



**AREC.info is the newsletter of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, the public service arm of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters. AREC.info is published monthly (except January).**



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**Cover:**

*Summer is a great opportunity to enjoy some of the "On the Air" programmes, and prepare for portable operation at the same time!*



**AREC Administration – Debbie and Annalise**  
[admin@arec.nz](mailto:admin@arec.nz), 04 939 2189

**Newsletter Editor - Soren Low, ZL1SKL**  
[newsletter@arec.nz](mailto:newsletter@arec.nz), 021 813 541

**Amateur Radio Emergency Communications**

**National Officers:**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
 Don Robertson, ZL2TYR  
[ceo@arec.nz](mailto:ceo@arec.nz), 021 654 085

**Regional Manager North**  
 Andrew Brill, ZL1COP  
[RMNth@arec.nz](mailto:RMNth@arec.nz), 022 354 6451

**Regional Manager Central**  
 Don Wallace, ZL2TLL  
[RMCent@arec.nz](mailto:RMCent@arec.nz), 027 444 5123

**Regional Manager South**  
 Lindsey Ross, ZL4KS  
[RMSth@arec.nz](mailto:RMSth@arec.nz), 021 116 1686

**Project Coordinator**  
 John Murphy, ZL2XJ  
[projects@arec.nz](mailto:projects@arec.nz), 021 0807 5075

**National Training Advisor**  
 Steve Davis, ZL2UCX  
[training@arec.nz](mailto:training@arec.nz), 027 436 1796

**Health & Safety Advisor**  
 Dave Wilkins, ZL1MR  
[hsw@arec.nz](mailto:hsw@arec.nz), 021 185 7903

**Treasurer – Evan Sayer**  
[Treasurer@arec.nz](mailto:Treasurer@arec.nz), 021 612 164

**District Managers:**

**Northland/Auckland – Richard Gamble**  
[DMAuckland@arec.nz](mailto:DMAuckland@arec.nz), 021 729 270

**Bay of Plenty – Karl Hunt**  
[DMBOP@arec.nz](mailto:DMBOP@arec.nz), 021 167 0477

**Central – Brian Purdie**  
[DMCentral@arec.nz](mailto:DMCentral@arec.nz), 027 321 4470

**Eastern – John Newson**  
[DMEastern@arec.nz](mailto:DMEastern@arec.nz), 027 230 3642

**Wellington – John Murphy**  
[DMWellington@arec.nz](mailto:DMWellington@arec.nz), 021 0807 5075

**Tasman – Paul Rennie**  
[DMTasman@arec.nz](mailto:DMTasman@arec.nz), 027 458 9740

**Canterbury – Don MacDonald**  
[DMCanterbury@arec.nz](mailto:DMCanterbury@arec.nz), 027 551 6683

**Southern – Lindsay Eunson**  
[DMSouthern@arec.nz](mailto:DMSouthern@arec.nz), 027 432 5136

## Welcome to our last issue for the year!

Well, we have almost made it to Christmas. It has been another challenging year with COVID-19 creating some disruption and cancellation of events etc., but overall we have continued to make good progress.

### AREC Awards

I would like to open by congratulating Barry Johnson ZL2BAZ and Andrew Mackie ZL2HZ for their contribution to Civil Defence and AREC in the Nelson area. The awards were presented by Marlborough District Manager Paul Rennie ZL2RE.

This is significant achievement, and I would like to personally acknowledge their contribution over all of these years.

And thank you to Jim Meachen ZL2BHF for sharing the photo.



### District Training Sessions

We have been able to complete most of our District Training sessions around the country, with only Auckland and Northland to go. It is hoped we can complete these in the New Year.

The sessions have been well attended and I have really enjoyed the open dialogue about where we are heading, and what we need to be doing for the future.

You will read about the Lower North Island training elsewhere in this issue. The photo above is from Karl Hunt ZL3RUM taken at the recent Bay of Plenty session with Steve Davis ZL2UCX talking to the team about Digital Mobile Radio.

### NZ SAR Multi-Agency Workshop

NZ SAR held a sector-wide two-day workshop in late November that was attended by AREC. There was a combination of sector presentations for AREC, Coastguard, LandSAR and Surf Life Saving including the new Police Assistant District SAR Coordinators as well as regional break-out groups where local issues and opportunities were discussed.

