

**Christchurch West Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**

Official Newsletter



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What's on at the next meeting?"

A National Geographic film:

"Hitler's Stealth Fighter"

Visitors and guests most welcome

Tuesday 25th Aug 2009

Visit the Br 56 web page; <www.radioamateurs.org.nz>

Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.

NZART Branch 56

Clubrooms; Auburn Park, Upper Riccarton,

P O Box 31 095, Ilam, Christchurch 8444.

Br 56 web page; <www.radioamateurs.org.nz

<i>Branch Officers</i>			
<i>President</i>	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	384 1584
<i>Vice-President</i>	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	358 4108
<i>Immediate Past Pres</i>	Mark Carshalton	ZL3BA	322 4518
<i>Secretary*</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	322 9961
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	Mike Barnes	ZL3TMB	352 2294
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	Bruce Smith	ZL3TFM	343 2432
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<i>EMC Officer</i>	vacant		
<i>Free n'Easy Coordinator</i>	Graeme Johnstone	ZL3JO	981 5990
<i>Librarian</i>	Ron Rowlands	ZL3AIV	348 2747
<i>Morse Admin</i>	Des Borgfeldt	ZL3ACS	980 9705
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<i>Newsletter editor #</i>	John Walker	ZL3IB	348 9084
<i>QSL cards</i>	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	358 4108
<i>ZL3VV Station Mgr</i>	Maurice McNab	ZL3MEM	354 1958
<i>850 Repeater Mgr</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	358 5004

***Please note change of Secretarial email address; <zl2bcf@nzart.org.nz>**
Newsletter editor <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz>

Annual subscription for 2009 is due NOW;

Individual \$35.00, Family \$40.00, Junior \$17.50

Treasurer's home address; 37A Penrith Ave, Chch 8002

Subs can be direct credited to our Westpac Account No. 030802 0590356 00

NB. Please ensure your name is against the bank payment.

If cheques are made "non transferable" or "account payee only" please ensure they are made out to "**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**"

The banks will not accept other names (e.g. Branch 56). Thank you

General Meeting of the Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club

Tuesday 28th July 2009

Present: Baden ZL3VI (Chairman), Doug ZL2BCF (Secretary), 20 members and guests.
Visitors: Mike Head, Tony ZL3HAM and Liz ZL3LIZ
Apologies: Keith ZL3QH, Graham ZL3SJ and Maurice ZL3MEM.
Minutes: Confirmation of minutes of June 2009 meeting.
Matters arising: Doug reported that Branch 68's mid winter dinner had been an enjoyable event.

Correspondence:

Inward: Newsletters from QTC 28, Hamlarks 05 and Ragchew 68.

Outward:

Financial: 45 financial members. Payments; Insurance \$539, Newsletter \$14 and Power \$150.

Free and Easy report: July meeting was an interesting talk by Brian ZL3RJ on home brew test equipment.

Classes Report: Some interest shown recently with one person.

General Business:

John ZL3IB advised that Avalon and how the club has been asked to assist in the disposal of Avalon's radio equipment. There was a discussion on how to sell equipment to assist Avalon's wife Vilna.

The meeting was advised that there was to be a meeting on ARS/Packet to discuss repeater options at Branch 05 on the 29th.

Baden advised that he had followed up an enquiry that had come through Mark ZL3BA about repeater use for marine purposes with a contact in Sumner Lifeboat.

Mark to contact person who made the enquiry to him to close the issue.

Mike ZL3TMB advised that 7025 has only CTSS access due to interference issues and as a consequence 5625 is being used for the regional net until the issue is fixed.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 1955.

Program

David Head from Tait Electronics delivered a very interesting talk on the company, its structure, history and recent developments in digital radio trunking systems. David described as overview of the P25 system that is being rolled out by the NZ Police but reaffirmed its commitment to continued support of analogue based radio systems.

EO&E

Whats on at the next meeting ?

Unfortunately the Dave Holland is unable to present the planned programme.

Instead we will show a National Geographic film "*Hitler's Stealth Fighter*".

This film is about the reconstruction and evaluation of a WW2 German stealth fighter designed to have a minimal radar profile.

Free and Easy

Our guest on the afternoon of the 8th of July was Brian ZL3RJ. A very well attended meeting enjoyed the Homebrew projects which he brought along with him, These included a number of receivers which were constructed at very modest cost from locally sourced products. On display also was an all band amplifier using a pair of 813s and with a power supply using the transformer from a microwave oven providing a quite substantial HT voltage for the PA. Brian is an excellent speaker and as always it was enjoyable to have him as our guest. I thanked him for providing us with such an interesting afternoon.

