The next job was to make a cover for the top of the chassis as there were open terminals on the transformer with about 150 volts on them relative to the chassis. A small loose paper sign faintly advising "CAUTION! 240 V" would not stop a good nip from the exposed terminals. There was a chassis mounted fuse that would be under the cover. Back to the recovered parts for a screw top fuse holder. File out a spare hole, fit it, wire it into the circuit and remove the old fuse holder.

Someone mentioned fitting a Nixie tube to indicate it's powered. The Nixie is a bit too complicated. What about a red LED? I fabricated 2 surface mount LEDs back to back and a 470 ohm resistor in series to run off the 6.3 volt heater supply. The SMD LEDs are much brighter than the old T1, 3 mm, radial through hole LEDs. I Mounted the LED assembly in an old 4 mm banana



*Power supply- before...(Shock! Horror)! Exposed AC mains terminals, not an isolated finding at MP)*



*And after reconstruction*

socket from the recovered parts collection. A short length of clear ball pen barrel was added to spread the light about.

Back to the black expanded mesh cover. This was easily bent, so, I didn't need the sheet metal folder, just a length of wood clamped to the work-mate. Marking the mesh with cut and bend lines proved tricky until I remembered the chalk pen I was given for marking lawn bowls. The sheet of mesh was not large enough to make a one piece cover. One large piece to go over the top and two smaller pieces for the ends all pop riveted together. A band of 1 mm aluminium pop riveted to the mesh and screwed to the chassis finishes the cover.

What if the mesh could

be pressed to the transformer terminals.

A piece of Presspahn insulating card, other brands are available, was added to protect the terminals from shorting to the cover. Electrical safety test, past. Run test, draws about 7.5 watts with no load. Using the transformer primary resistance method the no load temperature

rise came to about 10 degrees Celsius. The 80 m octal power plug has a broken keyed spigot, central post. (Ed- Yes- we discovered that it would go in any way you liked, that's why there was a felt pen mark on it!) I found a replacement power plug to fit when I am next there.

### The "Formative Process"



*Bending the aluminium Cover base angles*



*Riveting the safety cover*

## Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation News

And Now for something Completely Different- and Sad 😞- the end of an era for AM

Sad days for those Aucklanders who liked the BBC, Sport Radio, 531 PI and 4 other ethnic radio stations- they are now gone for ever. Yes, the big AM transmitter masts at Henderson are in the process of being felled as this is written.

Radio NZ says the 160 and 180 meter masts are to be replaced by one shorter mast (110 meters) on the north side. The land on the south side of the NW motorway is to be sold in part to permit the formation of a bus station for the Western Busway now in planning. The North side land will remain, with the transmitter building along with the Toroa steam ferry under restoration.

The end result of all this is that the 14 transmitters will be reduced to just 7 with the permanent loss of the above-mentioned programmes. Cost savings are stated to be the reason, along with the fact that the masts are 70+ years old “at end of life” i.e. becoming very expensive to maintain.

The construction of the new mast has been let to a New Plymouth firm.



Going, going)

(From RNZ website, NZ Herald, photos by Mike Walls of the Toroa Preservation Society)



Going...



And .....Gone.

### **The AM Nets continue on 3.850MHz and 7.125MHz - unabated!**

Participants include Steven ZL2UV, (New Plymouth) Wally ZL1WE (Waihi) David ZL1BOA, and Brian ZL1HN, (Hamilton) Gary ZL3SV, (Motueka) Wally ZL1JLM, (Albany) Rob ZL4ROB, Harry ZL1BK and John ZL1OJ, Auckland, Alan ZL4GZ, (Titahi Bay), Alan ZL1AYH (Katikati), Dave ZL4DK (Dunedin area), Alan ZL3II (Rangiora area) Chris ZL4AV (Whanganui), in no particular order!



