NZART and AREC AGM's

Following postponement of the AGM's due to COVID-19, NZART have advised that they will now take place on Saturday 5 September.

The NZART AGM will start at 10.30am, followed by the AREC AGM.

Location will be the Brentwood Hotel, 16 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington.

Both AGM's are free, however you must be an AREC member to attend.

AREC Membership Database

Darren ZL2DAZ and Lindsey ZL4KS have advised that the project is nearly completed and we will be producing a membership card for all members in the coming months.

AREC Clothing, Protective Equipment and Branding Project

Deputy National Director (Northern) Andrew Brill ZL1COP reports that good progress is being made on this project.

"The team is made up of Rob Wallace ZL2SG, Mike Trump ZL3XD, Brian Holland ZL4WX, Brian Purdie ZL2ADL, Lindsey Ross ZL4KS and Soren Low ZL1SKL – their diverse backgrounds and experience with AREC and other groups has brought a great dynamic to the work".

AREC Asset Audit

With the membership database now close to completion, Lindsey ZL4KS and Darren ZL2DAZ are turning their attention to the asset audit.

"There has been a lot of change in our groups over the last few years, and our record keeping hasn't been the best" says Lindsay, "this work is about understanding what we have and where it is. This will ensure it is available when we need it but it is also about identifying where our gaps are" he says.

"We will be contacting Group Leaders but if anyone else has AREC owned gear, or knows where some could be, we would love to hear from you".

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

July 2020 is a significant date in AREC's history – this is the first time that we have had paid resources to support our volunteers deliver to our partner agencies.

Many of you will remember the journey we have been on. With changes in technology, approaches to health and safety, changes within the Civil Defence sector, and the ramp-up of Search & Rescue (amongst others), the last 10-years have seen a big shift in what we do and who we do it for.

What is really important is how we continue to reinvent ourselves, and how we can embrace change to add value to the groups we work with. New radio, IT and the "internet of things" technologies brings new challenges and opportunities.

Fundamentally, our mission is unchanged from our founding after the Napier earthquakes; we exist to provide emergency communications. However, that cannot limit us. Without doubt, every car rally, fun run, SAREX or even group training session, allows us to hone our skills so we are ready when we are needed.

Next month I will introduce you to the team and update you on what we are doing to build a relevant organisation for the future.

In the meantime, keep your thoughts and comments coming.

Don Robertson ZL2TYR, AREC National Director

Wellington District Manager Appointed
By Don Robertson, ZL2TYR

Hi folks, I am pleased to advise the appointment of John Murphy ZL2XJ to the role of Wellington District Manager.

John recently retired and is keen to get involved in AREC. While he hasn't been involved with AREC up until now, he thinks this is an exciting time to be joining, as the team commences the rebuilding and revitalisation of the organisation as a fit for purpose emergency services radio communications provider.

He has been involved with both Branch 50 Wellington Amateur Radio Club and Branch 74 Wellington VHF Group. For the past couple years been part of the Branch 50 WARC committee, helping them with the organisation and delivery of some of their Shed meetings and new ideas, plus their involvement in field day, SOTA, POTA, and the Wellington Maker Faire.

His radio and electronics work background started off with the Post Office at the old NZPO Radio Depot in Wellington where he completed a Radio Technicians qualifications and then NZCE (Telecommunications). While with the Radio Depot he worked across their various sections for VHF / UHF Land-mobile, Microware trunk bearer network, and the Wellington Maritime HF radio station ZLW.

He then went on to spend 35+ years in Australia and New Zealand working in computers and IT infrastructure undertaking various engineering, project management, consulting, and IT management roles mainly within Investment Banking. He has travelled extensively for work throughout Asia, the US, the UK, and Europe undertaking project delivery, vendor negotiations, training, and consulting. He has had experience in business continuity planning, IT security risk management, dealing room infrastructure, data centres, mobile telecommunications, tendering and procurement, as well as business management having setup and run a couple of IT and management consulting businesses.

It is in the last three years that he has returned to NZ and taken up Amateur Radio. "So I'm an old Ham but new blood to the hobby" John says.

His other interest is Harley Davidson motorbikes and he is a member of the Harley Owners Group (HOG) and part of the Wellington chapter committee as their webmaster and has an interest in Off-road 4-Wheel Driving.

