

-----THE MUSE-----

-----For OCTOBER 2023-----

-----TODAY is the *Thirtieth Anniversary of close down of CW at ZLD 30th Sept. 1993*-----

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) News.***

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

BRANCH 86 NZART 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 ,
on 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- NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8th at 1PM. Snacks, coffee and tea provided.



SS Manaia aground on Slipper Island. Photo: Bernard Sladden (1879-1961)

At 11.40pm on 10 June 1926, Auckland Radio VLD at the Chief Post Office received a message from the Northern Steamship Company steamer Manaia, after the ship ran aground on Slipper Island, two miles east of Coromandel Peninsula. The steamer Ngapuhi was diverted, and successfully rescued the crew and all 55 passengers on Manaia. SS Manaia was a small coastal steamer of 115 tons. She carried a compulsory wireless set, and was fortunate to have three part-time wireless operators: the Master, the First Mate and the Chief Steward.

Photo from- Neil ZL1NZ, See more at - maritimeradio.org

From the Chair

We managed to hold a General Meeting last month. A pleasant bit of news from the meeting is that the work being put into checking and cleaning up used equipment is paying off, as we saw a fair income from some recent sales made over the website: "ZL HamAds" on <https://zlham.net.nz/>. Much of the work done in testing, adjusting and cleaning the equipment, is done by **Dave ZL1DL**, who then photographs it and gets it onto the website – then deals with the enquiries and payments. This work can be tedious at times but Dave just perseveres. These are great results, Dave, and I thank you for the effort that you make for the club, in so many ways, not just the equipment sales.

The sale of equipment is a useful income generator which has, in some way, managed to help us maintain a fairly reasonable annual membership subscription and, although we have very little expenditure, it does help us to pay the monthly fibre (internet) connection fee.

Paddie asks: "I found this pen, is it yours?" Mick replies, "Don't know, give it here." He then tries it and says, "Yes it is." Paddie asks, "How do you know?" Mick replies, "That's my handwriting."

With the summer months approaching, (*really?* The months associated with summer are), I am looking forward to being able to get outside more, without fear of being caught in a surprise squall. This has been quite a regular occurrence throughout winter. I am also looking forward to not having to wear gumboots when outside, trying to do some work in the garden. Apart from the usual domestic duties around the house and garden, I want to do a bit of maintenance on my multi-band vertical, as I have noticed that there are a few changes when on the air. Since I first made the antenna (yes; antenna because it has six aerials) more than five years ago, the radial system has consisted of 32 lengths of the inner wires extracted from a discarded, damaged 20m length of Cat5 network cable that I 'rescued' from work. A number of these radials have become shorter due to age and exposure to the elements and garden rake. I will be replacing them with some real wires which I have been making up into sets of four, crimping and soldering them into lugs for ease of connection to the ground plate. A check of the main connection box with common mode choke will also be made, with a possible clean and reconnecting plus fresh protective gunk (a real techie word, that). I will also be 'servicing' my homebuilt DBJ-2, Ed Fong 2 metre/70cm J-pole. That should see me right for a few more years.

I've made some terrible life choices over the years. Just kidding, I'm married and not allowed to make decisions.

