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**NEWSLETTER** of *The New Zealand Association  
of Radio Transmitters UPPER HUTT Branch 63 Inc.*

## DECEMBER 2007

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### President's Report

Hi Everyone,

This newsletter is a little late in coming, but hopefully there is something in it for everyone!!!

Thanks to all those that turned out for the recent Climie working bee. It was a long and trying day, and I know it was tough, but the number of jobs done was outstanding. (see separate report)

Morrie ZL2ADP did double duty over the weekend, as not only being up at the working bee he also backed up on the Sunday for the Kapi Mana event! So well done Morrie, no doubt you put your feet up on Monday!

So after that hectic weekend... another trip up Climie will be required to remove the Climie 860 Diploes for repair, and later replacement. I believe that this will be done in the New Year, so don't panic yet! The repeaters at Clime, 5425, 730 and 860 are all working well, as are the beacons.

Speaking of repeaters, the club paid NZART in August for the fee's on the repeaters and beacons, a sum of \$270.00. (see the Special InfoLine on the new fees) The fees were required by NZART by end of November. We paid ahead to ensure we didn't burden NZART with either chasing us or not paying. The branch is also one of the few clubs to actually pay a membership fee, as well as supporting WRC-07 by donating the \$15.00 rebate. I am proud of the club's ability to pay its way.

Christmas function—since the weather has improved recently there will be a BBQ tea on

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**Club HF Net 3.645 MHz every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

## **President's Report (cont.)**

Friday 21 December 2007, commencing at 6.00 pm. The normal Friday night meeting will follow no doubt.

Wellington EXPO 08 has moved locations (see poster) - date is still 15 March 2008.

There will another working bee at Mt Climie in early January 2008.

Well that's if from the top... 73's and good DX'ing...

Mark ZL2UFI  
President



## **Working Bee: Update**

A big pat on the back is for all those that attended. It was good to see Peter ZL2SJ, who from all accounts hadn't been up the hill for many years, more than he could remember. I would also like to single out Gavin ZL2BAX for his endless energy on the day—Gavin seemed to be up the pole one minute, doing the cabling next, doing the flooring inside the hut, and managed to postpone his 4.00 pm meeting else where to stay to the bitter end. We finally got off the hill at about 5.30 pm. So thanks Gavin.

Another working bee is being planned for early January 2008 so keep an ear out for that as more work is still required.

73

Mark ZL2UFI

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## AREC REPORT: Kapi Mana

Greetings All.

The Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club ran a Trail Ride for their members on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December starting and finishing at their Bulls Run Road Complex. The course was through the Whakatiki and Puketiro Forest area with 138 riders taking part on a fine but dusty day.

The day was free of any major incidents and our team was required to do Traffic Management on Bulls Run Road from 8am to 4pm.

Operators taking part were ZL2ALA ZL2UGR and Alex Smith all from Branch 18 along with ZL2ADP. All operators were able to rotate their duties during the day.

A big thank you to Branch 18 members for helping out as most of our Branch 63 Membership had turned out for the big working bee on Mt Climie the previous day.

Our next Kapi-Mana event will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL

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### Aurora Pulls The Plug on BPL

ABC news reported today that Tasmanian electricity retailer, Aurora Energy, is planning to end its Tasmanian BPL trial.

The Aurora Chief Executive, Peter Davis, is reported to have said that Aurora's BPL trial "does not have the resources to maintain its viability", and "certainly it hasn't been a good money-making exercise for Aurora".



Aurora spent about \$2 million since the inception of the trial in 2004, and during that time has seriously addressed the interference aspects of BPL with some success. However at the end of the day it appears that the economics in an increasingly competitive environment just didn't stack up for BPL in Tasmania.

Naturally that won't be the end of BPL in Australia with several mainland trials continuing and possibly more planned, and it is not certain at this stage what will happen to the existing installed BPL infrastructure.



Phil Wait  
Director, WIA

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### BRANCH HF NET

**The Branch HF Net is now on 3.645 MHz every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

This means 8pm NZT in the winter and 9pm NZT in the summer during daylight saving.

Morrie, ZL2ADP

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## 125 YEARS LATER, TESLA'S VICTORY IS COMPLETE

New York, the city that Thomas Edison electrified 125 years ago, has completed the transition from direct to alternating current, helping to erase the vestiges of a feud between giants of invention.

Last week, the Consolidated Edison utility pulled the plug on direct-current service. Electric operations manager Fred Simms, a Con Ed employee for 52 years, cut a ceremonial cable on a Manhattan street.

The change means that Con Ed now exclusively uses the alternating-current system invented by Nikola Tesla. The utility is named for Edison, whose Pearl Street Station in Manhattan was the nation's first central electrical power plant, serving 59 customers with direct current starting in 1882.



In the so-called "war of currents," Edison feuded with Tesla and George Westinghouse over which transmission method to adopt -- even publicly electrocuting animals in an attempt to show that AC was too dangerous.

AC, however, proved superior, as transformers allowed electricity to travel over long-distance wires. Con Ed froze the development of the DC system in 1928 but continued to supply New York's major DC customers with the existing system.

In January 1998, Con Ed began to eliminate DC service. At that time, there were more than 4,600 DC customers. By last year, there were 60.

Con Ed spokesman Robert McGee said some of the city's elevators still operate with DC using rectifiers that convert the utility's AC service.

