

# ZL3 Buildathon Christchurch



All photos courtesy John Walker ZL3IB

## ZL3 Buildathon celebrates World Amateur Radio Day Sat. 18th April 2009, Christchurch, N.Z.

29 members of the public, many aged 8-11 yrs, built 17 AM broadcast radios with 19 local radio amateurs supporting their efforts, at Kendal School, Christchurch, April 18th.

The purpose of the event was to introduce people of all ages to electronic construction and the life-long hobby of Amateur Radio.

There are over 5,000 N Z Radio Amateurs licensed by the Ministry of Economic Development. Many stand ready to serve their communities with communications in times of natural and man made emergencies. On these occasions, hand held radios and cell phones just wont work due to the failure of infrastructure or mains power. This was clearly evident in New Orleans USA for example.

We were honoured to welcome Ivan who at 81 was our oldest builder. The youngest 8. Ivan is currently working hard to learn Morse code, thanks to the support of Lorne ZL3AHB.

Suprisingly the Buildathon brought together two old radio friends, Keith ZL3QH and the Rev. Frank Glen who last met some 51 years ago in Invercargill!!

Please contact us for more information on how to become a Radio Amateur. Serving N Z communities since 1929.

To view higher resolution photographs of the event in an automatic slide show format [Click Here](#)

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### Canterbury Radio Amateurs Show How

Thanks is extended to all those Radio Amateurs that came along to show the public how to solder components and read resistor codes.

Particular thanks to the NZ Vintage Radio Society and NZART Radio Science Trust for their support; and for support on the day from:

Mike ZL3TMB, Keith ZL3AHL, Rory ZL3HB, David ZL3AI, Kevin ZL4FK and Anna Douglas.

To learn more about IARU World Amateur Radio Day click here:

<http://www.iaru.org/worldAmRadioDay.html>



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### Canterbury Schools Participating in 2009

Somerfield	Heaton Intermediate
Paparoa	Cathedral College
Cotswold	West Melton School
Oakland	Diamond Harbour

If your school or community group would like to participate in the next ZL3 Buildathon, please telephone 03 358 9776 or email [ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz](mailto:ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz)

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### Emergency Communications Vehicle

Thanks to Dudley ZL3GG and Christchurch NZART Branch 05 the AREC Emergency Communications vehicle was on display.

Rory ZL3HB explained to visitors how radio amateurs used the vehicle to assist in times of natural and man made emergencies.

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### Thanks to Our Supporters!

For both the 2008 and 2009 Buildathon projects we acknowledge the support of:

- Dick Smith Electronics NZ & Aust.
- NZART Radio Science Education Trust Inc
- NZ Vintage Radio Society
- G-QRP Club - UK
- Steve G0FUW - UK
- Charles Kitchin N1TEV - USA
- Far Circuits PCB's - USA

- Jaycar Electronics - Christchurch

If you are involved with Boy Scout, Girl Guide, Boys Brigade, School or similar community groups who would like to be part of the next ZL3 Buildathon, please email [ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz](mailto:ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz).

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### 2009 Kitset - Dick Smith AM Radio

The kitset built at the 2009 ZL3 Buildathon was a Dick Smith AM broadcast radio using an MK484 TRF integrated circuit a.k.a ZN414. For more information please email us.



Larger than actual size! AM Broadcast receiver using MK484/ZN414 IC plus BC548 transistor, earplug and 9V battery. Goes well!

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**Enquiries welcome to:** ZL3 Buildathon Coordinator, P O Box 20-256, Christchurch 8543, New Zealand  
03 358 9776 [zl3dws@nzart.org.nz](mailto:zl3dws@nzart.org.nz)

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### Brought together by the 2009 ZL3 Buildathon



Keith ZL3QL (Left) and Rev. Frank Glen last met 51 years ago in Invercargill!