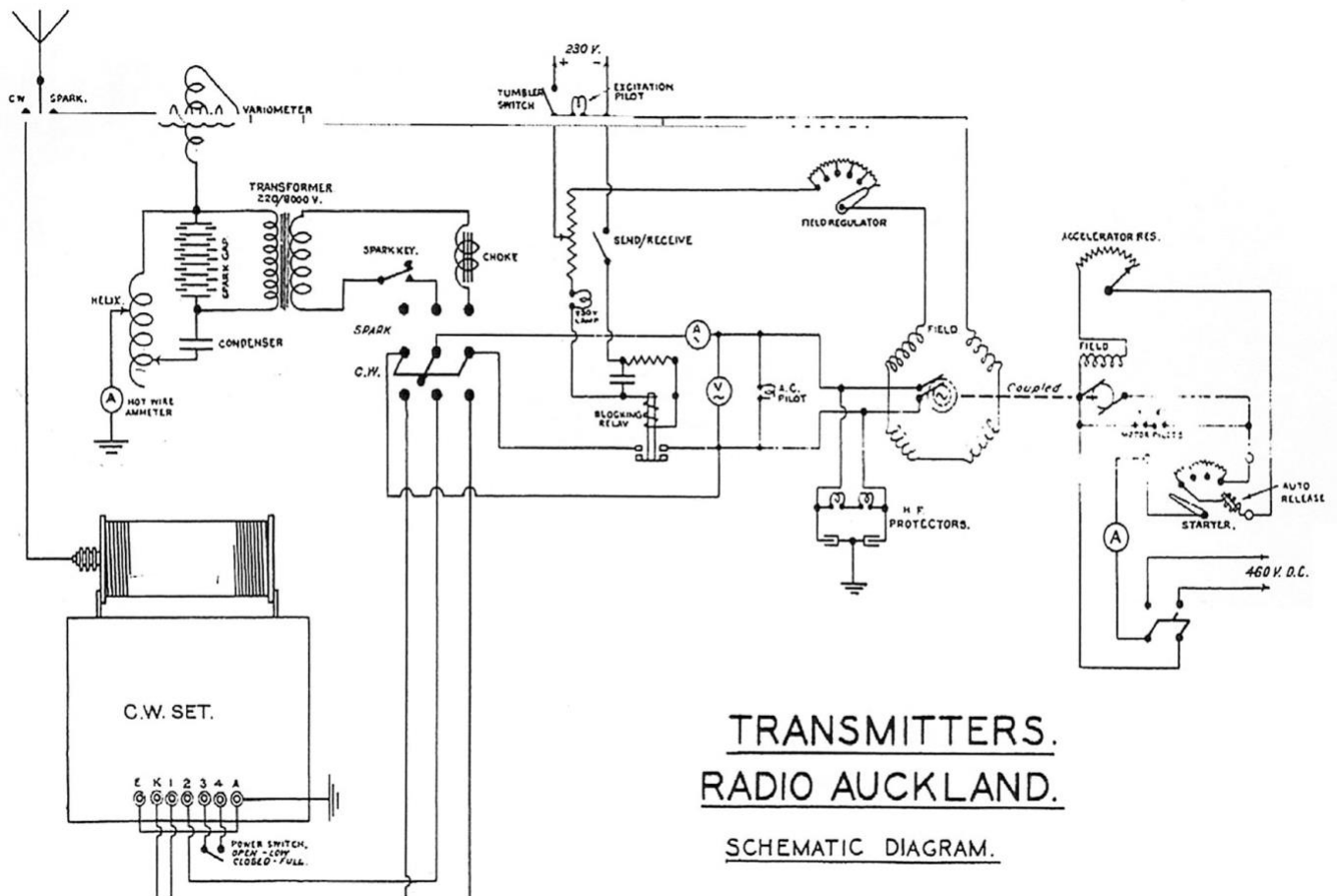
For a few years, I have followed a long time YouTube creator and Ham Radio operator: **Jim Heath W6LG**, whose slogan is "Your Ham Radio Elmer". He really is an experienced operator who has been around for many years and likes things done the right way when it comes to amateur radio. What I find particularly important, is that he doesn't sit in shack making QSOs for the viewers to watch. He always deals with a subject in such a way that viewers can learn from him. I find his videos, generally quite interesting. Sadly, for many months now, Jim has been battling a raft of cancers that are making his life quite challenging. The poor guy has a list of 'afflictions; longer than your arm, and is currently undergoing a rigorous series of chemotherapy cycles, but he is still managing to put out at least one video each week.

Whoever said that there is no such thing as a stupid question really needs to come to my workplace for a day...

Plans are underway to hold another **New Year's Day open air radio event** again this year. We had a bit of fun last year, and Martyn even had a 'Green Radio' "DX" QSO across the lawn – a distance of, perhaps, 100 metres. Keep a lookout for more news on this in upcoming newsletters.

Until next month:

73, and call CQ
David, ZL1DRV



Referring to the photo in last month's "Muse", here is the 'system for switching between spark and CW transmitters at Auckland Radio. In late 1926, a new valve (CW) transmitter was installed at VLD and the Telefunken spark transmitter was retained as a backup.'

From **Neil ZL1NZ**. See more at- musickpointradio.org



Ham radio in Japan- right beside the famous Red Bridge and blossom trees in Tokayama.

