

# BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 10, Issue 7, July 2012



Hastings Br  
13  
Club Calls  
**ZL2AS**  
**ZL2QS**

Napier Br 25  
Club Calls  
**ZL2GT**  
**ZL2G**

**IRLP**  
Node  
6793  
147.250

Branch  
Nets  
9.00 AM  
Sunday  
Morning  
3615 Hz  
439.175  
mhz

Editor  
John Newson  
**ZL2VAF**



*Stage One Start of the Daybreaker Rally in Feilding that we provided comms for (notice how clean the rally cars are – not for long!)*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/zl2as/>



*Join the KIWI DX Group  
Talk to ZL2AL for Details*

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## HASTINGS BRANCH 13

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**Club Nights:** Fourth Wednesday each month at 7.30 pm Pakwhai Hall, Pakowhai Road, Pakowhai

## A Note From "THE BOSS"

The Auction Night (pictures elsewhere) at our last meeting went down a treat and there were several bargains to be had. We managed to "clear the floor" of the 40 odd lots for sale as a result of dubious efforts by the two auctioneers and their helpers...the Club even managed to make a few dollars as well, but I guess that was inevitable as all items for sale were donated. Many thanks to the buyers.

The recent Solar Flare caused keen DX ers some concern with a period of bad/poor propagation and obvious hiss. We had a brief "ditto" of this effect a few days later, but it seemed to last only a few hours. It was soon a case of "business as usual" not long after the flare, so that was pleasing.

It has not gone unnoticed that there are some amongst us that you might say are "quiet CW'ers", well done and keep it up guys.

Recent reports indicate that the new Hall "Office" is coming along nicely and Fergus has been developing some "electronics" for it too, all contributions are gratefully received.

Some overseas readers of this magazine have talked about some content in our publication, thanks for the feed back guys. Amongst other places it is noted that you come from Hawaii, Portland Oregon.....and also some kind comments from Rotorua, NZ have been received, thanks everyone. Much credit to our Editor.

At the next Br 13 meeting (on Wed. 25 July, 7-30pm, Pakowhai Hall) a selection of old photographs relating to Br 13 activities will be made available for viewing. Have a look and see who you can recognize, some are SK's these days. Perhaps a brief debrief will be given on the recent 160m Trans Tasman comp. also.

73 Rob ZL2US

## **NAPIER BRANCH 25**

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**Committee Meetings:** *Third Monday of the month 7pm at Club Rooms*

**Club Calls:** **ZL2GT, ZL2G**

**Club Nights:** *First Wednesday each month (except January) 7.30pm at the Club Rooms:  
123 Latham Street Napier*

## **Napier News...**

Greetings all, another month gone, hopefully it will soon be goodbye to the cold weather, and activity will soon return to our ham shacks. The clubrooms now have an excellent photographic display of club activities from the last 30-odd years. Lee ZL2AL has scanned all the club photos and newspaper articles from the archives and re-printed them for display.

Work on fitting out the clubrooms radio shack continues and we now have radios for H/F, 2 metres and 70 cm.

Packet forwarding on the National System is to cease, NZART Council have requested the managers of the National System to take steps to end the practice, and to have only voice traffic on the system. How this will be achieved in practice remains to be seen.

Topics for upcoming meetings, DXpedition video, quiz and buns night, microwave demonstration, (not the cooking type), show and tell re shack related items.

On the junk sale calender, there's Hamilton on August 11th, and the Manawatu club sale at Longburn on October 6th.

In the meantime, carry on hamming.  
de ZL2TC

# Photos from the Auction Night Held at Pakowhai Hall



## Taraponui 725 Repeater

It's now just over 30 years since the Napier Amateur Radio club established the 147.25 repeater on Taraponui. I don't recall who kicked the idea off, but Taraponui was chosen as a site largely because it would give good coverage of the Napier-Taupo highway, and Peter ZL2IK and your scribe ZL2TC were technicians employed by two of the three Govt. departments who had radio services on the site, and had access to the site in the course of our employment. Commercial FM repeater equipment was not widely available at that time, and in any case was beyond our budget, so we decided to purchase a Waikato VHF Group repeater kitset. I built up the repeater, and Peter ZL2IK undertook to construct a duplexer from some surplus 80 MHz cavity filters (which is still in use today), and we had it up and running from a temporary site in the old CD headquarters on Bluff Hill in time for the QB weekend NZART Conference. The performance of the repeater wasn't all that great, and Peter and I decided that the Waikato kit receiver wasn't up to it, so I converted a surplus AWA VHF receiver to FM and fitted it in place of the original receiver, with a drastic improvement in performance. The photo shows the repeater chassis, receiver on the right, with the VHF receiver front end in the screened box at the rear, and the transmitter on the left.

