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# WARO BULLETIN

The Official Publication of New Zealand Women Amateur Radio Operators



## December 2006

*A Happy Christmas to you all!*

ZL6YL

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## **NEW ZEALAND WOMEN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS**

**OBJECT:** To promote and encourage interest in amateur radio amongst women

**LIFE MEMBERS:** Celia Reed ZL1ALK, Biny Owen ZL2AZY,  
Jeanne Gilchrist ZL4JG and Cathy Purdie ZL2ADK

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2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Bev Osborne ZL1OS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Jacqueline Goodenough ZL1JAQ  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday Celia Reed ZL1ALK  
5<sup>th</sup> Monday Lynnette McDonald ZL1LL

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**WebPages and Bulletins**  
[www.qsl.net/zl6yl/](http://www.qsl.net/zl6yl/)

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Transmitting, Associate and "Friends of WARO" \$15 payable 1<sup>st</sup> June, deduct a \$5 rebate if paid before 31<sup>st</sup> August. For each sponsored DX member an additional \$5

Cheques payable to Treasurer at above address.



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## **President's Message.**



*Rosemary ZL1RO*

Greetings everyone,

By the time you receive this Bulletin magazine, Christmas will be very near. Those of us who leave everything until the last minute will be starting to stress out about the tasks that need to be done before the holiday break. The well prepared will be feeling smug that they have the preparations all organised.

I hope that those of you who sponsor DX members into WARO will make time to send the Bulletins off to them before the Christmas break. I think that we are fortunate to be able to keep in personal contact with our sponsored members in this way because propagation on HF has not been good enough for radio contacts for quite a long time.

Congratulations to Bev ZL1OS who was the highest scoring DX ALARA member in the recent ALARA contest. A report on the ALARA contest is elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Are there any newly licenced YLs in your area? I would like to invite them to join WARO. You can let any WARO Exec member know the necessary details and I will contact the YL directly. One of our WARO members has offered to design a Welcome Pack for new members and I am looking forward to seeing that in the near future.

Christmas holidays will be quiet this year for the OM and I, with all our family living overseas. However, I enjoy observing Christmas with various services, music, gifts, traditional food and outpourings of affection from friends and family. It is a special time for most of us, but can be a lonely time for those who are on their own or who have lost family members during the year.

My thoughts also go to members who have been unwell during the year and I send them my wishes for a speedy return to good health and brighter days.

If you are travelling during the Festive Season I wish you a safe journey and return to your QTH. If there is Amateur Radio equipment in your vehicle don't forget to put a call out on repeaters as you travel. Those of us who are staying at home could monitor our local repeaters for calls from mobile amateurs. There are often opportunities to help fellow amateurs to gain contacts for awards as they pass through various areas of our country.

The Auckland YLs have a 2 metre net on Sunday nights at 7pm on 146.900 repeater, and any YL visiting the area is welcome to check in

I wish all WARO members and their families Seasons Greetings and a very happy New Year.

33 Rosemary ZL1RO

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## **Thelma Souper Memorial Contest 2007**

The Thelma Souper Memorial Contest will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1st April 2007 from 0800z - 1000z on Saturday and Sunday evenings. All Contacts to be held on 80 meters phone or CW may be used. YLs contact YLs and OMs. **OMs contact YLs and OMs**. One contact with each station permitted in each half hour period. Call "CQ WARO CONTEST" exchange report, serial number (commencing 001) and name. To qualify as a multiplier **WARO MEMBER** stations must have contacts with at least **10** different stations.

A Bonus Station using the WARO callsign ZL6YL will be in operation for random periods and will count as a multiplier one on each night of the contest if worked. Club stations may be operated by multiples of YLs providing that they are WARO members and have licenses applicable to the band being operated. These stations count as one multiplier. All radio regulations must be observed.

### **SCORING:**

To Qualify: Enter date at beginning of each evening. Each log must contain: Time of Contact, callsign of station worked, cipher sent, cypher received and the name of the operator contacted and points claimed for contact.

**Score 5 points for each WARO contact including ZL6YL .**

**Score 3 points for OM contacts, Score 2 points for club stations. Multiply by the number of WARO members including bonus station if worked.**

Logs to have each contact claimed as a multiplier **underlined**. Include a separate summary sheet showing: Your callsign, name and address. The number of contacts. The number of WARO members worked. Your score. Declaration that all radio regulations, have been observed. Logs that do not comply with all the above requirements will be disqualified.

### **LOGS:**

To reach the Contest Manager no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

Send to: -

Bev Osborne ZL1OS

34 Cobham Drive

Kawerau 3075

New Zealand

No logs will be returned and No Correspondence will be entered into.

### **AWARDS:**

The highest scoring WARO member will be awarded the Thelma Souper Memorial Cup to be held for one year. The highest scoring OM operator will be awarded a trophy to be held for one year. Certificates will be awarded to: The first three WARO members, the first three OM operators, the highest scoring VK/YL operator.

