



# Headquarters - Info - Line

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The New Zealand Association of  
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



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Issue #96

Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to **Headquarters-Info-Line** a fortnightly bulletin of news from NZART Headquarters E-mailed directly to Branches.

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## **The NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says:**

I'm not sure what my priority is these days, with so much work to get through after conference and keeping you all abreast of what's happening, I am indeed busy!

**Conference 2005** - Once again conference was rather full on and it was great to see old friends. My thanks to the Conference organising committee for yet again making sure all attending were well taken care of and catered for. The minutes of the AGM will be published in the July/August issue of Break In.

**Subscriptions** – These will remain the same as for 2005, plus a full Callbook will also be published this year. However due to timing this publication will not be due out until the September/October issue of Break-In.

**Honorary Life Membership Presentation** - Jamie Pye ZL2NN was awarded Life Membership of NZART at our recent conference in New Plymouth. The official presentation of Jamie's certificate and badge will take place at a luncheon to be held at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street, on Saturday 9th July at noon. Members and friends of Jamie are invited to attend this presentation. If you would like to attend, please contact me at Headquarters or contact Gavin ZL2ACT by Wednesday 6th July.

**HQ Relocation** - It has come to my attention through diligent members of the Association that there are some concerns regarding Headquarters. Over the next few issues I will be advising why/how the changes have come about. Please pass this on to non-members you know so that in this way we may be able to encourage more membership.

**My First “Nice-to-know - HQ Relocation”** - In July 2004 NZART headquarters moved to its new office on the ground floor at 19 Main Street Upper Hutt. For some 23 years, HQ was located at Astral Towers on Main Street, in a well-known and purpose-built office building in Upper Hutt. As it happens, for a number of years rentals remained quite stagnant and the building itself was never refurbished either, not since the day it opened in 1976. Then along comes an entrepreneur with money and grandiose ideas and purchases the building with immediate plans to refurbish the entire building. The take-over date for the new owners was 1 month prior to an NZART rental-renewal period. All tenants in the building were advised, that due to the upgrade, rents would be increased, more in some offices than others. NZART was paying \$489.25 per month at this time, plus costs. After our renewal date, the rental was to be increased to approximately \$950, plus costs.

We are constantly seeking ways to reduce outgoings so this was most definitely not acceptable and I was encouraged by Council and the Business Management Committee to find alternative office space. I am pleased to advise that our new Office although a little smaller, does have ground floor access and costs \$403.27 per month inclusive of power. This is quite a dramatic saving – I hope you all agree and come and see how well established I am in these new surroundings.

That’s all from me this time - Debby ZL2TDM

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## **Key Points from Conference 2005:**

**MED and Licensing, a Report from your negotiators** - Negotiations are continuing. While Council had hoped that the fees issue would have been resolved by now, we have to report that the negotiations with MED towards a satisfactory outcome for NZART members continues. Considerable progress has been made particularly in recent months. For the next 12 months no amateur licence fees are being charged and likewise there will be no repeater and beacon licence fees. As to what happens into the future all that can be said at this stage is that NZART continues to negotiate with MED RSM for a satisfactory outcome.

Peter ZL2SJ, then NZART President and Bruce Douglas Vice-President, have been confirmed by NZART Council as the NZART negotiating team to negotiate with MED RSM for a satisfactory outcome to the callsign licensing fees issues. The team has the power to co-opt who-so-ever they see fit to assist to achieve the above. Fred ZL2AMJ as Administration Liaison Officer and Evan Sayer NZART Treasurer made up the four-person NZART Team who met with the MED in Wellington at 10 a.m. on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

MED officials traversed the history aspects in relation to fees (which were already known to all present) and started the discussions regarding the then 12-point plan that Fred ZL2AMJ had sent through to the MED the previous week. The point was made that by invoicing NZART for beacons, repeaters and fixed links with one invoice, they, MED, made a considerable saving compared to the current practice of sending out 4700 invoices to individual radio amateurs.

The negotiating team explained that we were happy with this course of action provided that we, NZART, could recoup the assessed fee from all New Zealand amateurs and not just from NZART members.

We stressed quite forcefully that our proposal to pay the assessed fee is only the first part of the process. NZART *must* have the ability to invoice all New Zealand amateurs to recoup the MED fee otherwise the process will fall over. Our members will not accept this situation as NZART had been carrying the non-

members for many years. The recouping of costs must, we believe, come from a callsign validation/certification fee unless the MED had another way of collecting it from all New Zealand amateurs. We explained in detail and repeatedly that this is the crux of the matter.

MED acknowledged our predicament and suggested other funding options such as a grant from police, a grant from SAR, or grants from trusts or foundations. These all had their own problems and we believe that they are MED problems and not NZART problems. This was thrashed out many times but we were still left with one invoice for the assessed fee and no equitable solution i.e. the requirement that all New Zealand amateurs must contribute to this fee.