*Alan ZL1AYH in his busy shack attending to the needs of his RCA 351*

When a vertical rod aerial is too conspicuous, most military HF manpack radio instructions suggest a “ground aerial” can be used. This consists of 25 feet of wire connected to the aerial terminal, laid on the ground in the direction of the other station. Compared to a rod aerial, the gain is reduced by approx. 8dB, but it does draw less ‘unwelcome attention’. The operator’s handbooks have no suggestion on how the set should be grounded, but as this is a static arrangement, we presume the radio is on the ground.

## The big question

The question is – how does this work? A wire laying on the ground, fed at one end, must look like an unbalanced open circuit transmission line with a very poor return path. From the operator’s handbook, we presume the radiation pattern has a single lobe in line with the wire open end. Perhaps this is some form of travelling wave antenna, and thanks to Richard ZL4FZ for pointing me in this direction. A “Beverage” is a common implementation of this, but is normally several wavelengths long, and terminated with a resistor to stop it being bi-directional. Some of the performance calculations for a Beverage  $< \frac{1}{2}$  wavelength do not work. I also wonder if this aerial could be a “highly loaded” travelling wave interface into the process of ground (surface) wave, where wave currents are circulating in the earth? Another analogue could be an open ended microstrip, used in microwave electronics. Typically, these antennas have very poor gain and efficiency, but then so does our “ground aerial”. Searches on the internet for information on these antennas have revealed almost nothing, and research continues to continue.

## Impedance

Vector Network Analyser measurements of the feed point were made, and some show strange results, but generally indicates this 25’ (7.6m) wire is electrically slightly longer than  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave at 7Mhz. From this, we could calculate it has a velocity factor of around 70%, which could be feasible, considering the dielectric is just mud. I said strange VNA results – this is because the feed impedance showed 250R + 3uH with the set on a stool, and 600R+10uH with set on the ground, and I guess the high resistance is due to the poor ground return. (For reference, a 3m vertical rod aerial is approx. 10R +50pF). But why is the impedance higher when the radio sits on the ground!? I think these measurements need to be re-checked.



*A wet ZL3BHS with a dry WS48 set*

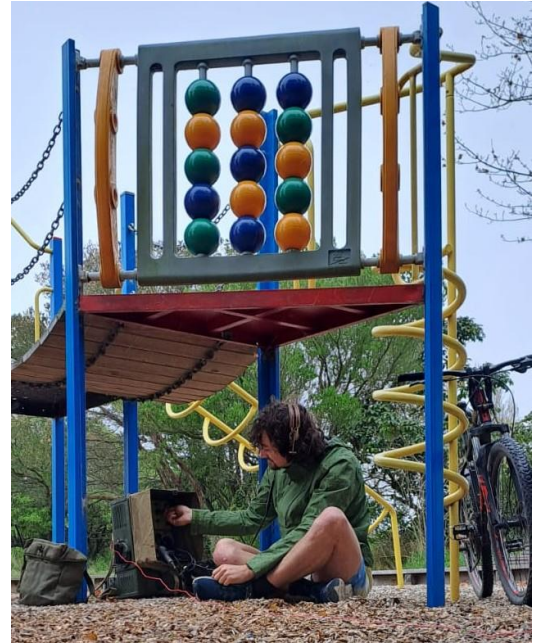


*ZL3KB on WS58 set grimacing through the rain*

## Real world trials

April field trials with WS48 and WS58 manpack sets in the Christchurch red zone on 7.1 MHz showed some interesting, if not puzzling results. Firstly, the aerial tuning meters showed very low aerial voltage compared to a rod antenna, yet we measured higher aerial feed point impedance? The radiation pattern was generally in the direction of the wire, but there was some evidence of QSB, hinting of some NVI skywave? Some stations could not communicate at all, despite being quite close proximity, so maybe there are deep nulls in the radiation pattern? Lastly, we carried these trials out in the cold rain and mist, so my final question: – are we all mad?

The questions on radiation pattern will have to wait until we make some measurements in the field. The madness thing is probably a certainty.

