

-----THE MUSE-----  
-----For AUGUST 2023-----

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

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

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

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

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

SPAM A.M. (ZL6AM or ZL1ZLD) Nets- Mondays 11.30AM, some Wednesdays 11.30 AM, Fridays 8.30PM ,  
3.850MHz.

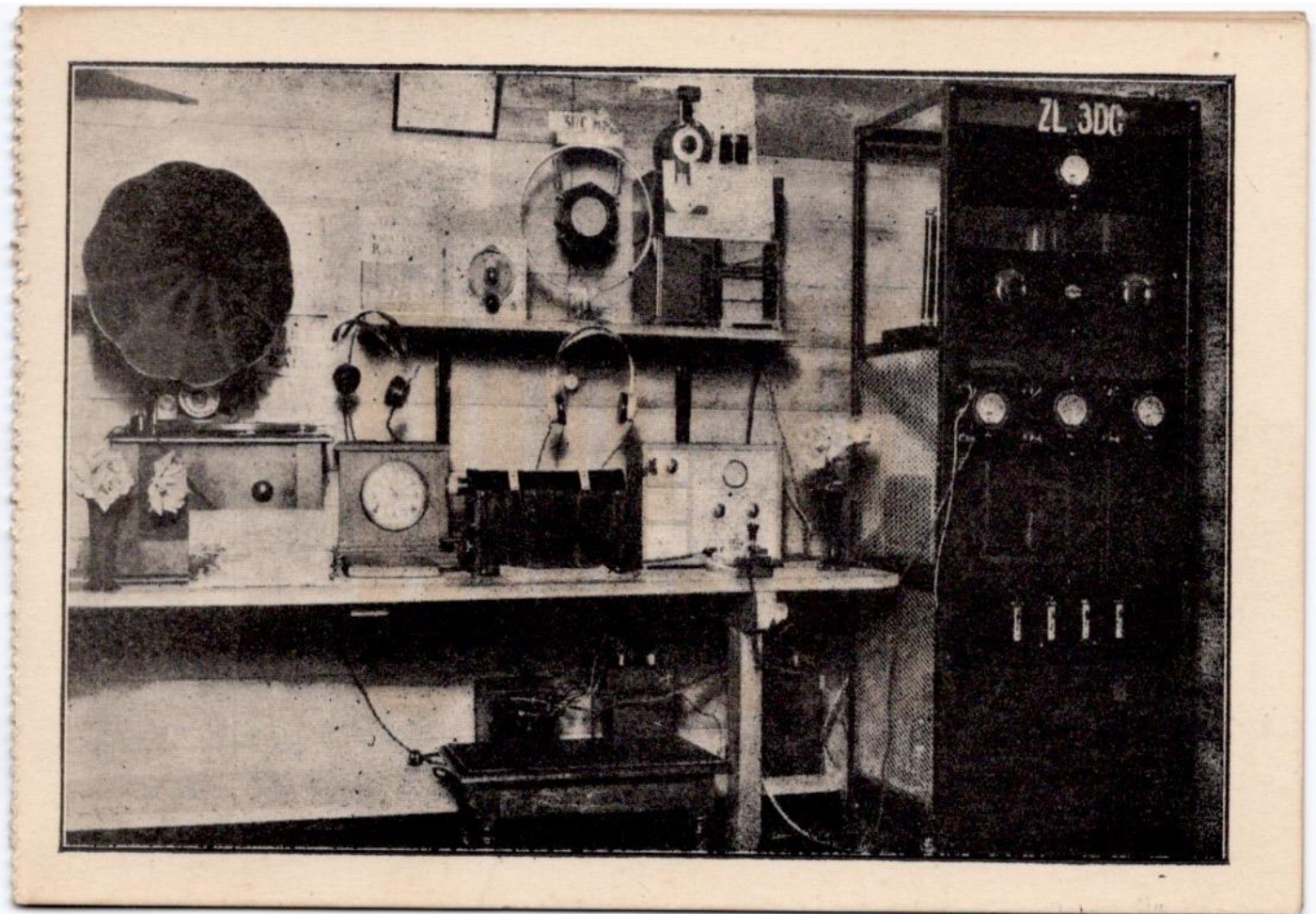
A.M. Calling frequencies- 3.850MHZ, 7.125 MHz

Editor- Martyn, ZL3CK.

