



*New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters*

## **ZL1AA - AUCKLAND BRANCH 02**

**August**

**2020**

**SATURDAY 16th August**

**NO  
GENERAL MEETING**

**Stay home  
stay safe**

Reflect on the privileges of belonging to a branch of NZART. These are:

- QSL card distribution;
- Monthly newsletter;
- Use of repeaters;
- Use of the remote station;
- Borrowing rigs, test gear, magazines and books;
- Access to technical advice and help from Elmers;
- Participation in events and contests; and most of all,  
Fellowship.

Looking for something to do on the weekend? Need to fill some more DXCC Challenge slots? work new Countries? work new modes? Why not operate for a short while in a contest. There are several to choose from. More Information can be found at:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

## ZL1AA

**Auckland Branch 02**  
**P O Box 18-003**  
**Glen Innes**  
**Auckland, 1743**

[www.qsl.net/zl1aa](http://www.qsl.net/zl1aa)  
[ZL1AA@nzart.org.nz](mailto:ZL1AA@nzart.org.nz)  
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## Club Officers

### President:

Jim Smith, ZL1TGS  
JimmyS@xtra.co.nz  
027-492-5152

### Vice President:

Rod Stichbury, ZL1SR  
RodStichbury@xtra.co.nz  
021-355-258

### Immed. Past President:

Wes Printz, ZL3TE  
ZL3TE@dxer.com  
027-227-7779

### Secretary:

Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL  
Auckland.nzart@gmail.com  
(09) 575-6383

### Treasurer:

Jeff Lowe ZL1TOU  
jeffjanet51@gmail.com  
(09) 630-0213

### Elected Members:

Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR  
rgwynne.rowe@xtra.co.nz  
(09) 528-1177

Olivier Wardecki, ZL1XS  
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021-813-541

Ken Lawrence, ZL1TJL  
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021-369-514

## ZL1AA Information:

Branch 02 Clubroom is located at  
400 St Johns Road  
St Heliers, Auckland  
Approach from the south then through  
(locked) gate and down right of way.

Google Earth:  
36.869730s, 174.843860e

Clubroom is open every Saturday from  
1030 hrs. for members and guests to drop  
in for a cuppa and a chat.

General meetings are held on the third  
Saturday of each month at 1330 hrs.  
(except Dec / Jan). All welcome.

Committee meetings are held on the first  
Tuesday of each month at 1930 hrs.  
Only paid members may attend.

Affiliations:  
10-10 International  
NZART  
AMSAT-ZL

Club nets:  
Wednesday:  
145.775 MHz @ 1930 Steve, ZL1FS NCO  
HF Net on Hiatus

10-10 Down Under Chapter Net:  
28.530 MHz 2230Z Fridays  
(1030 NZST Saturdays)

## Branch Contact:

Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR  
(09) 528-1177

## Branch Examiners:

Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL  
(09) 575-6383

Wes Printz, ZL3TE  
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## Web Master:

Andrei Chatalov, ZL1TM  
achatnz@gmail.com

## Librarian & QSL cards:

Olivier Wardecki, ZL1XS  
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## Station Trustees:

George Marr, ZL1TUJ  
Wes Printz, ZL3TE

## Branch Technical Adviser:

Simon Watt-Wyness, ZL1SWW  
sww@eagle.co.nz



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

### ❖ Subscription Rates:

Regular ..... \$45 (discounted with a \$5.00 raffle ticket if paid by 31 Mar 2021)  
Youth Rate \$20

❖ A Membership Application / Renewal Form is required with all payments to assist with accurate record keeping, available by downloading [http://www.qsl.net/zl1aa/br02\\_mem\\_form.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/zl1aa/br02_mem_form.pdf) then hit "SUBMIT" to upload it or Post to PO Box 18003, Glen Innes, Auckland 1743.

❖ Pay by direct credit into our bank account **12-3047-0076823-00** or pay the Treasurer or Secretary at the clubrooms.

❖ A pro rata rate is offered to a new member joining part way through the year.

❖ The financial year runs from 1 November to 31 October.

❖ Receipts, if requested, will be distributed at meetings or via e-mail.

❖ All members' information is kept confidential unless approval is given for it to be released.

Newsletter material submissions are welcomed and appreciated by your editor. You may submit material in a variety of file formats: .TXT, .DOC, or just plain old e-mail. Photos are accepted also. Please submit material via e-mail to: ZL3TE@xtra.co.nz. I will use what I can within the space available at the time of newsletter editing.

Google "ZL1AIX Youtube" to experience a flyover by drone to see these antennas.



### From the Secretary ... (Wes is very busy)

It was in October last year when I was acting editor, that I described the visit by Gwynne and Wes to Waiheke Island to assess the task of dismantling this SteppIR DB36 antenna and installing it on our Nally tower. Last Month they progressed this project further and reported that the beam is now packaged and is ready for their next trip to transport it.



I was recently allowed to read Warren Robinson's ZL1AIX-SK autobiography which he had distributed to members of his family. Chapter 33 was titled "**Amateur radio call-sign ZL1AIX**".

Read on.

Chapter 33 from "*MY JOURNEY*", an autobiography by Warren Robinson.

## AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGN 'ZL1AIX'

ROY NEEDHAM was my inspiration and my mentor when it came to my first steps into, and a lifelong passion for, amateur (ham) radio. As mentioned in a much earlier chapter, when I was a young lad, Roy operated a film projector in a truck which he brought to the memorial halls in Patumahoe and surrounding towns and villages on a rotational basis, providing cinema once a week for the residents. When my mother took our radio to Roy's business, Needham Radio & Sound in Pukekohe, to have it repaired (after I had damaged it when experimenting with radio signals), I was fascinated by his workshop. Mr Needham, as I addressed him then, was also a keen amateur radio operator, his call sign being 'ZL1KG' (every amateur operator has to have a call sign). He had a tower in his back yard, with a beam antenna and an impressive display of equipment - most of it, as I later learned, home-made. Mr Needham's entire set-up fascinated me and I gained an immediate affinity with the subject - both the electrical and electronic side of things. I was about 10 years of age, still at primary school. While my early career ambition was to be a sheep farmer, especially during the two years at Pukekohe High School, I was developing a strong interest in radio and electronics at the same time.