### **Please Note:**

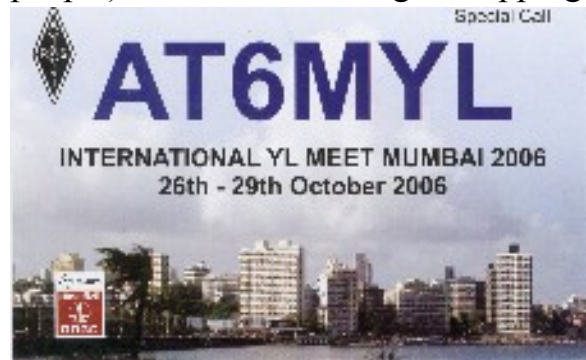
Contacts made during the contest will count towards the NZ WARO Awards.

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## A Visit To India – by Gwen, VK3DYL

I have just returned from India after attending the 8<sup>th</sup> International YL Meeting, held this year in Mumbai. The meeting went off very well under the direction of Sarla, VU2SWS, and I am now trying to sort out my impressions of the trip.

Shortly after arriving in Mumbai I joined my Norwegian YL friends, Unni & Ingrid, on the back seat (actually only meant for 2 people) of a tuk-tuk to go shopping. Everyone should have the experience at least once in their lifetime of riding in a tuk-tuk, best described as a 3-wheeled vehicle with a loud (and I mean loud) horn driven by a madman who thinks he owns the road. There must be thousands of tuk-tuks in India, all converging at the same spot at the same time. Alternatively you can travel by rickshaw pulled by man or beast, though personally I preferred hiring a car and a driver with good reflexes, a loud horn and a heavy foot on the brake.



*Mumbai YL meet QSL card*

Beggars – very persistent in trying to sell you things you don't want. Some even employed monkeys to cling to a car window in the hope passengers would open it so the monkeys could reach inside and help themselves to cameras or purses.

Street stalls selling everything from fruit and vegetables to blocks of marble. Pharmacies and doctors operating from “hole in the wall” shops. Slum areas worse than I'd seen in Bangkok or anywhere. In Mumbai we saw a Dhobi Ghat, a square ½ kilometre of cement stalls where washermen pound garments to what seems like pulp



*Rows of washing*

to get them clean, employing about 10,000 people to wash, dry, iron and deliver the cleaned clothes – what a sight looking down from an overhead bridge on all this activity as rows of racks flutter with drying laundry.

Lots of temples and ruins of once-great palaces. All with many steps to climb in the heat! The first sight of the Taj Mahal, described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love and which has become India's de facto tourist emblem, was

all I wanted it to be – well, except for those innumerable steps and the fact that I had decided, in advance, to see it at sunset when the inside was so dark that one couldn't see all the beautiful intricate marble carving! However, next day I was taken to a marble workshop where I saw how the marble was quarried, cut and inlaid with precious stones from all round the world. How I would have loved to buy one of those tabletops but, having bought a carpet in Varanasi (and which I had to carry home!), I decided “no way!”.

Varanasi – I had seen many pictures of people bathing in the Ganges and wanted to see



it for myself, so early one morning a YL guide collected me and we travelled by boat up and down the river past the Ghats where literally hundreds of people were already congregating to bathe in the river. I only saw one dead body being prepared for cremation – that was enough for me so I lit a little candle and floated it in the river with many others for good luck, then back up those numerous steps, past the numerous beggars and back to my hotel for breakfast. Then off to buy my carpet!

I used various means of transport during the trip, including planes, cars, buses, a train, a tuk-tuk, bicycle-rickshaw and wheelchair (I'd twisted my knee before leaving home!), the latter involving a forklift truck to get me up into a plane! I refused rides on camels and elephants, having "been there, done that" in other countries.

My most memorable trip was when Sarla arranged for us to visit Elephanta Island in Mumbai Harbour. This involved an hour's ride in a launch and then a short ride in a miniature train to the foot of the stairway leading up to the caves to view the stone carvings dating back to between AD 450 and 750. For someone like me who didn't feel capable of climbing those steps lined with handicraft stalls and patrolled by pesky monkeys, it was decided I should travel upwards in a palanquin (like a sedan chair), a seat balanced on 2 long poles of wood resting on the shoulders of 4 stalwart Indians.

Oh dear! I resisted the impulse to give a Queenly wave as I by-passed people toiling their way up/down the steps. Coming down backwards was a trifle frightening and I wondered how many passengers had been dropped!

Sarla also took us to see Mahatma Gandhi's house (with a wonderful diorama of his life – and later I was to see the beautiful garden where his ashes are buried); a meal in a revolving restaurant (with a view of the cricket ground!). Sarla dressed up all the YLs in saris; and provided evening entertainment of two first-class dance troupes. A radio room was provided, plus a special QSL card, but I didn't get time to operate. And a special postage stamp was printed to commemorate our visit.