Our AREC Regional and District Managers attended the Wellington session, with Northland and Auckland joining remotely due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Thanks to Karl Hunt ZL3RUM for sharing the photo.



Finally, thank you everyone for your support and contribution to AREC this year. I would like to wish you, and your families, all the very best for the festive season and look forward to catching up in 2022!

*Don, ZL2TYR*

Chief Executive Officer, AREC



# Summer ... On the Air!

Summer is a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy portable operations. And there are an increasing number of programmes that encourage and reward operators; both the portable operators and those who work them.



*Above: Rick Jackson ZL3RIK working Dobson Peak, ZL3/CB-197 as part of the Summits on the Air (SOTA) programme. Rick activated with John ZL3MR as part of an annual memorial weekend which commemorates Andrew White ZL3CC (SK) who was an early activator of SOTA peaks in New Zealand. Photo: Rick Jackson ZL3RIK*

“As well as being fun, portable operation is a great way to hone skills which are fundamental to AREC” says AREC CEO Don Robertson ZL2TYR. “And the proliferation of programs which suit all ages and abilities mean there is no better time to give it a go.” There are a number of “on the air” programmes, such as:

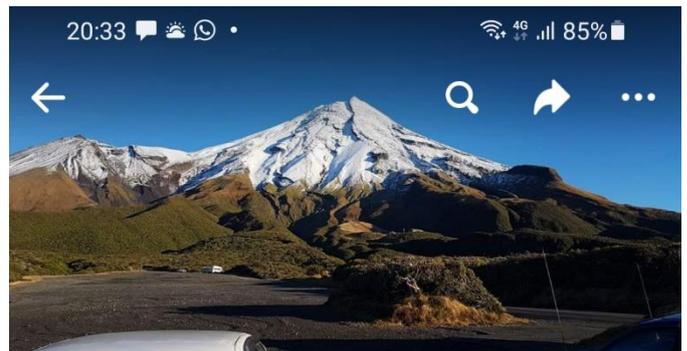
**SOTA**, or Summits on the Air, encourages operators to work from hill and mountain tops.  
[Summits on the Air \(sota.org.uk\)](http://sota.org.uk)

**POTA**, or Parks on the Air, encourages operations from parks and allows you to work from your vehicle.  
[Parks on the Air | POTA | Parks program for amateur radio.](#)

**Lakes on the Air** encourages operators to work from lakes (you don't have to be on the lake, you can be next to it).

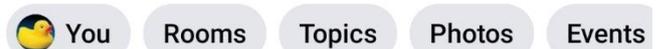
**HOTA**, or Huts on the Air encourages operations from many of the backcountry huts we have here in New Zealand.

*Right: The ZL SOTA Facebook group has been re-named to include other portable operations and is a good place to share notes and learn about upcoming activations.*



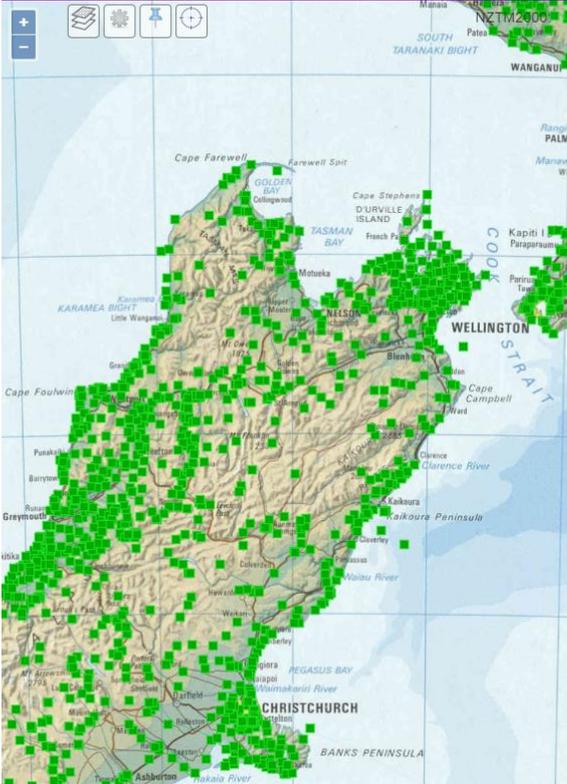
## ZL SOTA and other /P >

Private group · 327 members



**ON THE AIR** Home OnTheAir Info Places Recent Results Spots Alerts Sign in Sign up

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## ZL ... On The Air

Parks
Huts
Islands
POTA Parks
WWFF Parks
Lakes
SOTA Summits

### What's New

Right of access? Check before you go!  
 ZL4NVW updated in ZLOTA - What's New on 2021-11-26

ZLOTA (ontheair.nz) lists all features in NZ irrespective of whether they are on public or private land, and whether there is a right of access by the public or not.