MPRG News-

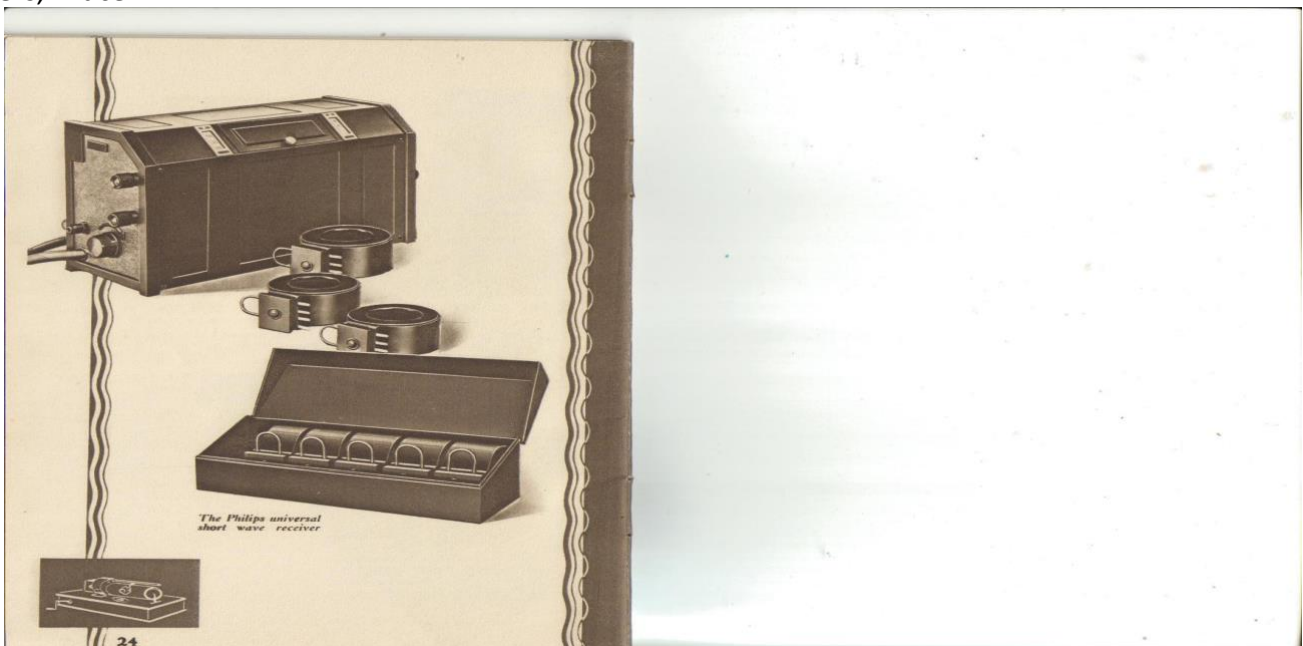
The Monday morning **80 meter AM net** from ZL1ZLD continues, with a regular few participants, always appreciated to have someone to talk to, especially if the operator is on his own in a rather cold Musick Point Memorial Radio Station! **Steven ZL2UV, Bruce ZL1BLB, Jason ZL2JDH and Gary ZL3SV** are among the regulars, **John ZL1AUB** made a surprise check-in recently as well. NOTE- We could go back to Wednesdays if the group so wished!

Fox hunting has been given a small boost by **David ZL2DSG** as he's donated the receiver and transmitter 'chips' with the article by the late **Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ (SK)** from Break-In of 2005. The "Fox" transmitter on 433.950 MHz has been built, and a Yagi for it also, and have been tested down the driveway. They work! We are encouraging the building of a few more of both Rx and Tx to make it more interesting. Once the park dries out a bit we can set up a hidden Tx hunt in the best tradition of Amateur Radio. Watch this space!

From **Bruce, ZL1BLB-**

Newsletter for August showed the shack of ZL3DC in 1933. Of particular interest to me was the Philips "All Wave" receiver. I recognised this as a model 2802 since I have one in my collection. In March 1927 Philips began shortwave transmissions on 31.3M from Holland with the station call PCJ. The transmissions were received reliably in the Dutch East Indies and so production began of a suitable receiver for sale there and later other foreign countries - the model 2802. The set covers from longwave (2400M) to 30MHz (10M) by means of 6 plug-in coils that fit through a front hatch making direct contact with the detector valve base. An RF stage, using a tetrode recently developed by Philips, offered gain and isolates the aerial from the regenerative detector. The first audio stage can feed headphones or the power output valve may be switched on (S2) to drive a speaker. An external power supply is required, either the Philips Battery Eliminator or suitable battery packs. Collectors have found these sets to perform well and superior to other makes with more valves. After the 1931 Napier earthquake, an amateur from Philips Wellington office travelled by car to Napier and set up a station to transmit messages back to Wellington. He used a 2802 receiver with an aerial strung from a flag pole. The Post Office similarly needed receivers for their emergency field stations and requisitioned all Philips stock! The story is told in *Wireless Weekly* Vol.17, No.9. Apparently the Southern Cross airplane was fitted out with new radio equipment for the flights around Australia and NZ including a 2802 receiver. There is a photo on the web at some Australian museum.

