



HQ Infoline
A Service From
New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters



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<u>Infoline Editor</u> Don MacDonald ZL3DMC infoline@nzart.org.nz	<u>NZART Contacts</u> Website: https://www.nzart.org.nz Email: nzart@nzart.org.nz Telephone: 04 939 2189
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Clubs/branches to cease meetings

The COVID-19 situation continues to deteriorate across the globe with an undoubted upshift in cases across the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. This is a particularly fluid time with NZ Government moving into top gear to delay the onset in New Zealand and prepare for the worst-case scenario should that occur. We do not want to have the situation in Italy and other countries where the health system is overwhelmed, and the mortality rate is very high.

There is little doubt what we are seeing unfold before us is a once in a generation crisis on a global scale to which we in New Zealand are, for now, at a relative distance – this is highly likely to change. This virus is different to anything we would have encountered in our lifetime – it is more contagious than the flu, has asymptomatic transmission and there is no human immunity to it at this time. A vaccine will be a minimum of 12 months away (likely longer of general distribution) according to health experts and we are heading into the winter period. Once the initial upswing in infections tails off, be in no doubt that a second round of infections will occur, and this will be more severe than the first and more dramatic (based on the 1917/1918 Spanish Flu pandemic).

While there is no community transmission in NZ at this stage, it is inevitable that this will occur at some point which means we, as members, need to maintain a close watch on the developments and look for the “trigger points” which will dictate the way you conduct your club business. A large portion of our clubs are in the “at risk” category and as such you have a duty of care to your membership.

It would be easy to overreact so we need to take our advice from Government agencies and respond in a evidence based manner.

Therefore, NZART Council is recommending that all clubs and branches cease all face-to-face meetings **immediately**, including committee meetings.

Those approaching their AGM’s need to cancel or postpone those as well (aka NZART AGM). Meetings could be held on your local VHF/UHF Repeater for example.

Please keep informed by visiting the Government web site <https://covid19.govt.nz> .

NZART Council

23 March 2020

Westfest 2020 Murchison 18/19th April - Postponed

On behalf of Nelson Branch 26, West fest 2020 Coordinator, Stewart Robinson ZL2STR advises that respecting Corona virus alerts the decision has been made to postpone Westfest 2020 until an all clear has been given.

Thanks to all who offered to do presentations and the organizers will be in touch when time allows. Regards and please stay safe.

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