



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

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

**IRLP**  
Node  
6793  
147.250

Branch's  
13/25  
Net  
9.00 AM  
Sunday  
Morning  
670  
Repeater

**Editor**  
John Newson  
ZL2VAF



The Eiffel Radio Tower - see links inside.

<http://www.zl2gt.nz/>  
<http://www.zl2as.org.nz/>

## Emergency Call-in Frequencies: 3615khz and 670 repeater



<https://arec.nz/join-arec/>

### Inside This Issue

Napier Branch 25 Report	Page 2
Hastings Branch 13 Report	Page 3
I am not swearing...	Page 4
For Sale	Page 6
Satellite station for sale	Page 7
Branch 13 Homebrew winner	Page 8
Sterbo Curtains	Page 8
Notices	Page 9
Re ZL2AJ	Page 9
Radio Club of America Director	Page 10
The Eiffel (Radio) Tower	Page 10

## **NAPIER BRANCH 25**

**President:** Dave Crook ZL2MQ, 02102969006 email [davey.crook@gmail.com](mailto:davey.crook@gmail.com)  
**Secretary:** Bryce Gilbert ZL1BCG 027 27764928 email [zl1bcg@gmail.com](mailto:zl1bcg@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Stuart McLeod ZL2XC 06 844 3706 email [ZL2XC@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:ZL2XC@slingshot.co.nz)  
**AREC:** Mike Bull ZL2VM 06 843 6052 email [rlb.mbb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rlb.mbb@xtra.co.nz)

### **Committee:**

**Revell Troy ZL2SS** 0210742837 email [revelltroy@hotmail.com](mailto:revelltroy@hotmail.com)  
**Michael Mullins ZL2MY** 8434210 email [michaelmullins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:michaelmullins@xtra.co.nz)  
**Peter Breen ZL2CD** 0274721527 email [peterbreen@clear.net.nz](mailto:peterbreen@clear.net.nz)  
**Karl Matthys ZL1TJ** 845 4372 email [karlmatthys@ymail.com](mailto:karlmatthys@ymail.com)

**Committee Meetings:** 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, November

**Club Calls:** ZL2GT, ZL2G

**Club Web Site:** <http://www.zl2gt.nz/>

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

## **Napier Amateur Radio Club**

Well another year rolled by really quickly, Happy New Year to you all.

The reinstated WSPR transmitters are performing well, and in particular the 6 metre version is being heard regularly in many Australian states, so far up to 3600kms. It is a good indicator of band conditions and is usually accompanied by many FT8 contacts being completed. Mike ZL2VM has produced an explanatory note on the subject, printed elsewhere in this copy of BreakOut.

Branch 25 Committee will meet this week to work out the program for the coming year, hopefully with some highlights for all to enjoy. If you have a suggestion for an activity or something you would be interested in trying, let your committee know and we may be able to find an 'expert' to help out, or make an evening / meeting night on the subject. By the time you read this Errol ZL2IT will have recommenced his Monday night home brew evenings, all welcome. If you are on facebook, look for the ZL2GT page where info on this and other branch activities are available.

The Branch Club rooms have had some attention by graffiti people, The city anti graffiti man has painted out the abusive messages, with a grey paint, so we need to make a time to cover that with our correct colour. Any volunteers to do this? A couple of coats should do it.

Branch 25 does not meet in January, so our next general meeting will be the 7th of February at 7:30pm, see you all there.

That's all for now, hopefully all your Ham Radio resolutions will be fulfilled this year.

