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NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO
TRANSMITTERS - BRANCH 63 UPPER HUTT

Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt



ZL2VH Newsletter – August 2024

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President's Report

Visits to Mount Climie have continued with on site SWR measurements, battery tests and a general clean-up of the south hut (see Repeater Report below). The north hut has been visited but nothing really to report there. The track to Climie is in very good condition with only some gravel softness after the Emergency Services installation heading south to our huts.

Thanks to all those that turned out for the Working Bee on Saturday last week. Was good to complete this job and set us up for the rest of the year, plus preparation for caravan use for Jock White 2025. I am starting to scope out sites for Jock White, so if you have any ideas for locations then this can be discussed at Friday night meetings.

A suggestion has been put forward that a lockbox be placed at the clubrooms, then all people need is access to the yard (via telephone calling to open the gate). This will be looked at for a suitable location so access will be a lot easier.

Ben ZL2BDG scaled the tower at the clubrooms to inspect and review maintenance tasks later in the year. Various cables and cable ties need replacing as well as re-aligning the beam as it is 180 degrees out of sync with the controller inside the clubrooms. Once the weather is better this will be attended to.

Repeater Report

Repeater: Status

Climie KiwiSDR	Off Air – pending mounting in a 1U rack, and re-install on a future visit.
10 m Beacon (28.229 MHz)	On Air
3 cm Beacon (10368.275 MHz)	Off Air - pending reinstallation on GNS pole.
1292 (23 cm)	On Air. SWR check pending next visit.
D-Star 5425, 860	5425/860 On Air.
730	On Air. SR-250C PSU mains filter to be fitted at next visit to further reduce SDR noise. SWR and output power re-check next visit.
395 (6 m)	On Air.

On Monday 15 July 2024, John ZL2TWS and Mark ZL2UFI completed a Climie trip. Basis of the trip was reinstalling the D-Star ID-RP2C controller after a firmware update. This update was an ICOM only role, so the controller was returned to RWB Communications in Auckland. The controller with the new firmware is up and running. The second controller has since had the same firmware update and is stored at the clubroom before being returned to Climie on a future visit. Only cost was the return courier for both updates from Auckland. Both controllers are now on the latest version 1.6. In the USA users of these controllers have reported that they are no longer serviceable by ICOM

and should be considered EOL (End Of Life). If either of these stops working, then decision around the repeaters will need to be made.

Rodent baits inside the southern hut have also been completed with two dead rodents removed from the traps.

Jobs done at MCL:

- 1) GNS battery is on float.
- 2) D-Star RP2C controller updated to V1.6 as per JARL new D-Star protocol recommendations.
- 3) Rodent bait boxes in two outside battery cabinets.
- 4) Four inside bait boxes re-baited and two bodies removed.
- 5) D-Star repeaters, 730 and 395 power and antenna SWR checks completed.
- 6) Removed SDR for 1U rack installation.

Maintenance at clubrooms:

- 1) Bad condition double switched power outlet for fridge and dehumidifier replaced.
- 2) WIFI dongle fitted to PC so members can hotspot to phones for internet connectivity.
- 3) WSJT-X and NetTime installed on club PC.
- 4) IC-7300 and antenna cables connected for use. (Read warning notices before using the IC-7300)
- 5) HF Contacts made on 40m band to Whangarei using the long wire and to VK3 on 10m using the beam.
- 6) 10m Beacon mains fuse that went faulty has been replaced.
- 7) New clubrooms main door handles replaced.
- 8) Spare Antenna checked and those useful stored in the loft.
- 9) ID-5100 rubber feet fitted to radio box and curly microphone card tapped fraying outer sleeve.

Auction: ICOM IC-7100 transceiver update

The transceiver was sold on Trademe, an amateur in Auckland. After costs were taken out the monies have been deposited into the club's account. The

monies received have basically covered the cost of half of the IC-7300 purchase.

Working Bee: Saturday 27 July 2024 - 9:00 am

The working bee went ahead with a good number of members showing up to help. The garage was cleaned out with most items have previously been sorted through by John ZL2TWS. A run to the scrap merchants made us \$60.00 with the dollars then used to make a run to the landfill thanks to Mark ZL4WT with his trailer and Allan ZL3LAB. The clubrooms have been sorted out with only those items required by the club remaining. Over the coming weeks the clubrooms will be sorted more to remove any unwanted items.

On 4 November a WOF the caravan 2024 has been booked, to ensure we are ready Jock White in February; or if we get an event requiring the caravan.

The Upper Hutt Connection

Since the Upper Hutt Leader is no more (see below) The Upper Hutt Connection has taken over. This is probably the best place to go for local news.

Welcome to The Upper Hutt Connection, a local online community newspaper for the people of Upper Hutt. The Upper Hutt Connection is an independent paper, I'm not associated with, Stuff, Neighbourly, etc – I email out a PDF of all the articles from the past week every Wednesday, [so fill out the form here if you'd like to be on the mailing list.](#)

Please visit <https://uhconnection.co.nz/>.

You're also welcome to follow / like [The Upper Hutt Connection](#) on Facebook.

Cheers, Ben Knowles – Editor / Operator of The Upper Hutt Connection

Upper Hutt Leader

RNZ reports today that Stuff is [killing off a bunch of Northland papers](#). That article doesn't mention that Stuff has also killed the UH Leader; the last issue was today, June 26. They get away without being called out on closing yet another paper by calling it a "merger", with the Hutt News swallowing it up.

The Leader was first printed in 1939 and was bought by the publishers of the Dominion (later the Dominion Post and now The Post) in 1970. It was the last remaining of several different Upper Hutt newspapers which have been immortalised in the street names of the service lanes in the Upper Hutt CBD (Leader Lane is off Princes St, near the station).

It's sad to see the loss of a historic Upper Hutt institution which many of us who grew up in the area remember (even if it just existed in name only at the end after years of cuts to local journalism and reporting, with only four pages of news and 4x that of real estate ads).

EME Newsletters

Latest EME newsletter updates:

http://www.df2zc.de/downloads/emenl202407_final.pdf

<https://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/NLD/eme2403.pdf>