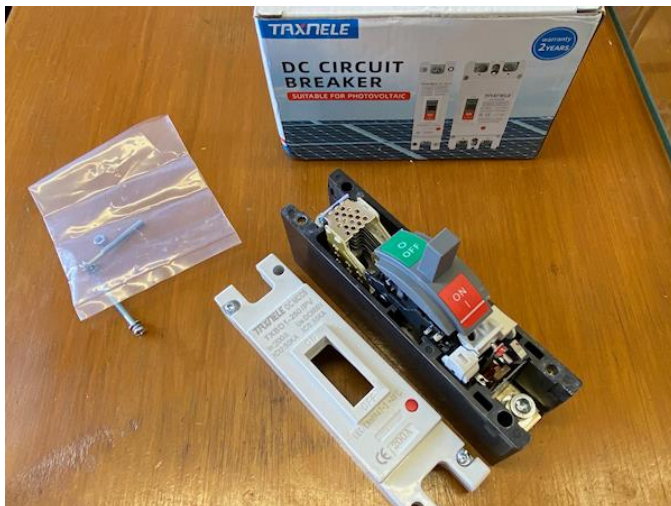


*ZL3APB and WS48 set looking like a homeless person !*

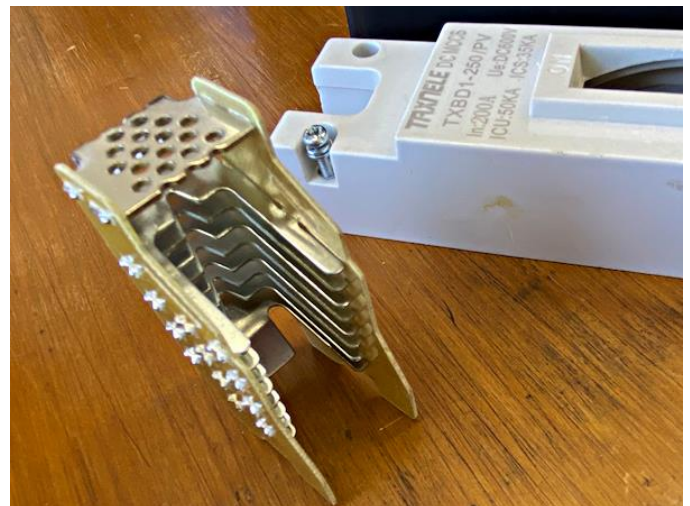
## Handling High Current DC

A number of members have constructed relatively small Lithium technology batteries (with 30Ah being around the largest to date). Well, ED ZL1EC wandered in with a “show and tell” 200A DC breaker for a “slightly larger” battery he is constructing. Switching DC at higher currents is slightly problematic, in that an arc formed on opening contacts can be sustained by the continuous voltage availability.

This DC breaker, incorporates an “arc chute”, that draws the arc into a set of plates, and divides it up into a number of smaller arcs. The plasma of the small arcs is cooled by the chute plates and therefore extinguishes. How convenient!



*200A / 600V DC Breaker. The rating indicates it can take a “one off” fault current of 50kA. I don’t think you would want to be too close...*



*ARC Chute from breaker showing the multiple plates to divide the arc up*

## 40m Antenna Repair

Noticing the T98 wasn't putting out quite the power it should be, Martyn ZL3CK checked the SWR and found it to be not the usual. A glance at the 40m 3 wire folded dipole immediately provided the reason; one wire had detached turning it into a regular folded dipole, with the attendant change in feed point impedance. Hence resulting in the elevated SWR. As the dipole is fed by a balanced line from a tuner, it was possible to make the SWR look OK for the time being.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, put on a brilliant calm morning, so antenna repair was the order of the day. The 40m dipole is supported between the top of the building and a handy tree. With both ends loosed, we could inspect the damage. Essentially one wire had fatigued at an end of the antenna where the 3 wires came together and were joined towards the end insulator. The connections were originally twisted and soldered – fine when you have bright shiny copper wire to deal with. Unfortunately, this wire was slightly aged. We had previously successfully treated tarnished copper wire with salt and vinegar. It works well, but takes a while, so I think the salt and vinegar is best left to flavour potato crisps (if it brightens copper, imagine what it does for your constitution); but I digress...