Next trick was to get it installed at Taraponui, so it was initially installed in the MWD repeater hut, and later, following an approach by David ZL2DW to his then employer, we were able to install it in the NZ Electricity repeater hut, with a 4 - dipole colinear antenna. Coverage exceeded all expectations from the outset. Unfortunately, the Taraponui site is prone to savage ice storms during winter, and the 4 dipole colinear took a bit of a battering, and eventually had to be replaced with a more robust commercial 2 dipole array. Later developments on the Taraponui site with more commercial services meant a move to the new building, and the old Waikato repeater replaced with a commercial Tait unit, with the dipole array shifted to the Transpower microwave tower, much as it is today (photos in previous Break-Out)

ZL2TC

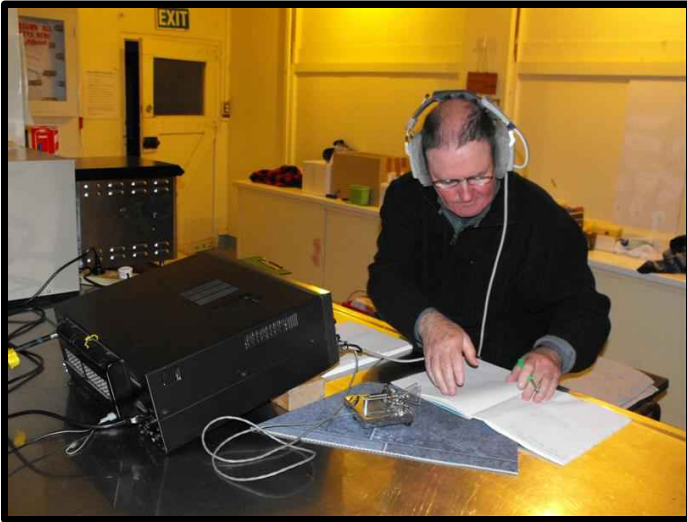
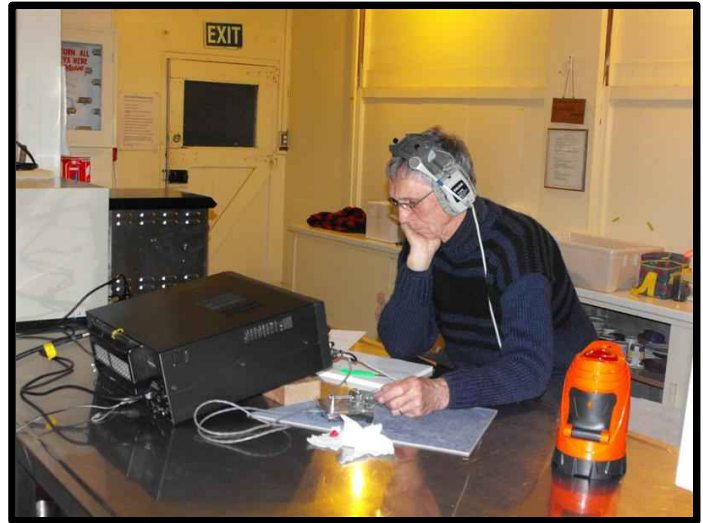


## ZL - VK EVENT

Five of us gave it a good go on 21 - 22/7 in the recent ZL - VK event with call sign ZL2GT. It kept us occupied on air from 8pm Sat. night until 2am Sunday morning at the Guides/Scout Camp east of Hastings near Haumoana. We ran dipole aerials on 80m (CW mode) and 160m (Phone mode). There was much frustration being able to hear and not work many VK stations but we did manage a few but it certainly was not our best year, our guys on 80m/CW made similar comments. ZL event stations with large/gain aerials seemed to have the edge over our dipoles but having said that our contact numbers were creditable but the VK multipliers were not as we had hoped.

We can at least be happy with our "Boys Weekend Away". Many thanks to those who worked us, every point helps.

David ZL2DW



## SECRET OPERATING TECHNIQUE

*Not sure if this is some trick that CW operators use but we were not game to ask Peter (ZL2MS) what he was up to with the mic. while on 160m phone.*



# The Silver Fern Car Rally 2012

I have been tasked with organising comms for this event.

The Silver Fern is a 7 day international marathon rally. It is being held in the North Island in the 2nd week of November 2012.

I am looking for operators that fit one of the following profiles.

- 1) A mobile operator that wishes to follow the rally through its 7 days. You must be HF ready for 80m and 60m portable communication. VHF while mobile, HF when onsite. Fuel and accommodation will be provided.
- 2) A local who wishes to participate as the rally passes through your area. This could be mid week. HF portable and VHF mobile required.
- 3) Base HQ operators. For part or all of the 7 day event. The base is in Hamilton.

If you are interested please indicate your interest to me via email. If you have worked car rallies before (and not one I've organised) please let me know so I know your capabilities.

warren@zl2aj.com

Some info is at <http://www.silverfernrally.co.nz/rally2012/index.php>

The course is to travel from Tauranga through Rotorua, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North, Ohakune, Taupo, finishing in Hamilton.

## NOTICES

### **Gisborne Car Rally**

25/26 August 2012



### **Silver Fern Car Rally**

November 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>  
2012

**Buy – Sell - Etc**