73

Dave ZL2MQ

## HASTINGS BRANCH 13

<b>President:</b>	Blue Smith ZL3TT	Ph 027 220 3724	email: kgsmithblue@nowmail.co.nz
<b>Vice President</b>	Robert Wallace ZL2SG	Ph 878 4993	email ffonzrjw@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	David Walker ZL2DW	Ph 876 0518	email david@apexradiocoms.co.nz
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Peter Moore ZL2HM	Ph 06 68577340	email: pikam@xtra.co.nz
<b>AREC/CD</b>	John Newson ZL2VAF	Ph 027 230 3642	email: zl2vaf@gmail.com
<b>AREC Deputy:</b>	Robert Wallace ZL2SG	Ph 878 4993	email ffonzrjw@gmail.com
<b>Committee:</b>	Ray Barlow ZL2RB	Ph 06 878 6068	email: r.w.barlow@xtra.co.nz
	Rob Leicester ZL2US	Ph 878 6381	
	Peter Keong ZL2PW	Ph 027 217 1315	email: pkeong@xtra.co.nz
	Stephen Simpson ZL2SPF	Ph 022 630 4183	email: simpson.s1917@gmail.com
	Phil Garside ZL2RO	Ph 021 042 3129	email: zl2ro@xtra.co.nz
<b>Hastings QSL Distribution:</b>	Wally Shuker ZL2MO	Ph 843 5497	email zl2mo@hotmail.co.nz
<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	John Newson ZL2VAF	Ph. 027 230 3642	email zl2vaf@gmail.com
<b>NZART License Examiners:</b>	Peter – ZL2HM, Dave – ZL2MQ, Ray – ZL2RB		
<b>Club Call:</b>	<b>ZL2AS and ZL2QS</b>		
<b>Net Controllers (Sunday '670 repeater, 9am) ZL3TT/ZL2DW</b>			
<b>Club Nights: Fourth Wednesday each month (except December) at 7.30 pm Pakowhai Hall, Pakowhai Road</b>			
<b>Club Fees \$20 per year payable to Branch 13 a/c # 03 0642 0733310 00 (use your call sign as a reference).</b>			

## From the top table

Well giddy folks and welcome to the New Year. I think that it should be a fairly good one and I'm hoping for the HF bands to come back to what they were like last year till about November when they were really good. Then they went down but not out as there is still some stuff coming through, just not in the early part of the day.

I have had a very quiet time over Xmas and the new year radio wise but have been going to speedway when we can. We are getting a lot of those cruise ships in at the port and it is so nice to see all those folk from them walking around town and taking bus tours which of course brings in lots of money to this part of the country. We all know it is needed after February last year. Lets hope we don't get anything like that again this year.

The other day on my way home from Hastings I came past the Pakowhai Hall and lo and behold there were a heap of work vans and work men there. It looks like it might be good news for us and we will be getting back to the hall sooner than later. Watch this space as soon as we know when we can get back to the hall you will be the second ones to know.

We are a funny lot when it comes to the weather, we moan like hell in the winter time about the cold and we moan in the summer time about the hot days and nights. The way I see it we can't change it and if we could not all would be happy. This goes on year after year. At least in this day and age we can close up the house and either heat it or cool it down, not like the poor old folks of Yesteryear. We should consider ourselves very lucky.

Well that's it, keep trying for the DX and also keep your ears on the repeaters and if you hear a call sign from out of town or one that you have not herd before please go back to them and say hello. We all know you can go to some places in ZL and hear not a dicky bird. I will see some of you this Wednesday night and, of those that don't come to the meetings, I hope to hear you on air at some time. I have just been told that there are some QSL cards which have come in and ready to be handed out. If you get cards via the club you need to be a member of the club as the club is not a mailing service for you. If you want your cards then please come to the meetings. We still want input from you the club members.

Blue ZL3TT President Branch 13 HBARC

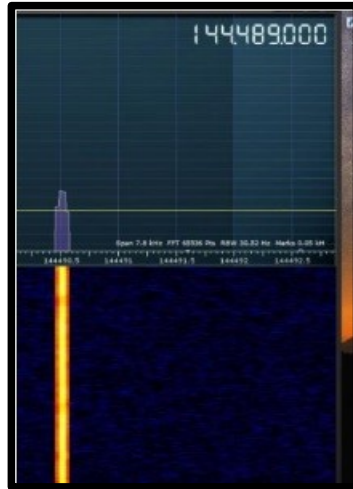


*Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings, office bearers,  
David Walker ZL2DW (Secretary),  
Blue Smith ZL3TT (President),  
Peter ZL2HM (Treasurer).*

## I'm not swearing . . . .

The Napier Amateur Radio Club have recently commissioned their WSPR transmitters on six meters and two meters based at their Latham Street QTH. Have a listen for them on 50.293 MHz and 144.489 MHz USB.