Check that access is allowed before you go, and whether permission is required. See [this article](#) for more information on public access to land in NZ.

### Top ten

Bagged v		Activated v			Chased v		
Position	Callsign	Park v	Hut v	Island v	Lake v	P2P v	GRP v
1	ZL4NVW	85	101	4	13	166	122
2	ZL3RIK	67	2	0	60	43	37
3	ZL1BQD	61	2	0	54	37	8
4	ZL2ATH	37	33	0	20	48	41
5	ZL1TM	36	2	0	7	0	1
6	ZL3QR	35	2	0	39	1	0
6	ZL1BYZ	35	0	0	14	1	4
6	ZL3MR	35	0	0	14	1	10

A great resource is the ZL On the Air website, <https://ontheair.nz> This site, developed by Matt Briggs ZL4NVW, is full of information about the various programmes available in ZL – it is definitely worth a visit!

**NZART promote Portable Operating Day each year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January**  
 More information can be found here [NZART-NZART Portable Activity Day](#)



*Above: A temporary POTA set up with VHF and HF radios in the camper van, ready for Summer On the Air!*

# Meet the Team

***This column is to introduce you to the real AREC, that is the individuals that share a common interest and passion that make up our organisation***

This month we would like to introduce you to our new Central Region Manager, **Don Wallace ZL2TLL**.

Don's name will be familiar to many; he has been a long-time Amateur with involvement at local and national levels for over 50 years.

His interest in radio goes right back to primary school where he earned the nickname Walkie-Talkie Wally after building a (non-functional) back-pack radio out of an old tea chest. His next projects actually worked and included a phone link to his next door neighbour and a broadcast band transmitter using (then new) transistors. When he tried to get a license for the transmitter, the Radio Inspectors steered him in the direction of Amateur Radio.

He went on to be licensed in 1969, while at secondary school.

Don made his interests his career, joining the Post Office and studying telecommunications engineering at Canterbury University.

He continued with Amateur Radio while at university, and built one of the first "Wellington Walkies", a project of the Wellington VHF group to make 2m FM accessible to the hobby. In fact, he and wife Lynne put together the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> hundred of these kits.

Don has been heavily involved in the Wellington VHF group, where he was awarded life membership as a recognition of his contributions. He regularly attends NZART conferences and VHF conventions – even attending one conference on his honeymoon (and has won the stirrers award twice!)

Until this year, he was NZART's Administration Liaison Officer, a role he held since 2007. This is an important position as it is the one that works and negotiates with Radio Spectrum Management on behalf of all Amateurs in New Zealand. The pressure on our slice of the spectrum cannot be understated and having a practical and meaningful relationship with regulators is important for the future of our hobby.

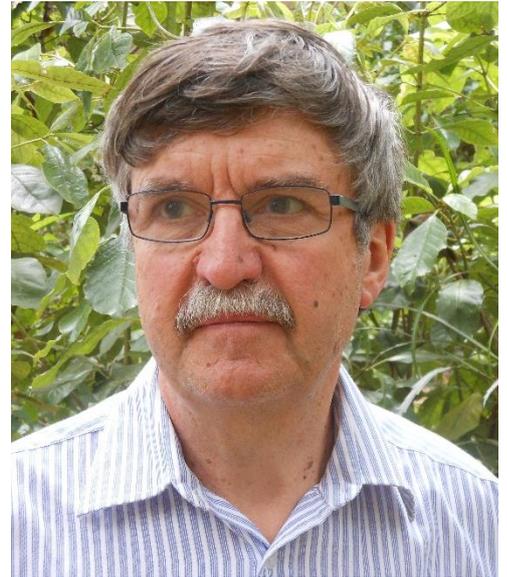
In this role, he attended the 2012 and 2015 World Radio Conferences as part of the New Zealand Government team.

Outside of Amateur Radio, he has had long involvement in the voluntary sector – including 18 years as a senior leader in the Scout movement. He is a member of the Red Cross IT & Telecommunications Emergency Response Unit, responding to major disasters in Vanuatu, Nepal, The Phillipines and Indonesia.

