



Hastings Br 13

Club Call

**ZL2AS**

Napier Br 25

Club Call

**ZL2GT**

**IRLP**

Node

6793

147.250

**HB DX**

**Cluster**

ZL2AL-1

144.650

Connect

and type

**"DXC"**

**Branch  
Nets**

9.00 AM

Sunday

Morning

3615 Hz

147.250

MHz

**Editor**

John Newson

**ZL2VAF**

## An Erection



Finishing off ZL2AJ's new tower



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

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## HASTINGS BRANCH 13

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**NZART License Examiners:** Lee - ZL2AL and Peter - ZL2LF

**Club Call:** **ZL2AS**

**Club Nights:** Fourth Wednesday each month at 7.30 pm Surf Club Rooms, Windsor Park, Hastings

## Hastings Branch 13 - President's Report

This month has been a busy month for amateur radio in Hawkes Bay. Last weekend the 2 wheel drive rally saw 16 hams help out with comms for the car rally in the Gwavas forest. Extreme weather conditions meant some volunteers ended up with some vehicle damage. This is leading to a safety plan for us, as we are often onsite well before rally officials are there, thus we act as their eyes and ears. Other than that the day went fairly well, weather considered.

This weekend we had our annual search and rescue exercise. Strong winds and the threat of sporadic heavy rain also loomed, and at one point one of the search teams almost became a lost party. The base at Robson's lodge had no 240V power and this showed up a few weaknesses in our preparedness. We managed to try out 9675 and our STSP digipeater for APRS. Both worked well.

Next weekend is a four day weekend for those of us in Hawkes Bay. On the Saturday is our local junk sale at Pakowhai Hall. Entry is \$2 and this gets you an entry into the raffle. Come and buy some surplus used equipment, have some food, and catch up with fellow hams from the district, as well as guests from outside the area.

The last weekend of October is CQ world wide weekend. The most highly participated contest each year, this will generate plenty of activity on HF. Visit [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com) for more information and contest rules.

On the 24th of November Daniel Ayers will be taking a training day for AREC at Napier Clubrooms. I hope to be able to do some practical demonstrations with some of our equipment. Please forward me names if you are planning on attending.

The 1st / 2nd of December is the VHF UHF field day contest. If you wish to join me up Taraponui this year please let me know ASAP. Otherwise I plan on organizing an alternative contest site up a prominent high point. Please come up on the air this weekend to give us as many points as possible. We did well last year and we are looking at topping the folks up north this year.

This months meeting is on the 24th. After the meeting if there is no show and tell I will do a chat on CTCSS. This was planned for last meeting but we ran out of time to do it justice.

**73, Warren Harris ZL2AJ**

## **NAPIER BRANCH 25**

**President:** Laurie Winton ZL2TC 843 8519

**Secretary:** Stan White ZL2ST 845 2422

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### **Committee:**

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

**Club Call:** **ZL2GT**

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

## **Branch 25 Napier News...**

The next Napier meeting is the AGM and Pan Pac trophy contest on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30 pm at the clubrooms. Bring along your homebrewed projects and enter them in the Pan Pac trophy contest.

At the last meeting Laurie ZL2TC gave us a rundown on how Trunked Mobile operates throughout NZ. Some similarities with cellular service and some big differences too. Thanks Laurie.

Last month we reported the passing of Gordon ZL2NF. During this last week Gordon's XYL Ida also passed away.

In preparation for the CQ Worldwide SSB contest the ZM2M team have been busy tidying up antennae at the Tangoio farm site with much co-operation from farmer Jim. We had a welcome visit from Chris ZL2DX from Martinborough with his homebuilt 'spud' gun - an air operated 'gun' that shoots spuds into the air. The gun consists of two cylinders, a pump and a battery operated valve. One cylinder is charged to about 100-150 pounds/sq inch with a hand pump, a neat fitting spud is inserted into the other cylinder and when the valve is electrically opened the spud is propelled a great distance. In our case as well as a spud we had a fairly neat fitting insulator outside the spud with a nylon fishing line attached. When fired the spud and insulator took off right over the top of the 100 ft high trees and landed amongst the trees. The most difficult part was locating the insulator and line. After some practice runs we managed two lines over the tops of trees to hold our dipole antennae for the low bands.

More recently we had a very successful morning planting an old telephone pole in a hole that we made on the farm and we now have a substantial support to which we can erect a mast with triband beam on top, alongside to compliment the existing 20 metre beam adjacent to the workshop. We have fitted rungs on the sides to enable 'someone' to climb to the top to lock the mast when it is raised beside the pole. The hole was made with a posthole borer and the pole erection was done with the aid of a digger.

HF band conditions have improved with the equinox and we are hopeful of lots of DX activity on the last weekend of October. Lots of Dxpursions are promised for this period so we just need good conditions. Amongst the Dxpursions and in our own backyard is a Polish group operating now from the Chathams using their home calls/ZL7 until about the end of the



# Photos of an Erection



The two top halves waiting to be put together. You can see a portion of the actual washing line is to the left in the above photo.