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

NEXT MEETING- **Sunday, August 13th at 1PM. Snacks, coffee and tea provided.**

**ATTACHED-Minutes of July General Meeting.**



When QSL Cards were king! The shack of ZL3DC, Mr. E.H. Travis, the QTH was Papanui Road, Christchurch on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1933 when his contact with ZL2MC was recorded. The transmitter- "H.C. Hartley, 60 Watts into a 50 W tube" Receiver- Philips all wave, S.G. Det, 1 AF antenna a ½ wave Zepp. Notice the unprotected HT supply below the bench, he can't have had a cat!

## From the Chair

A friendly reminder to all out there that we entered the new financial year at the beginning of April, meaning that, if you have not paid your subscription, it is now overdue. The subscription fee is unchanged at \$40 and, in return you get 12 wonderful and enlightening newsletters like this one. But wait: there's more – You get access to a historic building with a good collection of radios of all vintages, with an excellent, low noise floor to make it easy to enjoy a bit of DX activity, if you so please. See the subs form further on in this newsletter for bank account details, etc.

The firm where I work needed some rewiring. So until the job was finished, the foreman placed these warning signs by the breaker boxes: "Do not touch! Not only will this kill you, it will hurt the whole time you're dying."

The last month has been fairly uneventful at the station, with a bit more work done on my old VHF radio. When I tried to use it for the Tuesday night net, it did a few strange things which forced me to shut it down. The next Sunday at the station, Dave and Graham tested a few things but we could not make it repeat the issues I had, so Dave hauled out a frequency generator to see if he could find anything to suggest an answer to the "alleged" issue. The thing is, the frequency generator was not working.

Attention then focused on the frequency generator, and I agreed to try the radio once more. Last Sunday, when I arrived at the station, I saw that Dave had obviously made a start at examining the frequency generator, so the afternoon was spent testing and tracing the fault. Eventually, after removing all sorts of boards and covers, it was discovered that a large, 1000 $\mu$ F capacitor was the culprit. The search commenced immediately and eventually a suitable replacement was located. After Dave had had his fun with the soldering iron, a quick test confirmed that the correct voltages were present where they should be, and the whole lot was reassembled.

Connecting it up and attaching it to the oscilloscope confirmed that it was working. At that point, I had to depart, because my XYL was waiting to be collected from my daughter's house, and I do not keep her waiting longer than necessary.

**A mechanic friend of mine was called to a neighbour's house because his car wouldn't start. "The battery's flat," he concluded. The owner replied, "What shape should it be?"**

A bit more work has taken place with the network equipment migration to the network rack, but a few more bits and pieces need to be sorted out before we can move the ONT (Optical Network Terminal – the fibre comes into this, bringing the Interweb stuff) and the server, which obviously is the heart of the whole network. The object of the exercise is to move all computer type equipment into the network rack, leaving all radio type equipment in the old 'radio rack'. This includes the 5775 repeater, and the three D-Star repeaters, plus the SDR. This should leave the repeater level looking a lot tidier, especially after we get rid of all the old "junk" equipment stored in shelving in various spots. It is not a quick or easy job.

Fascinated by the military, my son went online to search everything there was to know about armed forces, from training to equipment. Looking up bulletproof vests, he found one interesting warranty: "Guaranteed, or your money back."

I mentioned Betelgeuse last month and now must confess that I haven't seen it lately. It has not been visible in the early evening, having 'set' already. I think that it should start to be visible in our night sky in a month or so. I know that it is still around because we would all have heard about it going supernova before now.