We offered to construct and to use our own database and to charge an annual callsign validation fee. The MED reply was that they can't recognise private databases, they, under policy now in force only recognise in-house government databases and they would not make it mandatory for amateurs to pay the fee. It would also create another bureaucracy and this would not be an acceptable model.

Another MED officer known to us joined the meeting at about 11.15 a.m. We tried many times and from different angles to emphasise our objective to get all New Zealand amateurs to contribute to the assessed fee. This, as we have said in the beginning and have emphasised repeatedly, is the crux of the matter. We cannot see a way forward unless we are excused from the fee, or have someone assume responsibility for it, or we are able to recoup our costs.

He in turn gave no assurance to us that we would have a monopoly. We said that if others assumed an examination and licence-issuing role, then they too should likewise assume and accept some of the fees burden. Other suggestions were offered but it was going over old ground and not helpful, so we came to a virtual stalemate.

MED conceded that NZART was in a difficult situation and one not of its own making. Despite assurances that all licensees would be notified, an MED announcement first appeared on its web page which was subsequently reported in the last NZART HQ InfoLine. **We stress again that the negotiations continue and nothing has been settled.**

**2006 Subscriptions** - Council approved that subscriptions for 2006 are to remain as per 2005. i.e.

Transmitting	\$95
Non-Transmitting	\$95
Family Additional	\$30
Maximum Family	\$125
Student	\$40
Overseas Air Mail	\$110
Overseas Surface mail	\$95

A rebate of \$15 is applicable if subscription payments are received before 30 November 2005.

A membership drive will be included this year with a \$25 reduction in the 2006 subscription rate offered to new members (or lapsed membership of two years or more) This will reduce a full membership fee of \$95 to \$70.

**The Amateur of the Year Award for 2004** was awarded to Doug Ingham ZL2TAR for his contribution to the well being of Amateur Radio during the past year. Most significant is his singularly large contribution to our valuable national resource, the National System.

**The Youth Achievement Award 2004** was awarded to Andrew Chalmers ZL4APC. He received an ARRL Handbook from NZART and in the Saturday evening celebrations Andrew was presented with a Yaesu FT7800 dual-band transceiver by Richard ZL1BOK of Com-Centre.

**The Young Amateur of the Year Award** was presented to Alison Chandler ZL2KID an 11-year-old from the Manawatu Branch 20. Com-Centre generously donated a Yaesu FT60 dual-band hand-held transceiver for this award.

**The Rothschild Cup** was awarded to Manawatu Branch 20 for having the most successful candidates in 2004.

**NZART Honorary Life Membership** - President Peter Norden ZL2SJ recommended to members that Jamie Pye ZL2NN be bestowed with Honorary Life Membership for his many years service to Amateur Radio nationally and internationally. The meeting loudly applauded this recommendation.

**Contest Manager** - Stan White is to retire. John Powell ZL1BHQ has agreed to take over this position.

**John Lochhead ZL4QS**, was appointed by the incoming Councillors as Vice President NZART.

**The Stirrers Award** presented to newly appointed Councillor Stuart Watchman ZL2TW.

**Non-ionising Radiation Standards Committee** – NZART's representative on this committee Andrew Corney ZL2BBJ felt that due to his poor health he needed to find a replacement for his position. Sadly Andrew recently passed away, however not before he recommended to Council that Dr David Black ZL1MZ be considered for the position. Council confirmed Dr Black's appointment. Andrew ZL2BBJ was to have been awarded a certificate at Conference 2005 for his 10-year service to the Association so this certificate will now be given to the family for incorporation in a Memorial Book of Andrew's life currently in preparation.

**Call Book 2005/2006** – The Callbook for 2005/2006 will again be produced in a full version, however no CD-Rom Callbook will be produced this year.

**Cathy Purdie ZL2ADK** was awarded a Certificate of Merit for her services to the WARO section of the NZART Official Broadcast. Cathy was WARO's spokesperson for the Official Broadcast for 11 years.

**Stephen McNeil ZL4HG** was recognised with a Certificate of Merit for his support as Branch spokesperson on the NZART Official Broadcast for the past 12 years.

**Life Membership of WARO** was conferred by WARO on Cathy Purdy ZL2ADK for her services to WARO over many years.

**The WARO Achievement Award**, the Myrtle Earland Rosebowl was presented to Jill O'Donnell ZL2DBO for her services to WARO and to the wider amateur community.

**Examination Training Video** - A committee has been formed by Council to analyse costs for the production of training Video's/DVD's, for the purpose of examination teaching programmes for Branches.

**Christchurch Branch** delegates confirmed their offer to host the NZART Conference 2006 at Riccarton Racecourse.

**Allison Chandler ZL2KID** aged 11, the youngest member of the Association, invited all to attend the NZART Conference in 2007 in Palmerston North.

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### **Through Rain and Snow the Repeater Trustee Always Gets Through:**

Two incidents, during the recent re-tuning of the National System, illustrate the dedication of Repeater Trustees.

