

# 2KO TIMES

## Editorial

New Year's Greetings to you all.

As your new Editor I am having my say early in this newsletter. I only just realised that our next branch meeting is this week and I plan to e-mail this to you by 1 February.

Some formalities: Unfortunately and for personal reasons Hayden ZL2WD has resigned from the Editor's job so I have agreed to take over. A very big thanks to Hayden for the very readable issues he has produced over the last year or so. The more observant of you will notice that I have mostly used Hayden's layout (why fix it, if it isn't broken!). Over the next few months I may experiment with layout because I also liked Allan's simple geometric layout with columns and images. So don't be surprised if the layout changes from time to time as I get to grips with Microsoft *Publisher*.

Although I agreed to be Editor I didn't agree to be author as well. This means that you readers out there must send me material for inclusion. Coming events are essential; likewise I will be including important items from the previous committee meeting. Technical articles are also fine, particularly when short and to the point. Please acknowledge the source. If you find something interesting on the Internet, we will summarise it and supply the link so that you can find the original article. For example, Paul ZL2BEQ sent me this website regarding a ZL3 Buildathon in Christchurch.

<http://sites.google.com/site/zl3buildathon/radionzinterview>

Copy and paste it into your web browser and find out what they're doing in Christchurch. There's even an associated audio clip.

You can contact me via the club e-mail: [editor@zl2ko.org.nz](mailto:editor@zl2ko.org.nz)

Regards

Hugh ZL2BFB

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- AREC Section Leader - Len Inkpen ZL2LI
- Editor - Hugh ZL2BFB

## Jock White Field Day 2011

The Jock White Field Day is on Saturday—Sunday February 26-27 2011 at Kopane School.

If we want to try something new in the way of antennas – Pete ZL2AUB says go ahead and DO IT. If you want to transmit please let Pete know so that he can make up rosters.

Mike ZL2UKW has said that he will run the BBQ as Hayden ZL2WD will not be there this year.

## Website Upgrade

The website has been busy with updates and articles etc. We (ZL2KP & ZL2SGA) have been discussing/adding content to the website. I have added all the information that I obtained when I first became a ham. There is also up-to-date information about upcoming events. I am also working on a *Members Zone* where branch members can obtain special information, eg: SAR contact list, members list, or add an upcoming event etc.

We also have a facility where you can have your own e-mail address, in the form of [yourcallsign@zl2ko.org.nz](mailto:yourcallsign@zl2ko.org.nz) E-mail so addressed will go directly to your normal home e-mail address. You won't need to do anything and you will receive email as normal via this route.

If you would like an email address via ZL2KO please let me know. My e-mail address is [webmaster@zl2ko.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@zl2ko.org.nz)

You can also send emails to the following club officers:

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If there is anything you would like to see on our website that you think might be useful please contact me at [webmaster@zl2ko.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@zl2ko.org.nz)

Cheers  
Stuart - ZL2SGA

## ZL2KO Roster

FEB	6	ZL2ADN	APR	17	ZL2FE
FEB	13	ZL2RMH	APR	24	ZL2RMH
FEB	20	ZL2BJA	MAY	1	ZL2LI
FEB	27	ZL2FE	MAY	8	ZL2BJA
MAR	6	ZL2BEQ	MAY	15	ZL2ADN
MAR	13	ZL2AUB	MAY	22	ZL2AUB
MAR	20	ZL2IAN	MAY	29	ZL2IAN
MAR	27	ZL2BPX	JUNE	5	ZL2BPX
APR	3	ZL2LI	JUNE	12	ZL2RMH
APR	10	ZL2ADN			

## Next Club Night: Wednesday February 2

Lee Jennings ZL2AL will visit us courtesy of Bryan ZL2AFT, to award the DX prize. Following this, Mike ZL1BNB from Wanganui will tell us something of his job as NZART Local Govt. Liaison Officer, and discuss some of the issues surrounding the proposed Manawatu District Council's review of their District Plan and how it might affect our members.

# Presidents Report - Open Day 2011 - Richie ZL2KP

## Overview

The Manawatu Amateur Radio Society (MARS), Branch 20 NZART, participated in the inaugural Amateur Radio open day on Saturday the 15th of January 2011.

We were located in the Palmerston North Square, and to give the event more public appeal and impact two other local groups exhibited with us: Palmerston North Land SAR and the Palmerston North City Council Rescue Emergency Support Team (REST) who had displays and members attending.

