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Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

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Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.

April 2010

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President's Report

Hi everyone...

Another busy month for the club over March again this year... Field Day over the last weekend in February, the Big Coast Event over the 13/14 March and of course the Radio EXPO on the last Saturday of the month (27 March). I had hoped to squeeze in a Working Bee but that was probably one event too many for the month so it has been postponed until April, sometime after the Easter break no doubt, and subject to the weather.

Over the Field Day weekend I travelled to Australia for the Wyong Field Day (see separate report). Great time and the weather was less extreme than last year.

So what is coming up in the month of April?

A working bee at Mt Climie?

The AGM for the club will be on Friday 30 April 2010, starting at 8.00 pm. All positions will be up for re-election this year, as in previous years - most positions do not require too much effort through the year, so can I recommend you review the list and consider putting your name forward for a position for the next twelve months - remember many hands makes for light work.

Also worthy of a mention and something that will require great deal of input from everyone will be the proposed running of the NZART Conference to be held and hosted by our branch next year. The event will run from Friday 3 June until Monday 6 June 2011. It is my intention to fully discuss the running of this event at the AGM. This it will be a large undertaking over a period of the twelve months leading up to 3 June, and would be a great club event to be involved in.

During the conference there will be a big resource requirement from the club as volunteers will be required over the weekend to ensure that all the needs of the attendee's are met, and any emergencies are dealt with. If we can make this whole event run seamlessly, then it will be an enjoyable event for everyone.

I have already booked the Silverstream Retreat as the venue, having done so back in June of last year. They have accommodation on site, at very good rates and much cheaper than even motels, so the opportunity is also there for volunteers to stay on site, and take an active part in the conference as well as supporting it. It always makes for a good event to attend, to see and take part in the inner workings of NZART and amateur radio.

As far as volunteers are concerned some input and participation from your wives/partners will be required to assist in the running of the conference, especially in the area of the alternative programme. The alternative programme is for those partners not wishing to attend the NZART AGM or Specialist Sessions. So if you can give this proposal some serious thought as to how you can be involved over the coming weeks it would be appreciated. The final decision as to whether the club should continue or withdraw from running the conference will be made at the AGM. If we withdraw, then we can advise NZART as early as possible so some other branch can have the time to prepare their bid for 2011.

Well that's the news from me... 73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UF1
President

Field Day 2010



Peter (ZL2HM) taking a break at Field Day 2010



AREC

Raboplus Big Coast Event

The weather remained fine although windy in some areas for the 380 plus cyclists who took part in this year's 2 day event held on the 13/14th March.

Branch 63 were approached by the Resilience Trust last October to handle the communications. A Communications Handbook was produced and issued to the 17 operators involved in early November. A briefing was held by the organisers at Petone on 10th March with some of our key operators in attendance.

This was a combined exercise involving Branch 46 Wairarapa, Branch 18 Lower Hutt and Branch 63 Upper Hutt. This was the first event for a long time where all three Section Leaders took part. A Field Station was set up using the Communications Caravan at Riverslea on Friday afternoon by Tom ZL2HGR. When the southerly front hit the Wellington area at 5pm he was able to report via Climie 730 that the Marquee had suffered wind damage and was partially collapsed. The organisers were advised.

On Day 1 the Base Radio at Upper Hutt was operated by Morrie ZL2ADP and the Field Station by Tom ZL2HGR. The other operators were David ZL2BA, Simon ZL2BRG, Gavin ZL2ACT, Eric ZL2SET, Peter ZL2SJ, Mark ZL2UFI, and John ZL2UX.

On Day 2 the Base Radio at Wainuiomata was operated by Bob ZL2ASO and the Field Station by Mark ZL2UFI. The other operators were Phil ZL2HF, Tom ZL2HGR, Ted ZL2TED, Glen ZL2TLD, Gavin ZL2TVM, Malcolm ZL2UDF, Paul ZL2UGR and Mark ZL2WOL.

There were no serious casualties reported on the weekend although a number of contestants suffered from exhaustion and required assistance.

The 4WD vehicles were unable to complete the course to Orongorongo due to encountering soft ground thought to be caused by the southerly storm on Friday evening. These vehicles returned to Riverslea later in the day.

Overall the exercise went well although access keys to certain areas caused some problems. John ZL2UX was locked in at the gun club and could not go home until keys were found. .

There was some concern that the Climie 730 Repeater was running on backup batteries after the storm took out the mains supply on Friday night. However power was restored early on Saturday morning in time for the heavy traffic required for the event.

Repeaters used for the exercise were Climie 730, Barton 7325 and Belmont 710. HF on 3.675 was also used on Sunday and some hand/helds were issued by the organiser for line of site comms.

The ZK8 tongue twister callsigns were used throughout and the usual patience was required at times.

A big thanks to all of those who took part.

Morrie ZK8EL/ZL2ADP



Paul (ZL2UGR) supplies water and rough going at "The Scree"

Pictures supplied by John (ZL2AQE)



Wyong Field Day Report

This year I attended the Wyong Field Day, perhaps the biggest event of its type in Australia or in fact in New Zealand, where amateurs meet to buy and sell equipment of just catch up with old friends, much like our Wellington Radio EXPO.

This year's event was held much later than last year's one, being on the last Sunday of February 2010 (28 February 2010), which for some meant a clash with our own National Field Day held over the same weekend. So some people intending to go this year didn't due to this clash

Wyong is a small country town that has a race course next to it, the venue for the Field Day. Wyong is about 110 km's north of Sydney, in what is known as the Central Coast. It is about 20 km's north of Gosford and 70 km's south of Newcastle.