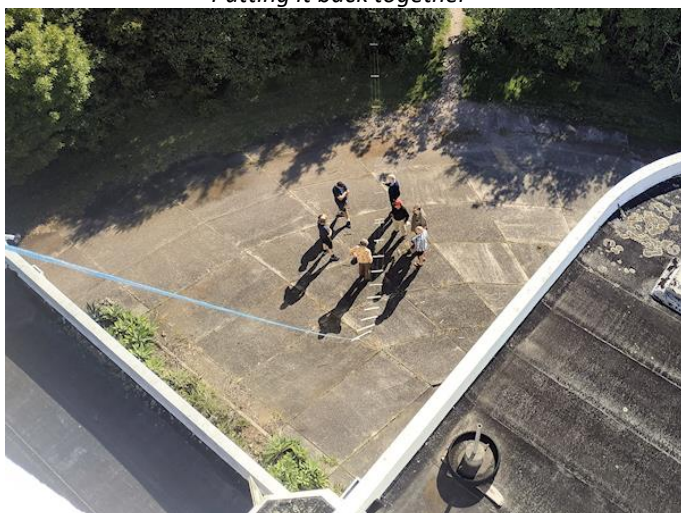
Harry, ZL1BK produced a length of copper tube – just the size to accommodate 3 runs of the antenna wire. And, how convenient, Dave ZL1DL just happened to have a hex crimp tool in his car. A few bites with the crimp tool and the antenna was ready to raise and tension. A quick check for working then down to the serious consumption of coffee.