I pursued that hobby initially by building my own crystal set. Having a pair of headphones and a wire winding out the window - and supposedly going to bed early but in actuality, playing with the crystal set long into the night - caused my parents some anguish, I can tell you.

From that crystal set, I progressed to a Hikers' One - a kitset, one-valve radio with batteries and which you built yourself. This was purchased from a company in Wellington called Lamphouse, which had a catalogue full of electrical, radio, kitsets and parts. I thought that catalogue was marvelous.

Hikers' One was a lot more powerful than the crystal set - you could tune in the bands and listen to stations all over the place. A 'must-listen for me was a weekly radio serial called '*Dossier on Demetrius*' - a thriller set around post-war London and focused on Major Gregory Keen of MI5 and his battles with Nazi villains. The batteries were continually going flat, of course, with so much use. My friend, Graham Howe, and I then progressed to another type of kitset - a 4 or 5-valve radio that was hand-held and could be carried around. It was advanced for the times ... although we never did actually get it working properly.

More interest in radio equipment came when we moved to Auckland and I attended Auckland Grammar. My friends Don Haswell, Ken McCormick and Barry Kirkwood were all interested in radio. The ultimate objective was to obtain our amateur radio licence so we could pursue the hobby by having a call sign, and be able to talk on the air to people around the world, and to build transmitters and receivers. The age of 15 was the official starting age, so by the time we left secondary school, we had our amateur licences. Ken,' whose call sign was 'ZL1AIH,' obtained his licence about the same time as I did. Barry passed his licence some years later, after he left school. His call sign was 'ZL1BN.' Our group included Ted Thorpe, at Mt Albert Grammar, who was a year ahead of me at school, who had got his licence earlier than me, and who was to persuade me to follow him into the Broadcasting Service when I left school. His call sign was 'ZL1DX.'

When I did join the Service, there were several ham radio people employed there. They had had their licenses for many years. One of the senior men was Jack Baxendale, with the call sign of 'ZL1JB.' A senior technician at 1YA was Ray Eaton, whose call sign was 'ZL1GG.' There were others who obtained their call signs when I was with the Service. It seemed to be the thing to do as a hobby, even though we were working in the industry. Amateur radio was addictive. Fascinating too, from my perspective, because in those days there was little or no commercial equipment available - everything was home-built.

There was also Morse Code. To obtain your amateur licence, you had to pass a test on sending and receiving Morse Code. It was 12 words per minute, as I recall. Then later, for a more advanced licence after several years of practical experience, you sat another exam involving theory and Morse Code at 15 words per minute. I was fortunate that my father was a telegraphist and he had taught me Morse Code at a very early age. Although it had been some years since he had used Morse Code, it was like riding a bicycle - he never forgot it.

The earliest location of my station was 500 Manukau Road, Epsom, where we lived. I had a modest sort of an aerial there. It was a wire antenna and streaked across the back of several people's properties, with their permission. There were a number of amateur operators living in the Epsom area and I used to attend meetings of the Auckland branch. Not having much money in those days, meant that it was difficult to build good equipment. Some of mine was war surplus, such as the ZC1 and the Arc 5 transmitter/receiver, which was about the only commercial equipment available at that time. These were sold at amateur junk sales. Being at school, it was sometimes 'hard going' to afford to buy equipment, but somehow, we usually managed it.

As time moved on, we became involved in contests. An amateur operator called Ben Salvin, with the call sign of 'ZL1HS,' also lived in Epsom and introduced me to ham radio contests. This often involved a marathon effort, as the object was to log as many stations as possible - according to the rules of a particular contest and over a period of a set time frame [four hours, 24 hours, 48 hours etc]. As a single operator, this was hard going. The early contests I entered included the Memorial contest, which was a local contest, and the Sangster Shield contest, which was a low-power contest. I did quite well in these - but it wasn't until much later on in life that I managed to win both the Sangster Shield and the Memorial contests.

In my courting days, I completely neglected to mention ham radio to Marjie for several years. I wasn't involved in it at this time and I never really told her about it. However, after having been married for two or three years, and having moved into our place in Te Atatu, I felt the urge to bring ham radio into my life again. There wasn't room to house equipment, so I bought an old shed and placed this down at the back of our section, away from our house. This operated as my 'shack.'

By this time, amateur radio had changed. The phone communication side had progressed to single side-band. Being involved in Marlin at that time, we were right into communication and radio telephones. So I got a fair dose of radio and electronics both - at work during the day and at home in the evenings and weekends. In hindsight, this gave me a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to pursue single side-band and ham radio generally.

I then became ambitious and put up a 65ft tower at Te Atatu. This had 20m, 15m and 10m beam antennas on the aluminium tower. This gave a good launch pad for our signal and receiving and we were able to talk to people all around the world. I made a lot of friends - not only in New Zealand but overseas.

The equipment was all home-built - I had copied the Collins 75S1 receiver and then the Collins 32S1 transmitter. I really became ambitious after that, with the Collins KWM2 transceiver. At that stage, this was the ultimate. But the price for the commercial unit was so prohibitive I had had to build it myself. However, these radios all operated very successfully.

Later on, I was prompted by a number of amateurs to build a transceiver to be marketed in New Zealand - after I had built up a prototype and operated it on the air and there were good reports about it. It was similar to the commercial Drake TR4, but it had been considerably modified to allow for the components that were available to us in New Zealand. That's where it had an advantage - being able to use some parts that were available locally. A few of my friends said, 'Can you build one for me?' That's how it started. We built about 12 of these single side-band units over a couple of years, at home with help from a friend, but separate from the Marlin operation. They were named the WR300 and some are still operational today.