Picture: Nikola Tesla

Source: Lexington Herald-Leader (USA Newspaper) — 23 November 2007

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### Blackpool man sets new world record

A South Shore man is making waves on the radio scene – using home-made kit to pull off an international first.

Amateur radio enthusiast Dave Starkie, 53, of Kidbrooke Avenue, South Shore, has set a new world record for the longest radio transmission – from Blackpool to New Zealand. Mr Starkie and friend Keith Sharples, 44, were able to speak to each other from the opposite ends of the world using a mobile bike radio and backpack they had designed and built themselves.

The radio wave, transmitted on a 20 metre short wave band, travelled from South Shore promenade to New Brighton Pier, Christchurch, New Zealand – a total distance of 21,000km (13,000 miles).

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New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters

The Combined Wellington Radio Branches present:



## WELLINGTON RADIO EXPO '08 15 MARCH 2008

### KNOX CHURCH HALL HIGH STREET LOWER HUTT

#### RADIO AND ELECTRONICS SALE

HOURS: 10.00 AM - 4.00 PM

(VENDORS' ACCESS SATURDAY 7.00 AM-10.00 AM)

**ADMISSION CHARGE OF \$4.00**

- includes **FREE** drink
- one raffle entry ticket

This is a table-space Junk Sale. Vendors access Saturday morning for setup.

**Confirmed Vendors:** Andrews Communications

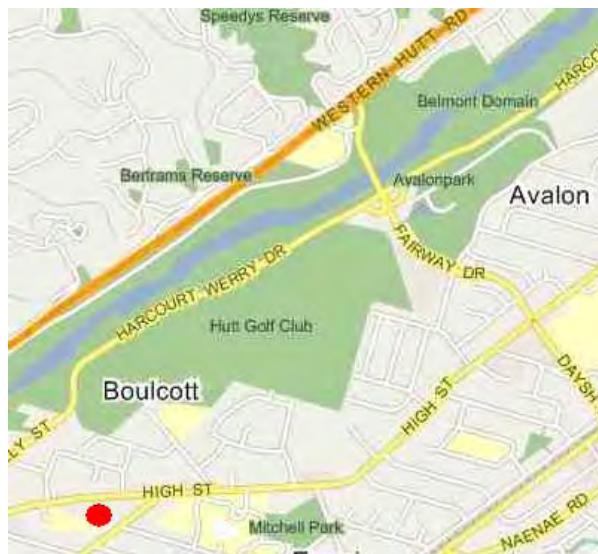
IRLP via Climie 730 Repeater Special Event Callsign **ZL4FUN**

Contacts:

Full refreshments on site. Email: Gavin Cross (gcross@paradise.net.nz)

Web: [www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/events](http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/events)

#### Talk-in Repeater: Climie 730 (147.300 +600 Split)



#### Driving Instructions:

Head north on SH 2 from Wellington, turn right onto the Kennedy-Good Bridge, and follow Fairway Drive until it intersects with the High Street roundabout.

Turn right at the roundabout and travel south on High Street passing the Hutt Hospital and driving through the next roundabout.

The Knox Church Hall is on your left. Off street parking is available at the venue. (red spot marks the hall).

**Proudly Supported by:** Hutt Valley Br 18 NZART, Titahi Bay Amateur Radio Club Br 42 NZART, Wellington Amateur Radio Club Br 50 NZART, Upper Hutt Br 63 NZART and Wellington VHF Group Br 74 NZART.



# Headquarters - Info - Line

*... a service from ...*

The New Zealand Association of  
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



NZART Headquarters Info Line Special;

**6 December 2007**

**Special Issue #18**

Greetings Everyone

Welcome to this Special Issue of Headquarters-Info-Line. In This Special Issue:

- Radio Fee's Review for 2007

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It was announced yesterday, via the MED Radio Spectrum Management web site that as a result of the Radio Fee's Review for 2007 - that the fee currently charged by the MED for repeaters, beacons and fixed links for the Amateur Service are not increasing, but remaining at the same level, (\$50.00 per annum, reduced by 10% to \$45.00 per annum if paid on-line). Additionally it is noted first that the regulations include a ten percent reduction in licence fees for licence holders who undertake their own interference investigations and secondly that the cost for engineering the same licenses has increased from \$300.00 to \$400.00.

NZART extends it's thanks to the submission submitted by the two previous ALO's, namely Bruce Douglas ZL2WP and Mark Gooding ZL2UFI; as this no doubt lead to the successful case of at least keeping the fee's at their current level. Members will recall that a figure of \$250 p.a. was a possibility. This shows the value of the submission process and is good example of what NZART is doing for its members, and for amateurs as a whole.

As part of the press statement from the minister responsible for this fee's increase, David Cunliffe stated in part the following:

"Mr Cunliffe said there will be no changes to the amateur licence fees for repeaters, beacons and fixed links - but these will be included in a review of the amateur fees to be commenced in the New Year."

The new ALO Don Wallace ZL2TLL will be taking up this "new" review referred to by the minister when next meeting with the MED.

The new fee structure takes effect on 1 February 2008.

Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW, NZART Vice President

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Regards, Jamie Pye ZL2NN, Editor [zl2nn@nzart.org.nz](mailto:zl2nn@nzart.org.nz)