Listening to the signal will appear as a tone. However, it is in reality a data stream.



You can receive them using your FM rig, however, you will only able to recognise the signal by the lack of noise and your 'S' metered pinned at 'S' 9 or thereabouts.

The signal is only there for 2 minutes in every 8.

Both transmitters are putting out about 40dBm (ie 10 Watts)

The antennas are aluminium inverted 'V's cut for each band



You can receive them using your FM rig, however, you will only able to recognise the signal by the lack of noise and your 'S' metered pinned at 'S' 9 or thereabouts.

The signal is only there for 2 minutes in every 8.

Both transmitters are putting out about 40dBm (ie 10 Watts)

The antennas are aluminium inverted 'V's cut for each band

### **What's it all about?**

Wikipedia had the best summary (and a lot more):

WSPR (pronounced "whisper") is an acronym for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It is a protocol, implemented in a computer program, used for weak-signal radio communication between amateur radio operators. The protocol was designed, and a program written initially, by Joe Taylor, K1JT. The software code is now open source and is developed by a small team. The program is designed for sending and .

receiving low-power transmissions to test propagation paths on the MF and HF bands.

WSPR implements a protocol designed for probing potential propagation paths with low-power transmissions. Transmissions carry a station's callsign, Maidenhead grid locator, and transmitter power in dBm. The program can decode signals with a signal-to-noise ratio as low as  $-28$  dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Stations with internet access can automatically upload their reception reports to a central database called WSPRnet, which includes a mapping facility.

[WSPR \(amateur radio software\) - Wikipedia](#) Read 10 January 2024

## So, what can you do with it?

1. Access an almost real time picture of what the band is doing



20 meters at 1415 NZDT Wednesday 10 January 2024.

Note that there are no signals being received from the rest of the world. It's just Oz and Us.

## 2. Set yourself up with a Log-on to WSPRnet



Have a good surf around the site. It does much more than produce pretty pictures. You should find too, what the band/s have be doing over time

## 3. Access real time stuff off air

Set yourself up with WSJT-X. See [WSJT Home Page \(sourceforge.io\)](#).

The latest release is WSJT-X2.6.1. Download the User Guide too.

You will also need to connect your rig to your PC.

Check out digirig – a tidy digital modes interface for ham radio

When you are all set, open 'Mode' in top tab bar and select 'WSPR'. You may notice that you could select {swear word} and other modes too.

Training is by clicking buttons. Enjoy.

Check out YouTube too.

## 4. Joining In

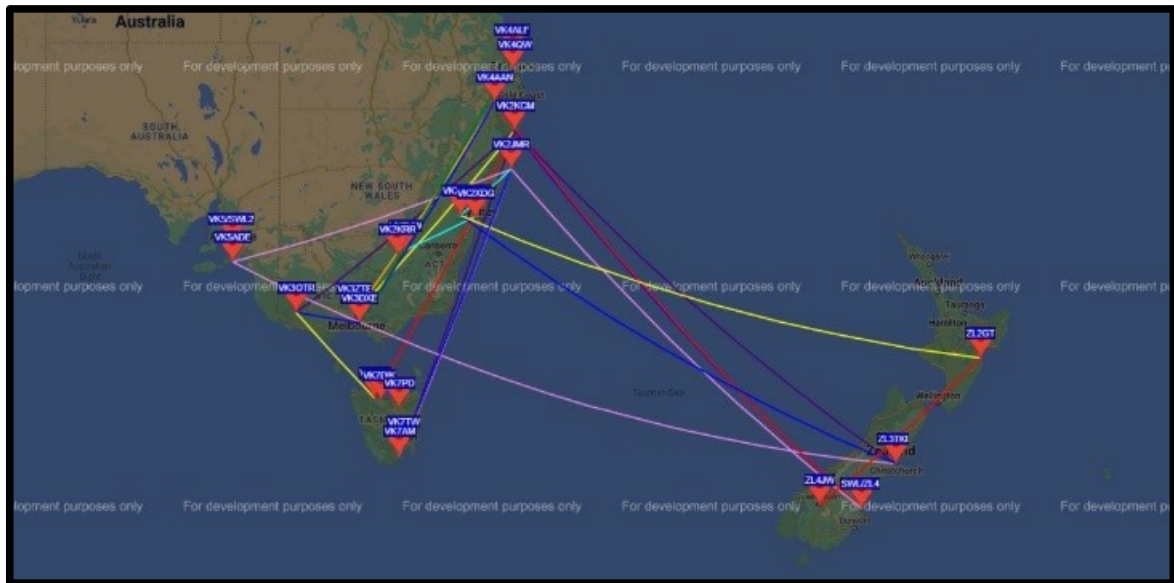
When I arrived at this point in my own button clicking training, I wondered how far I could get on HF with my 5 watts. I left the set up doing its thing for about 4 hours then checked the data and found that I was heard in Italy. Give it a go.