When we left Te Atatu to move to Bleakhouse Road, Howick, the tower came with me. Rigged up at the back of our section, it proved a great location, overlooking the Hauraki Gulf. We were still using the KWM2 copy and we entered many CQDX contests in those days.

Contests were the thing to be involved in - both because of the element with your friends and because it was always good fun. A contest involves calling another station - whether they're on CW (Morse Code) or phone (talking) - and passing or exchanging a number. At the end of the conversation, you log the information with the contest organisers, such as CQ magazine, for example. They'd vet all the logs and publish the results. So it was a matter of getting as many contacts as you could in the time period. Certain areas had more bonus points than others - there were multipliers for different zones and different countries. A new country would involve a bigger multiplier - so that was what you strived to do.

Other contests involved operating from the branch, where it was a team effort. We belonged to the Auckland branch, which had the call sign of 'ZL1AA.' The field-day contest involved going out into the field and operating a portable station (not run off mains power). It was very much a team effort in setting up and operating from a remote place. Aerials had to be erected and the station made functional by deadline time and taken down after the time limit. The power was limited to 20 watts.

I recall one time we managed to get a site out at Whitford, atop a hill near the golf course, after we gained permission from the farmer to operate on field day. This was an extremely good site - it was high, there was no noise [because the power lines were a long distance away] and there were huge pine trees on the hill's summit that allowed us to erect our aerials at 80m and 40m, the two bands we operated on.

On our first effort in the contest, we did reasonably well. But my old friend, Roy Needham, had organised the Franklin group and they easily won the event. So this became a challenge to me. The next year, I was keen to do better than my mentor. This time, we were better prepared. The group was bigger, we had obtained a 230-volt generator and used my 32S1 and 75S1 receivers - with reduced power to comply with the requirements. We were also able to run SSB and AM (amplitude modulation). We were getting overseas contacts with single side-band on 40m and came up with a tremendous multiplier. This left the Franklin branch grasping for points and we managed to beat them comfortably.

After that, my interest in ham radio waned a little, as business took over and the family became more involved with boating. When we moved out to the farm, there was no ham radio at all and it was put aside for many years - until recently, when we purchased the property at Waiheke. The is-

land location seemed ideal to operate ham radio, but I didn't want to push my luck too much. It seemed to have consumed a fair amount of my life. However, Marjie agreed that I should take up the hobby again. We purchased a commercial Yaseu transceiver, an FT1000D, from an operator in Christchurch in 2004. My good friend, Barry Kirkwood, now with the call sign of ZL1DD, had recommended it. We erected a simple, vertical antenna, 43ft high. It was amazing how well that performed in the quiet location.

However, the competitive streak came unto me again. I decided the equipment and the antenna wasn't good enough. We now have a tower that extends to 82ft in height. It has a SteppIR antenna. It has enabled me to make contact with a lot of my old friends and, more recently, to establish many new friends also.

Some people may think ham radio is quirky. I don't think so. Everybody has their hobbies and for me, amateur radio has been great. It has also taught me a lot about electronics - as an educator in being able to build the equipment, to research all the technical aspects of communications, and to understand the design of quartz crystals and analogue and digital devices such as TCXOs and VCXOs and other oscillators and equipment that we have been able to build at Rakon. It really has been advantageous to me commercially.

Amateur radio has grown over the years. The number of hams operating in Japan is 1.4 million and in the United States over 700,000. World-wide, there are 3 million operators. A question people ask is why use this method today when there are other means of communication, such as Skype and telephone? The answer is that it is the challenge of being able to produce a signal yourself, over the 'ether' - and to have the best signal. There is also the challenge of working the most difficult area. For example, South Africa is the most difficult, working from New Zealand. Most of the time the signal has to go over the South Pole where there is a lot of absorption from the magnetic path that lies there.

Ask Marjie her opinion on amateur radio and she says she is not the right person to ask that question, really.' Marjorie adds: 'When he met me, Warren put all his ham radio stuff away. I had never heard of ham radio and I didn't know what it was about. But after we married, a little later on ... there would be bits of wire coming into the house.

'Then the little shack down the back was built. I remember going down there one night and saying, 'You really love your ham radio more than you love me.' He just lived down there. And to this day, he's still the same. He lives in his little study (on Waiheke) with a whole row of equipment.

When Darren, our youngest, was born ... there was a world-wide contest on. I had to go and have the baby ... so Warren dropped me at the hospital. He was involved with the competition for the entire weekend ... though he came to see me, of course. Quick time, and back down there again! In the early days, I used to get upset about it. But now ... well, I don't mind so much anymore.'

So that's Marjie's view ... and yes, she has been extremely tolerant. In retirement, it's a hobby that does take more of my time. When we were involved with Rakon and the times we were travelling overseas, there was little or no amateur radio. Now, not only does it keep me in touch with my friends, but it also keeps me abreast of technical aspects of the industry.

One project that I am involved in with Rakon is the new Yaseu, the FT2000.1 am working with a group in the United States, involving Rakon, into prototyping an oscillator to replace the existing one to improve its performance. So it's a two-fold thing - I am possibly helping sales with Rakon and at the same time keeping in touch with my friends in amateur radio.

# Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.)

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

**Place:** On-line via **ZOOM**  
**Date / Time:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 2000 hours (after 30 minutes taken to establish this meeting).  
**Check in:** Jim ZL1TGS (presiding), Rod ZL1SR, Jeff ZL1TOU, Wallace ZL1WAL, Japie ZL1JJN, Ken ZL1TJL, Olivier ZL1XS, Simon ZL1SWW, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Alec ZL1HAZ  
**Apologies:** Soren ZL1JKL, Graham ZL1GH Sustained ZL1TGS / ZL1WAL  
**/Minutes:** Previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 via ZOOM Approved ZL1WAL / ZL3TE

### Committee vacancy:

- Notwithstanding that Gwynne is willing to join the Committee, and Olivier has offered to stand down (because Committee may not exceed five), the Constitution prescribes that an election is required. Thus no appointment should be made.

