



NZ Association of Radio Transmitters Inc  
**HUTT VALLEY BRANCH 18**

PO Box 30519  
Lower Hutt

ZL2HV

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**June 2006 Newsletter**

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**Disclaimer:** *Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NZART or Branch 18.*

**Congratulations to Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ.**

The Branch is very familiar with Fred's work for the Amateur Radio movement both nationally and internationally. The following is the official notice of an award he has just received.

*Fred Johnson is elected a Fellow of IPENZ for his contribution to the application of engineering and technology in the community; specifically recognising his contributions to amateur radio both in New Zealand and internationally. He represented New Zealand at several international radio spectrum management fora and has held office as the Chairman of Directors of the International Amateur Radio Union's region three. Fred's voluntary contribution spans several decades, continuing long after he retired from the workforce. He was recognised for his contribution to amateur radio in New Zealand when he became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002.*

Well done Fred, and had knighthoods still been in vogue I am sure that I would have had the pleasure of calling you SIR FRED! You will always be welcome at Branch 18 – both socially and as a guest speaker.

## **Safety and Security considerations ...**

### **Safety**

I am happy to report that we have met the main safety requirements of “enclosed meeting places”. The fire extinguisher has been serviced and installed with clear instructions for it’s use. The cargo net has been placed over cartons above the “spares” shelving. All shelving has been bolted to the concrete walls and the UHF repeater has also been security bolted.... The remaining small “loose” bits and pieces (trophies vintage Morse keys etc will be treated with “blue tack” and all will be well....

### **Security**

The Club room security is also being attended to... the door is to be “refurnished” in a manner that will give added density and security. Window Bars in the Transmitting room will be re-examined and fitted to give better security.... It’s all happening I tell you... My special thanks especially go to Phil and Ted for their involvement in this matter.

### **The “Big Clean Up”**

Cable ducting has been located – Richard ZL2TCU has advised that he has found some ducting that will do the job nicely..... This will allow us to streamline the cabling behind and between the computers and generally present less of a “shambles”

### **Last Meeting....**

The last meeting was both informative and entertaining... Bruce ZL2WP briefed us on the progress made in attempting to get a grant for the branch to obtain Audio Visual equipment

The application to the Community Trust has now been forwarded we are applying for a Lap top Computer, a Video projector and a new Generator.... It will probably be a while before we here how fortunate or unfortunate we may be. The reasons given for these needs are Training and education services, and the necessity to meet Amateur Radio Emergency Communications responsibilities..... Once again thanks to those involved in obtaining quotes and assessing the material applied for...

We were then shown some very sophisticated equipment used for analysis purposes in hospitals... The engineering of this equipment included Laser technology. ZL2DON guided us through the processes of identification and instrumentation required...

### **Next meeting.....**

The next meeting is of course the AGM. This will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Branch Rooms. To date no remits have come forward, but will of course be accepted from the floor.

The existing committee have indicated that they are prepared to re-stand for a further term, however if there are any nominations for Committee they will be accepted from the floor. – At the time of writing I have only seen one nomination – that for the position of President... Who? Come to the meeting and find out!!!

I confirm that I will not be standing for a further term of President, despite the pleasure of having been president for two years... **Time for a change I feel....**

**Please bring this newsletter with you as you may wish to comment on the attachments.**

### **Wellington Radio Expo.....2006**

There was a meeting on the evening of the **26 APRIL 7.30 pm** in Branch 18 Club rooms to de-brief and generally summarise the event and make preps for the next one... The minutes of that meeting are attached...

### **Mystery Solved...**

A casual comment made during a conversation about a mysterious “camera type thingy” on a pole near the Melling lights caused an in depth study, and our “Secret Agent” at Branch (Who cannot, for security reasons, be named) went “under cover” and solved the problem.... Here is an extract from the report given to our secretary

\*\*\*\*\* tells me the camera in question is a Mobotix camera from Germany. There is also one at the Kennedy Good Bridge. It is connected by ADSL Broadband to the internet. As you have already ascertained, it is not a pan-tilt-zoom camera. However, it has two lenses - one low light, one daylight. Every hour the camera sends a picture to their website.

