



# QST63

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

## September 2011

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### Presidents Report

Hi everyone... some wins and some losses this month, but life goes on.

Since installing the D-Star VHF Repeater on 5425 a problem has been identified with a nearby pager interfering and causing us some issues. A re-tune of the duplexers has brought them back up to specification although they may need a further fine tune on site if possible to get the notch as low as possible. Another cavity on the receive port will also probably be required to further assist in blocking out other frequencies also interfering with the repeater.

We have been fortunate for the second time this year as a club - first was the gift of the D-Star repeater set up from ICOM, the second is the Innovative Energies power supply. Having purchased one for use with 730 we have been gifted a second one for use with the D-Star repeaters at no cost. Both power supplies have been installed and working well. We also hope to soon have more new batteries on site for the D-Star repeaters, giving equal capacity to those now installed for 730. We expect to get well over a weeks performance (maybe up to two weeks) after a loss of power on site.

No doubt all the recent weather has provided much discussion for you all and for some a test of their backups or not! Perhaps a timely reminder for all of us to check out our battery backups in case we are called on. See later in the newsletter some photo's of the recent weather events especially the snow falls through 14-17 August 2011.

The clubs presidential honours board has been brought up to date, from 1992 - 2011 (photo located in the newsletter).

Finally, thanks to all those members who have assisted in any of the many recent trips to Mt Climie over recent weeks. Perhaps not normal for this time of year, but due to new equipment being installed well worth the effort involved.

Well that's about it from me....good DX and 73's.

Mark ZL2UFI

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## Branch 63 Repeater Update

A Busy month, multiple visits to Climie with numerous visits by lots of people – thanks to all those involved.

### 1292 23cm

The Repeater was temporarily taken off site for Jens to modify the rf deck cooling ducts while John ZL2TWS fitted a thermostat to control the cooling fans. A upgraded repeater controller pic was fitted and the audio re-routed. The end result is that the repeater is back on site and (touching wood) running very well. Surviving the storms with no issues. Thanks to John ZL2TWS and Jens ZL2TJT for their efforts.

Until the quiescent current drain of the repeater is reduced (approx 4.5A on receive) the Standby battery has been removed.

### 860 DStar 70cm

A Innovative Energies PSU and second set of batteries have been installed at Climie by John ZL2TWS and the repeater was working fine until the recent snow storm and power outages at Climie. The repeater failed to come back on line after mains was restored. A number of attempts have been made by John and accomplices to reach the repeater hut but snow at the summit and numerous fallen trees prevented them getting close.

860 IRLP has been disconnected and will be re-routed to 1292 23cm in the coming months.

### 5425 2m Repeater

The RP2000 Dstar VHF Repeater was installed on site, and appeared to work but with occasional R2D2 like voice message corruption occurring. Then it was noticed that the corruption occurred whenever 730 FM transmitted. So it appears the 2m DStar receiver is being overloaded or de-sensed by 730 tx. As far as we are aware the previous Tait 5425 fm repeater was not affected.

Due to the lack of diagnostic capabilities of the Icom repeater the 2m Dstar module was removed, the 5425 duplexer taken down to be checked and re-tuned.

In a subsequent site visit the Tait Analogue FM repeater was re-installed with the re-tuned duplexer installed to confirm correct performance of the duplexer/antenna system. It was found that there is also now de-sense on the 5425 receiver when 5425 transmits, but not from 730 !.

Another site visit is required to check the 5425 antenna is not now causing the 5425 analogue de-sense, otherwise we point the finger at the re-tuned duplexer.

A little digging on the net found that other users of the ic-rp2000V had suffered from overloading and intermod issues requiring additional filtering in the receive path. The Saga continues, be sure to come back next month for the next exciting episode !

### 730 2m FM Repeater

The Innovative Energies SR250A 250W PSU has been installed on site by John ZL2TWS. He also re-installed high power Tait repeater – modifying it to go to low power when mains has failed. Again many thanks to John for his efforts.

And finally I'd like to thank Phil ZL2HF for de-mousing the south hut door. And Innovative Energies for donating a second Power Supply.

73 Simon ZL2BRG

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

**If you can't hear anyone give a call.**

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## Snow 2011

Hi everyone...

Just a few snaps of the snow in August 2011, taken on Monday night and Tuesday morning...

**Haywards Hill road at about 3.30 pm Monday 15 August 2011**



**Approaching Totara Park traffic lights on State Highway Two at about 4.00 pm**



**Plateau Road looking towards Tunnel Gulley at about 7.30 am Tuesday**



**Plateau Road looking towards SH 2 at about 7.30 am**



Plateau Road (no buses today!) at about 7.30 am



Peter ZL2HM's QTH (no work today?) 7.30 am



73 Mark ZL2UFI



Presidential Honours Board brought up to date

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**Another failed attempt to carry out maintenance and repairs at Mt Climie  
Tue, 23 Aug 2011**

