

MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC.) NEWSLETTER

--NZART BRANCH 86--

-----For MAY 2023-----

**-Incorporating The Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation News-
and with 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) Nets- Mondays 11.30AM, **some Wednesdays 11.30AM**, 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- AGM on Sunday May 21st. we MUST get a quorum for this or we will no longer be an incorporated society. Please make every effort to attend, thank you. Snacks, coffee and tea provided.

ATTACHED-Minutes of March General Meeting, 2022 AGM, AGM Agenda, Membership application.



The newly- refitted and painted Royal Australian Navy “Daring” class destroyer “**Vampire**” in Sydney harbour. Her official radio call-sign is now **VK2VMP**. For more, see the “Grota” section.

For more information on Musick Point see- <https://musickpointradio.org>

From the Chair

Sunday 16th April was marked down to be our Annual General Meeting. We pushed this out a week to get us past Easter, but we ended up not holding the AGM then because only four members bothered to turn up, meaning that we did not achieve a quorum of eight as required by our Constitution. We only have one more chance to get this important piece of business done, and this will have to be 21st May at 1pm (13:00). Our financial statement has been reviewed and needs to be approved by an AGM before being submitted to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies before the end of May. This is extremely important to us, because failure to submit an approved financial statement in time could mean that we lose our incorporated status. This will affect our insurance cover, and will most definitely affect our (Branch 86) membership of NZART. With this in mind, please make a special effort to attend the AGM. It usually does not take very long to get through the business, so if you are under time pressure, you could leave at the end of the meeting and still have a fair part of the afternoon available.

Please give some thought to nominations for office holders. At the moment, Dave ZL1DL is Secretary and has been acting as Treasurer for a couple of years. According to our Constitution, we should have three Executive Officers and, of course we have three positions being filled by two people. The three positions specified as the Executive Officers of the club are: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. If any member feels that they could carry out either of the Secretary or Treasurer positions, please get a nomination organized and submitted before, or at, the meeting. They are not onerous positions. We also have a need for one or two other Officers without portfolio. Any volunteers or nominations for ANY position will be gratefully accepted, and the members present at the AGM can have the final say.

Normally, at the AGM, we have remits to NZART which need to be discussed and voted on for the NZART AGM and Conference. There are only two remits this year, and these are in a separate section later in the newsletter. Have a bit of a read – it's not too much but could result in some discussion.

Upon my arrival at Musick Point this afternoon, Dave ZL1DL drew my attention to a mess of window glass down one of the front passages in the building. I joked, last month, that: "Given sufficient thrust, pigs fly just fine.", and it seems that someone had applied similar physics to a chunk of concrete aimed at one of the front windows of the building. We did a bit of a clean-up and 'patched' the large hole, and Dave has notified Spark. Aren't we privileged to have the use of such a wonderful building at no cost?

Recently, we moved a few things around in the generator room and erected another bank of steel shelving. Once it was finished, we had fun moving stuff off the floor and from various other shelves, into the new setup. The idea is that we will use them for storing donated equipment and other items that are to be sold. Normally, we test equipment before offering it for sale so that we can be sure of the condition, and declare it to the buyer. Lately, we haven't put in much effort to testing of equipment, mainly because we have been involved in trying to keep up with repairs to our own equipment, i.e. aerials, aerials and aerials.

I look forward to seeing a great attendance at the AGM.

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

Try resistance training. Refuse to go to the gym.
Don' let anyone call you average. That's just mean.

Silent Key Ken Boyce ZL1TD, ZL1TVQ

Although not a member, Ken was a regular visitor the station over the years. Ken was farewelled on Wednesday, 10 May. He was a retiring and gentle man who enjoyed amateur radio activity throughout his life. He was particularly interested in amateur TV and satellites, designing and constructing much of the equipment himself. He trained as a radio technician in the 50's with Laurie ZL1ICU. Interestingly, Ken didn't follow his training into electronics initially, as he worked as an ambulance officer for St John's in Auckland for a long time. Laurie, and Marlene ZL1MYL have been a huge support for Ken over recent times when he most needed it. Ken is missed by those of us who have had the good fortune to have known him in better times.

