



QST63

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Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.

Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

204 Plateau Road
Te Mana
Upper Hutt 5018

ZL2VH Newsletter — August 2014

President's Report

First off, over the past few weeks the club has been busy doing antenna maintenance work at Climie. Tests were made on the existing installations and a brand new 730 Stack was installed. Check out the full report elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year's Lighthouse Weekend is on the 16–17th of August. The Club is activating Karori Rock Lighthouse as part of the ILW event. Tom ZL2HGR is the main organiser along with helpers Brian ZL2CHV, Eric ZL2SET and Arnold ZL2ASD. They welcome visitors over the weekend so give them a call if you'd like to take a look. For more info on the Lighthouse Weekend check out <http://ilw.net/>

Finally, a reminder that the club is still looking for a second Exam Supervisor. They must be a member of NZART to be accepted. This is not a very onerous position so please, if you are willing do this, step forward.

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

Branch 63 Repeater Update

A busy month, even though it's mid-winter. See John's report elsewhere.

3 cm Beacon

Nothing to report

1292 23 cm FM Repeater

On Air.

860 D-Star Repeater

On Air

5425 D-Star Repeater

Back on air, running off the old (north) dipole stack. An order has been placed for filters to

improve 5425's (and 730's) performance.

730 2 m FM Repeater

Running on the new 4 dipole stack on the south pole.

53.950 6 m FM Repeater

On Air.

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

Climie Repeater Maintenance

On Tuesday 15th July 2014, Phil ZL2HF, Ted ZL2TED, Eric ZL2SET and John ZL2TWS replaced the noisy south pole VHF antenna with a new SkyMast SM-4 dipole stack and connected the 730 repeater to it. This is an interim measure while the north pole antenna is serviced. (north pole is the normal 730 antenna)



Anyone got any idea how this goes together?

5425 D-Star will use the previously crackly antenna on the north pole until a repair or replacement is implemented. Digital radio D-Star masks the crackle and noise heard on FM. Digital stops working once the antenna has completely failed. This gives trustees time to work on the noisy antenna when weather permits.

Signal Reports

- Steve ZL2KG at Forest Lakes sees a change from S-3 to S-7. He can now work 730 with 500 mW (0.5 W) of power.
- Lower Hutt signals have gone from S-9 to 10 dB over 9.
- ZL2FAE at North Waikanae reports an increase from S-3 to S-7.
- Mobile signals while driving Haywards Hill road to Porirua have noticeably improved.

- Bruce ZL2ABC can work 730 with a hand held inside his Ngaio QTH.
- Chris ZL2UKT reports signal is a lot stronger in Naenae.
- Phil ZL2HF reports a S point or two increase and can work 730 on low power from his hand-held.

Special thanks also goes to Phil ZL2HF for providing transport and double axle trailer to get the new antenna and long ladder on site.

73 and good DX, John ZL2TWS



Ted ZL2TED steadies the mast while John and Phil tighten clamps



Finishing touches by Eric ZL2SET



Phil ZL2HF cranks up the finished SM-4 antenna John ZL2TWS runs for cover



Almost there, Phil. Keep cranking



Antenna up just as the weather sets in around us



New north tower used by waterboard

IET 2014 Prestige Lecture

3D printing: The Good, Bad and the Ugly

[David ten Have](#): COO of Makey Makey

Thursday 7th August 2014, 5:00 pm WelTec, Petone Campus, 11 Kensington Ave, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012

Abstract: A high-level tour of digital fabrication and 3D printing in particular. The presentation will unpick some of the hype, address some of the strengths, highlight the weaknesses and address some of the opportunities. The presentation will not focus on the technical process, but will look at the social, design and economic contexts.

Speaker Bio: David is currently the COO at makeymakey.com, a creative hardware company started by two MIT grads. Prior to that he was the CEO and Co-Founder of Ponoko. Ponoko was one of the first online digital fabrication services in the world. Ponoko offers 3D printing and laser cutting services online and focuses enabling designers to bring products to market quickly. David

has 8 years experience in the field of digital fabrication. David is also the Chairman of Conscious Consumers, a technical advisor to OtherMill and an advisor to Publons.

A useful story for promoting Amateur Radio

Link supplied by Neil ZL1TAJ

<http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-arrl-convention-20140718,0,1823651.story>

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated

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