Weatherwise it did not rain, was hot and muggy but bearable with lots of air-conditioned buildings. Good to reasonable hotels; too much spicy food for my stomach; lots of kindness shown me by local guides who had to help me up those steps, and not one harsh word to me on the day Aussie beat India at the one-day cricket match while I was there (grin!).



*Gwen VK3DYL, Sarla VU2SWS and Eine SM0UQW  
in Saris*

My thanks go to Sarla for inviting us to India for the Meeting, and to my travel agent for arranging the rest of my trip. Where next??????????????

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## **YL-Meeting Mumbai- by Eine SM0UQW**

The YL-Meeting was very impressive. Sarla had worked so perfect with everything. She is wonderful and I think she has a special power to fix everything. The conference was very fine and we saw so beautiful and wonderful Indian dances. All the colours in India was something special for me. So beautiful clothes everywhere. And so many people on the streets and real traffic chaos everywhere.

The tours to Jaipur, Agra, Delhi and Goa were also well done. I like to go again and see those old towns and architecture and Tai Mahal and everything. The old palaces were also wonderful. We had local guides everywhere.

The next International YL meeting will be held in conjunction with the YLRL meeting in August 2008 in Huntsville, Alabama at the same time as the very large Huntsville, Alabama Hamfest. This has been confirmed with the President of YLRL.

### **DX News**

Elizabeth VE7YL writes all well here. Our usual monsoons for November have arrived after a very, very dry summer and fall. In fact the rain came from Hawaii and further west from the tail end of a typhoon. It lasted about 3 days and dumped record amounts of rain resulting in swollen rivers and streams and flooded out many homes especially up in the Fraser Valley. Luckily I'm high and dry though my field is pretty wet.

The summer was great - managed to play a lot of golf and went down to Washington State in early October for 3 days of golf. In the past I've played winter golf but this year have decided that if it isn't a REALLY nice day I will go to the gym instead.

The bands are pretty awful and I have heard nothing on either the Friday YL get together or the 222 net - it will be my spring before I hear anything again. Did hear and work a YL in the Cooks three days ago - E51TUG - this on 15m which was a small miracle! Have very short openings into Europe in the early mornings but they don't last long. Things can only get better!

### **YL Get together January 2007**

Our annual WARO lunchtime get together is being held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>. January at the QTH of Biny ZL2AZY and Mervyn ZL2AVY 55 Kane Street Pirongia at 10.30 am. All OMs welcome. This is always an event well worth attending. YLs and OMs arrive from Auckland, the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty and we have even had YLs and OMs from as far afield as Sanson and New Plymouth. Everyone who attends enjoys catching up with friends that they don't see very often in very pleasant surroundings.

Please bring a plate of goodies for a shared lunch also a folding chair and of course plenty of sunscreen.

Looking forward to seeing you there... Ed.

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## **International Car Rally - New Zealand 17-19 November 2006**

### **by Biny Owen ZL2AZY**

I know that other YLs took part in this Rally but you might like to read of my experience which was not all that bad. It was interesting to say the least. 3 days of challenging radio communication as well as driving to specified locations in the very early hours of the morning.

The OM goes off separately with a team that normally records Rally Cars start times for their Special Stages. This means I am left with the radio, a Kenwood TS400S for 80meter transmission and 2m for repeater work. And 1 green van equipped with a dismantled pole and the mandatory safety signs. It also means I have to find someone else to come with me as two people are required to be on hand at the 5km points to handle any emergency that might arrive.



*The green van used for communications at the rally*

All routes and Special Stages have moved South of Auckland, and this year took in the Pirongia West Road and Hauturu, exiting near Waitomo.

As to be expected Special Stages were on twisty, winding gravel roads. The furthest North was at the Waikato Heads. So quite a change from last year. And we get to see some new scenery.

The radio communications briefing was given on the Saturday prior to the Rally itself. Nice caps, sweatshirts and waterproof jackets were handed out. It was an occasion too to meet up with other operators who had previously only be heard on air.

For me, it was especially helpful to talk to Adrienne who mans the Base Station where 5km operators send in their reports. Adrienne has always been 'there', with a sense of humour and not scared to pull an operator into line when needed!

Reconnaissance of the allocated 5km points is always helpful. None of this trying to find the red disc in the dark or become lost en route. So Mervyn and I set off in the green van first to Pirongia West. Just as well, as that red disc meant parking in a swamp with nowhere to put the aerial except through trees and down a gully! So some slight adjustment to the position was warranted, and gained. For some untold reason, I seem to get the very first 5km point of the Rally allotted to me.