### Constitution:

- Schedule a Special General Meeting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Secretary is to draft agenda to appear in the newsletter so that 14 days clear notice is given for the SGM. The agenda shall also include reinstatement of Section 23 (AREC).  
Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

### Correspondence:

- In**
  - Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura; Musick Point (by post)
  - Newsletters: Hibiscus Coast; Western Suburbs; Papakura, Westlakes (by e-mail)
  - Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point
  - Companies Office – Advising that they have registered our amendment to our Constitution
  - Selwyn reporting signal strength when listening to Remote Station
  - Stuart Smith ZL1SSM acknowledging raffle prize.
- Out**
  - Andrei: Amendments to web page: Constitution, Guidelines, Health & Safety manual, Remote Station Operation.
  - Stuart Smith ZL1SSM advising him that he had won the raffle for ARRL Handbook set.
  - Colin Robinson ZL1TKJ reminding him about ARRL Handbook prize that needs to be picked up from clubroom.
  - NZART advising that President is Jim ZL1TGS and VP is Rod ZL1SR.

### Arising:

- NZART web site is to be updated by deadline in July. Nets are run on Wednesday (not Thursday).
- Exam Supervisors need to be financial with NZART – evidenced by list sent out each year before June AGM.
- E-mails from / to individual Members is discouraged. Use forums of nets and meetings for recommendations.  
Received and approved ZL1WAL / ZL1SR

### Finance:

- Finance Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020  
Arising; Make interim payment of \$250 to Gwynne for car ferry expenses (already approved).  
Received ZL1TOU / ZL1TGS
- Approval of expenses:**

o ARRL Handbook	Gwynne ZL1AAR	\$100.00 (receipt required)
o Lawn mowing	Steve ZL1FS	\$23.00 (debit chit required)

Approved ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL

### Reports:

### Action

- AREC:** NTR.
- Web site:** Constitution updated. New documents: Guidelines, Health & Safety, Remote Station Operation.
- Visitors:** None while the Branch is in lock-down
- Nets:** Informal net on 3.645MHz after the VHF net. Too many users on the Remote may overload cellular network.
- Exams:** None allowed. Candidates: Tristan Crockett, Leo Schwartzel, Martin Gingins, Luzi Gan, and Lal Busher
- Newsletter:** A plea will be made for amicable fun with this hobby. Incivility will not be tolerated. Jim
- Remotely controlled station:** Now OK but a menu had been altered thus conflicting with server's audio levels. Tape a notice to it saying: "**Do not touch** Remote Station or its server" Wallace
- Membership:** Invoices need to be sent to late sub-paying Members Ken
- Equipment for sale:** Museu Yaesu rigs ex ZL1AND has been tested and fails. Gear ex ZL1AAA is for sale
- Library:** Recently donated (very old) magazines need to be merged into our library. Olivier
- Maintenance:** Solar panel (donated by Gwynne) to be secured to the roof. Investigate wiring. Jim / Steve
- Housekeeping:** Crockery washed and returned.

- **Meter reading:** 565819.8

## Minutes of Committee Meeting May 2020 (Cont'd)

### Action

- **Antennas:**
  - Erect yacht mast pole for 40m and hire scissors platform from Kennards Hire Jim /Rod
  - Swap tri-band Yagi from Nally tower to Tor Toff pole Steve
  - The SteppIR DB36 has been dismantled but transport from Waiheke Island is deferred. Wes / Gwynne
  - RF meters are being fitted to tune two new foxes. Five x 12v 12ah batteries are needed Wallace / Wes
  - An AIM4170 scan of the 80m dipole shows resonances at 3.56 MHz (SWR 1.06) and 3.73MHz (SWR 3.4).

### Future Events / entertainment / speakers

- 16<sup>th</sup> May: No meeting. Nor any more meetings will be scheduled until after the lock-down is over.

### Other business:

- Obituary info is required for Break-In SK column article about Warren Robinson ZL1AIX-SK Give to Gwynne

## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of Committee Meeting

**Place:** On-line meeting via **ZOOM**

**Date / Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 at 1940 hours

**Check in:** Jim ZL1TGS (presiding), Rod ZL1SR, Wallace ZL1WAL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Ken ZL1TJL, Japie ZL1JJN, Olivier ZL1XS, and observers: Gwynne ZL1AAR, Simon ZL1SWW and Graham ZL1GH.

**Apologies:** Soren ZL1SKL; Wes ZL3TE

Sustained ZL1TGS / ZL1WAL

**Minutes:** Previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (via Zoom)

Adopted ZL1WAL / ZL1TJL

### Correspondence:

### Action

- **In**
  - Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura; Musick Point (by post);
  - Newsletters: Hibiscus Coast; Western Suburbs; Papakura, Westlakes (by e-mail)
  - Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point
  - Info Line: Exams allowed; SKN 14 June; Young Transmitters net Mondays 7pm. SDR ZL1PWW
  - Astrea Dominue: Request for info about Ham radio
  - Group Argentine: announcing CW 24 hour contest from 1500 UTC 13 June
  - Selwyn: Suggestion that we issue E-QSL reports after Remote is used. (Ed: User of remote needs to do own logging)
  - Selwyn: About five submissions reporting his experience listening to the Remote Station
  - Selwyn: Withdrawing his consent to publish his suggested settings of remote station while listening.
  - YOTA : Promoting participation by all youth in Oceania
  - Selwyn: Summary of his qualifications, experience with, minutes about, and history of Remote station.
  - Selwyn: Complaint about lack of interest in the remote station; making various accusations for not getting replies.
  - Zoom: Mandatory download to update to version 5.0.
  - Mrs Robinson advising that her grandson Joseph Robinson, presently at sea, will apply for call-sign ZL1AIX
  - NZART-HQ: Advice that call-sign ZL1AIX cannot be held after November 2020.
  - Victoria ARDF Group inviting participation in webinar about Open Orienteering course setting program
  - Victoria ARDF Group: Video of webinar. More lessons about mapping will be broadcast next week
  - Victoria ARDF Group: 24 kitsets for 80m sniffers were sourced from Nicholas Roethe DF1FO.
- **Out**
  - Mrs Robinson: providing details for her grandson so that he can sit the GURL exam and apply for call-sign ZL1AIX
  - Astrea Dominue: providing link to NZART exam web page
  - Selwyn: (from Wes) stating that his reports about the remote station have been positive lately.