AREC CDEM operations in the Auckland Region
By Andy Brill ZL1COP

Auckland region AREC operates under a memorandum of understanding with Auckland Emergency Management, the Auckland Council agency responsible for providing Civil Defence and Emergency Management service throughout Auckland.
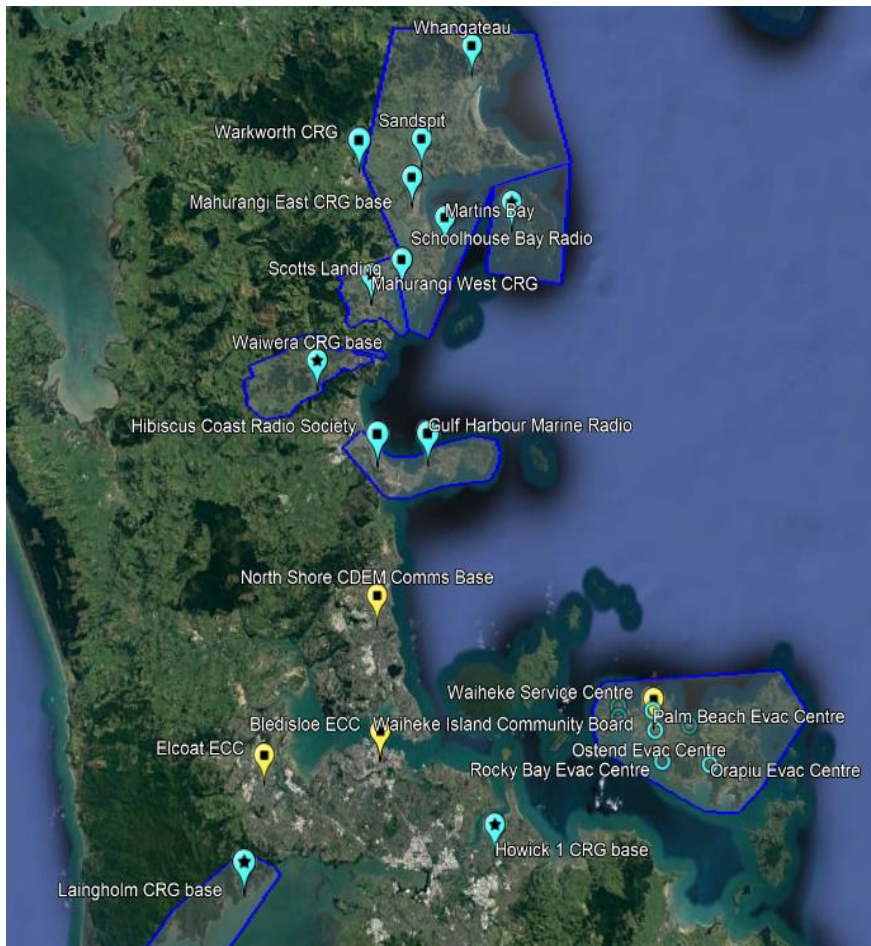
The AREC role is to provide communications support for volunteer community resilience groups (CRG's) and to establish comms between the local groups and the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) in Auckland City.

AREC operate a communications base at a Council owned building in Sunnynook, which also acts as the clubrooms for the North Shore Radio club, (Branch 29 NZART).

There are 13 local CRG's across Auckland, the majority of these groups are in areas with limited access and have the potential to be cut off in the event of a major incident.

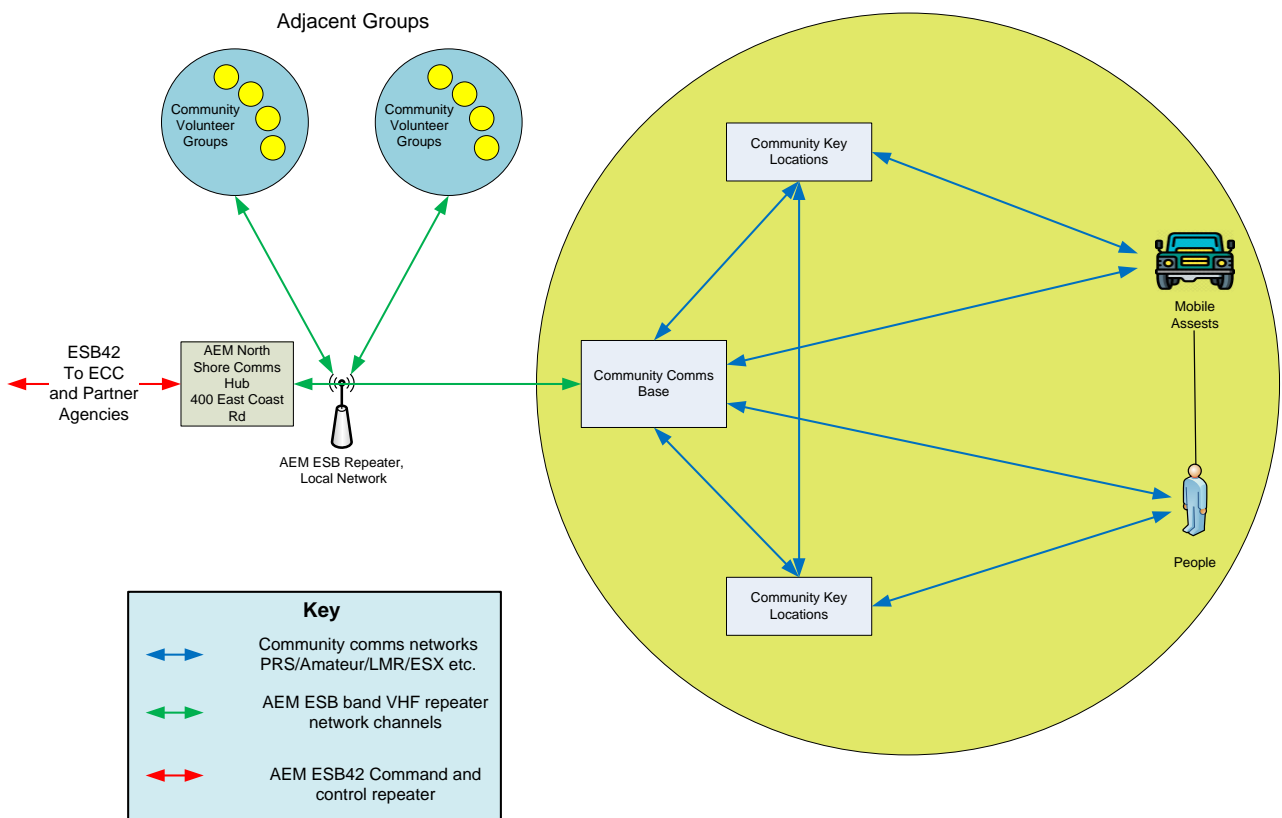*Right – Alan ZL1TUQ working CRG stations from the North Shore Communications Base*