This means an early start. However being closer to home was great. 7.30.am on site meant leaving Pirongia at 6.45.am. My helper this year was a very competent pre-rally driver who was delighted to be asked and who proved very helpful. Most of the stages are run through twice. So the first of the 46 cars taking part, tore past shortly after 9.30.am and again at 3.pm.

Which meant we had a long wait between the action. But where we were stationed



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proved to be very entertaining.

People from all over the globe came by. An Argentinian who was there to photograph his countrymen, a group from the UK, Australia, Japan and even France. Those first 10 cars flew by so fast, photographers had problems in capturing them. The Argentinian thought it was a huge joke. Then there were those who were after getting more shots than 1 and were careering around the countryside not sure of where they were heading and being directed back to where they started!

This year spectator points were set up. People were charged \$20 which went to a Community Project. \$2 car parking in a farmers paddock. So evidently the local community were given some compensation for their road closures. Lots of Security people about. Lunch time saw a number of VIP vans arrive at our spot. About 150 VIPs walked up the road to a special marquee set up for their entertainment where they stayed to see the Rally cars in action. This time in mild sunshine but strong winds..

Police were called in because of some yahoos showing off on 4-wheel bikes on the route itself when the road was closed.

I have to say that time flies by in the 2 hours before the first Rally car passes by. Apart from setting up the aerial and checking the reception at Base, we have at least 9 vehicles which have to be tracked, Safety 3, 2 and 1. Safety 000 (using a loud siren). followed by Safety 00, then Safety 0. After which we are given the information that the Special Stage is green - which means expect the first car any moment now. At the end of the Special Stage when the last car has been identified, the Sweeper Car comes through, and we are given permission to pack up and leave. Adrienne refers to this as the 'Broom'. And the Police Safety vehicle as the 'Scuse-me' car. So ZL1EDO (Binny - they have a hard job getting my name right) allocated Special Stage, 13 Alpha, went home for the day. I forgot to say it was a windy place with some showers.

Saturday 18th November is a different story.

I was called upon to take the place of another radio operator at a place called Te Akau North. Mervyn and I had looked it over several days beforehand only to find no markers up at all and assumed the Waikorea Valley Rd. marked on a map was correct. So after a 2 hour drive in the rain, Brent and I set up the aerial, checked the rig was operating satisfactorily and waited for the next event which did not turn out at all as we expected! Safety 1 car stopped and we were informed that we were 900metres short of our allotted spot. Nothing for it but to have to shift, which we did, fortunately in good time. But I could not get a signal out, although I could receive. That meant testing the alternative back-up operators such as 5km operators for relay, and using a nominated 2m channel. It just puzzled me, as everything was working well before the shift. It was the hurried shift of course that caused the problem. One little button I discovered on the Kenwood that had the word 'voice' on it had been pushed in. We were back transmitting on 80m much to everyone's relief.

Because of the rain, the Rally cars had mud up to their windows. But the new numbers used on these Rally Cars now appear on the upper back window in bright orange. That made a real difference. By now Rally Cars were becoming increasingly damaged. One had lost its windscreen, another never made it past our point and the total number

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participating was getting fewer.

It is interesting to see the locals wanting to see a piece of the action. One Adventure Camp owner had entertained VIPs that morning where they watched a sheep shearing demo. A group of farming people had crates of beer under their arms and they were out for a good time. By the end of the Stage, one of the party could hardly stand up!

Sunday 19th November:

Again on point Alpha but this time had to be on site at Te Hutewai by 6.00am. A drive of over an hour, meant getting up at 4.am and leaving by 4.30.am. Very dark. We call into Control and Jim comes on with a warm welcome. He marks us off as being 'on the way'. Then when we arrive at our site, we let him know - for 'peace of mind' we are told.

Te Hutewai is just South of Raglan. The spot we were at was the same as last year. The same farm bike arrived after the cows had been milked, and the same girl from Scotland sat astride it. Last year the road was so dry, the dust preceded the cars, this year, it was the mud. But that does not seem to faze the rally drivers at all.

It was so peaceful and quiet there when the rally cars had gone by - we both had a little cat nap and then 2 hours before the second round, it was all go again. We got back home just before the boys arrived back in Pirongia, washed the mud off the van, put the Kenwood back in the house, and swopped stories. We will do it all again next year, but this time in late August. I hate to think what it will be like weatherwise, and no daylight saving.

### **Silent Key – Janice Busch ZL1VJB**

It is with regret that we have to report the passing of Janice Busch ZL1VJB. Janice had been a member of WARO from 1994.

Our condolences to her husband Colin and family.

### **Dates to Remember!**

- YL get together at 550 Kane Street Pirongia Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007.
- Thelma Souper Memorial Contest 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.
- Closing Date for Copy and Photos for March Bulletin 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007.
- Nominations for WARO Executive close 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.
- Nominations for WARO Achievement Award 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.
- WARO Net Mondays at 8pm on 3.695. All welcome.