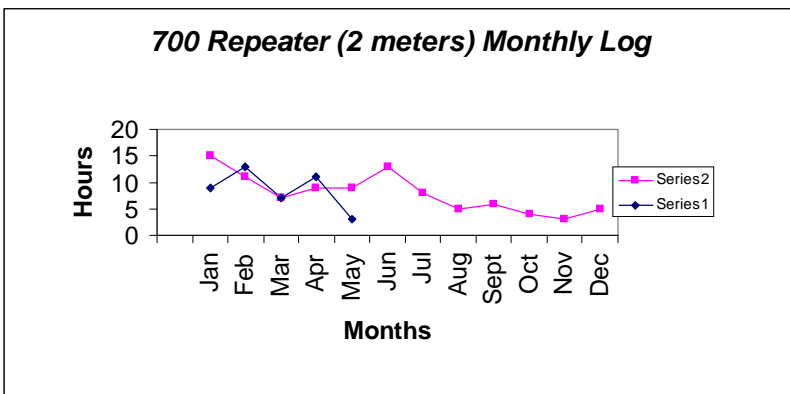
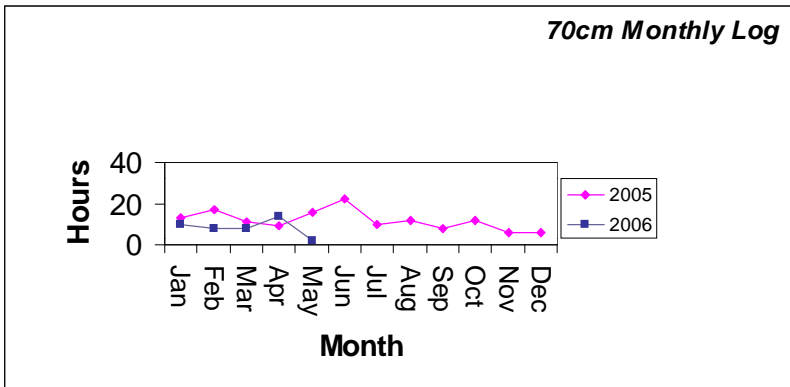
The camera was a temporary install originally, but it has been up for a year. They never quite got around to putting in the duct, as you can see by the wire just lying on the ground! Their contract runs out at the end of June. It was a trial at their own cost, and they might put in a duct if their contract gets renewed. The camera has been useful, especially for responding to calls at 2:00 am saying "The Melling Lights are stuck on red". Then they can just have a look on the pictures on the internet and see if the lights are really stuck on red, instead of having to go out in the middle of the night to have a look.

So now we all know – Special thanks to our Secret Agent....

## Repeater Performance/ Utilisation

Cumulative totals: 2 meters – 2108 hours  
70 cm - 5234 hours

Monthly totals 2 meter (710 repeater) 3 hours -  
70 Cm (70 cm repeater) 2 hours -



**Just look at those figures...** First thought when I saw the 70 cm times was that the timer had failed.... Then I did the 2 meter readings – same again Now both timers could **not (at the same time – together – simultaneously)** have failed – Ergo? The 700 and 8425 repeaters are just not getting used. Incidentally these are the lowest figures since 2001..... Over to you....!!

## Humour

Pregnant Blonde

The other day my neighbour, who is blonde, came running up the driveway just jumping for joy! I didn't know why she was jumping for Joy but I thought, what the heck, and I starting jumping up and down along with her.

She said, "I have some really great news!"

I said, "Great. Tell me why you're so happy."

She stopped jumping and, breathing heavily from all the jumping up and down, told me that she was pregnant!

I knew that she had been trying for a while so I told her, "That's great! I couldn't be happier for you!"

Then she said, "There's more."

I asked, "What do you mean 'more'?"

She said, "Well, we are not having just one baby. We are going to have TWINS!"

Amazed at how she could know so soon after getting pregnant, I asked her how she knew.

She said... "Well, that was the easy part. I went to Woolworth's, and they actually had a home pregnancy kit in a twin-pack.

Both tests came out positive".

### **The Blonde and The Chimps**

A blonde lady motorist was about two hours from San Diego when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to San Diego?"

"Sure," answered the blonde, "do you need a lift?"

"Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the San Diego Zoo. They're a bit stressed already so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100 for your trouble."

"I'd be happy to," said the blonde. So the two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of the blonde's car and carefully strapped into their seat belts. Off they went.

Five hours later, the truck driver was driving through the heart of San Diego when suddenly he was horrified!! There was the blonde walking down The street and holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement a big crowd.

With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to the blonde. What the heck are you doing here?" he demanded, "I gave you \$100 to take these chimpanzees to the zoo."

"Yes, I know you did," said the blonde, "but we had money left over---so now we're going to Sea World."

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**An Amnesty has now been declared on blonde jokes....**

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**Subscriptions**

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Subscription renewal form for subs for the nominal year 2006 – 2007 – Please pay your sub and enclose this form with the sub as we use it for a form of Audit on things like e-mail addresses, snail-mail addresses, phone numbers etc....

**For Sale.**

- 1     **Daiwa CN 620A SWR & Power Meter – 20W – 200 W – 1 KW**  
Good Working condition  
  
\$75 – Fixed Price – (No haggling please.)
  
2.     **Diawa CNW-419 Antenna Tuner 500 PEP.**  
Range 20W – 200W All band HF  
  
\$120.00 – Fixed Price
  
3.     **YAESU Dual Band FM Transceiver. Model FT 7800R**  
Virtually brand new, boxed with all accessories and DTMF mike. Power Range :  
Multi : 50 Watts max.  
  