Our guest for the 12th of August is Brent ZL3TUI who is a locksmith by profession. He will be talking about locks, with particular emphasis on home security which has a high degree of importance at the present time. He will also be giving a demonstration of a key cutting which should be most interesting.

Please come and join us for the afternoon at the clubrooms commencing at 1330 hr at Auburn Reserve, everybody most welcome

73s Graeme ZL3JO

IARU Region 3 Conference Call-sign

The IARU Region III Conference is being held in Christchurch from 12 – 16th October 2009.

ZL6IARU will be on the air during Conference time from the venue. The callsign is also available for local Hams to use from 11th September until 11th November 2009. If you wish to use ZL6IARU contact Alan ZL3GX, ,zl3gx@nzart.org.nz> or phone 981 9720 (not in the morning). The details I need are the preferred band, time, days you are available and contact phone number.

73 Alan ZL3GX

HAMADS

For Sale. ICOM IC10 Scanning Communications Receiver & Wideband Handheld for sale. Additional antenna, charger, user and service manuals. VGC. Email or call for full spec. and brochure. New \$800. Reasonable offers sought. David Searle <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz>, 03 358 9776

For Sale. Hedge trimmer attachment to fit Black & Decker drill; \$5 ono. Contact John ZL3IB phone 3489 084 or <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz >

Wanted. Straight Morse key and oscillator wanted for 81 year old Buildathon "student" who wants to learn Morse code. Can you help? Please call David Searle <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz> ph 03 358 9776

HAMADS in QTC56 are a free service to members.
Send to John ZL3IB at < john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz >.

Mike's Computer Corner.

Linux alternatives to Windows®

Puppy Linux :- For those of you with an older PC, that you may have retired because it's not fast enough, you might want to try Puppy Linux®. This is a 100Mb download that can be found at <http://www.puppylinux.org/> and which will give that old PC a new lease on life. You can try it out with your current computer as it runs totally from the CD. This could allow you to reply to an email via web mail if your computer has crashed. It also can be useful to recover important files so you can get you Windows system operating again.

Ubuntu: This is an alternative to your current Windows operating system and, like Puppy Linux above, it will run totally from the CD. So you can have a play without installing anything. For those of you that do install it, it runs very fast and includes word processor, spreadsheet management and graphics programs. Applications that you may pay hundreds of dollars to buy from Microsoft; an alternative option is available free with Ununtu. Go to <http://www.ubuntu.com/> for the latest version; it's a 700Mb download. So be careful you don't use up your broadband limit just downloading this, Dial up uses forget it, it may take days to download.

Keeping your Windows clean

Anti-virus programs: Everyone who has a PC connected to the internet *MUST* have an antivirus and anti-malware program(s), some programs combine both these. There are a number of free antivirus programs on the net, But be careful there are some that do more harm than good. I generally stick with the main stream brands. My current favourite anti-virus program is Avast <http://www.avast.com/eng/home-registration.php>; you'll need to register, but it's free!

AVG is another good free version <http://free.avg.com/download-avg-anti-virus-free-edition>. The pro version is worth the money too.

Anti-malware: Malware is slightly newer type of bug that infects your machine; some of these will send the hackers your passwords via key loggers, or allow the hackers to takeover your PC, allowing them to use *YOUR* machine to do the naughty stuff. Hence the police track down you not them! Download this program to check your PC at <http://www.malwarebytes.org/>.

Firewall: Check your Windows firewall is enabled minimum! [Start-Control Panel-Windows Fire wall, ensure there is a dot next to "on (Recommended)"] if you want to keep your machine really secure the go to <http://www.zonealarm.com/> These guys sell a great product; at \$US59.95; it's expensive but it works, it locks down your whole PC. But it's not for internet newbie's as it asks some hard questions during setup and while it runs but I think it works very well.

Have some fun



Google maps: This site has a relatively new function called 'Street view'. Go to <http://maps.google.co.nz/>. Type in your address in the search box. Then click "Street view" on the pop up box. You'll be amazed at the pictures of your street and property. Now take a virtual tour to Paris!

Wises' maps: Not quite the same graphic functions as Google but still a great site for mapping and getting directions from your house to another place (same as Google-maps above), best of all it tells you how far it is by road. Try out <http://www.wises.co.nz/>. It's almost time to burn those old paper maps, just print the one you need.