Thank you to all contributors to the WARO Bulletin without your input we would not have a magazine.

Wishing you all a very “Merry Christmas” and a “Healthy, Happy, Prosperous 2007”  
Ed....

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## **Auckland VHF Group Inc. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion 2006** **by Jacqueline ZL1JAQ**

The actual formation was held in June 1956 but celebrations were postponed, and instead were held on a ZL national holiday weekend at the end of October. This was planned so as to avoid clashing with the NZART annual amateur radio conference.

There were a number of options from which to choose and attend over a two day period, so while OM Alwyn ZL1CCJ and myself were able to put some more faces to call signs it is likely that we missed on catching up with others we knew.

WARO members who I did meet up with included Aola ZL1AOE, Carol ZL1AJL, Elva ZL1BIZ, and current WARO Secretary Maxine ZL1FW.

Our Saturday morning began by meeting at Branch 66 VHF Club Rooms where an earnest talkfest was already underway. A trading table and car boot sale were also in evidence.



*Jacqueline ZL1JAQ, Maxine ZL1FW and Carol ZL1AJL*

A Scout hall is on the same Hazel Avenue property and it was here that the master of ceremonies introduced President Tim ZL1TM. His short address marked the official opening of the celebratory event. This was followed by a barbecue style luncheon. After a suitable interval, a hidden transmitter hunt took place on 2m FM. Later the participants joined others for the evening dinner and reminiscences at the Wings Function Centre, Hobsonville.



*Group of OMs and YLs at Auckland VHF 50th Anniversary*

Sunday saw members coming and going as they called into Alan ZL1AWL's QTH. Those who were able to stay enjoyed another barbecued style luncheon set amongst beautiful surroundings on Alan's park-like Kumeu property.

The mobile rally departed during the

afternoon and ended back at Hazel Avenue where a final get together, dinner, social and prize giving concluded a wonderful weekend.

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## **Train Tour Of Switzerland - October 2006**

### **by Biny Owen ZL2AZY**

We joined a tour organised by 'Travel & Learn' operating out of Hamilton. Having missed out on the Heritage Britain Tour, the OM and I decided to take up the offer of a Train Tour of Switzerland. It sounded intriguing and quite a change from coach travel. We were given a 22-Day Swiss Rail Pass which came into operation at Zurich where it was verified along with our Passport Number and signature. It was intended to provide us with unlimited rail travel but it did more than that. The Pass covered Museums, gondolas of all description, city trams and even boat travel. Costing approx. NZ\$500 or \$15 a day, we hopped on and off numerous trains, some going up to incredible heights that showed off wonderful feats of engineering. Take for example, the Eiger which everyone has heard about. We little realised we would be actually travelling inside the mountain itself, that there would be a 5 minute stop for us to all get out twice on the ascent firstly at 7,612' and then 41 minutes later, at 9,400' to look through any of the 12 plate glass windows at glaciers from the famous North Face.

When we finally emerged in daylight at 11,336' at Jungfraujoch, there was a complex containing 5 levels of modern glass architecture, with restaurants, ski equipment sales, souvenirs, a museum and the biggest surprise of all, an Ice Palace, sculpt out of a moving glacier. Those corridors of ice provided an unbelievable experience, along with side shows of ice sculptures. These complexes also have solar power, collect scientific data and send out pictures of the surrounding landscape from dawn to dusk, to aid potential visitors in their final decision making as to whether to travel up to these heights, or stay at home!

Trains take you places. On our very first day we left Zurich for the Schaffhausen area, where we reached the famous Rhine falls. With time to spare before catching the next train, we took in a local cemetery. It was the church clock that first caught our attention. And as with all church clocks seen later, this was accurate, gilded and coloured, and to my mind it lived up to the Swiss tradition. The cemetery was a



*The Cows*

delight, with a profusion of flowers over all the graves. Apparently locals light candles at each grave site at Christmas time. Another train ride and we found ourselves traipsing up a hill to witness the 'Festival of the Cows' at Waldstaff.

These cows had just been brought down from the high pastures and would shortly be housed in barns for the wintertime. But firstly had to be judged and there were plenty of bells hanging on show ready to adorn the winners!

Switzerland has a great reputation, well deserved, for its cleanliness and its scenery. Each of our days was packed with surprises. Touring in October provided the ideal



climate and the opportunity to see autumn colours unfold as the days passed. Blue skies provided the backdrop to many photo shots which included the famous Matterhorn. Tourist memorabilia consisted of St. Bernard dogs renowned for rescue operations, swiss flags with the red cross, and the swiss Army Knife.