Also, at this stage of the WSPR project you would have configured your station with all you need to operate FT8. Bugger, sorry for swearing. Give that a go too.

## 5. Using the NARC Resource

Six and Two?? Most of us seemed to have a rig (or two 😊) that has Six and Two fitted. Propagation on these bands is different from the 'The Rest'.

We hope that commissioning of the WSPR resource encourages you to explore



6 meters at 1415 NZDT Wednesday 10 January 2024



### For Sale

1x Yaesu FL2100Z 1kw H F linear amplifier, full specs available online.

Realistic offers considered.

Because of weight must be collected from Otaki.

Tony Gilbert ZL2UAG

027 6700753



### For Sale

#### YAESU FTDX10 SDR transceiver.

Latest Model, still under factory warranty. Purchased new last March for a remote site, which did not eventuate.

Radio was unpacked, checked for 1 hour, then repacked. SAVE the duty and the freight, \$2000 ONO

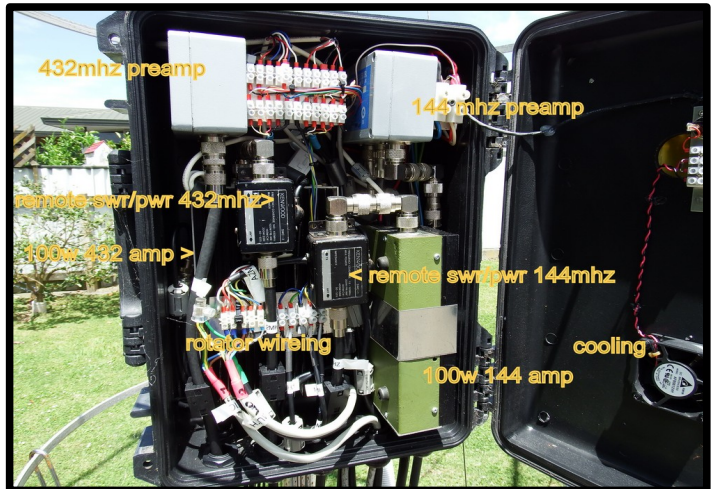
#### 9 Metre telescopic alloy mast

4 sections, 2.5 M long per section, includes stainless hard ware, pulley, nylon antenna halyard , suit inverted vee stc \$100

ZL2AN ph 06 8440109 0274 548 567

## Satellite Station for sale (Offers)

Satellite aerial/station system etc (as per the picture) for sale (offers).  
 Contact Jeff Wallace ZL2HT (Hastings 022 6198891)



## Branch 13/HBARC (November 2023) Homebrew Competition.

With several entries at our November meeting the winner was Morrie White, ZL2AAA with his

- "Matchbox" HF ATU and
- 6m ATU.

Thanks to all for your entries.



### Sterba Curtains

Prompted by an article on Sterba Curtains in the Jan 2024 QST I remembered that SK Lee Jennings ZL2AL had one in the City (New Plymouth).

