

# BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and  
Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 11, Issue 9, September 2013



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**



*View of Hastings and Napier from the HB '670 Kahuranaki site. On the left foreground can be seen Mt Erin and on the right, Te Mata Peak. Taken by David ZL2DW*

<http://www.zl2gt.com/blog/>

<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 Pakowhai Hall, Pakowhai Road, Pakowhai

## From THE TRAVELLER

For family reasons I spent some of last weekend travelling.....to/from Ohope. During my travels I worked, via 2m repeaters, ZL1KY and ZL1OB. It's always nice to be accompanied by radio while one is on the road, thanks guys.

Maybe it's Spring that's causing the seemingly increase in HF activity by our local operators but whatever the reason they seem to be active and enjoying themselves, good luck to you.

After an oops with the mains/charging supply arrangement Clifton Accessor is going well and continues to serve us well.

We've been asked if we can help out with the up coming JOTA event so if you'd like to help please contact me. This year it will be held at Rissington and I'm told that the track is for 4WD vehicles only.

Our October meeting will be held at Waipukurau.....the same dining/meeting arrangement as last year so if you and your partner would like to come along please give me your numbers attending so we can advise our host in good time.  
In November we will have our AGM and Homebrew Competition so start finishing off those projects and bring them along (photographic evidence is acceptable if you can't get your entry through the Hall door).

The HF bands have been pretty good, especially to David ZL2OK who has recently worked on 160m, with a little more than 100w, USA, Panama, Argentina, Australia (Perth). He did this at about midnight NZT using an almost vertical very long wire, while spending time at the beach in his caravan/trailer home. He reports that 75m and 40m have been good to him also, working Europe, USA etc.....all late at night NZT. Very well done David, we look forward to more of your exploits.

Recently I've caused some confusion to some of our overseas readers by using "Kiwi slang" so to help you people out Google "NZ slang" and some of your queries may be answered.

The next Br13/HBARC meeting is on Wed. 25 Sept, 7-30pm at the Pakowhai Hall, all welcome.

73 Rob ZL2US, (Br13/HBARC Pres.).

## **NAPIER BRANCH 25**

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

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

**Club Web Site:** [www.zl2gt.com/blog](http://www.zl2gt.com/blog)

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

## **News and stuff from Napier.....**

Coax cable is great stuff, sits there doing its job of transporting RF from your radio to the antenna year in year out, provided it's not damaged or abused. However, nothing lasts forever. Some years ago, I was summoned to the port to check out at a VHF radio in a downstairs office. The complaint was "There's water coming out of the radio". Well, never heard that one before, so down to the port to have a look. Sure enough, following several days of heavy rain, there was water dripping from the PL259 antenna connector on the back of the radio. To cut a long story short, investigation revealed that some unknown installer had laid the coax in a rain gutter on the roof, instead of securing it out of harms way. The water had permeated the coax outer jacket, and by capillary action and gravity, had travelled down the coax outer braid, 60 metres down to the radio. The PVC outer jacket is what's called "hygroscopic", meaning it can absorb water. It's fine if it's hanging in the breeze and can shed water after a rain shower, but it's not water-tight, that's why it's important to ensure that connectors are sealed against water entry.

Trade-Me is a great resource for buying and selling radio gear, but there has been a bit of a grey area with people selling so-called "free-band" radios covering the 11 meter CB band and the 10 meter amateur band to unlicensed users. At the request of Radio Spectrum Management, Trade-Me have changed the rules for sellers, so that if you advertise amateur transmitting gear for sale, you must state in the ad that it's for sale to licenced amateurs only .

Next Napier ARC meeting Wednesday 2nd October will be a quiz night, with coffee and sticky buns. Also you will be invited to identify a "'mystery object'" as part of the quiz. Also don't forget Manawatu A.R.C junk sale on 5th October, usual venue at Longburn.

Happy hamming, ZL2TC

## From ZL2VM

I have embarked on the elimination of noise (QRM) at my place and have taken a few tentative steps. One of the first was to turn off the power to various appliances in my home to see if the noise dropped. It did, but not by much. In the process of disconnecting power, one of the circuit breakers fell to pieces in my hand! Bugger – the result has been eight new C/B's and a bill from my electrician. Still, now at least I don't have to worry about loose screw connections in the switchboard!

While I was slaving away gathering my pennies to get that job done, I happened to be in another Ham Shack to find that the noise in this Shack was the same as mine!