*St. Bernard dog at the Matterhorn  
being patted by our Guide Greta*

where heights can go from anything up to 12,000'

Apart from rock tunnels carved into the mountains, there are snow shelters built on mountain slopes providing needed protection for trains. Cog railways come into their own when the going gets steep. At certain gradients, the cog wheel is engaged. Mt. Pilatus near Lucerne even

managed a 45 degrees

assent. If you wonder how passengers managed to keep their seats, they had an answer for this by building the train in steps! On one day a dear little steam train pushed us up a mountainside for one whole hour. Chug chugging away, we could not believe where we were heading, and the scenery unfolding below was awe-inspiring.

Most of the complexes we visited had been built in the early 1900's. But modernisation has taken over. Today any development at high altitudes means using helicopters, even some carrying of cement in buckets. Trains take provisions, and staff, up early in the mornings, bringing refuse down on flat-bedded wagons. The Schilthorn complex of James Bond fame reckoned it

could accommodate at least 700 diners. We chose to order the recommended 007, a humendous ice-cream and fruit concoction that had a youngsters eyes bulging.



*Mervyn ZL2AVY enjoys his 007  
Ice Cream at Schilthorn*



*Gondola holding 120 people*



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Combine this with a revolving restaurant and you have a facility dedicated to attracting and pleasing the tourists.

Switzerland can be crossed in 2- 3 hours. It has 7 and a half million population, and it measures 350km East to West, and 212km North to South. 3 different languages are spoken, German, French and Italian depending where in Switzerland you live, that is near the French or the Italian borders.

The countryside remains picture perfect with green fields and snow-capped mountains. We learnt that farmers enjoy a 68% subsidy, their income is supplemented by charging for skiing facilities crossing their land. Greta, our Guide discovered that the average farm size was either 1 or 2 acres! 7 - 20 cows helped provide sufficient milk for all that wonderful Swiss cheese. Milk cans are still in use and small milking sheds blended well with the scenery.

Vegetable gardens impressed us with their variation and healthy growth, all helped no doubt with manure stock-piled over the wintertime as animals sheltered in their barns. Cows were not the only ones with bells around their necks. Tinkling sounds could also be attributed to sheep grazing. Rationing of feed for the animals is just as important as in New Zealand, with electric fences in use, but there was also the expansive lawn



*Matterhorn Walkway*

mower for cutting strips of daily feed for those cattle already in their barns. Both young lambs and calves were in evidence. Apparently their births are planned for autumn so that they can be sheltered over the wintertime.

Some of us looked with longing at the walking trails as we soared above them, train travel is fine but given good weather it was very enticing. Our Guide was happy to come with us but on several occasions we felt independent enough to go it alone dropping down from considerable heights to re-assemble either at the station below or back at the hotel. It provided us with the opportunity for more photos and to discover at first hand how the Swiss lived. One walk organised for us was along the Aareschulucht Gorge which took well over an hour. Boardwalks suspended over the river had us stopping to take lots more photos especially as the fall colours made it so picture-perfect. At the finish, we all waited by a door set into a granite wall and waited for the train to arrive, which it did and so back to the railway station through the tunnel cut in the rock on the opposite



*Swiss Chalets*

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side of the walkway.

We stayed in hotels for anything from 2 - 4 nights. Most of us went for a glass of wine on the first night only to find out we were served very little for a high price. So off to the local Co-op in the morning, to buy a bottle which we drank prior to eating our dinner. These Co-ops were very conveniently placed as were the hotels within walking distance of the railway stations.

By the end of the tour, we had travelled on 80 different trains from North to South and East to West, all different colours and lengths. One to Arosa ski resort had flowers painted on a background of dark blue. Carriages were comfortable and toilets were on hand. The double decker trains ran on major routes, otherwise it was the turn of the small private lines to excel. Ticket collectors were abundant but polite and soft spoken. They checked our Swiss Passes. For those not having the correct ticket, SF60 was fined. We saw one passenger produce the extra cash and another vacate his seat at the next station. Our group found themselves coming to the rescue of our Australian/Austrian guide, Greta, who on one occasion left her Pass back at the hotel.



*The Gorge "Magnificent Scenery"*

it had a technical problem. Several were double deckers. I guess the Glacier Express was the most glamorous of all. Taking a whole day to travel from St.Moritz to Zermatt, with lunch en route, none of us were bored. The scenery is so arresting that we were captivated the whole time.

The OM took 900 photos. I had a video camera with me and used up two and a half tapes. Would we go again, yes.

### **Nets:**

For those keen on working overseas YLs, some challenge is offered.

- YL DX (Triple 2 net) 14.222 MHz Mondays 0530 UTC
- Brazilian YL Net 14.248 MHz Wednesdays 1930 UTC
- CLARA YL Net 14.120 MHz Tuesdays 17.00z
- Italian YL Net 7.070 MHz Mondays 13.00 GMT.

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Of course there is always the ALARA Net. Mondays 3.580, 1030 UTC but 1000 UTC summertime, and the popular VE/VK/ZL Net on Fridays 14.148 at 0500 UTC.