Battery Leak Clean-up

Graham ZL1TOF

That battery powered device has not been used for a while, longer than you think, and you want to use it now and it's not working. Looking inside you find the batteries have leaked all over the battery terminals and all round inside the case and circuit.

What to do? The battery manufacturers tell us to remove batteries from devices that are being stored. This suggestion probably belongs in the realms of fantasy where anything is possible. Batteries can leak in regular use as hydrogen is produced by the electrolyte reacting with the metal electrodes and eventually burst the cell. You don't find out until the device doesn't power up one day.

I had a look on the internet to find out what the leak material was and if there was a clean up process. Some sites have bad information. Alkaline cells, and NiMH rechargables, use Potassium Hydroxide electrolyte. The Potassium Hydroxide changes to Potassium Carbonate as it absorbs Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere. This is hygroscopic, absorbing water from the atmosphere, and reacts with solder, copper and other metals.

To clean up, use personal protective equipment as Potassium Hydroxide burns skin, eyes and anything else it touches. Use a scraper to remove the big lumps into a plastic bag with the removed leaking batteries, seal and put aside to take to the battery recycling place when you next go there. Bunnings have a collection place near the battery department. ("Abilities" recycling North Shore also recycle everything electrical- Ed.)

Apply white vinegar or lemon juice to all visible deposits. You may need to disassemble some of the device to get to all the blue-white deposits and damp areas. The weak acid will fizz as it reacts to neutralise the strong alkaline. Remove the liquid with a paper towel and apply more vinegar. An old toothbrush can be used to assist the cleaning process. Remove as much of the liquid as you can with the paper towel and dispose in the rubbish. Wash all the parts with clean water. This removes the chemical salts that are left. Take care not to get water into switches, pots, tuning gangs and beepers. Now get rid of the water with another paper towel. Finally use Isopropyl alcohol (isopropanol), the universal electronics cleaner to dry up the last of the water. Isopropyl alcohol will dissolve oil, so, use the same precautions as the water, don't let it get into the moving parts.

Re assemble the device. Put new batteries in and see it works as intended. When you purchase batteries, think, are these a well-known and trusted brand. Because they are in the supermarket or electronics store does not mean they are good!

Spills from Lead Acid batteries require an alkaline neutraliser like baking soda. Use a similar procedure, PPE, scrape the big lumps off, neutralise the area with a solution of soda dissolved in water. Wash with water and scrubbing brush, dry, reassemble, and protect the metal parts with grease or tar. Sulphuric acid is tough on anything it touches.

GROTA News

Your editor has been travelling, and by good luck happened to be in Sydney on the day that a newly-formed amateur radio group was activating the warship "Vampire". This 3888-ton Daring class destroyer was built in Australia commencing in 1952. She served in the Royal Australian Navy until 1986, eventually becoming the property of the Australian National Maritime Museum, where she has been moored since 1990.



You can find more about her if you check out the QRZ page for **VK2VMP**, the newly allocated call sign for the ship.

Recently, she has had a major refit at the Garden Island Naval facility, including a full repaint. The radio room was stripped of most the equipment in use at the time of decommissioning, but period-correct radios were put in but not connected. The amateur group has been very busy locating and measuring aerials and the numerous co-ax cables which are still in place. Sounds very much like our work at Musick Point. So far, they have a resonant vertical on 20 meters which works well, and an off-centre fed dipole for 40. While I was there, another vertical was located and 'swept' and found to be resonant on 32MHz which is believed to be a military frequency still in use.

The amateur radios in use are 1980's Kenwoods, there are quite a few of similar age in the radio room, dating from when it was last used as an amateur station many years ago.

Alex, VK2VMP was the initial contact, who put out the emailed 'call' for visitors, which was forwarded to the GROTA group, just in time before the planned visit over the weekend of May 6-7.

Realising I'd be staying very near to the Museum, contact was made, and a phone call to Alex to confirm arrangements was all it took. I had a look over some of the Museum ships the day before. There are many extremely historic and authentic ships moored by the museum and well worth spending at least half a day there. You can look at them for free, but if you want to go on board (and why wouldn't you?) it costs \$25 for admission to all of them and the museum.