This machine is in excellent Condition, and comes complete with manual, and mobile brackets . Does just about everything, and includes frequency scanning.  
  
\$350.00 – Fixed price.

For all the above **contact ZL2SAM John. Phone 9716751**

**Adieu**

Well that is it for this time,

Remember that if you wish to nominate anyone for committee please fill out the nomination form and hand it in ASAP..

Till Next time.....

*Dave* – ZL2DSW  
Hutt Valley Branch 18 NZART

**Attachments/ Enclosed:**

Attached or enclosed with this newsletter you will find:

- Presidents Report
- Minutes of debrief on Expo 2006
- Branch 18 Financial Report
- Minutes of the 2005 AGM
- Subscription Renewal Form 2006 – 2007

## Presidents Report 2006.

Greetings all.

This is my last function as President so I will take your time up with a general rundown.

This last term saw the sad loss to the club of a well liked, respected and senior member – Dick Curry – ZL2ASY. The members that turned up at his funeral was proof enough of the memories Dick's passing triggered of activities in the past – particularly field days and at the "Geriatric" Meetings....

Last year on this occasion I mentioned in my report our desire to get involved a bit more with other clubs, and I have to say that this has occurred... We enjoyed participating in functions that involved Branch 63, branch 50, Branch 42, and Branch 47 – Events included the Social functions at the end of the year, the Cycle race (The Big Coast) and of course Expo 2006. I sincerely hope that this "involvement" will continue...

Our Annual field day was a beaut... we even had international Satellite TV available, together with a new site at our Moore's Valley spot. We have booked the site again for 2007.

Once again I have to express my personal thanks to the hardworking members of the Branch that have done so much to maintain Antennae, the building, and radio Equipment in the building....

Currently, as you will have noted in the Newsletter, we have taken steps to meet safety standards and plans are afoot to improve the physical security of the building. Together with these aspects we have also applied for a loan to get us some more equipment – ( Refer to the June newsletter for details)...

The Council have again been approached (Thanks TED) to do something to the footpath outside the club house – The last request resulted in weird and cryptic signs all over the footpath but nothing happened... Somewhere the planning got mislaid... However some of these hieroglyphic signs have reappeared and with any luck this time all will be repaired...

On the Computer side of things – many thanks to Gavin ZL2TVM for connecting us to his system, we now have the ability to use broadband and the Internet....This system is there for genuine research or enquiries not for personal e-mails etc... All usage is being logged!!

Much to my dismay we find that the Branch membership has in fact declined by some 6 members. But all is not lost.... New and prospective members have been noted... hopefully when they get used to us they will join and strengthen the membership.

The year has been of moderate success in activity and attendances, which I sincerely hope will grow....and in that, I would, on this occasion of my retiring from the position of President, give special thanks to all the committee members for their co-operation and

support. We have achieved some of objectives and others are being met, I sincerely hope that my successor will get as much support as I have had over the past two years....

Should the Branch wish I am more than happy to continue as Newsletter Editor and draw your attention to the fact that the newsletter is now being read in Florida USA, Australia, Canada and England.

Our Web page is still in the "Experimental" stage and we hope that it will blossom back into the high levels it had achieved a few years ago... people are working on it , and it will happen.

I could not close this report without expressing a special thanks to our untiring Catering Officer (Master of Tent Assembly) – who seems to be able to get us cups of tea and biscuits under the most amazing conditions... I speak of Jack ZL2AXY. Thank you Jack....

Well that is it from me – thanks again to all the committee and members that have made life a less stressful.....

All the best to you all

Dave  
ZL2DSW

## MEETING FOR REGIONAL EXPO-06

Held at Lower Branch 18 Club Rooms at 7.30pm on Wednesday the 26th April 2006.

Attending were Mark ZL2UF1, Ken ZL2TKY, Phil, ZL2HF, Mark, ZL2WOL, Dave ZL2DSW, Barry, ZL2HO  
Gavin ZL2TVM, Bob VK2ZL, Dick ZL2TGQ Branch 73, Bruce ZL2BAP Erwin ZL2TEL (11).

Apologies from Mike ZL2BCW & Ted ZL2BSW.

Mark raised the subject of the need to formalise the selection office holders. Ken said the current set-up was working well and Bruce urged us to keep it simple. After a short discussion Gavin agreed to continue as Treasurer, Barry agreed to be Minute Taker and Mark agreed to stand for President. The committee accepted the status quo. Mark noted however that he would like someone else to stand for President next year.

Phil noted that Mark had undertaken most of the organising and planning and sought to relieve Mark some of the work. He asked that we should seek the commercial costs of designing, printing and laminating the tickets. This was mainly labour, said Mark, and could approximately equate to 12 hours @ \$40 an hour. He suggested that next time we could organise a small group to assemble the tickets.