Our accommodation was by way of two borrowed promotional tents - one from The Professionals Real Estate and the other from the REST team. Our HF antenna was a full wave 80 metre loop supported as a triangle from 2 scissor lifts supplied and delivered cost free from Hire Pool Ltd and the small branch tower. Also, a 6 metre beam with rotator was atop the tower for visual effect. Mains power was easily accessible for a nominal charge. A pre recorded APRS demonstration was played from the computer as well as a short audio recording of conversations from the local repeater which was piped into the PA system around our location.

The weather for the event was delightful with full sunshine and little wind – please arrange the same for next years event.

## Contacts

80 metre contact was established with Hawkes Bay and a number of local stations. The ambient noise level was acceptable on 80 and non existent on 40 metres. A 40 metre sked into Northland for a (non open day) members net was also completed with good signals.

## Public

We did have conversations with a small number of people who passed by. Included were hams from overseas, inactive hams in the area, CB'ers and the general public. NZART promotional material was available and was distributed to interested public.

## Marketing

Contact was made with local media to alert the public to the open day via community notices. The local community newspaper *The Guardian* had a reporter interview the MARS crew, and an article recording the event with pictures, was published in the week that followed.

## Summary

The feedback from branch members regarding the open day concept was very positive. Although participants considered the start time was too early because significant foot traffic did not appear until nearly midday, the Committee expressed interest in running similar exercises during local public events such as International Day in the Square, Esplanade Day and for the next Amateur Radio Open Day.

Preparation and setup is a huge commitment compared with the two hours we were active and a different time of year should therefore be considered. Although mid January weekends may be excellent for coastal branches who can attract holiday makers, it is less desirable for inland centres like Palmerston North, as many residents head to the beach and few students are around during mid January.

## Our recommendations (to the Organisers)

Start the open day later, e.g. 11am is better for public activity in the PNth Square.

Finish the event around 3pm – giving a 4 hour operating window.

Consider holding it later in the year when residents are not away on holiday.

Host the event on the same day as the Wireless Institute of Australia who hold a similar event. Learn from their experience.

## President's Report—(cont'd)

*(cont'd)*

On behalf of Branch 20 NZART thank you for organising the event and we look forward to the next.

Richard Prior

President - Manawatu Amateur Radio Society

*This report was adapted from that sent to the organisers of the Open Day (Ed.)*

### Inaugural “Shack Raid”

Our first social event for this year is to be our inaugural “Shack Raid”. We have many hams in the Manawatu who live out of the city and smaller towns (President and past presidents included) Branch 20 will start the 2011 social calendar with a Shack Raid – the first of a series. This will be an afternoon event involving family and friends and putting faces to the voices we only hear on the air. We will see where fellow hams live, what their stations look like and meet their families. Apart from driving to new locations shack raids will enable us to see first hand the fascinating things others do with their hobby.

Because it will be more of a social event and less of a radio event the Shack Raid should be a great afternoon out for the whole family. A spinoff could be assisting with the hosts project e.g. antenna erection.

To start the years social calendar (with a little radio thrown in) our first 'Shack Raid' will be held on Saturday 5 February. Departure time for those in Palmerston North will be 3pm with the Raid Master (ZL2KO) on 7125 repeater. Just listen for check-in information and instructions.

Our first location is already decided and will be revealed on the afternoon (some mystery here!), so plan to be home later Saturday night.

The event is open to all who wish to come. Anybody wanting transport will be picked as guests proceed to the day's destination. Bring wives, girlfriends (boyfriends), kids (it's a family event, remember). Also invite hams new to the area, newly licenced hams, those we have not seen or heard from for a while, those who seldom (never) get along to a Branch meetings or nets and any prospective new members.

Make sure the 2 metre transceiver is tuned up and ready to go into the car.

Because it's mid summer our first Shack Raid will include a barbecue, so bring your own meat, small salad and bebies to be shared pot luck style. The host will provide condiments, tea coffee, plates, disposable knives & forks, barbeque, ice and icebox to put bebies in, and floor space for those who prefer not to return home that evening (one of those parties? Ed.)

To give the organisers an indication of who is coming and how many need transport please advise Richie (Inaugural Social Convenor) Phone (06) 825 6270 (Manawatu residents call free).

Richie – ZL2KP / VK2IAX

**Thanks Richie for your information. We look forward to hearing from you again next month. Ed.**

## M.A.R.S

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## Upcoming Meetings

2nd February 2011 - General Meeting  
16th February 2011 - Committee Meeting  
23rd March 2011 - Afternoon Meeting

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 kHz LSB

### Netmasters

February 6th John ZL2ADN See page 2 of this issue for the latest roster.

## Branch 20 Contact Information

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