The groups receive support and advice from Auckland Emergency Management but are self-governing and are responsible for their own local communications networks. These vary depending on the location and the needs of the community and include UHF PRS, 26 MHz CB, Amateur radio, and private EE Band radio.

Many of the groups include licenced hams among their members and quite a few people have studied for and obtained amateur licenses in order to assist with establishing their local networks.

The North Shore AREC comms base communicates with the CRG's via the AEM ESB VHF repeater network to provide the link between the community and the Auckland ECC and other members agencies of the Auckland CDEM group.

AREC tests the network weekly and provides operators for the Communications base during an emergency. We are also responsible for the maintenance and deployment of four ESB band portable repeaters as required (two on a dedicated AEM special operations channel ESB132 and two on the Interagency liaison channel ESB164

In addition to manning the system AREC provides technical advice and operational training to the Community groups to ensure they have the capability to operate their own local comms systems when required.

Above - Community Groups, internal communications networks

The Structure of the AEM Network

The North Shore Comms base is operated by AREC is able to access seven AEM VHF repeater sites at throughout the Auckland region.

The ESB 42 repeater on the Waitakere ranges is designated as the primary command and control channel, and provides comms between North Shore Comms Base and:
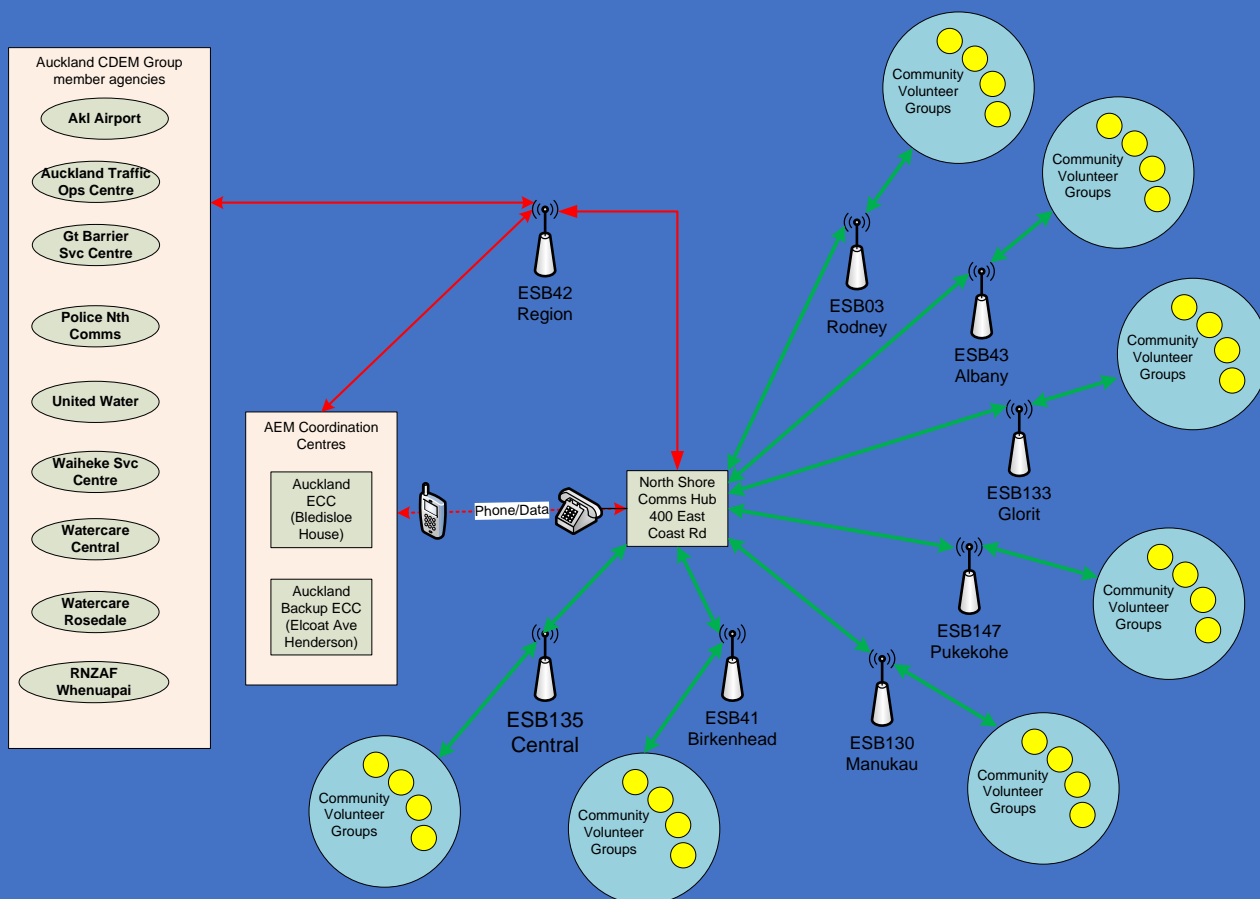
- **Auckland Emergency Coordination Centre - Auckland City**
- **Backup ECC at Henderson in West Auckland**
- **Auckland Airport,**
- **Auckland Traffic Operations Centre (ATOC)**
- **Auckland Council Great Barrier Island Service Centre**
- **Auckland Council Waiheke Island Service Centre**
- **NZ Police Northern Communications Centre**
- **United water**
- **Watercare Central Auckland**
- **Watercare wastewater facility – Rosedale**
- **RNZAF base Auckland – Whenuapai**

Local area repeaters provide links to CRGs

- **ESB 03 Tamahanga (Rodney area)**
- **ESB133 Glorit (Helensville area)**
- **ESB135 Waitakere (Auckland City)**
- **ESB41 Birkenhead (Auckland CBD)**
- **ESB130 Kawakawa Bay – Hunua Ranges (South Auckland)**
- **ESB147 Pukekohe (Franklin area)**