HMAS Onslow



The "Krait" which has an exceptional war history

The museum closes at 4PM so they shoo the radio ops off at 3, unfortunately as conditions on HF often improve about then. (Sounds familiar to us at Musick Point).

Much frantic emailing was done as you will no doubt be aware to attempt some trans-Tasman QSO's from this very special station.



Vampire's 4.5 inch guns

The results were most rewarding. Contacts were made with 7 ZL amateurs and a number of Australian stations as well. Forty metres was no good as was readily confirmed by monitoring ZL SDRs. However, 20 metres was looking quite reasonable and this is where the contacts were made. The radio room is quite small as the pictures show, and with five or six of us in it all talking at the same time it wasn't easy to communicate! Headphones were a help when found. Again, this is something we are familiar with at Musick Point! Many visitors came to look, and one young chap called Angus was given his first QSO at the mike. Both he and his Dad were totally delighted.

Angus was so excited, he pushed the barrier aside and started to tune the radio! I'm sure we made one future VK! It was quite a thrill to witness such a special moment like that.

The operators who so generously let me take over their rather limited radio time were- Alex VK2PRC, Carmel VK2CAR, Colin VK2JCC and Stuart VK2BMX,. It was a bit of a culture shock to be calling 'VK', but I soon got the hang of it!



Alex VK2PRC



Carmel VK2CAR



Colin VK2JCC, Angus (looking spellbound after his first ever contact), Stuart VK2BMX



Colin VK2JCC

DATE	TIME (GMT)	FREQUENCY	MODE	POWER	STATION	REPORT	CALL	R.V.A.R.S.	REMARKS
	sent	freq		in use	called worked	sent	sent	No.	
2/15	0508	14036	CW	100	DM2DX	5/9	5/9		STEFFEN
	0510	14036	CW	100	ZL2AP	5/9	5/9		JOE
	0512	14036	CW	100	HA6LIS	5/9	5/9		G.M.U.A. STATUS
	0514	14036	CW	100	VK4FV	5/9	5/9		OWEN
	0517	14036	CW	100	E74A	5/9	5/9		EDIN
	0520	14036	CW	100	FL51K	5/9	5/9		MICHAEL
	0520	14036	CW	100	OK2ZV	5/9	5/9		MILICAPEN
	0520	14036	CW	100	G6DJX	5/9	5/9		
	0520	14036	CW	100	FL4WQ	5/9	5/9		osivo
	0520	14036	CW	100	O25V0	5/9	5/9		
6/10/16	1157	4200	SSB	100	VK3SDX	5/9	5/9		STEVE
"	1300	4210	SSB	100	ZL3BHS	5/9	5/9		ARMAN Christchurch N.Z.
"	1307	4230	SSB	100	ZL3AK	5/9	5/9		DES "
"	1315	4210	SSB	100	ZL4QC	5/9	5/9		ALAN Dunedin 3800m, N.Z.
"	1345	4210	SSB	100	ZL1JLA	5/9	5/9		MIKE "
"	1350	4210	SSB	100	ZL1AVO	5/9	5/9		KEITH Auckland N.Z.

Log book (Neil ZL1NZ was contacted later)



Some AM Tx's to restore....



Anyone for a B40?

Contacts were made with Bryan ZL3BHS, Des ZL3AK, (Christchurch) Alan ZL4QC (Dunedin) Mike ZL1JLA Keith ZL1AVO, and Neil ZL1NZ. The group were very pleased to have so many overseas contacts in their log, and the onlookers were similarly impressed.

The group are very keen to improve their station's capabilities and welcome visitors, and are willing to allow visiting hams the privilege of operating a very special special callsign. If anyone has the chance to visit the Vampire (she's in Darling Harbour) it is well worth making time to visit. The group are there most Saturdays and one or two weekdays as well. Please contact the editor for more information.

"Two bits of advice.... Firstly, go as far as you can see, then you will see further. This applies to *all things* and particularly to something new and unfamiliar. Secondly, you don't know what you can do until you try."

-Quoted with permission from "Random Thoughts on Vintage Radio", RG Newlands, published by Bernard Robbins, Wellington, New Zealand, with the support of the Wellington Amateur radio club at www.zl2wb.com (from where copies of this excellent publication may be obtained).

