



QST63

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NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO
TRANSMITTERS - BRANCH 63 UPPER HUTT

Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt



ZL2VH Newsletter – May 2024

President's Report

At the April 2024 AGM a change of officer positions took place, and they are outlined below:

President: Mark Gooding ZL2UFI

Immediate Past President: Mike ZL2NSA

Secretary: Justin Southam ZL2UGL

Treasurer: Gavin Smith ZL2ACT

Repeater Trustee 1: John Wysocki ZL2TWS

Repeater Trustee 2: Justin Southam ZL2UGL

Repeater Assistant: Steve Gilberd ZL4NT

Repeater Assistant: Allan Rayner ZL3LAB

Repeater Administrator: Mark Gooding ZL2UFI

Contest Manager: Ben Gilbert ZL4BDG

Exam Administrator: Gavin Smith ZL2ACT

Exam Administrator Assistant: Justin Southam ZL2UGL

Exam Administrator Assistant: Steve Gilberd ZL4NT

Exam Administrator Assistant: Murray Wills ZL2IQ

Maintenance Manager: Ben Gilbert ZL4BDG

Webmaster: David Phillips ZL2DBP

Editor of QST63: Mark Gooding ZL2UFI

Editor Assistant: Simon Eatough ZL2BRG

I wish to thank Immediate-Past President Mike ZL2NSA for his leadership over the last few years, taking over from Simon ZL2BRG. I was last President in 2014. Also, Simon ZL2BRG has stood down as a Repeater Trustee, again after many years of service. Simon has offered to still look after the 3 cm Beacon, the SDR Receiver, the DSTAR G3 Gateway PC plus the Wi-Fi link to Mt Climie. And finally wish to thank Eric ZL2SET for his roles as QST63 Editor and Maintenance Manager, both roles at times are hard to complete when either not much copy for the newsletter was coming through or locating equipment out on loan.

You will see from the list, that John ZL2TWS has returned as a Repeater Trustee, after a five-year break. Two new positions for Repeater Assistants have been created as learning opportunities to eventually take over the Repeater Trustee roles in the future.

Repeater Report

A visit to Mount Climie is expected to happen mid-week in May for a stocktake of status on site, plus various measurements of SWR etc. Normally 1 May is the close off date for visits to Climie due to weather conditions especially any outside work unless urgent issues arise. After winter, again based on weather conditions then October/November we return to outside maintenance.

This visit is to establish a base line of data going forward, so we know what we have, to identify future improvements, and to have measurements so we know if there are any performance issues.

Repeater: Status

Climie KiwiSDR	On Air
10 m Beacon	On Air.
3 cm Beacon	Off Air - pending reinstallation on GNS pole.
1292 (23 cm)	On Air.

DSTAR 5425,860	5425 On Air. 860 needs software update to re-connect to RP2C Controller to be On Air.
730	On Air.
395 (6 m)	On Air.

A Brief History of Climie 730

On 25 August 1971 25 members and 5 visitors supported Fred ZL2AMJ's proposal for a repeater to be sited at Mt Climie. One person was against the proposal, Richard Milne ZL2TCU. He said the Upper Valley was adequately covered by HF!

ZL2AMJ, ZL2BHF and Alan ZL2RF were to be the Trustees.

Mid Sept 1972 Geoff Stanton of Wellington Regional Water board drove ZL2AMJ and ZL2BAI in 4WD to the Climie Site to peg out the pole position for future antennas.

Saturday 14 October 1972 the Climie site was levelled for the concrete tank the following week.

Sat 28 Nov 1972 Climie Working Bee. Fourteen members on site (including ZL2BHF) started the task of digging the trench to bury 400 yards of 230v power cable for the Climie Repeater.

On 10 March 1973, the Climie Channel A repeater was installed and operational on Mt Climie.

May 1974 Work was progressing on the 28 MHz Beacon.

In June 1974 the Callsign ZL2MHF was allocated for the beacon.

November 1974 Climie Channel A repeater became Climie Channel C!

On 25 January 1975 28 MHz Beacon on Mt Climie on air.

At the 19 February 1980 Branch 63 Committee meeting Jamie ZL2NN confirmed he had placed an order with Tait for a new VHF Repeater for Mt Climie. Delivery date was expected in late March 1980.

From Break-In 1981:

FMWG Report - The implementation plan for two metre repeater frequency change was approved by the NZPO in January 1981. (This Plan is detailed in March Break-In 1981 page 30).

In the VHF Notes of the same BI on page 29 – One of the first repeaters to be converted to 600 kHz split and the new frequencies will be the Upper Hutt Machine on Mt Climie. Upper Hutt Branch hope to have this done by 7 March 1981.

The new South Hutt was officially opened 25 August 1993.



This picture was taken in August of 2016 on one of our refuelling missions.

In this picture Phil ZL2HF's red Ute can be seen.

To the left was Steve ZL2YD(SK) Suzuki 4WD. Steve went silent key on 2 March 2020.



Steve ZL2YD