That was helpful as I then realised that my initial grand objective to "eliminate" noise had changed to become an "understanding" of the damn stuff.

I'd like to get a feeling for noise levels at other local Shacks and ask if you could take a reading of noise when tuned up on 3615, 7090 and 14090 (+/-) and email the results to me at [rlb.mbb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rlb.mbb@xtra.co.nz) or TXT to 0274721758.

Thanks

Cheers

**Michael Bull** ZL2VM



## The legend of Jack Kilby: 55 years of the integrated circuit

The tech industry thrives on legends. Here's a good one. Jack Kilby's small invention changed the face of electronics and made possible much of today's technology.

It's 1958, and Texas Instruments stands deserted. Everyone at the Dallas-based company traditionally takes two weeks of vacation in July, leaving the the plant empty. Well, almost everyone.

Hidden away, quietly toiling within the cavernous Semiconductor Building, is one Jack Kilby. Kilby's the new guy at Texas Instruments-- so new he's not entitled to any vacation time yet.

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9242389/The\\_legend\\_of\\_Jack\\_Kilby\\_55](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9242389/The_legend_of_Jack_Kilby_55)

## David ZL2DW (Re) calling

Living in Hastings and back in about 1958, or earlier, I remember being lured to my friends older brothers crystal set.....no batteries, no valves and two AM radio stations....wow. It wasn't long after, with the help of my father, I was the proud owner of one myself but it didn't pick up two stations very well. I decided that a bigger/longer aerial wire was required (nothing has changed, it's the same requirement in radio today hi hi). Over our back fence, about 150ft away, were some Macrocarpa trees and of course to us kids going up those was no problem.....so the original aerial was extended and the crystal set performance substantially improved.

School life contained a continuing share of "radio" one way or another (including listening to the "pirate" AM broadcasting radio station from Auckland, Radio Hauraki). On leaving school at the end of 1966 I began a radio apprenticeship. The next 8 years saw me involved in the private/industrial Radio Communications industry, along the way tripping over many ham radio people. I got my own "ticket" in 1974, while doing my OE in New Plymouth (1974 - 1976), call sign ZL2TSX. On one occasion while in Taranaki I remember servicing the HF radio gear on an American off shore drilling rig and making a call to Texas. I also remember musing to myself at the time that I was not required to have a morse qualification to do that and yet as an amateur radio operator I was required to have a morse qualification to use frequencies below 50mhz. (Things have changed, for the good, I'm glad to say).

1977 saw me take up 15 years of employment as a Communications Technician, with the Government (initially with the NZ Electricity Dept.), based in Napier. In 1987 I obtained my "morse ticket", becoming ZL3DK, this opened up the amateur HF bands to me and it wasn't long before international contacts were made. Having said that it was soon after this that my appetite was whet with the 160m band. It still holds something of an attraction for me today.....maybe it's the large aerials that are required (just like the crystal set above). In 2000 I changed my call sign to ZL2DW, inheriting it from it's first owner/operator and a gent. that I am glad to have known before he became a SK.

Family inevitably take much of ones time as a young married man and I was no exception. I also added to my electronic qualifications during those Govt. years....along with building a new house. Self employment in radio communications in 1992 saw me with my head down establishing a business and while my business has "settled" these days one still needs to be involved to maintain it. This dedication has left me with no "8 to 5" life but I've managed to squeeze in "amateur radio time" over the years. My commercial work has also allowed me to be a trustee of and to support amateur radio repeaters etc.

Deciding to make plans for retirement (one day) I recently bought a new HF/6m transceiver. Armed with this and a domestic constrained HF loop aerial I commented recently that "I have discovered 20m". I've even taken to logging HF contacts now, something I have never bothered to do over many recent years. Last Xmas gave me some time off and between then and Feb. I was



*David ZL2DW in his business workshop*



*David ZL2DW in his ham shack*

able to complete and install a 2m Skeleton Slot aerial. This opened up the world of 2m simplex contacts to me and also a bit of "repeater DX ing" and also learning about the influence of weather on propagation.

There are still "things to do" in amateur radio and I look forward to achieving some of them. Strangely one of my challenges is to talk to UK, something I've only ever done on about two occasions.....perhaps this desire relates to my ancestry.

It would also be remiss of me to not mention and acknowledge the help and camaraderie that I have received and enjoyed from the amateur community, over the years, thank you.

It's time to get back to amateur radio now.

73 David Walker ZL2DW