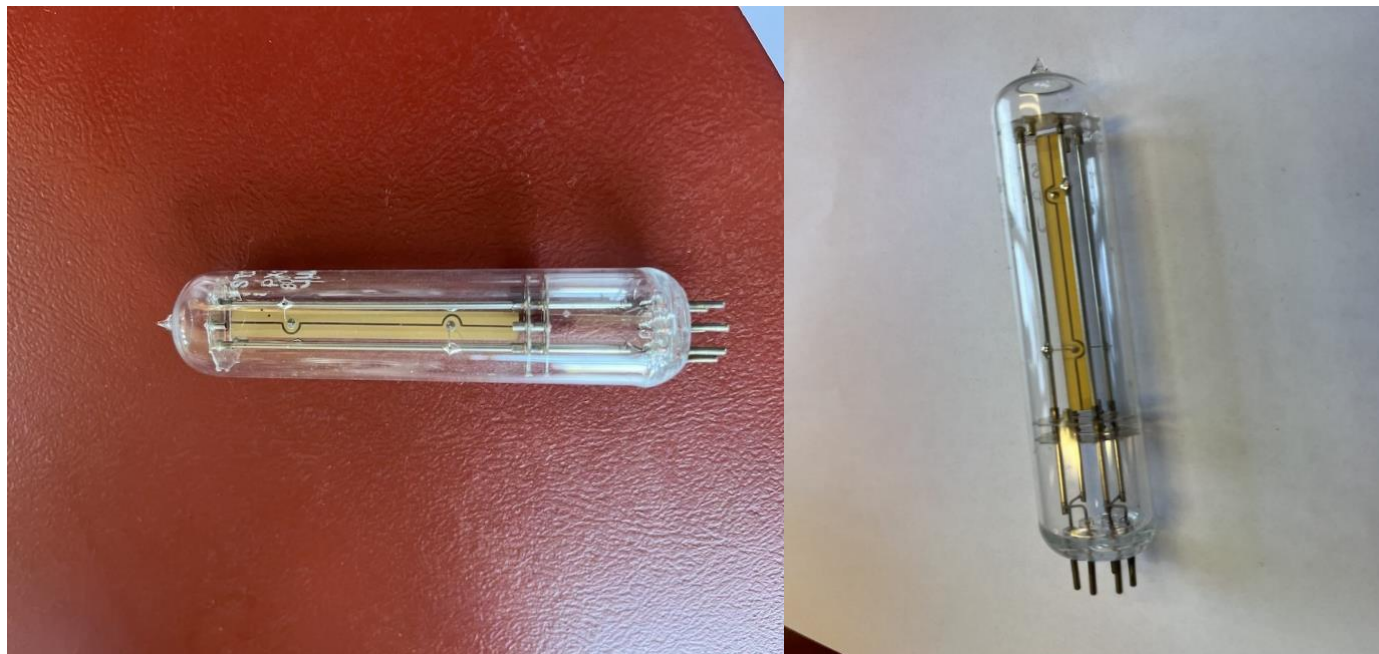
Until next month:

73, and call CQ

David, ZL1DRV

## Other MPRG News-

This odd-looking valve (?) Was found during a random search recently at the station. After being viewed by several members over lunch, **Graham ZL1TOF** came up with its identification- It is a low frequency quartz crystal! There are 4 gold plated facets on the single 2" long square section piece of quartz, each with a soldered wire connection. The frequency is probably 8 KHz guessing from the serial number. A google search of the SN showed some medical instrument references which could be relevant. Graham brought in a 4 KHz crystal oven complete unit the next day, even more amazing to those of us who'd never heard of the existence of such low frequency crystals.



Another recent QSO with **VK2VMP (the destroyer HMAS Vampire in Sydney)** last weekend. **Alex VK2PRC** let us know they were to be on the air on their usual Sunday slot, 14.195, between (our time) 1 and 5 PM and conditions were very good for an hour or so. Despite our (stuck) beam pointing 90 degrees away from VK a good chat was had with Dave ZL1DL at our end. We hear they now have a vertical on 40 meters as well as 20, so expect to hear them on 40 meters soon. They are on the air most Sundays 11-3 AEST.

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## GROTA and SPAM News-

Looks like the Grotarians of Christchurch have discovered Morse code! They have just realized that the No.48 sets have a morse key which can be used for sending-Morse! Not exactly AM as we know it, but it's a green radio so it must count. A '48 in good shape (and the WS18 as well) puts out a whole 1.1 Watt of RF in the CW mode which can go a long way further than 1/4W AM, so they now have to repeat all their field tests using CW. I foresee some GROTA range-finding expeditions to the Northern Appendage-er-Island in the future. Let's get CW-competent on Green Radios, what could be a finer way to spend a winter's night?