Received and approved ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN



# Minutes of Committee Meeting June 2020 (Cont'd)

## Finance:

- **Finance Report:** as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Received ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL

- **Approval of expenses:**

- Hire of cherry picker Steve ZL1FS \$264.54
- Envelopes Wallace ZL1WAL \$10.00
- Payment method to be ratified after discussion with ASB Branch Manager.

Approved ZL1TOU / ZL1SR

## Reports:

- **AREC:** Nothing to report (NTR) Soren
- **Web page:** NTR
- **Visitors:** None while the Branch has been in lock-down
- **Nets: / QSL:** NTR Steve
- **Exams:** Graham ZL1GH has declined Examination Supervisor role
- **Newsletter:** Not issued in May. Wes
- **Remotely controlled station:** Working well. Selwyn ZL1BRC advises that he has submitted a paper to Break-in reporting his experience to get good performance.
- **Membership:** NTR Ken
- **Equipment for sale:** NTR
- **Library:** NTR Olivier
- **Maintenance:** Lawns have been removed lower by Jim and Steve after Ground Works failed to comply.
- **Antennas:**
  - Centre Pole for 40m (donated by Jim ZL1TGS) was erected using hired cherry picker. Coax needs to be extended so that it reached full height. Jim
  - Transport of the SteppIR from Waiheke Island Wes / Gwynne
  - ARDF: fitting RF meter to tune new foxes - in progress Wallace
- **Meter reading:** 56189.4

## Meetings: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June:

- **Special General Meeting:** at 1330 hours
  - Notice and Agenda recommended by Committee:
    - Amend Constitution Section 5 (Committee)
    - Amend Constitution Section 23 (AREC)
    - Elect Committee Member to fill vacancy.
  - Notice must be issued to financial Members by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June (so as to give 14 day's clear notice).
- **General Meeting:**
  - Agenda:
    - Adopt Minutes of SGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> February
    - Reports by Committee
    - Hear suggestions by Members
    - Practical exercise - Members to bring, show and tell.

## Future Events / entertainment / speakers

Suggestion submitted by Steve ZL1FS is to set a practical exercise, e.g. Construct a microphone.  
The Committee supported practical activities at meetings, e.g. building ARDF sniffers from kitsets.

## Other business:

- Investigate the procurement of a ride-on Mower Japie
- Request storage space in Implement shed managed by ATEED Wallace
- Request repair to driveway by Lease holder / Auckland Council Wallace
- Investigate procurement of modern test equipment and PCB maker Simon
- Obituary info for Break-In re Warren Robinson ZL1AIX-SK which will be written by ZL1VH. Give to Gwynne

The meeting concluded at 2040

## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of Special General Meeting

**Place / Date / Time:** Clubroom, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 1330 hours.

**Attendees:** Jim ZL1TGS (presiding), Rod Stichbury ZL1SR, Wallace ZL1WAL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Olivier ZL1XS, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Steve ZL1FS, David ZL1TND, Alec ZL1HAZ, Graham ZL1GH, Ian ZL2ATD, Keith ZL1AVO and Colin Robinson ZL1TKJ,

**Apologies:** Ken ZL1TJL, Soren ZL1SKL.

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1SR

### Amendments to the Constitution:

- Section 5 OFFICERS ..Retiring President shall be appointed as Officer of Committee. Approved unanimously
- Section 22 AREC Reinstated section with references aligned to NZART's constitution. Approved ""

These amendments having been passed with over 3/5<sup>ths</sup> majority will now be sent to NZART for approval before they can be registered with the Companies Office of The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.

### Election

- Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR for Committee, nominated by Wallace ZL1WAL, seconded by Jim ZL1TGS – elected unopposed.

The meeting concluded at 1340 hours.

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## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of General Meeting

**Place / Date / Time:** Clubroom, Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 1340 hours (following a SGM).

**Attendees:** Jim ZL1TGS (presiding), Rod ZL1SR, Wallace ZL1WAL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Olivier ZL1XS, Steve ZL1FS, Alec ZL1HAZ, Ian ZL2ATD, Graham ZL1GH, Keith Robertson ZL1AVO, David ZL1TND and Colin Robinson ZL1TKJ as per the Attendance Book

**Welcome:** Colin Robinson ZL1TKJ who picked up his prize for winning the ARRL Handbook in 2019.

**Apologies:** Ken ZL1TJL, Soren ZL1SKL

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1SR

### Minutes:

- Previous General Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Minutes having been circulated, was approved ZL1TGS / ZL1WAL
- Special General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 chaired by Rod ZL1SR  
Minutes having been circulated, was approved ZL1TGS / ZL1WAL

### Finance:

- Jeff reported about finances as reported to the Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.  
Approved ZL1TOU / ZL1FS
- There is a trend towards refusal by some firms to accept cheques: (e.g. IRD, Post Office). ASB provide tokens to the signatories to enable them to transact payments on-line. Two signatories each require a token to be operated within a few hours of each other. Jeff has already obtained one token costing \$20.00.  
Approved to acquire a second token ZL1TOU / ZL1TGS