- **EE181 Waiheke Island Community Network**

In addition to the AEM repeaters the AREC comms base has access to a number of other relevant channels including

- **AEM tactical VHF simplex channels**
- **Auckland Response team VHF and UHF tactical channels**
- **Waiheke Island emergency services liaison UHF repeater**
- **Marine VHF, SAR and DOC channel**
- **UHF PRS**
- **Full range of Amateur HF, VHF and UHF.**

Interested in joining us?

In the past AREC CDEM operations in Auckland have been predominantly conducted by members of Branch 29, North Shore. This is mainly because the comms base is co-sited with the branch clubrooms at the North Shore Council premises.

Branch 29 members conduct the regular radio checks with the CRG's every Wednesday morning between 0845 and 0930. Although we have a core of regular operators for the checks it would be good to get the some involvement from hams throughout the rest of Auckland.

We are currently in the process of organising training and communication exercises for the CRG members and we would welcome some help from other branches or interested individual in maintaining this aspect of public service radio. It is an ideal opportunity for people who do not necessarily want to go out into the bush in the middle of a weather event but would like to use their radio skills to help the community.

There is plenty of potential to diversify the operation to expand our operations to sites other than North Shore, and this would be a prudent move to ensure we have backup facilities if needed.

So, If you would like to become involved in the CDEM side of AREC in Auckland – get in touch.

Above - Maintaining the Mast – North Shore Communications Base.

You don't need to belong to Branch 29 or any other branch. If you are interested call us and we will can outline the options.

Contact Andy Brill at Andy.Brill@arec.nz or phone 0223546451

Health and Safety is the responsibility of us all

Remember to:

STOP – In your mind you need to be constantly pausing and evaluating no matter the task or the location.

THINK – You need to think about what you see. Identify Hazards and associated Risk (the chance of it going wrong)

PLAN – Talk to others, compare notes, make a plan

COMMUNICATE – Brief the plan and plan to brief others as they arrive.

ACT – Execute the plan, monitor and review progress.

As required – STOP again and then re-Think, re-Plan, Communicate & re-Act.