

The Urlwin Years

by ED CARRUTNERS, ZL3PE

Under some very active and energetic chairmen the Club progressed rapidly, the biggest membership was probably during one of the terms of Roger Urlwin (ZL3MG) when some 60 to 70 meeting notices were sent out each month Membership ranged far and wide, with members in Aylesbury, Irwell, Tai Tapu, Halswell Hoon Hay, Wigram, Fendalton, and of course, Hornby and Sockburn.

The clubroom were shifted a few years ago to another Council site in Holmes Park, Upper Riccarton. Whether this has served any major purpose is open to question. In some respects particularly with a shift in membership and technical expertise away from Wigram Air Base, towards the University of Canterbury, this was undoubtedly a reasonable move. At the same time however, the Hornby County township is one of the fastest growing areas in New Zealand, and the emphasis may yet shift back in that direction.

The Club operates its own equipment the callsign ZL3VV and is usually heard on Field Days and similar exercises, and although membership waxes and wanes in the manner of all such organisations, a hard core of 20 or so make a good nucleus to ensure that the Club remains a Club. Prominent over the years, in addition to those already mentioned, were such personalities as Laurie Hunter (ZL3BJ - still carrying the Club on his broad shoulders), George Blake (ZL3FX) probably, due for an attendance medal, Terry Carrell (ZL3QL), who really built up a major interest in printed circuitry, Des Borgfelt (ZL3ACS), Dennis Hampton (ZL3II) and others. My apologies to those whose names I cannot recall. It is an unfortunate fact of life that clubs such as ours at some stage loose a bit of continuity - we lost ours when most of our early records, minute books, etc., unfortunately vanished. They were not taken by the vandals who at one time pilfered many items of equipment from the rooms, but just failed to show up when office bearers changed. These notes are therefore written from memory and if there is any major personality or event which others can recall, and feel they should be highlighted, I am sure the Editor will accommodate a letter in his columns, to that effect.

It is probably worth noting that the writer for several years conducted learners classes' in the Waterloo Road rooms, after having done this for several years for the Christchurch Branch at the home of Arthur (ZL3JD).

Although Hornby was founded in a spirit of friction and discontent it is pleasant to note that the hatchet was buried some years ago, and the liaison and co-operation between Christchurch and Hornby is very good. That is as it should be. Hornby made its point, and the movement is stronger as a result.

It is probably fitting to pay tribute, in closing, to stalwarts who have become silent keys, and I mention the late Fred Bolton(ZL3BK), Athol Gledhill (ZL3FZ), and Alan (Jake) **Jacobsen ZL3WB, VK6WB, VK2AYK (Australia's youngest Kiwi)** who passed on in Vancouver. They played their part in building up the club, fully merit their place in the history of Hornby.