### **Clara 40th Anniversary Challenge:**

To help celebrate CLARA's 40th Anniversary, a challenge has been made to all YLs and OMs. Work 40 YLs on amateur radio between January 1st 2007 and December 31st 2007.

Keep a log and submit it to Kathy VE3GYL by March 1st 2008.

Categories: CW or Phone HF, VHF (includes repeaters), Digital (including Echolink, IRLP, RTTY, PSK31, etc.) or Mixed modes if you have used more than one to get your 40 contacts.

Contacts can be made on nets.

Logs should include date of contact, name and call sign of the YL operator, and band opr mode. Signal reports are not needed. Cost of the certificate in Canada, including postage is \$5.00. For DX stations the cost is US\$5.00. Deadline for submission of the logs: March 1st 2008.

Logs can be submitted electronically to Kathy Mundinger VE3GYL: kmundinger@yahoo.com

### **The Value of a Smile At Christmas!**

People that you have not spoken to for months, offer seasons greetings and it seems that even your worst enemy will shake your hand and wish you with honest sincerity the merriest of Christmases. The common denominator in all this goodwill is the humble smile which has a special value.

A Smile costs nothing but creates much.

It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes las forever.

None are so rich they can get along without it, and none so poor but are the richer for its benefits.

It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friends.

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and Natures best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody till it is given away.

And if in the last minute rush of Christmas buying, somebody should be too tired to give a smile, give them one of yours. For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give.

So remember, "Keep smiling the WARO way"

## 26th ALARA Contest Results

YL	Callsign	Result	Notes
Diane	VK4KYL	1169	Top overall, Top phone, Top VK YL non-member
Catherine	VK4FRED	911	Top VK Alara member, Top Foundation licensee, Top VK4 Alara member
Pam	VK4FABB	735	
Nora	VK5NYD	685	
Pat	VK3OZ	514	Top VK YL CW, Top VK3 Alara member
Rose	VK2HOP	466	Top VK2 Alara member
Gerald	VK2HBG	455	Top VK OM
Rosanne	VK7NAW	416	Top VK7 Alara member
Chris	VK2LCD	407	
Michele	VK3FEAT	398	Top VK SWL
Gwen	VK3DYL	381	
Leanne	VK4PKT	286	
Mike	VK3AVV	260	
Dot	VK2DB	248	
Robyn	VK3WX	247	
Susan	VK7LUV	240	
Mal	VCK2HSV	235	
Alan	VK8AV	234	
Kate	VK4XYL	226	
David	VK5AYD	220	
Marilyn	VK3DMS	188	CHECK LOG
Margaret	VK4AOE	167	
Brian	VK3FIDX	151	
Bev	ZL1OS	141	Top DX Alara member
Jenny	VK5ANW	137	Top VK5 Alara member
Christine	VK5CTY	136	
Shirley	VK5JSH	114	
Allen	VK5FD	107	
Kathy	VK3XBA	85	
Gerard	VK2IO	83	
Alan	VK7JAB	77	
Dana	VK3HHL	73	
Mavis	VK3KS	58	
Bron	VK3DYF	49	
Elizabeth	VE7YL	35	Top VE Alara member
Elva	ZL1BIZ	30	
Philip	VK2XPL	15	
<b>Summary:</b>			
Alara members	21	(DX members 3)	
YL non-members	4		
OMs	11		

This year was an even better year than 2005. Conditions were excellent, with most of the activity taking place on 40 and 80 metres, and we had the greatest number of participants since 1993! Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the Contest, with many comments about how friendly it was. After all, that's how we want it to be. One big change this year was the number of logs received by email - 26 out of the total of 37!

As usual, unfortunately, there were quite a number of calls heard for which no log was received. It doesn't matter how small the number of contacts, the log is welcome.

Some of the comments made this year: "Most enjoyable"..."I had a ball"..."A really great Alara Contest"..."A great time on air"..."So pleasing to hear so many Alara members and great to work the new callsigns too"..."Good to hear so many people contesting"..."It was great to hear the foundation licencees in the thick of it"..."Just a mini log but still enjoyed the opportunity"

I am sure that those Foundation licencees who took part can be very proud of their efforts. As can be seen, an Alara Foundation licence member had the second top score well done Catherine VK4FRED! You will be receiving a special trophy to celebrate your achievement. The top score of 1169 points was truly terrific - congratulations to Diane VK4KYL. We welcome a new OM winner this year - Gerald VK2HBG - hope you try again next year. Unfortunately there was very little participation from DX members, but much of this is probably due to the bands, which are not brilliant for DX.

However Elizabeth VE7YL, Elva ZL1BIZ, Celia ZL1ALK & Bev ZL1OS were heard and we all welcomed our contacts with them.

The earlier closing date of September 30 does not seem to have inconvenienced anybody, and it certainly means that I can get the results out much sooner than before.