Cheers, Bruce ZL1BLB





GROTA update ZL3KB

Second Sunday of the month means “Green Radios On The Air” trails day.

Various green radios were spread over the port hills and the city, and Aidan carried his WS48 set up to the 933m summit of Mt Grey!! In all we had six WS48 sets and three ZC1s, with twelve operators, which was probably a GROTA record.

Great signals from Aidan on My Grey, and he achieved his SOTA activation with all green contacts. I think everyone worked everyone. Noel was first time on the air with his WS48, and I gave my recently acquired WS58 and airing.

Thanks to Aidan ZL3APB, Des ZL3AK, Bryan ZL3BHS, Bruce ZL3TFM, , Peter ZL3IA, Dave ZL3TRX, Mike ZL3MWD, with newcomers Ray ZL3RAM , Noel ZL4OW, Murray ZL3TAM and Stephen ZL2RS



Figure 1 Noel ZL4OW



Figure 2 ZL3APB's station at the top of Mt Grey

SPAM News-

Where have all the AM operators gone?? It's been rather quiet the last few nets. Maybe it's just a bit too cold for them in their shacks....must be using solid state! Come on chaps, set your alarm clocks, think of something interesting to share, and let's get talking on AM!

From **Terry, ZL1BPA-**

I found this link [Military – New Zealand Vintage Radio Society \(nzvrs.com\)](http://nzvrs.com) that has service manual copies for the #19 set and the ZC1. (And much more besides-Ed.)

From **John, ZL2XJ** via **Howard ZL1BXA-**

At today's meeting I showcased some photos of a Radio Museum I visited in Gothenburg, Sweden while I was there recently.

The museum has a great collection of vintage radio, broadcasting and test equipment, along with an operating Amateur Radio station SK6RM and vintage amateur radio equipment

The Radio Museet, Goteborg. <https://radiomuseet.se/>

Note there is an option to select the site in English

Attached are some photos from the museum.

The other site of interest was the Grimeton VLF Radio Station in southern Sweden, which I didn't get to visit this time but hope to some day in the future.

It is the only remaining example of an early pre-electronic radio transmitter technology called an Alexanderson alternator [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexanderson_alternator].

An Alexanderson alternator is a rotating machine invented by Ernst Alexanderson in 1904 for the generation of high-frequency alternating current for use as a radio transmitter.

The World Heritage | Grimeton <https://grimeton.org/en/>

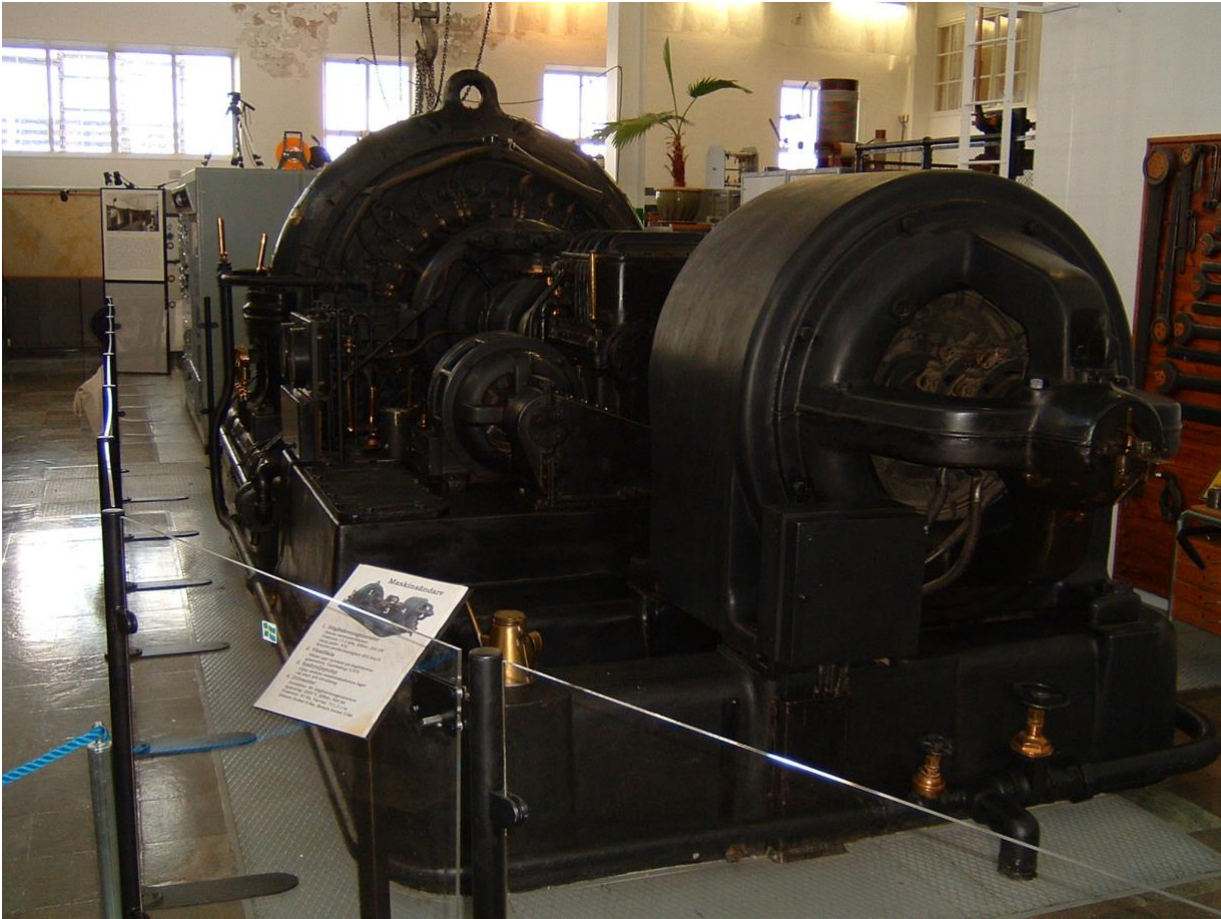
About <https://grimeton.org/en/about-the-world-heritage/>