He is no stranger to AREC, having been involved in a number of events over the years.

When asked about his new challenge, Don says "stepping down from the ALO role means I now have time to look at other ways of supporting the hobby. I really like the look of where where AREC is heading and look forward to continuing my contribution to Amateur Radio."

AREC CEO Don Robertson ZL2TYR adds "we are fortunate to have Don in our team – he has a broad set of skills which will really add value to AREC."



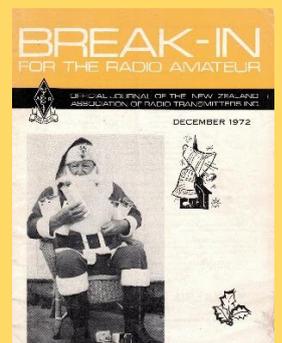
## The Wellington Walkie

Back in 1972, \$55.00 could buy you a 6-channel hand-held FM 0.6W transceiver kitset for use in the two-metre band.

These came about due to the lack of gear available to the average Amateur who wanted to get into this new channelised FM mode of operation.

The kits included everything you needed to build the radio; including the case, printed circuit boards, knobs, battery holder, nuts, bolts, wire and solder.

*The cover photo on the December 1972 issue of Break-In showed Santa himself surrounded by no less than 10 of these Wellington Walkies!*



## Lower North Island Training

*John Murphy ZL2XJ*

The AREC Training Day for the Lower North Island groups was held in Palmerston North on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November.



The two-day session was well attended by over 20 District Managers, Group Leaders and their deputies from Wellington, Central and Eastern Districts. This followed a similar agenda as has been reported in recent issues of *AREC.info*, and was a great opportunity for our members to connect with AREC National and hear more about our journey and future “straight from the horses mouth”, so to say.

The Eastern District team were recalled Saturday afternoon to head back to Napier to attend a SAROp for a missing hunter. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/127064819/hunter-rescued-after-two-nights-stranded-in-central-north-island-back-country>

And it was nice to see AREC get a mention in the LandSAR New Zealand / Hawkes Bay LandSAR Facebook posts <https://www.facebook.com/105882869599/posts/10159486486799600> and <https://www.facebook.com/HawkesBayLandsar/posts/2239521979680747>

## Survey Winners Announced!

AREC Training Officer Steve Davis ZL2UCX has announced the winners of the prize draw from the recent AREC Training Survey. They are:

**First Prize**

**TYT UHF DMR Radio**

**Rob Stokes ZL1RJS**

**Second Prize**

**One-year subscription to NZART**

**Paul Rennie ZL2RE**

“I would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey” said Steve, “I know surveys can be difficult to find the time to complete but we had a pretty good return rate and there were some excellent comments that we can use to help develop a system that will be beneficial for our members.”

### Marlborough (Te Kopahou) VHF DMR Repeater

We featured the Te Kopahou AREC DMR-MARC repeater in our last issue, as this has become a permanent site please note the change of frequency to:

**145.325 MHz**

ZL-TRBO AREC DMR Repeater Network				ZL-TRBO Channel Details				
Location	Repeater Output	Repeater Input	Status	Colour Code	Timeslot	Talkgroup		Description
						Number	Name	
Auckland	439.7000	434.7000	On air	1	2	530	ZL	All NZ, General
Hamilton	439.7250	434.7250	On air	1	1	8	ZK	All NZ, AREC
Tauranga	439.7500	434.7500	On air	1	2	9	LCL	Local Area
Hawke's Bay	439.2375	434.2375	On air	1	1	1	WW	Worldwide
Manawatu	439.7125	434.7125	On air	1	1	13	WWE	Worldwide English
Kapiti	439.7000	434.7000	On air	1	1	113	UAE1	User Activated English 1
Porirua	439.7500	434.7500	On air	1	1	123	UAE2	User Activated English 2
Porirua 33cm	927.8000	915.8000	On air	1	1	119	UAA1	User Activated 1 (any language)
Wellington	439.7250	434.7250	On air	1	1	129	UAA2	User Activated 2 (any language)
Wellington 33cm	927.8500	915.8500	On air	1	1	153	DMRpSP	DMR Plus South Pacific
Wairarapa	433.8250	438.8250	On air	1	1	99	Simplex	Simplex
Marlborough 2m	145.3250	144.7250	On air	<b>Radio Settings:</b> Use Timeslot 2 for ZL and Local and Timeslot 1 for all others All Timeslot 1 talkgroups are PTT activated Admit Criteria - Colour Code Free Automatic Registration Service (ARS) - Disabled IP Site Connect (IPSC) - Enable <b>Recommended Primary Simplex:</b> 144.675, 432.800, 925.800MHz <b>Legacy / Secondary Simplex:</b> 146.5875, 432.7625MHz				
Tasman	439.6875	434.6875	On air					
Christchurch	439.7000	434.7000	On air					
Oamaru	439.2375	434.2375	On air					
Dunedin	439.7000	434.7000	On air					
2m DMR STSP	146.8750	146.2750	Portable Repeater					
70cm DMR STSP	438.7500	433.7500	Portable Repeater					