SPAM News-

NZART Conference '23, Palmerston North-

Kelvin ZL3KB is overseas and will not be attending but has sent a brief presentation for the conference meeting. If any of you have something to show or talk on, let's hear about it!

AGM- if the members want it! There are funds available for a good AM project. This money has been carefully built up by **Roy Symon ZL2KH (SK)** and **Jeff Reid ZL1AKY (SK)** collecting the \$5 once-in-a-lifetime subscription from 1994. **Steve ZL1FS** and **Martyn ZL3CK** are the current signatories to the account. Have a think about it-ideas are welcome! Let's not just 'sit on it' while it devalues.

Note, you do **not** have to belong to NZART to be a SPAM member.

Alan Brehaut's Collection in Timaru-

Recently the opportunity arose to visit the Alan Brehaut collection. Alan is a well-known local identity in Timaru and has an amazing collection of 'mechanical music' instruments, vintage radios, vintage oil lamps some nearly 200 years old, and a few vintage motorcycles too. Alan's father and grandfather ran a radio and appliance shop in Timaru over many years, operating from the dawn of commercial radio in the 1920s and only closing up relatively recently. The majority of the collection consists of music boxes, polyphons and other mechanical forms of music reproduction. These are displayed in a private museum and are all beautifully restored with the most amazing cabinetry and finish. Also dozens of vintage radios, some of which had been sold new by Alan's father or grandfather and re-acquired decades later.



Alan Brehaut on Right, speaking with the editor's cousin. Some of the beautifully restored radios

The problem is-what will happen to this collection? It is considered to be the best music box and polyphon collection in the southern hemisphere, but the local museum is understandably unable to take it all. A purpose-built facility would be very expensive and would not be able to 'pay it's way'.

Alan's dilemma brings up the important issue of 'Sucession planning' which is a real problem for many of us who like old things. Your ideas about this could be a subject for dsicussion at the AGM.

For Sale-



MP Members Offer

2M/ 70cm Fibreglass Base Station Vertical Antennas. Complete with mast mounting clamps, this antenna is available in two heights: 1.3m (model SD-X30) and 1.7m (model SD-X50).

Modelled on the Diamond X series antennas, these are quality Chinese built antennas at a price that won't buy Diamond.

For a limited stock quantity, these antennas are available to MP members at a special price of **SD-X30 : \$90**, **SD-X50 : \$124**
Further info available at <https://intelec.nz> or contact Dave ZL1DL@intelec.co.nz

FREE to a good home-



Contact **Charles ZL1RKO**, he'll bring it to the mainland at a convenient time. charles@waiheke.radio

Wanted by Steven ZL2UV (New Plymouth)

I am still wanting to buy a high power modulation transformer, with a view to making Big Bertha (T1509 converted to a 1KW linear by the late Eric Duffy) a dual mode amplifier, Class C as well as a linear amp. The power transformer in it looks to have plenty of current available. I think it may be a pole transformer.

Email- steven.prout@gmail.com

Wanted by Martyn ZL3CK- any of the larger ZC1 aerial sections. I have the 4 smaller "F" ones but not the big bottom sections to make up a full 40 meter $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical. Fair price paid.

Best 73 to all, Martyn ZL3CK.

Musick Point Radio Group Inc. Branch 86 NZART

Minutes of General Meeting held at Musick Memorial Radio Station on 12/03/2023

Present: Per attendance book, apologies: Nil

Minutes of previous meeting 11 Dec 2022: As read: ZI2MOH / ZL3CK. Errors & Omissions: Nil

Financial (as at end of July 2022)

Bank Accounts

- Current Acct: \$2254.66 was \$2380.59 as of 30/11/22
- Serious Saver: \$7530.83 was \$7428.25 as of 30/11/22
- Repeater: \$ 464.32 was \$ 462.87 as of 30/11/22

\$10,249.81 **\$10,271.71**

General

Congratulations to John, ZL3AQT who sat the exam early February.