Mark thought he could make a start printing the tickets soon after he returned from Daytona.

### FINANCE

Gavin presented the report up to this point.

Income \$886.50. Expenses \$12.25. Total = 74.25.

Mark presented receipts for Advertising, Lanyards, etc. Mark said he would absorb some of the minor expenses. With the Hall hire expected to be \$250 the final profit was approximately \$150.

239 tickets had been sold to about 180 attendees.

Mark moved and Phil seconded that the accounts be accepted and Mark compensated.- CARRIED

There was a feeling that possibly 'Break-In' could reduce or waive the advertising fee. An informal approach could be made at Conference in Christchurch by Mark.

### CORRESPONDENCE - INCOMING

Various complementary phone calls and Emails.

### CORRESPONDENCE - OUTGOING

Mark tabled copies of letters to the following thanking them for their contribution -

Peter Munn, Branch 50, Branch 74, Branch 63, Branch 42, Branch 18, NZART General Sec, Jim Meachen, Bruce Packer, Zhen Liu (Feature Tech) and Brent Bevan ZL2FFR.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

Stuart Watchman offered to demonstrate 'home brewing' at the next EXPO.

It was noted that only 5 or 7 turned up for the IRLP seminar and 1 for Echolink so it was cancelled.

Dick, on behalf of the VHF group came up with a few ideas for discussion.

Members could demonstrate HB equipment, ATV, Microwave etc. We could include promotion of AREC & FMTAG. There was a comment that there should be a 'mini' table available for say \$5 for some vendors. The committee will consider setting up a register of those requesting \$5 space so that they could be lumped together.

Brent had reported that he was not able to locate a power point up on the stage for his military display. It was rather dark and he wanted to light up the display.

We were urged to consider leaving a blank table between vendors so that we could allow them to spread out in the event that not all available tables sold. It was agreed that for \$20, a complete table could be sold.

Bruce said that Branch 50 made some good sales and were keen to participate next year. He went on to suggest that we should consider displaying the operation of modern equipment. Demonstrations should be in the main hall, not in a separate room.

We should give some exposure to the Wednesday ZL2WA (710) net.

Lee Andrews reported that he had "average to above average" sales. He would like advanced notice of the type of equipment to bring over with him next time. He is committed to return next year. He suggested we should be charging \$5 entry.

Committee considered that Demonstrators should get a free table.

#### EXPO-07

A general discussion took place about next year's event. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with EXPO-07 to be scheduled a week before Easter.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to charge \$3 entry.

The Committee agreed that we should organise demonstrations but someone will have to be committed to own and drive it.

The Committee agreed to continue with table rates (\$20) but for that you will get a full table.

#### ADVERTISING

Mark noted that he had advertised in 4 issues of 'Break-In' for EXPO-06. After some discussion it was agreed to advertise in 3 issues for EXPO-07, dropping the earlier copy.

The next meeting was set for 23<sup>rd</sup> August at the Branch 18 Clubrooms at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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**Hutt Valley Branch 18 NZART**

**2005/06 Annual Accounts, income and expenditure**

Income	2005-06	2004-05	Expenses	2005-06	2004-05
Civil defence	500.00	500.00	Club room	573.34	55.00
Subscriptions	1325.00	1460.00	Club night	705.18	163.84
Term deposit	774.23	867.53	Electricity	362.18	348.41
Parts sale day	401.00	244.00	Newsletter	1140.35	684.75
Newsletter etc	86.00	93.00	Equipment	205.73	116.00
Donations	5.00	140.00	Donations	100.00	167.15
Misc	260.00	271.10	NZART sub	80.00	80.00
Expo '05	390.00		MED	0.00	70.00
Expo '06	300.00		AMSAT magazine	230.41	0.00
IRD - Refund	169.17	127.20	Post box	125.00	125.00
			LHCC	22.50	22.50
			Misc	104.85	604.47
			Insurance	290.60	290.60
			Expo '05	240.00	
			Expo '06	12.25	
			IRD - RWT on	150.97	169.17
			Interest		
	<u>\$4,210.40</u>	\$3,702.83		<u>\$4,343.3</u>	\$2,896.89
				<u>6</u>	

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2006**

**Accumulated Funds**

Assets

2005-06	2004-05		2005-06	2004-05
26380.78	28137.36	Club room less		
		Depreciation	10060.15	11659.00
		Cheque account	1129.44	1910.43
		Term deposit	15191.19	14567.93
26380.78	28137.36		26380.78	28137.36

Gavin Cross, ZL2TVM Treasurer

Chris Hughes, ZL2UKT Auditor

I certify that the foregoing statement has been submitted at and approved by the members at the annual general meeting held on      at Lower Hutt.

Signed