I first met Lee while we both worked in New Plymouth in the mid 1970's.

I called at his house (101 Seaview Rd, NP) and found that the street footpath was above his house roof line.....on the other side of the house was a gully.

Lee spoke to the lady across the gully who had a large tree on her gully side and arranged to install a 20m Sterba Curtain across the gully.

You can see 101 Seaview Rd (Red marker) in this Google link and the far side of the Sterba Curtain was across the gully at about two o'clock, near the purple roofed house (#66A). It was impressive. If you wanted excitement one only had to ask Lee "how does it go" and stand back for an illuminating answer hi hi ? Being a new ham at the time I don't think I appreciated just how good it was but can appreciate it now. I remember that the 20m band was "alive" and full of stations.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/101+Seaview+Road,+Westown,+New+Plymouth+4310/@-39.0705959,174.0517484,208m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m6!3m5!1s0x6d144e8e990a8135:0xfa688dfe938c1128!8m2!3d-39.0710498!4d174.0521966!16s%2Ffg%2F11kprx1xk8?authuser=0&entry=ttu>

So, if you want an impressive array and great results build a Sterba Curtain.

I also remember that Lee had to remove it at the request of the NP City Council.....I don't know why, it really didn't cause a problem, but by then he had "been there and done that and had been impressed".

This is the only Sterba Curtain that I have ever seen in really life.....are there or have there ever been any others in ZL (I'd like to hear from the operator) ?

David, ZL2DW



## The Next Branch 13/HBARC Meeting

will be on 24 January at 7-30pm at the Hastings Orphans Club Rooms, on the corner of Albert St and Miller St (entry off Miller St)

At time of writing we have two possible speakers but yet to be confirmed.

Also there may be some junk to sell and/or give away.



## Future Branch 13 meeting expectations

- February meeting .....normal (at the Orphans Club Hall)
- March a visit to an electronics firm in Onekawa, Napier
- April MAYBE a return to our "home" at Pakowhai Hall (lots of Trades people were seen there in mid January upgrading it all).



## Re ZL2AJ

Have you ever wondered what Warren ZL2AJ has been doing since leaving Hastings to live in Waikato.

A few pictures of his rural "aerial farm". (No, the tower/masts are not on a lean it's a trick of photography. And sorry about the poor quality pictures).

He lives on a hill and does very well on VHF/UHF and HF.

ZL2DW



## Radio Club of America appoints Nick Pennance as a Director

(From the Tait Communications, Christchurch, internal notice board)

Tait's Chief Revenue Officer Nick Pennance has joined the Board of Radio Club of America, a long-standing national organisation which provides a bridge between the professional and amateur world's and the scientific community.

*"Sir Angus Tait was a member of the RCA and it's still important today that Tait Communications remains a part of this community,"* Nick says.

*"One of the club's aims is to encourage people to become interested and consider the industry for their careers, and that's something we can really get behind."*

Nick is not an active amateur radio user, but is licenced. His call sign is N1CKP



## The Eiffel (Radio) Tower

[https://www.google.com/search?q=digital+radio+aerial+installed+on+the+Eiffel+Tower&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enNZ898NZ898&oq=digital+radio+aerial+installed+on+the+Eiffel+Tower&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigAdIBCjMOMTY4ajBqMTWoAgCwAgA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=digital+radio+aerial+installed+on+the+Eiffel+Tower&rlz=1C1GCEA_enNZ898NZ898&oq=digital+radio+aerial+installed+on+the+Eiffel+Tower&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigAdIBCjMOMTY4ajBqMTWoAgCwAgA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

March 2022 the Eiffel Tower gets a new radio aerial making the 135 year old tower 330m high

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eiffel-tower-grows-six-metres-after-new-antenna-attached-2022-03-15/>

and

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio\\_masts\\_and\\_towers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_masts_and_towers)

ZL2DW



**Ducting is the atmospheric propagation effect whereby radio waves are refracted/reflected by flying flocks of migrating ducks.**