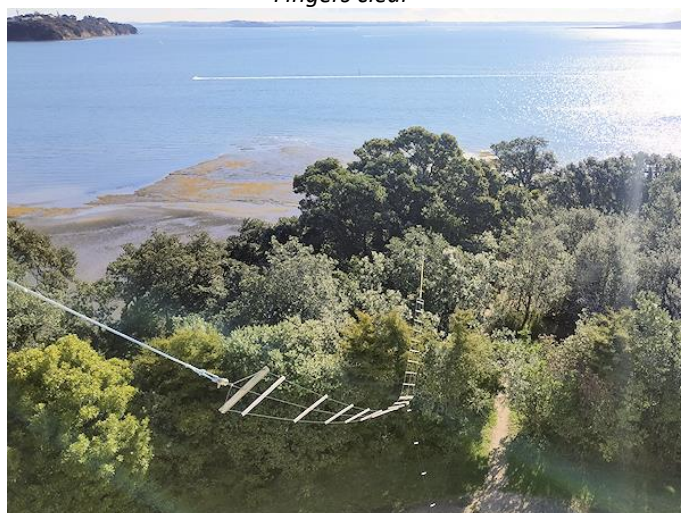
*Putting it back together*



*Fingers clear*

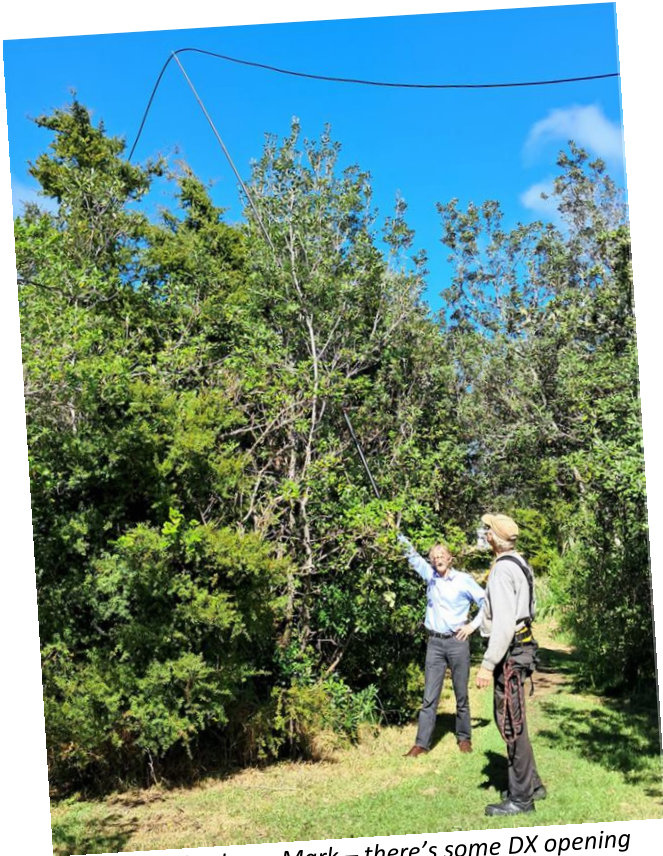


*Antenna on Ground – View from Tower (stock photo)*



*Thar she blows – the 40m Antenna at height (stock photo)*

**Another Day at Musick Point...**



*Hold it right there, Mark – there's some DX opening*



*ZL1OJ demonstrating his quick deploy multi-band antenna*



*It come off in me hand Guv....*



*Next time I'm bringing two stools*



*Oh look - a shipment of carbon fibre poles!!*

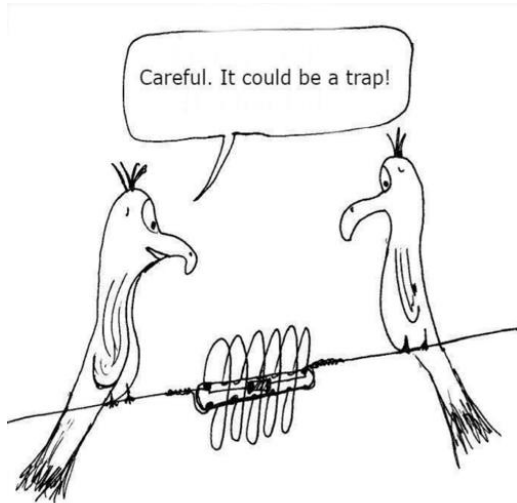


*Men(sa) at work*

# O'Flattery Award

Recently spotted roosting high up in a Pohutukawa was a very rare "Lesser Crested Harry".

In reality, Harry was managing the tie-off for the lower end of the 40m dipole that was being repaired. Although not clearly visible in the picture, he was suitably harnessed and roped off!



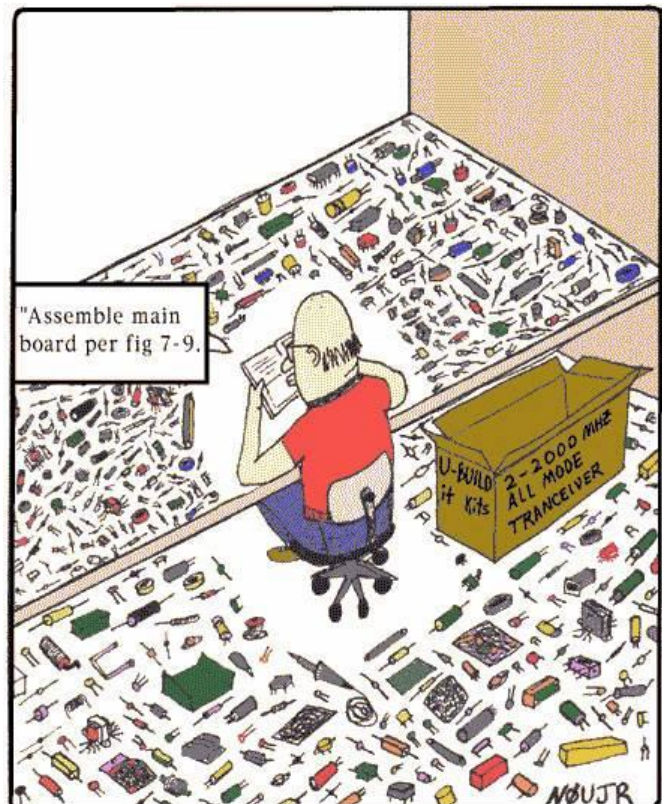
## Free Amateur Radio Buy, Sell and Wanted