### Reports:

- **AREC:**
  - Jim reported the the May AREC report had announced Andy Brill ZL1COP as Deputy Leader.
  - Wallace and Gwynne resigned as "AREC ready".
  - Rod is to provide a photo required for his name tag.
  - Training will be commencing soon.
- **Web site / Nets QSO / Members / Library:** Nothing to report.
- **Visitor:** Lal Busher, who has a VU call-sign and a US Licence, visited the branch last Saturday. He is ready to sit the GURL exam.
- **Remote Station:** Working well.
- **Maintenance:** The Committee, wanting to have the lawns cut lower, and finding that our push mower cannot, decided to buy a ride-on mower. It will be stored in the lock-up shed nearest the clubroom for which Steve has a key. The budget approved is \$1,000.00. Steve reported that he narrowly missed a bid this week on TradeMe.
- **Drive way potholes:** Wallace reported that the property manager has no influence. Rather, City Rail Link (the head lease holder) needs to get City Council Property to agree and expects little appetite for the cost involved. It was suggested that our Member, Ross Scarborough may have some influence to get an over-supply of concrete to be dumped. First, a drain needs to be laid across the lower driveway (which is the cause of the erosion).
- **Obituary:** Jim said that it was too embarrassingly late now to publish an obituary to Warren Robinson ZL1AIX-SK

## Minutes of General Meeting June 2020 (Cont'd)

### Antennas:

- A taller pole has been installed for the 40m antenna making it into an inverted V dipole. Jim is providing longer coax between the junction box and the feed-point, so that there are no joins.
- The trip to Waiheke to pick up the SteppIR antenna, will take place whenever Wes is available.
- **ARDF**
  - Wallace has participated in a Webinar with Victoria ARDF group about Open Orienteering mapping software.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 80m foxes are under development with an antenna tuning circuit (to permit a shorter antenna).

### General Business:

- **Raffle:** Raffle tickets sold just before this meeting went into the draw for the latest ARRL Antenna Handbook. It was drawn by Graham ZL1GH. The winner was Alec ZL1HAZ.
- **Results of JWFD.** No official results have been yet been seen, though rumour has it that Gwynne ZL1AAR won the home station award.

The meeting adjourned at 1405 hours for the presentation.

### Bring, show and tell:

- Steve ZL1FS showed his latest acquisition – an AVO model 8 meter. Its history as a precious instrument is quaint.
- Next, he showed a device to test the accuracy of digital meters. Steve built this from a design that he found in QST magazine. He described its usefulness on three occasions since.
- Graham ZL1GH spoke at length about building interfaces for SDR radios. He hopes that Members will learn with him
- Wallace asked how to measure inductance in various coils that he wants to use in the fox L match tuning circuit. Alec explained the technique with a signal generator and oscilloscope, together with a known capacitor to find resonance, then calculate the inductance from the formula  $L = 1 / (4\pi^2 f^2 C)$  where L is in Henrys. A set up will be done at a future Saturday meeting to demonstrate this.
- Steve pointed out a likely cause of hum in Wallace's 12v power supply (heard on the VHF net) – a wire carrying AC is lying too close to an IC. He will rewire this and include an inductor to reduce the hum.
- Steve challenged Members to build a microphone from common materials.

The meeting closed at 1440 hours

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## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of Committee Meeting

<b>Place:</b>	Clubroom
<b>Date / Time:</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 1930 hours
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jim ZL1TGS presiding, Rod ZL1SR, Wallace ZL1WAL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Olivier ZL1XS, Ken ZL1TJL, Japie ZL1JJN, Soren ZL1SKL, Gwynne ZL1AAR and Steve ZL1FS.
<b>Welcome:</b>	Gwynne ZL1AAR to Committee.
<b>Minutes:</b>	Previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020 (via Zoom) Having been circulated, approved ZL1TGS / ZL1JJN

### Correspondence:

### Action

- In
  - Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura; Musick Point (by post);
  - Newsletters: Hibiscus Coast; Western Suburbs; Papakura, Westlakes (by e-mail)
  - Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point
  - Selwyn complaining that remote station had been hijacked by another Member while he was operating.
  - Selwyn describing method of tracking noise,
  - Info Line: NZART: Financial Members attached to Branch; Update form for Call-book; AGM Wellington 5 Sep
  - Ronal Hananto asking to join Branch and sit GURL exam. (He has a YB call-sign).
  - Selwyn: Reporting strange performance on 40m from remote (while its coax was being replaced).
  - NZART: Amendment to constitution will be put to the next Council meeting.
  - Stoneridge Primary School: expressing interest by some year 3 pupils wanting to learn Morse code **Steve.**
  - NZART: List of 64 members that are attached to Auckland Branch. (21 of these are Members of our Branch)
  - John Lennard: Application to join Branch. (He says that he had call-sign ZL1TJL in 1992).
  - Selwyn: Report about remote station. Alleging anomaly with Memory control
  - Hamilton Branch Market day 29<sup>th</sup> August at Gordonton Hall
  - Wes: Where are the ZL75 QSL cards?

# Minutes of Committee Meeting July 2020 (Cont'd)

## Correspondence:

- **Out**
  - RCForb forum states that after operating for 10 minutes, control may be hijacked.
  - Ronal Hananto: providing detail about GURL exam
  - Selwyn: (from Wes) stating that his reports about the remote station have been positive lately.
  - Selwyn (from Wes) explaining that 40 m antenna coax was being replaced.
  - To ZL1AA members (from Jim) censuring interference with the 40 m antenna coax upgrade project
  - NZART: Seeking consent for our amendment to our constitution.
  - ASB: Application for a token to enable us to make direct credit payments.