As I made my mind up to attend this event early, I was able to book some cheap flights to and from Sydney, this time with Pacific Blue - approximate cost was NZD\$375.00 return. Of course over the next few months various airlines equalled or bettered this price but I was happy with it. This time my wife wasn't keen to go, so my younger daughter jumped at the chance for a shopping trip, although not interested in amateur radio she was interested in the mall located just down the road from the race course!

The event is open early from about 6.30 am, and the flea market pretty much starts as soon as the stall holders turn up and get organised. The main commercial vendors start turning up at about 7.00 am, and their stalls open at 9.00 am. These vendors are located under cover, between the car park and the main stand. It protects you from the sun and rain - this protection is most important as in 2009 the temperature in the shade was 39C and 43C in the direct sun! The weather this year was only between 29-31C some much more bearable.

There is a bit of a stampede at 9.00 am as everyone tries to get to the commercial vendors first to grab the bargains on offer, or be first to buy something "new". Once the initial rush is over about 2 hours later it sort of settles down and order resumes. Most of Australia's major vendors are present with ample stock to satisfy most needs. As the competition amongst these vendors can at times get very heated the big winners are those attending as some of the bargains are extremely good. Often prices are much better than retail or even in store specials. To get these bargains you have to be there as most are Field Day Only Specials.

The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC) who runs the event has various amateur sessions running throughout the day, covering many topics, as well as various adjuncts such as QSL Card and DX Club stalls. The cost per adult including a car park is AUD\$10.00 each, those under 17 get in for free. The event starts to wind up at about 1.30 - 2.00 pm, so it's not a long day but the day starts early for most.

There are various ways to get to Wyong, even a train service from Sydney will get you there depending on the time you leave Sydney. The local train station is opposite the race course so easily accessible. I have found a rental car is the best for me, with a GPS unit for directions. The drive from Sydney up the main number one highway takes about 90 - 120 minutes, with most of the time spend getting out of Sydney - once on the open road it's all plain sailing. Perhaps not as big as Dayton, but far cheaper to attend and much closer to home than the USA, pity the exchange rate wasn't better for us as the Kiwi dropped to about seventy seven cents or less leading up to the day. Still I had a good day, found some interesting items, spoke to various vendors and spoke with various amateurs about all sorts of things - some of these even included radios!

There is also a competing event held in the state of Victoria each year, about two weeks prior to the Wyong one. Rumour has it that they are trying to out do Wyong and become the biggest field day. It perhaps would be good to do both events, but being two weeks apart, it would mean a longer stay of perhaps two and a half or three weeks to cover both of them. Still it would make for a great holiday book ended with amateur radio and some relaxing in the middle!

It's a bit early to think of next year's event, but I suppose if the air fares are good, and the time is right I may be convinced to attend again in 2011! Anyone else keen?

Mark ZL2UFI

Andrews Communications stand (spot the Kiwi)



Early morning setting up at Wyong Field Day



Morning light across race track



Early radio equipment display



The New Zealand association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, inc
Official Notice of Annual General Meeting 2010

This AGM will be held on Friday 30 April 2010, starting at 8.00 pm
At the Branch 63 Clubrooms, Park Street, Upper Hutt

NZART Upper Hutt Branch 63 Inc

Meeting Agenda

Date: 30th April 2010

Time: 8:00pm

Venue: Clubrooms, Park Street, Upper Hutt.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes.
3. Matters Arising from Minutes.
4. Correspondence Inwards and Outwards.
5. Presidents Report.
6. Treasurers Report.
7. Subscriptions.
8. AREC Report.
9. Repeater Trustees Report.
10. Other Written Reports (QSL Manager)
11. Notices of Motion
12. Remits of NZART AGM (select delegates)
13. General Business
14. Elections of Officers

List of Committee Positions for 2010:

President:
Immediate Past President:
Vice president:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
AREC Leader:
AREC Deputy
Repeater Trustee 1:
Repeater Trustee 2:
EMC Officer:
Callsign Trustee:
Exam Administrator:
Exam Assistant:
Morse Tester:
Equipment Manager:
Webmaster:
Editor QST63:
Editor Assistant:
Committee: All members

Current (2009-2010) Committee Position Holders:

President:	Mark Gooding	ZL2UFI
Immediate Past President:	<no longer recorded>	
Vice president:	Mark Wolstenholme	ZL2WOL
Secretary:	Chris Mills	ZL4CDM
Treasurer:	Gavin Smith	ZL2ACT
AREC Leader:	Morrie Vile	ZL2ADP
AREC Deputy	Gavin Smith	ZL2ACT
Repeater Trustee 1:	Neil Gibbons	ZL2TNG
Repeater Trustee 2:	Peter Moore	ZL2HM
EMC Officer:	Mark Gooding	ZL2UFI
Callsign Trustee:	Morrie Vile	ZL2ADP
Exam Administrator:	Gavin Smith	ZL2ACT
Exam Assistant:	John McDonald	ZL2UX
Morse Tester:	Bob Badrick	ZL2MUI
Equipment Manager:	Morrie Vile	ZL2ADP
Webmaster:	Chris Mills	ZL4CDM
Editor QST63:	Mark Wolstenholme	ZL2WOL
Editor Assistant:	Mark Gooding	ZL2UFI
Committee:	All members	

**Club HF Net 3.715 MHz
Every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.*