Now we all hope that 2007 will be as good if not better than 2006, with even more taking part. The 2007 Contest will be held on August 25/26, so mark it in your diary, and we'll all catch each other again then. Until then, best wishes to all, and thank you for taking part this year.

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Marilyn VK3DMS

### **Thoughts!**

The nicest thing about not planning is that failure comes as a complete surprise and is not preceded by a period of worry or depression.

Often the best thing about saying nothing is that it can not be repeated.

Genuine joy grows not from contemplation, not from riches and not from fame, but from work that has its own inner value.

Guard well your spare moments, they are like uncut Diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known, but take advantage of them and they become the brightest and most valuable gems in your life.



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### **NZ WARO Supplies**

WARO BADGE "A" pin clasp	\$6.00
WARO Badge "B" with bar for callsign	\$6.00
WARO Badge "C" with ring for neck chain	\$6.00
WARO Charm	\$2.50
WARO Lapel Pin	\$2.50
WARO Cream silk Scarf with logo	\$17.00
WARO History Booklet or CD	\$20.00

These items can be obtained from our Treasurer:  
Margaret Bretherton ZL1MB  
24 Iles Road  
Rotorua 3201



### **NZWARO CENTURY AWARD**

1. Applications to contain full log details of contacts with 100 NZWARO members ( DX members included) dating from June 1<sup>st</sup> 1987.  
DX stations may apply for a special DX Award listing 50 contacts only, with endorsements for further 10s until 100 contacts are achieved.

2. Contacts may be any mode, any band, and each member claimed must be a financial member of NZWARO at the time of the contact and may be counted once only.

3. Contacts made on repeaters and in nets will qualify, and WARO Contest contacts after June 1<sup>st</sup> 1990 will be accepted.

4. No QSLs required. Send list of log details to Award Custodian, Lynnette McDonald ZL1LL, 25 John Street, Pukekohe 1800, New Zealand with sufficient postage for return of award.

February 2004



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### **NZWARO MOUNTAIN BUTTERCUP AWARD**

1. For contacts with licensed NZWARO members, resident, visitors, mobile, etc in the 60 towns named in the official list. WARO members working mobile, portable, etc may claim the relevant town for her own credit. The same WARO member may be contacted in any number of towns.
2. Basic Award is available for a list of 15 contacts, with endorsement seals for each further 10 contacts up to the full 60 required. Applicants submitting a list of the full 60 valid contacts will receive a special award distinctive from that gained for the lesser number of contacts.
3. Contacts may be any mode or any band, but each YL worked must be a financial member of NZWARO at the time of the contact and must be within 25km radius of the town claimed.
4. Endorsement seals can be claimed for each further 10 contacts (after the basic 60) using the same list of towns. The same WARO members can be worked but each must be in a different town to where previously claimed. Please send SAE with applications.
5. Award dates from January 1<sup>st</sup> 1989. An official list of towns require to be worked is listed below or is available from the custodian on receipt of a SAE. No QSLs required.  
Send applications containing full log details including the name of the YL and town where worked, together with \$2.00, to Award Custodian, Lynnette McDonald ZL1LL, 25 John Street, Pukekohe 1800, New Zealand.

#### **North Island**

- |                  |                  |                      |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Auckland      | 2. Dannevirke    | 3. Dargaville        |
| 4. Eketahuna     | 5. Featherston   | 6. Gisborne          |
| 7. Hamilton      | 8. Hawera        | 9. Helensville       |
| 10. Kaikohe      | 11. Kaitia       | 12. Masterton        |
| 13. Matamata     | 14. Morrinsville | 15. Napier           |
| 16. New Plymouth | 17. Opotiki      | 18. Orewa            |
| 19. Otaki        | 20. Paihia       | 21. Palmerston North |
| 22. Papakura     | 23. Putaruru     | 24. Rotorua          |
| 25. Taihape      | 26. Taumaranui   | 27. Taupo            |
| 28. Tauranga     | 29. Thames       | 30. Te Awamutu       |
| 31. Te Kuiti     | 32. Turangi      | 33. Upper Hutt       |
| 34. Waihi        | 35. Wairoa       | 36. Wanganui         |
| 37. Wellington   | 38. Wellsford    | 39. Whakatane        |
| 40. Whangarei    |                  |                      |

#### **South Island**

- |                |                  |               |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 41. Alexandra  | 42. Ashburton    | 43. Balclutha |
| 44. Blenheim   | 45. Christchurch | 46. Cromwell  |
| 47. Dunedin    | 48. Gore         | 49. Greymouth |
| 50. Hokitika   | 51. Invercargill | 52. Kaikoura  |
| 53. Motueka    | 54. Nelson       | 55. Oamaru    |
| 56. Queenstown | 57. Reefton      | 58. Timaru    |
| 59. Wanaka     | 60. Westport     |               |

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