The 5775 repeater antenna appears to be slightly deteriorated. The antenna is on a slight lean (potential mounting failure) and there are reports of signals being down (albeit a few dB). Harry ZL1BK and Simon ZI1SWW gave the filters a once over a couple of weeks back; they were relatively optimal. The antenna apparent resonant freq shifts considerably with change of feedline length, indicating excessive reactance somewhere. Owing to difficulty accessing the antenna, it may be prudent to obtain a replacement so a single maintenance visit can be arranged.

ZL2DSG suggested club construction projects as a way of increasing member interest, with the possibility of building receivers for fox hunting, then organising fox hunts. There was general agreement with the idea to research potential designs. ZL1DL indicated he would set up a repository on the MP server where ideas for all potential projects can be aggregated. Another potential project previously discussed is a remote antenna match for a long wire which could appeal to members who do not have room for full size antennas (e.g. modifying the ATU100 tuner for wider output impedance range / remote control / remote indication).

Minutes Taken by Dave ZL1DL.

Musick Point Radio Group Inc. Branch 86 NZART

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Musick Memorial Radio Station on April 10 2022 13:10

Present: Per attendance book. Apologies: ZL1TOP, ZL1NZ, ZL1BGQ
Minutes of previous AGM, 11 Apr 2021: As read [ZL1MPU] – Accepted by show of hands.

Finance

After a short discussion, it was proposed “to maintain the annual membership subscription at \$40.00”. Proposed by ZL3CK, Seconded ZL1WE. Passed by majority.

Reports

Reports from the Chairman, Secretary / Treasurer were read. A copy of the financial statement for the past year was circulated; the accounts for the year are yet to be audited by an external reviewer. The webmaster report was presented and an update was provided by the newsletter editor.

Election of Officers

No prior or at meeting nominations were received for office holder positions. The incumbent office holders agreed to continue their positions and were reconfirmed as:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Person</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>In Favour</i>
Chairman	David Radue / ZL1DRV	ZL3CK	All (by show of hands)
Secretary	Dave Larcombe / ZL1DL	ZL1EK	All (by show of hands)
Treasurer	Dave Larcombe / ZL1DL	ZL1EK	All (by show of hands)
Newsletter editor	Martyn Seay / ZL3CK	ZL1MPU	All (by show of hands)
Webmaster	Neil Sanderson / ZL1NZ	ZL1DRV	All (by show of hands)

General Business

Meetings

There was discussion as to whether the quorum requirements (both member numbers and office holders) for meetings were too onerous owing to insufficient members being present for many of the regular meeting dates over the last year. After discussion, it was decided that no action would be taken at this stage, as Covid restrictions were most likely instrumental in the lower numbers of members at meetings over this period. A change of constitution to change the quorum numbers will require a special general meeting to be convened.

New Members

New members require sponsoring / acceptance by a general meeting. Over the last year, we have had a number of membership enquiries that have been deferred (owing to the difficulties in holding meetings). Previously, the membership form had been withdrawn from the website, for this reason. After discussion, it was agreed that membership applications could be provisionally accepted, subject to the above confirmation. In the event membership was declined by a meeting of club members, any subscription received from the applicant will be refunded. The membership form will be restored on the website and will now be included in the newsletter.

Meeting closed at 14:09

Musick Point Radio Group Inc. Branch 86 NZART

**Agenda for Annual General Meeting to be held at Musick Memorial Radio Station
on May 21 2023 13:00**

Welcome to Visitors.

Present: Per attendance book – Quorum present?

Apologies:

Minutes of previous AGM 10 Apr 2022: As circulated (attached to this newsletter)

Errors & Omissions / Matters arising:

Finance

- Annual Accounts: Treasurer’s report
- Set annual cub 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				

General Business

- Discussion of Remits for Conference
- Open to floor

MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP INC., ZL1ZLD- Branch 86 NZART
(formerly Suburban Amateur Radio Club Inc.)

Membership Subscription form for Financial Year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
(Subscription will be determined at the AGM)

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO –

MPRG SECRETARY DAVID LARCOMBE ZL1DL at zl1dl@intelec.co.nz

YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR CALL SIGN AS PAYMENT REFERENCE.

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

Name-

Callsign/s-.....

Address.....

Phone/s-

Email.....

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) \$.....

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

Club use only:

Approved:

Not Approved:

Receipt no.....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.