Received and approved ZL1SKL/ ZL1SR

## Finance:

- **Finance Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 Received ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL
- **Approval of expenses:**
  - Postage to ZL1XA Wallace ZL1WAL \$30.80
  - Coax for 40m antenna Jim ZL1TGS Donation With thanks by Committee Approved ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL
  - Advance for Mower Steve ZL1FS \$1,000.00 Budget approval was given 2<sup>nd</sup> June Approved, but subject to getting retrospective approval at next General Meeting. Approved ZL1TOU ZL1TJL
  - Transfer funds (\$844.90) from -52 Account to -00 Cheque account Rod ZL1SR took the chair for 10 minutes.

## Reports:

- **AREC:** Soren ZL1SKL reported appointment of Andy Brill ZL1COP to Deputy Director Upper North island NZSAR has allocated \$60,000 budget for next 2-3 years. H&S Training for Auckland branch is overdue.
- **Web page:** Constitution document has inaccuracies so needs to be revised. Wallace
- **Visitors:** Lal Busher, (candidate for GURL exam)
- **Membership:** New member John Lennard.
  - The NZART list of their financial members is 62 of which half are Auckland branch members.
  - Ask HQ-NZART to provide e-mail addresses so that we can attempt to recruit them. Ken
  - Look them up on QRZ.com Soren.
- **Nets: / QSL: QSL cards for ZL75 are required** – A mockup will be made for recent enquiry.
- **Exams:** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 1300 hours. Inform 6 candidates. Get 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisor from Branch 86. Wallace.
- **Newsletter:** Not issued in June
- **Remotely controlled station:** See RCForb Forum and Guidelines about hijacking control.
- **Equipment for sale:** Some gear could be taken to Hamilton Market
- **Library:** NTR
- **Maintenance:**
  - Working bee deferred. However Steve has done a cleanup around the section; ready for dumping.
  - Steve has levelled the floor, and removed coax that was leading from under the doorway.
  - Ride-on mower: - bid submitted on TradeMe for 30 HP diesel. It must have big wheels. Steve
- **Antennas:**
  - 40m inverted V dipole project completed, though mismatched feed point affects resonance. Jim / Wes / Rod
  - Transport of the SteppIR from Waiheke Island – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July Wes / Gwynne
  - ARDF: fitting RFmeter to tune new foxes with short (2m) antenna - in progress Wallace
- **Meter reading:** 56464.6

## Future Events / entertainment / speakers

- Bring, show and tell SDR All
- No other suggestions

## Other business:

- **Obituary** for Warren Robinson ZL1AIX-SK
  - Despite lateness, there was unanimous agreement to provide it for Break in. ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL
  - Submitted text was edited but mention of gifted equipment is deemed to be private so this was deleted.
  - Further editing Gwynne
  - Ask Vaughan Henderson ZL1VH to provide more info before 10<sup>th</sup> July Wallace

## Email address of branch.

- Secretary does not want correspondence sent to his personal address. Instead use [ZL1AA@NZART.ORG.NZ](mailto:ZL1AA@NZART.ORG.NZ) which is redirected to [Auckland.NZART@gmail.com](mailto:Auckland.NZART@gmail.com)
- Secretary will reinstall his gmail server. Wallace

The meeting concluded at 2050 hours

## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of General Meeting

**Place /Date /Time:** Clubroom, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 13h30  
**Chairman:** Rod ZL1SR  
**Attendees:** Ken ZL1TJL, Olivier ZL1XS, Graham ZL1GH, Steve ZL1FS, Gwynne ZL1AAR , Keith ZL1AVO, Ian ZL2ATD  
**Apologies:** Wes ZL3TE, Wallace ZL1WAL Jim ZL1TGS, Jeff ZL1TOU, Japie ZL1JJN,

### Correspondence:

### Action

- **In**
  - Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura; Musick Point (by post);
  - Newsletters: Hibiscus Coast; Western Suburbs; Papakura, Westlakes (by e-mail)
  - Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point
- **Out**
  - Lal Busler - candidate written and passed exam

### Finance:

- Approval was given retrospectively for the payment of the lawnmower to ZL1FS Steve because the price paid for the Lawnmower on TradeMe was \$1,200.00. ZL1TJL / ZL1SR
- Graham ZL1GH purchased the Sony Portable radio for \$15.00 . He paid \$10 and owes \$5

### Reports:

- **Exams:** Lal Busler passed the exam.
- **Remotely controlled station:** working well .
- **Constitution:** Amendments passed at SGM have been sent to NZART for approval. Wallace

### Antennas:

- 40m dipole – New vertical pole plus co-ax donated by Jim.
- Transport SteppIR from Waiheke Island . This is now at the Clubhouse. Work was done by Gwynne and Wes

### Other projects:

- Outings to attract attention of the public
- Recruitment
- Further suggestions for 2020

The Meeting concluded at 13h46

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## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of Committee Meeting

**Place:** Clubroom  
**Date / Time:** Tuesday 4<sup>TH</sup> August 2020 at 1930 hours  
**Present:** Jim ZL1TGS (presiding), Rod ZL1SR, Wes ZL3TE, Wallace ZL1WAL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Japie ZL1JJN, Olivier ZL1XS, Ken ZL1TJL, Soren ZL1SKL and Steve ZL1FS as per the attendance book.  
**Minutes:** Previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Approved ZL1JJN / ZL1WAL

### Correspondence:

### Action

- **In**
  - Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura; Musick Point (by post);
  - Newsletters: Hibiscus Coast; Western Suburbs; Papakura, Westlakes (by e-mail)
  - Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point
  - ASB: Token (for Wallace to operate Bank Account).
  - Paul ZL1AJY (aka ZL1XH) and Wes: thanks for JWFD results
  - Andrei: Request for captions for JWFD photos.
  - AREC survey
  - NZART: ERN (exam result notification) forms
  - Peter Driessen ZL1XA: Thanks for break-in magazines. He hopes to be in Auckland for 2021.
  - Glen ZL1MY: request for access to Remote Station.