Some of the collection at the Radio Museet, Goteborg.



At the Grimeton Radio Transmitter Station, Sweden.



The massive motor-alternator VLF transmitter at Grimeton transmitting station.

.....



**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
DISMANTLE AND SCRAP A
HERITAGE VESSEL**

Public notice is given that due to the current lack of financial support, certificated crew and volunteers, the 1935 Auckland tug is currently laid up until further notice. Unless a solution is quickly found it may be necessary dispose of the vessel and fittings over the next 12 months.

For more information and updates see our website www.daldy.co.nz or Facebook page "William C. Daldy" or contact 0272469461

Sad News from a fellow heritage organisation.

Stop Press! Gary ZL3SV had a qso with **VK4NX Howard** and **VK4RE Andrew** last night on 3.686MHz (The Australian AM net frequency) at about 10.30PM our time. Signals reported as 20+ both ways. Well done. It can be interesting to check out your signals in Australia on any of the many remote Kiwi SDR receivers there. Also, the SDR in Kaneohe, Hawaii, is a good one that often shows your carrier is getting there too.

Crystals-now available from AF4K

AF4K is a US-based ham who has a very useful website, and is offering to sell crystals and associated hardware, now becoming hard to find.

He does offer international mailing.

<https://yhst-172765969-1.store.turbify.net>

For Sale, Wanted to buy, Give Aways-

From **Herman, VK2IXV-**

I am still chasing the **Ultimate Handkey.**

Happy to exchange for a Simplex Auto bug.

If you know anybody that would be willing to part with their Ultimate hand key, please let me know.

73, **Herman VK2IXV** email- hermanusw@gmail.com

That's all for this month.

73 from ZL3CK

The Musick Point Radio Group (Inc).

Minutes of general meeting held at Musick Memorial Radio Station on 9 September 2023.

Meeting started 1320Hrs

Present- 7 members as per attendance book.

Apology- nil

Minutes of previous meeting 9 July 2023- accept as distributed- Moved ZL3CK
Seconded ZL1MPU
Passed unanimously

Business arising-

Club's 3rd party insurance- advised AON quote with increase of approximately \$144 (+20%) on last year- discussion -do we need 2 million – last Spark agreement says this is required. Meeting decision to proceed with new insurance quote.

Payment to be made when it arrives - Moved ZL1TOF
Seconded ZL2MOH
Passed unanimously

Finance- ZL1DL

At 10 September 2023 total funds \$11419, shows increase of \$495.57 from previous meeting of 9 July, from interest, equipment sales, and three additional subs.

General business –

ZL1DL-Expenses relating to cost of Internet data options discussed. ZL1DL will look at wireless option.

ZL3CK- showed the Papakura club's new constitution of ten pages & possible use as template for our new constitution which will be required by the new law. Another template sent on recent "Infoline" to be evaluated.

ZL3CK -portable antenna purchased from Merv ZL1SK for use on our POTA day (1 January 2024. Put it in your diaries!).

Meeting closed 1350 hours.

M Seay ZL3CK (Secretary)