



## ZL2VH Newsletter – October 2019

### President's Report

Nothing from me this month, apart from our annual fundraising event at the Wainui coast road in early November. Marshals and the caravan are needed.

73

Mike ZL2NSA

### Branch 63 Repeater Update

#### *Status Updates*

3cm Beacon                      Off Air

A site visit was made to Mt. Climie to investigate the beacon failure. The RF unit was not drawing any current. The RF head was removed.

The problem turned out to be that the tinned DC input wires to the DC regulator had deformed and had worked loose. Lesson learned. I have put ferrules on all the wire terminations.

Also The PA rf sense diode had failed, which caused incorrect rf output level indications. The diode has been replaced. The rf head now is ready to be reinstalled. Target is the first week in Oct.

1292 23cm      On Air

DSTAR            On Air

860                On Air

730                In the past couple of weeks work has started on moving 730 to the North Hutt.

ZL2TWS, ZL2NSA and ZL4VV attended MCL on the 22nd September and completed a couple of items from the work list. The 230V sub board was moved to outside left side of rack, freeing up the inside top for equipment.

The redundant 1292 battery fuse box and orange 230V cabinet heater removed to club rooms. Also the side mounted thermostat heater moved to the bottom of the rack temporarily.

Also Earth Impedance Testing was done to verify the old and new earth stakes that were recently installed.

395 6M            On Air

## **Wainuiomata Coast Road Sprint Event - Sunday 3rd November 2019**



Once more, we need volunteers to help out with this event.

We need to be on site at the bridge to Baring Head Lighthouse at 0800 hrs. Please make sure that your radio is properly configured, and that the battery is charged. If you have spare radio or battery, make sure that that is ready to go too.

You may also like to bring some additional water, a comfortable chair and sunscreen. It could rain too, be ready for that. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this event, the organisers do not allow vehicles on the course, this is why we use h/helds and a repeater.

Traditionally, the car club has kept us fed.

If you can be available, please let me or Brian ZL2CHV know.

Thanks for making yourself available, have an enjoyable day

Gavin Smith ZL2ACT  
Branch 63 AREC Deputy  
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**From Justin ZL2UGL**

Earlier this month I attended a meeting of NZART councillors and local branch members organised and hosted by Br 42, thanks Bruce, ZL2BCO!

One of the central region councillors, Daniel Vandenburg ZL2DRV, offered to meet with branches within the region asking branches to group together where possible to reduce the number of times he had to travel from New Plymouth. The plan grew to include local councillor Ben Issacs ZL2BCI, and Phil Dodd ZL4XYZ, from Gisborne via phone. There were around 40 present from Kapiti, Wellington, both Hutt branches, and of course Titahi Bay branch.

The councillors wanted to hear from members about their concerns and any suggestions they might have for the association. I won't go into much detail as the meeting was recorded, and I believe minutes will be available.

There was the usual “What do we get for our money”. Several people pointed out the extremely important work done by the LGLO, ALO, and IARU Liaison Officers, for the benefit of all NZ hams, and the work done by Debby for, and on behalf of, members.

There was also discussion of district plans, AREC, changes to the national system, etc. Ben also talked about the NZ YOTA group on Facebook, which has around 40 members, one of its uses is to agree and announce where in the band they are operating.

The councillors couldn't answer all the questions they were asked at the time, but have committed to answering those that they can. At the meeting participants request, Ben has since setup a central board where suggestions and ideas can be placed and discussed –

<http://www.tricider.com/brainstorming/3OPLrKiugxp>  
or <https://bit.ly/2kEP3Z8>

Justin.

### **From Malcolm ZL2UDF (F.Y.I.)**

Branch 50 (Wellington) NZART

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Website: <http://zl2wb.com/wp/>

Social Group: George's QTH, 14 Vasanta Avenue, Ngaio.

(Contact: Mike Hoult ZL2VMH, 04-478-5437)

Club Net: Sunday 9.30am local time, 7050 kHz LSB.

Chair: Mike Woods ZL1AXG. Secretary-treasurer: Malcolm Wheeler  
ZL2UDF

September 2019



Next Branch Meeting . . . . .

The next Branch 50 Meeting will be at Mike ZL1AXG QTH 2 Derry Hill, Churton Park on Sunday 18 September from 1pm – 3pm. All Welcome.

This is the Blackwood Cup meeting. Bring along your project. Afternoon tea/coffee will be available.

Next Shed Workshop . . . . .

Sunday 6 October, TX/RX antenna switching and Phasing 2 RX antennas

1pm - 3pm, 1 Winsley Tce, Churton Park (ZL2BD QTH)

Social Group Meeting

Tuesday 24 September 1:30 pm George ZL2AG QTH - 14 Vasanta Avenue, Ngaio.

Wellington Combined Region Meeting last Tuesday

On Tuesday 10 September, a combined Wellington branches meeting held at Branch 42 HQ welcomed the three councilors (Daniel and Ben in person, and Phil on the end of a cellphone). Members from all six Wellington region branches were present including three from Branch 50 NZART. The meeting primarily focused on the challenges that NZART faces in terms of retaining and expanding membership (and amateur radio more generally), and how to improve the relationship between NZART and members. Those attending appreciated the willingness of Daniel to travel to Wellington especially to meet with local amateurs, and to openly discuss the challenges.

Last Branch Meeting

Held at Mike ZL1AXG's QTH on Sunday 21 July.

Ten members turned out to our Sunday 18 August meeting at Mike ZL1AXG's QTH. To kick off the meeting we watched a YouTube video about the HAARP experimental ionospheric research centre in Alaska. Then each member talked to their favourite amateur radio book.

Last Shed Meeting

Build an Active Antenna #2

The second shed workshop on Active Antennas involved a construction day ... with soldering irons out and smoke from the burnt plastic wafting through John ZL2XY's QTH.

We are always looking for articles to fill the pages of newsletter. Please forward anything, no matter how large or small, to the editor - Eric ZL2SET – [ericwilby@gmail.com](mailto:ericwilby@gmail.com).

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NZART Branch 63 Incorporated

Council Depot

Park Street

Upper Hutt

President: Mike ZL2NSA

Secretary: Justin: ZL2UGL

Treasurer: Gavin: ZL2ACT