At Musick Point we are looking forward to New Year's day when we'll migrate to the reserve for "portable day".

The WS. No. 38, 48, 18 and a ZC1 will be out and about!



W.S. No. 38. From "Wireless for the Warrior". All this for 20 mw on AM!

**For Sale, Wanted to buy, and Give Aways-**

Hi Martyn,

I have available free to a good home a Heathkit DX 60 Transceiver. I have made this offer through club newsletters but to date have had no takers.

It comes in 3 parts, the transmitter, receiver and a separate VFO. All in working condition. Full documentation available.

I am reluctant to courier as I suspect it may not survive the journey, so would prefer pick up. If any of your members are interested they could email me.

Cheers, Wayne ZL2OZ

[waynezl2oz@gmail.com](mailto:waynezl2oz@gmail.com)

**From Leith, ZL1BCJ Whitianga.**

As I go thru my junk, I have found a Beacon P03 power transformer. I will never use it and its too good to scrap. It looks new.

In your next news letter can you ask if someone needs it.

Pri 230 V

Sec 900, 1180, 1460 volts assuming using 866 rectifiers.

Sec current 350 mA.

Thanks. Contact Leith at- [seacom@xtra.co.nz](mailto:seacom@xtra.co.nz)

**From Howard ZL1BXA- Free ZC1 to a good home!**

Hi Martyn,

Arrived at my Waiheke house last night. Raining but under the deck someone left a sad looking zc1 minus tubes! Dials knackered. Not re capped. No case.

Odd parts. Is it of any use to anyone- would have to get it over to mainland. (See photos last month)

Howard ZL1BXA / ZL1WAI

**Musick Point Radio Group Inc. Minutes of General Meeting held at Musick Memorial Radio Station on 9 July 2023**

**Present:** Seven financial members as per attendance book. Visitors ZL1ROB Rob, and Dave Murphy.

**Apology:** Neil ZL1NZ

**Minutes of previous meeting:** 11 June 2023:

**Errors & Omissions:** Under "General"- Regarding Remit Item No. 2 -error pointed out by email from Howard ZL1BXT (NZART North Island Councillor) that as a non-charitable club we ARE covered by NZART's insurance.

**Business arising:** Further discussion below.

Minutes Accepted with above correction- Moved-ZL2MOH Seconded ZL1DRV, Passed.

**Financial (as at 7 July 2023)**

Bank Account Balances- Current account- \$2777.89 Serious saver-7679.91 Repeater A/c-466.56.

Total: **\$10,924.36** Increase of \$195.30 since last month.

16 Members have now paid for the 23-24 year, about 2/3 of the previous year.

Accounts accepted: Moved ZL2MOH, seconded ZL3CK, passed.

**Correspondence-** ZL1BXT as above. To- Debby requesting details of NZART insurance, copy of same received. QST received.

**General Business-**

Insurance- ZL1DL- Understood previously from Ann (SK) that we are required by Spark to have \$2Million 3<sup>rd</sup> party risk cover by Spark. The tenancy agreement available (2014) states \$1Million (only) is required. The NZART insurance cover is for \$1Million.

Action- ZL1DL & ZL3CK to investigate.

Maintenance- Western Beam rotator options discussed including removal and using the eastern beam instead. Ethan ZL1EK is a qualified "cherry picker" operator.

Action- ZL1TOF, ZL1BK ZL1MPU, ZL1EK and others -Full inspection (drone?) when grass dry.

**Activities-**

1. New Year's day "POTA" activity again this year agreed by all.

2. "Castles on the air"(COTA) activity for future, using portable and/or "Green (military/vintage) radios. We have plenty of appropriate sites with easy access. For further investigation (ZL3CK)

3. Fox hunting- no action further on this.

4. Bequests- A local amateur has asked if the club takes bequests of radio equipment from estates.

Discussion- We may accept item/s of equipment on condition it is first assessed and if accepted by the club, would be gifted to the club with no "strings attached" i.e. with no restrictions on its use or disposal, and no payment to the estate being required. We cannot accept "job lots" for storage, disposal, or 'on behalf'.

Meeting closed 1400 Hrs.

M. Seay, ZL3CK Secretary, MPRG.