# Minutes of Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> August (Cont'd)

## Correspondence: (Cont'd)

- **Out**
  - NZART Break-in editor: Obituary for Warren Robinson ZL1AIX-SK
  - Wes: Extract from Chapter 33 of Warren Robinson's autobiography for Obituary article for our newsletter
  - NZART: Exam answer sheet by Lal Busher.
  - Ground-works: Cancel lawn-mowing.
  - Ronal Hananto: Suggesting that he sit exam in August
  - Paul ZL1AJY, Gwynne ZL1AAR: Results of JWFD
  - Andrei re photo captions and update of Directory.
  - NZART: Following up for Council consent for our amendment to our constitution.
  - AREC Deputy Director - Upper North Island (Andy Brill ZL1COP) advising resignations by ZL1WAL and ZL1AAR.
  - AREC Deputy Director (from Soren ZL1SKL AREC Section Leader) answers to survey.

## Finance:

- **Finance Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020
- **Approval of expenses:**

•	Balance of Mower	Steve	\$200.00 (already paid)
•	Hire trailer, petrol and repairs to mower	Steve	\$238.90
•	Fares to Waiheke Island	Gwynne	\$290.50
•	Service Super-100	Wallace	\$40.00

Report received and payment approved ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL
- **Signatories:** Delete Leith Jackson ZL1BCJ and Steve Miller ZL1FS. Add Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR. Obtain token.  
Approved ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL

## Reports:

- **JWFD:** Montgomery cup was won by ZL1XH (Paul ZL1AJY, Olivier ZL1XS, et alia). The JWFD rules state: "The numbers of Branches in recess may be used". However this does not identify the winner. Wes has the cup and will engrave it after consulting with Paul (who in the past has left it in the safe-keeping of Auckland Branch). ZL1AA was 4<sup>th</sup>. Gwynne ZL1AAR won the Home station section while he was at Lake Tarawera.
- **AREC:** Survey
- **Web page:** Update JWFD result and add captions for photo-gallery.
- **Visitors:**
- **Nets:**
- **Exams:** Lal Busher passed. He applied for ZL1LAL. Next exam for Ronal Hananto to be held on Sun. 30th August.
- **Newsletter:** Not issued in July
- **Remotely controlled station:** No 40m antenna connected while poles are being replaced.
- **Membership:** New Member Alan Duncan ZL1TKS.
- **Library:** File magazines Olivier
- **Equipment for sale:**
  - Hamilton Branch Market day 29<sup>th</sup> August at Gordonton Hall. Steve and Wes
  - Antennas (Hustler etc.) on behalf of Ian Falgar NT. Wes
- **Maintenance:**
  - Ride-on mower – purchased and fetched.
  - Repairs to seat, brakes and controls need to be labeled. Steve
  - Electrical – Storeroom light and switch inside - done
  - Floor leveled; door lock operates easily; and ceiling suspension reinforced.

Steve with thanks by the Committee.
- **Meter reading:** 56798.7

## Antennas:

- Transport the SteppIR from Waiheke Island this week Wes
- A new rotator will be required to be purchased (estimated to cost \$2,000) Wes
- Control box for base of Nally tower Wes
- Supports for the 40m dipole are being replaced with wooden bases and aluminium poles ex Waiheke Is.
- Bamboos poles will be used temporarily.
- Brackets estimated to cost \$20.00. Jim

## Other matters outstanding from previous meetings:

- Stonefield Primary School: CW demo. Steve
- Constitution: Awaiting approval by NZART of our amendment. Then advise Company Office. Wallace

# Minutes of Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> August (Cont'd)

## Future Events / entertainment / speakers

None scheduled. Suggestions required.

Jim

## Other business:

- Wallace spoke about dependence on individuals as being unsafe (citing the Auckland VHF Group's Treasurer's PC's password that went to the grave).  
Accordingly:
  - Constitution, Guidelines, Directory and Statutory documents are on our web site [www.qsl.net/zl1aa](http://www.qsl.net/zl1aa)
  - Paper documents are filed and labeled in the office cabinet at the clubroom.
    - Correspondence is filed by year.
    - Photos and historic records are to be found here.
  - Finance records for 10 years are in a plastic bin at the bottom of the second moveable shelf.
- Store electronic records on the cloud, using Google drive.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

- NZART AGM in Wellington on 5<sup>th</sup> September (No conference is being held)
  - Delegate: Soren Low ZL1SKL.
  - Remits have not yet been published.

Nominated and appointed ZL1WAL /ZL1AAR

The meeting ended at about 21:00 with supper served by Rod ZL1SR

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## Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Agenda for Committee Meeting

**Place:** Clubroom provided that lockdown is over, else ZOOM (number and password TBA)

**Date / Time:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 1930 hours

**Apologies:**

**Minutes:** Previous Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Correspondence:**

**Action**

- In**
  - Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura; Musick Point (by post);
  - Newsletters: Hibiscus Coast; Western Suburbs; Papakura, Westlakes (by e-mail)
  - Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point Southland (first of six parts explaining Raspberry Pi)
  - NZART: Amendment to constitution approved by Council
  - Companies Office: Approval of change to constitution
- Out**
  - NZART Break-in editor: Obituary for Warren Robinson ZL1AIX-SK
  - Companies Office: Amendment to Constitution
  - Ronal Hananto: Suggesting that he sit exam in August
  - Andrei: Update web-page with Constitution
  - ASB: Request for Token (for Gwynne to operate Bank Account).
  - Darroch Property Manager: Complaining about steel junk put on our licenced area.
  - NZART Call-book editor: Directory info update.

**Finance:**

- Finance Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020
- Approval of expenses:**

**Reports:**

- Maintenance:** Ride-on mower repairs: Steve
- Antennas:**
  - 40m dipole: Rod
  - Transport the SteppIR from Waiheke Island: Wes
  - Control box for base of Nally tower: Wes

**Future Events / entertainment / speakers**

Jim

**Other business:**

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**All financial Members of Auckland Branch may attend any Committee meeting but may speak only after the consent of the Chairman of the meeting.**

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