Keep safe on the net.

73. Mike ZL3TMB

Morse Code and Snowflakes; the story of HMNZS Irirangi.

By Lt.Cdr. David Davies RNZN (Rtd)

Published by; Zenith Print/PublishMe, 2007, 184 pages, softback

ISBN 978-0-473-12539-4

Reviewed by John Walker ZL3IB

Most older NZ radio amateurs will know something about HMNZS *Irirangi* since it was easy to see the massive array of antennas as one travelled up the Desert Rd. This is the story of that famous naval radio station; it's birth, it's building and it's key role in communications during and after WW2.

In the early 1930's the Navy in NZ was a part of the British fleet operating east of Suez and its ships had to have reliable communications back to their bases in Auckland and Sydney and eventually back to London. The equipment used was rather "primitive" even by the standards of the late 1930's; fortunately in those days the LF and HF bands were relatively uncluttered.

Until 1937 naval signals from NZ were handled by HMNZS *Philomel* in Auckland and the author's descriptions of those early days is well-peppered with interesting examples of Kiwi-type Ham radio ingenuity; "the No.8 wire syndrome was alive and well". At the start of WW2 the main centre of Naval radio was transferred to Wellington and run in collaboration with the old P&T Dept. Many of the personalities of that period will still be familiar to our older members.

Once Japan entered the war the vulnerability of a Wellington based communications complex became a cause for concern and in 1942 it was decided to move the main comms station to a site somewhere in the centre of the North Island. A site near the Army base at Waiouru was finally selected and this eventually became HMNZS *Irirangi*.

The author does an excellent job of describing the both the technical and personnel problems and privations associated with setting up a radio station in a hostile natural environment, coupled with the problems of wartime shortages. There are also many humorous anecdotes about the life and escapades of the station staff which adds life and realism to the story.

Irirangi continued as the key naval radio station although the actual buildings were relocated into the Waiouru Military Camp during 1970-73. There are many interesting stories about the Army/Navy consequences of this move. Finally in 1993 HMNZS *Irirangi* was decommissioned and all naval communications transferred to the Devenport Navy base.

On the technical side older ham readers will recognise the names of famous WW2-vintage sets like the *HRO*, *Hallicrafters*, *Marconi* B40, etc; unfortunately the author makes an unfortunate error when he cites a "*Hallicrafters HRO* receiver". For people like me the book is a bit short on technical descriptions and I should have liked to see an additional chapter or appendix with more detailed descriptions of the radio equipment and antenna systems.

Nevertheless I enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to our members as an enjoyable read and a worthwhile contribution to NZ's historical record.

Calendar for 2009

ZL3VV on air; Tuesday evenings, contact Maurice ZL3MEM.

Theory and CW classes, Workshop activities, etc. Wednesdays at 1930 hr when required.

CARDS meeting. 3rd Wednesday; All welcome.

Free & Easy - Second Wednesday at 1330 (1.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	11	11	8	13	10	8	12	9	14	11	9

Committee Meeting - Third Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	17	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	

General Meeting - Fourth Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	23	23	27	26	23	28	25	22	27	24	

Free & Easy:

12th Aug Brent ZL3TUI will talk on locks and security.

General Meetings

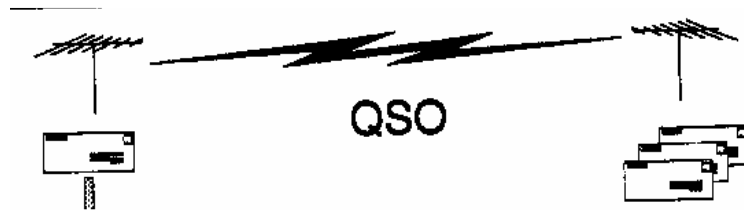
25th Aug A National Geographic film “*Hitler’s Stealth Fighter*”

Your committee welcomes suggestions for topics and/or offers of talks for Branch meetings.

Interested in Old Radios?

The Christchurch section of the NZ Vintage Radio Society now meet in our club rooms. Meetings are normally held on alternate months on the first Tuesday of the month. If you are interested please contact Jim Lovell ZL3AGS (ph 342 7760) or David Chapple, email <canda@netaccess.co.nz> for more information.

QTC56



Monthly Newsletter

Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.

NZART Branch 56