*Users outside the network coverage area can connect using a local or personal hotspot connected to DMRplus reflector 4850 as detailed on the DMR section of the AREC.nz website.*

Further information: <http://arec.nz/arec-dmr-network/>

## Health, Safety & Welfare

*David Wilkins ZL1MR*

As the Covid-19 (CV-19) landscape and requirements change AREC need to adapt and respond. Legislative changes have now formalised the previous WorkSafe advice as to how to assess the level of hazard presented by CV-19 exposure across different roles in an organisation.

In addition, several of our SAR Partner organisations and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the new version of CDEM, have assessed the CV-19 Hazard and have determined what level of control is required in order to ensure Risk remains at an acceptable level. For key roles this meant that full vaccination is the only acceptable solution.

AREC has now carried out a full Hazard assessment using similar objective criteria and has generated a Covid-19 Safety Standard. This is 5 pages long and has an additional 3-page Appendix explaining what to do if someone gets infected by CV-19.

The key summary is on page one and reads:

### Vaccination Requirements – Summary

These requirements apply to all persons acting at the specified role level and includes: new entrants, interns, trainees, temporary staff, and any visitors to a site where a role is operative e.g., SAR base.

**Green** means no hazard present apart from immediate contacts with the role.

**Yellow** means people who may have contact with operational members of AREC and have an increased chance of transmitting CV-19 to operational roles or of being infected if unvaccinated.

**Red** means the role requires fully vaccinated persons i.e., member/staff able to produce a valid vaccination certificate or other acceptable proof on demand prior to participating in the AREC Activity.

**Public health preventive safety measures** such as masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, must also be applied at all levels to match the control requirements as advised by Government from time-to-time.

The vaccination requirements summarised in this table are based on the hazard exposure for each role. The assessments were made using the [AREC COVID-19 Role Risk Assessment Tool](#) later in this Standard. In addition, notes have been added to show if a SAR partner requires vaccination of persons on a site.

Role	Risk	Vaccination certification or preventive actions
Administration & National Officers	Medium	Vax cert preferred; and/or preventive measures required
Support – home based role only	Low	No Vax cert but preventive measures as required
Base – operator/support	HIGH	Vax cert required – SAR partner specified
Field – operations/support	HIGH	Vax cert required – may have contact with SAR/public
Technician – field only	Medium	Vax cert preferred; and/or preventive measures required
Comms unit leader SAR or CDEM	HIGH	Vax cert required – SAR partner specified
Group Leaders + District & Regional Mgrs.	HIGH	Vax cert required – may have contact with SAR/public
Tutors & Trainees	HIGH	Vax cert required – close contact too difficult to avoid

The standard can be found here <https://arec.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/COVID-19-SafetyPlan-2021-12-03-v2-ZK6EXH.pdf>. I encourage all members to read it so you can understand the wider context of the Safety Standard, the details of the assessment tool used, the process for managing unvaccinated members of AREC and vaccination exemptions, and so on.

If you have any questions regarding this Safety Standard, please direct these to your Group Leader, District Manager, or AREC Health Safety and Wellbeing Advisor [HSW@arec.nz](mailto:HSW@arec.nz).

As 2021 ends, I would like to thank everyone for your feedback, discussion and enthusiasm over this past year. If you would like to know more about AREC's approach to Health, Safety and Wellbeing – please reach out.

Have a safe Christmas everyone, catch you in the New Year!

*David Wilkins ZL1MR*  
AREC Health & Safety Advisor



### 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.