**First** - Peter ZL3TC found the clay access road to Belmont to be very slippery due to prolonged rain. So he parked the vehicle, loaded up his back pack with the repeater, transmit/receive duplexer, test equipment and tools and walked several kilometres to the site.

**Result:** Nelson was re-connected to the National System.

**Second** - The access road to the Egmont National System site is hazardous at the best of times. At this time of year it tends to be snowing on the access road when it is raining on the flat and black ice is an ever-present danger. Steve ZL2KG, managed to remove the Egmont National System equipment for re-tuning on the second attempt. However, a succession of southerly storms frustrated the return of the equipment, following re-tuning. He was finally successful on the seventh attempt. Steve carried the larger transmit/receive duplexer and the BCL maintenance contractor carried the repeater several kilometres through the snow and ice.

**Result:** The North, East and South sections of the National System were re-connected.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the efforts of such dedicated Repeater Trustees.

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### **Congratulations:**

From Monday's Otago Daily Times (6th June 2005):

**ROBERT NEVILLE CHECKETTS, Invercargill, QSM for public service**

Congratulation to Neville Checketts ZL4OX. Neville has been a leading figure in Southland Civil Defence. He has been involved in amateur radio and amateur radio emergency communications (AREC) for more than 30 years and has been Southland's AREC leader since 1972. This is the preferred provider of emergency communications to both the Southland Search and Rescue (land and marine) and the Invercargill City Civil Defence organisation. Mr Checketts has been involved with the communications section of Civil Defence since it was formed in 1962 and helped with the design and fit-out of a new emergency operations centre. A New Zealand Fire Service volunteer for 43 years, Mr Checketts is Invercargill senior station officer. He has also had 50 years involvement with the Southland Boys Brigade movement.

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### **FMTAG Notes For June 2005:**

**Interim Recommendations To NZART Council** - Branch 35 Balclutha has applied for a National System repeater, to be located at Mount Stuart, grid reference H45 601541. FMTAG has selected 485, being a repeater transmit frequency of 434.850 MHz and a repeater receive frequency of 439.850 MHz, as being the most appropriate.

*(Please note that the above paragraph corrects a FMTAG error on Page 23 of May/June 2005 Break-In, which incorrectly attributed the application to Branch 08).*

**Branch 30 Otago** has applied for a National System UHF Link Station (ULS), in association with the above application, to be located at Mount Cargill, grid reference I44 198855. FMTAG has selected 985, being a transmit frequency of 439.850 MHz and a receive frequency of 434.850 MHz, as being the most appropriate.

**Reefton-Buller Branch 62** has applied for a National System extension for Westport and Reefton. This will consist of a National System Repeater and two UHF Link Stations (ULS) at Rochfort, grid reference K29 053357, and an inverted, tail-less, National System Repeater at Reefton, grid reference L30 181978. FMTAG has chosen the following frequencies as being the most appropriate:

WESTPORT 9975 NATIONAL SYSTEM: repeater transmit 439.975 MHz, repeater receive 434.975 MHz. WESTPORT 9950 ULS FACING MURCHISON: ULS transmit 439.950 MHz, ULS receive 434.950 MHz. WESTPORT 9900 ULS FACING REEFTON: ULS transmit 439.900 MHz, ULS receive 434.900 MHz. REEFTON 4900 NATIONAL SYSTEM: repeater transmit 434.900 MHz, repeater receive 439.900 MHz

Please send comments on the above Interim Recommendations, and all new applications, to FMTAG: [fmtag@nzart.org.nz](mailto:fmtag@nzart.org.nz)

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## **VK - Special Event Station AX3ITU:**

Tuesday 17th of May is World Telecommunications Day and an Australian special event station will celebrate the occasion. A team of Amateur Radio Victoria members will activate the AX3ITU callsign.

Amateur Radio Victoria aims to have AX3ITU on-air for virtually the entire 24 hours for the 140th birthday of the International Telecommunications Union. It will be available on CW, phone, PSK31, amateur satellite and ATV during the day. Phone operation will be on the 80, 40 and 20 metre bands while PSK31 is intended for 80 and 40 metres. ATV operation will be on the Melbourne repeater VK3RTV from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and on the ATV liaison frequency 147.4 MHz.

AX3ITU has been active annually for most of the past two decades. A commemorative QSL card will be available. QSL information is direct to VK3WI QTHR or via the bureau.

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## **Where To Find Information On IRLP & Echolink:**

After several requests at NZART Conference in New Plymouth here are the places to start looking:

**IRLP:**        <http://www.irlp.net/>

**Echolink:**    <http://www.echolink.org/>

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## **Dates To Remember:**

- **NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.**
- **NZART Memorial Contest 2<sup>nd</sup> July.**
- **Next HQ-Info-Line Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.**

73

**Jim Meachen** ZL2BHF

**Editor**