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|   | www.qsl.net/zl2vh/<br><b>NEWSLETTER</b> of <i>The New Zealand Association</i><br><i>of Radio Transmitters UPPER HUTT Branch 63 Inc.</i> |   |

## APRIL 2007

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### President's Report

Hi Everyone,

Well as I write up this month's report, the weather has changed suddenly to a glimpse of winter, as several weather fronts roll through Wellington and the temperature drops to single digits over night – winter is on its way. Also with the end of daylight saving... so where has the year gone already!

Firstly thanks to all those members and supporters of the club for the working bee up at Mt Climie. The mission of the trench digging, ducting/cable laying was all completed in a single day – a great effort. We just need to get both ends plumbed in and secured before winter sets in to complete this task. This will put us in a great position to again be in the position to utilise the original Climie repeater hut.

The Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club (see Morrie's email later in the newsletter) was a great two day event, again thanks to those who were able to take part, and special thanks to those operators who gave up their entire weekend to do so, operating for two days. A debrief has been held and comments have been noted. Again lessons learnt continue to help us refine and review our procedures for use in emergencies should this need be required.

On Friday 23 March 2007, a meeting will be had to finalise the plans for Wellington Radio EXPO '07, on Saturday 31 March 2007, at Naenae College Hall, High Street, Lower Hutt (see poster for additional details). Morrie ZL2ADP is looking for volunteers to assist as station operators for the Call-In Station on Climie 730 using the special even call sign of ZL4FUN. Volunteers are also required to monitor and police the car parking. Neil ZL2TNG would like volunteers to assist him to run a club table please. So after the meeting a sort out of equipment at the clubrooms will be needed. So if you are able to assist in one of the many areas it is very much appreciated.

The clubs AGM will be held on Friday 20 April 2007 starting at 8.00 pm. The agenda will come out soon, detailing the meeting, so please attend if you are able.

Well that's if from the top... 73's and good DX'ing...

Mark ZL2UFI

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**Club HF Net 3.630 MHz every Tuesday at 2100 NZST**

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## AREC Report

The Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club's ENDURO meet was held over 10/11 March 2007. Seven operators were required on Saturday to set up checkpoints throughout the Akatarawa Forest providing communications for the 102 motorcycles that took part. There were no major mishaps reported.

On Sunday six operators were involved on the 50km course with 201 motorcycles taking part. Three of the competitors were reported as missing their checkpoints during the morning and had to be located. A few bikes ran out of fuel later in the day, one of them lost his fuel tank altogether while navigating one of the streams. Only two minor injuries were reported. At the end of the day all the riders had been accounted for and all damaged bikes had been retrieved.

The Mt Climie 730 Repeater was used throughout both days to handle the traffic and the new ZK8 callsigns were used.

The operators were ZL2ACT ZL2ADP ZL2HGR ZL2MEP ZL2PDJ ZL2SC ZL2SET  
ZL2TNG ZL2UFI ZL2UX

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL

(Photos from the event are on page 6)

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## Repeater Trustees' Report

The branch repeaters continue to give good uninterrupted service. The 860 repeater has had its audio quality improved many thanks to Gordon ZL2ARN. This repeater's performance will improve even further once the new coax feed is in place and the high gain stacked dipole antennas are connected.

New replacement batteries have been installed to replace the rapidly failing cells installed at the time the new repeater hut was built, we intend to have a regular battery replacement program as part of a regular maintenance programme.

I'm not sure if it was reported but about a month ago a team went up to Climie to see what was required to lay in some ducting to carry control cabling and new antenna feed lines. There was quite a group went up, my apologies as I do not have a list of the names, you know who you are, many thanks for your time and your help.

It has been our plan to upgrade the feed-lines to the antennas for some time and so on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March the major job of digging the trench and laying the ducting to carry the cables (see photos) was achieved by an intrepid team of nine keen workers. Not only did they carry out the fore mentioned task but they also managed to retrieve the original buried power cable. Well done chaps. While the real hard work was being done a couple of us removed several runs of redundant coax cable from between the repeater hut and the antenna poles and Morrie touched up the paint on the outside of the hut.

With the ducting in place planning can now go ahead for the replacement of the current RG312 coax cabling with the more efficient 7/8 Heliac for the 860 (70cm) repeater system and 5/8 Heliac for the 730 and 5425 (2 meter) repeaters. However now that the ducting is in place some less daunting tasks will need to be completed before any cabling can be run through them. These jobs include the terminations at each end of the ducting and the construction of a gully trap at the base of the main antenna pole where most of the antenna cables converge. The original unlined gully trap has all but been filled up with mud and the roots of the local snow grass plants. The gully trap job needs to be done so that we are able to feed the new runs of Heliac which cannot be as tightly bent as the RG213 from the main mast into the existing ducting which runs under the clear area to the main repeater hut.

(continued on page 3)

### **Repeater Trustees' Report (cont.)**

It would be great to think it might be possible to get all these jobs done before winter sets in. We could look at the middle of April for another working bee but realistically and as we all know, family and other commitments only allow us a certain amount of our free time for our hobby and we have had quite a lot on over the last couple of months and we still have the Expo to come.

On behalf of the all the repeater users we the trustees would like to pass on our thanks to all the following for their help with the trenching and other work. Thanks: Duke ZL2BGM, Ken ZL2TKY, Mark ZL2MET, Neil ZL2TNG, Peter ZL2PDJ, Gavin ZL2ACT, Morrie ZL2ADP, Mark ZL2UFI and especially Peter ZL2HM who has also obtained the 7/8 coax and fittings for the club. Peter ZL2PDJ has some exciting ideas for the Climie site and as it is his turn to write the next repeater report (sorry to drop you in it Peter) I will leave it up to him to divulge them.

Neil ZL2TNG and Peter ZL2PDJ  
Branch 63 Repeater Trustees.

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### **Photographs from the working bee on Mt Climie (continued on pages 4 and 5)**





It would be a shame not to have a caption competition for at least one of these photographs... feel free to submit captions for this picture by return email... in true NCEA tradition there will be no winners or losers, and consequently no prizes.



## Photographs from the Kapi Mana Enduro