"ZL Ham Classified Ads" at <https://zlham.net.nz>

**NAGOYA**  
ANTENNA

Genuine Nagoya  
Mobile Antennas

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integrated electronics



Kit fun

# Musick Point Radio Group Inc. Branch 86 NZART

## Agenda for Annual General Meeting to be held at Musick Memorial Radio Station

on May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 1300hrs..

### Welcome to Visitors.

**Present:** Per attendance book – Quorum present?

### Apologies:

**Minutes of previous AGM 13 April 2025** - As circulated

### Errors & Omissions / Matters arising:

#### Finance

- Annual Accounts: Treasurer's report
- Set annual club member subscription for the current year

#### Reports

Chairman, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster

#### Election of Officers

#### Nominations - No prior nominations have been received.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>In Favour</i>
Chairman				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Newsletter editor				
Webmaster				
AREC				

#### General Business

Other general business, open to the floor.

**MPRG Acceptance of Club Officer Position**

Name- \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby accept the position of \_\_\_\_\_ and certify that I am not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an officer of the Musick Point Radio Group (Inc) as per section 47 (3) of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Minutes of the General Meeting of the Musick Point Radio Group

March 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 Commenced at 1300.

Present- ZL's 1DL, 1DRV, 1EC, 1FTH, 1TOF, 1MPU, 3CK,

Apologies-ZL4ROB

Minutes of February 2026 G.M.-

Matters Arising- Nil.

Approve Feb minutes- Moved ZL1EC, Seconded ZL1TOF, Carried.

Finance- ZL1DL- No significant changes. Slight loss over YTD of \$154.02

Accept financial statement- Moved ZL1DRV, Seconded ZL1FTH, Carried

Correspondence-

Rotary Club visit request-. - ZL3CK replied with the usual advice to check our website and contact Spark. Subsequently, ZL1DL has replied with correct contact details.

Other inquiries for visits discussed.

General Business-

Jaguar Club Visit on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January very successful, about 12 cars and occupants were hosted. One is a radio amateur as well.

Asbestos removal has been completed. ZL1DRV wondered if the asbestos register has been updated.

Cleaning of walls has continued, and tidying, still much to do.

Conference update - ZL3CK.

Meeting concluded at 1335.

Minutes taken by ZL3CK.

# Musick Point Radio Group Inc.

## Minutes for

### Annual General Meeting held at Musick Memorial Radio Station at 1310 on April 13<sup>th</sup> Hrs 2025

#### Present-

ZL1DRV, ZL1EK, ZL1BQE, ZL4ROB, ZL1TGS, ZL1TOF, ZL1MRT, ZL1OJ, ZL1DL, ZL3CK, ZL1NZ ZL2MOH

**Apologies** received: ZL1MPU, ZL2JDH

**Minutes** of previous AGM April 14<sup>th</sup> 2024- No errors, omissions or matters arising were tabled.

Minutes accept as circulated- *Proposed* - ZL1NZ, seconded ZL1EK. -Passed unanimously.

**Finance**- The Treasurer's report for YE 31 March 2025 was circulated and read out by ZL1DL.

Membership has had modest increase over the year. Income surplus accounted mainly by sales of scrap metal. If this is deducted, a small surplus of \$55 is noted.

Main expenses are data and insurance. These are anticipated to rise this year by an uncertain amount.

Financial report accepted, subject to satisfactory review anticipated in the near future.

