

The Rebellion

by ED CARRUTNERS, ZL3PE

It will no doubt surprise many who think of Hornby (as Christchurch West Radio Club was then known as), to learn that it had its origin in a spirit of rebellion by a small group who were impatient with the dead band of a small but powerful hierarchy in the Christchurch Branch 05 whom did precisely nothing for the hobby, but persisted in maintaining the status quo, ensuring that no one departed from the "party line", that all paid due homage to our "lords and masters", and newcomers and progressive thinkers were relegated to the back of the meeting and persistently overruled at the slightest suggestion of taking away any of the influence of the ancients.

So we went our own way. We went our way with the express intention of doing exactly what we wanted to do, with no direction from anyone, owing allegiance to no one, and making our own policy as we gathered strength.

To this end, the name chosen was significant - not Branch 56 - but "The Hornby and Districts Radio Club" comprised of some ten or twelve dissidents who wanted to "do their own thing" as it were. Membership of NZART was not mandatory, and it was some considerable time after the formation of the Hornby Club, that those members who were also financial members of the Association made their application to become a Branch. We had, and still have therefore, a Branch Club. Contrary to the forecast opinions of many, this policy has in fact been of benefit to the NZART. Interested hobbyists have come to Hornby, joined the Club, and through the Club have been introduced to NZART and subsequently joined it. Had the membership of NZART been mandatory (as laid down in the constitution) prior to joining Hornby, both the Association and the Club would have been the losers.

Original foundation members whose names come readily to mind are Wilf House-man ; ZL3US), "Mac" Malcolm MacNicholl (ZL3UP), Malcolm Gordon (ZL3UU), Civil Aviations Communications cadet Peter Mahon and a couple of his contemporaries, and the writer (then ZL3RZ), then joined soon afterwards by Wyn McGee (ZL3DX), the late Fred Bolton (ZL3BK), George Agnew (ZL3TQ) and others whose names would fill the rest of this page. Air Force members were very prominent.

The parents of ZL3UP were extremely kind in allowing the first and later meetings to be held in their large front room, the second meeting was held at the parent's house of Malcolm ZL3UU and it was here at these early meetings that fund raising began for the purposes of building our own clubrooms. Various club members supplied interest free debentures. The Paparua

County Council. with a very commendable desire to foster hobby activity, allowed the use of the original site in Waterloo Road at the absurd rental of one pound per annum, and on this site through working bees and coerced helpers ZL3T0 Spence Harvey, Frank Hutton ZL3U0 and others the clubrooms took shape. Further efforts by a small group of energetic members Wyn McGee ZL3DX saw the room equipped with heaters, Wally Whitehead ZL3SW who was an accountant at the Feltex Carpet factory provided brand new carpet (a factory second) others were instrumental in providing the original forms on which we sat they were hard, but they were ours! Fred Boulton ZL3BK a cabinet maker, built the original meeting room table from tongue and groove Rimu floorboards, this is still used in the present club rooms as the tea and coffee table.