Above is a very handy thing to be able to get hold of – a sky hook!

The two bottom halves are being assemble in the picture on the right. Warren ZL2AJ and Morrie ZL2AAA are passing things to each other. I assume the other guy is the engineer.







Putting the top bit together. The small platform by Warren's knees has the rotator on it. To give you some idea of scale the roof you can see in the background in the above photo is on the house and this is only the top section being worked on.



The two bottom sections up and ready to go. The top section being swung into place. Look at all those bits of all! Seems like it was just finished in time by the look of those clouds!!



# NZART Wine Country Conference 2009

Well we have had a couple of meetings now and things have moved on. The big decision to be made at the moment is what venue we are using. Three have been shortlisted – HB Racecourse, The Opera House and Lindisfarne College. The preference seems to be the Racecourse as it meets all the criteria with the Opera House meeting most. We are going to organise a visit to all three to get a final reckoning. We settled on “Wine Country” as the theme for the conference which seemed a bit of an obvious choice and will fit in well with the partner program.

John ZL2VAF



## ZL2AJ's inspiration for his vehicle installation.



## Christmas Dinner

Annual Xmas Dinner on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

Social drinks from 6 p.m. And the meal starts at 7.00 p.m.

To be held at Heretaunga Club 308 Victoria St, \$20 each.

Please advise attendance to Bill Lowes 8775078 or Email [bill.lowes@clear.net.nz](mailto:bill.lowes@clear.net.nz).

Parking in Club car park south eastern corner of Victoria and Hastings St.

## Homebrew Awards

### PAN PAC TROPHY CONTEST (Br 25)

on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30 pm at the clubrooms. Bring along your homebrewed projects and enter them in the Pan Pac trophy contest.

### HOME BREW AWARD (Br 13)

Bring along your entries (photos acceptable for those things that won't fit through the door) for the above award.

Share your construction results with us and be in to win the Br 13 trophy.

When, Br 13 AGM night, 28 Nov. There is still time to finish off your current project and get it along.

## The Last Bit

Well its been a busy ham month for with the 2 wheel drive car rally and the SARex last weekend. They both had extra dramas that were unexpected. We had massive winds on the car rally which caused major problems for us and the rally organisers. We had two cars damaged and a mast fell over that held the aerial that was providing the car club comms. The aerial was reinstated but still no comms – it looks like their repeater is on the blink so ZL2AJ became the human repeater and passed messages on their network as required. The wind was so bad that one stage was abandoned completely as it was too windy for the start control personnel to be able to work.

The SARex was running well then we sent some gear back to Hastings on the Saturday night as being “no longer required”. The weather was packing in so the lost party got found quickly on Saturday early evening then we had to get the searchers out and back to base. The comms were working really well when one of the search parties were crossing a swollen river. They crossed once and all ok then said they were going to cross the river again to find a suitable area to stay the night. That was the last time we heard them. It was felt that there was a chance that things may have gone badly wrong so an attempt was made to get the Lowe Walker Helicopter in to check on things but of course the weather had closed in and they couldn't get to us. The only thing we could do was head off to bed and try and get in to them in the morning. We had comms up at 0545 and a party were heading in from the road end towards the last known position of the team. At 0615 we had a call on HF from the team – they were ok. They hadn't realised that the repeater they were talking to was behind a bluff that they had moved under. In the end it was all ok and was actually good to have a bit of a “sharpening up” as things had gotten a bit rusty with the lack of searches.

**John ZL2VAF**

# NOTICES

**Flea market** Saturday October 20 (Labour weekend) 10 am at the Pakowhai hall.

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**AREC Training Day** 24th of November by Daniel Ayers at Napier Clubrooms. Let Warren ZL2AJ know if you wish to attend

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**AGM & HOMEBREW AWARD (Br 13)** 28 Nov.

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**PAN PAC TROPHY CONTEST (Br 25)** on Wednesday 7 November

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**Christmas Dinner** Friday 30th. November. Heretaunga Club. \$20  
Contact Bill Lowes 8775078 or Email [bill.lowes@clear.net.nz](mailto:bill.lowes@clear.net.nz)

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**VHF UHF Field Day** is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2007

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**Jock White Field Day** 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008

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**NZART "Wine Country Conference"**  
Hawkes Bay Labour Weekend 2009

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*Please feel free to sent notices to [john.newson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.newson@xtra.co.nz)*

## Buy – Sell - Etc

### FOR BORROWING

A DVD of an talk given to WN VHF Group by Bruce Emerali, (a ham). Bruce overviews the NZ Military rf spectrum use and has done for many years. He talks about his involvement in this area both nationally and internationally.

Duration 1hr and 10mins. Contact David ZL2DW hm 8760518

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### WANTED TO BUY

up to 4 lengths (20ft each) of 1 inch galv. water pipe. Ph David ZL2DW hm 8760518