**Annual Subscription Setting**- For a number of years, the subscription has been held at \$40. After discussion on the merits of raising or holding the amount, it was decided to continue with \$40 for the next year. Many members add a donation to their annual contribution, and it was again as last year thought this was preferable to raising the sub. *Moved* that subscription for 2024-2025 remain at \$40 - ZL1DRV, seconder ZL3CK. - Passed unanimously.

**Reports** from the Chairman, Newsletter Editor (verbal) and Webmaster(verbal) were given. Discussion followed regarding the impact of NZART's new constitution change (remit 2) on our proposed new constitution, currently in preparation. Decision was to hold over approval of our new constitution until after NZART's AGM conference in June.

NZART members to consider the remits for their decision next meeting.

**Election of Officers** No prior nominations were received. All position holders agreed to continue in the respective portfolios – no other nominations were received. Elected and other positions were confirmed as below-

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by	In Favour
Chairman	David ZL1DRV	ZL4ROB	ZL3CK	All
Secretary	Martyn ZL3CK	ZL1BQE	ZL4ROB	All
Treasurer	Dave ZL1DL	ZL1MRT	ZL1EK	All
Newsletter editor	Martyn ZL3CK	N/A	N/A	All
Webmaster	Neil ZL1NZ	N/A	N/A	All

**AREC-** Rob ZL4ROB is the club's AREC representative. Discussion on the future of AREC ensued.

**General Business- ZL1DL-** Need to improve efforts to keep building tidy and continue decluttering, especially in view of upcoming centenary next year. More effort for internal maintenance needed.

**Appointed- Graham ZL1TOF** as **Building Maintenance coordinator**, Graham to make a jobs list to be put on the club server.

Projects to increase interest in club- discussed, fox hunting raised (again) as possibility.

The Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 1407Hrs

Minutes by ZL3CK..

# MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP INC., ZL1ZLD- Branch 86 NZART

(formerly Suburban Amateur Radio Club Inc.)

Membership Subscription form for Financial Year 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027  
Full year Subscription- TBA after AGM. New Members only-less than one year subscription is Pro-Rata per month.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO –

MPRG SECRETARY MARTYN SEAY at [martyn.seay@gmail.com](mailto:martyn.seay@gmail.com)

YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR CALL SIGN (if you have one) AS PAYMENT REFERENCE.

BANK ACCOUNT FOR MPRG- (ANZ) 11-5373-0651319-11

BY SIGNING THIS FORM YOU CONSENT TO THE RULES OF THE CLUB.

Name- ..... Callsign/s-.....

Address- .....

Phone/s- .....E-mail- .....

Financial Member NZART? Yes/no

Subscription- Cash/On line to above bank account (delete as necessary) \$.....

Donation- Cash/On line to above bank account (delete as necessary) \$.....

SIGNED-.....Date.....

For Club use only-

Sponsored by- .....Callsign-.....  
(New members only)

Approved:

Not Approved:

Received?.....Date.....

Note- The information requested is for membership records required to be maintained under the Incorporated Societies Act, and having due regard to the provisions of the Privacy Act.

Nomination Form for position of Club Officer of the Musick Point Radio Group (Inc.)

Position- .....

Name- .....

I hereby consent to be the above Club Officer, and certify that I am not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an officer of the society as per section 47 (3) of the incorporated societies act 2022.

Signed-.....

Date-.....

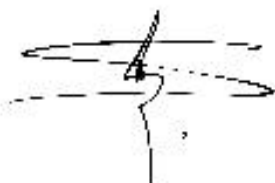
## Certificate of Incorporation

**MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP INCORPORATED**

**827748**

**NZBN: 9429042931843**

This is to certify that SUBURBAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED was incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 on the 30th day of October 1996 and changed its name to MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP INCORPORATED on the 4th day of May 2012 and was reregistered to become a society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 on 15th day of September 2025



Registrar of Incorporated Societies  
18th day of April 2026



To check the validity of this certificate visit  
<https://app.businessregisters.govt.nz/sber-businesses/verify/9429042931843/IncorporatedSociety-94589904.html>

Certificate generated on 18 April 2026 02:29 PM NZST