



## Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

### December 2006 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn, PO Box 15-122, New Lynn.

President: Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW, Secretary: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR

Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE

VHF Club Net Wednesday 07:30pm 146.525 MHz, HF Club Net Fridays 07:30pm 3.623 MHz

Website <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac>



### Club Calendar

Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	December	Club Meeting - Christmas Social
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	December	Santa will be on the National System at 1930 Hrs. Let the Children discuss important details with Santa

*Compliments of the season*

*The Committee of the western Suburbs Radio Club  
wish to extend to all members a*

*Very Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*

### Late Newsletter

Again, my apologies for a late newsletter this month but I spent the whole of last weekend marking exams.

### December Club Meeting

The next club night we will be the Christmas Social function. Bring your own amber or clear fizzy drink, and a plate. The club will provide nibbles and dips. All welcome especially partners and friends.

### Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every Wednesday, HF Net 3623 KHz +/- QRM/QRN 7:30pm every Friday. All are welcome to check in on the nets. The HF Net Roster can be found on <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.html>.

15-Dec-06	ZL1WI	Roy
22-Dec-06	ZL1VRR	Ross
29-Dec-06	ZL1MW	Brian
5-Jan-07	ZL1JL	John
12-Jan-07	ZL1NE	John
19-Jan-07	ZL1ACZ	Barry
26-Jan-07	ZL1WI	Roy

## **Propessia Rally New Zealand 2006**

This years rally was different in many ways, with the main Rally being run in the Waikato area and the Service park located at Mystery Creek where all the teams set up their bases. The cars looped out from here on day one two and three. Forty-six cars passed over the start ramp with many of the stages being used twice. This meant there was not as many radio operators needed as in past years for 5km safety radio and start / finish crews. Rally base and HQ was set up in the middle of Mystery Creek, where they held two runs of a supper special, on Friday and Saturday.

Friday I set up the motor home with all the radio's and equipment that was needed for us to use. All our site information was posted out to us, or we could look up photos of our position on the rally web. Our day started early which included stage 6 and 9 safety radio so after breakfast we were on our way to 6C, Port Waikato. The day started fine with the sun just poking through, but the forecast said that rain was due. So we had to make good while it lasted... We decided to be on site before road closure as we went in from the finish. The finish crew were not on site when we passed through, and arrived at our point before our due time. We found our point but lost base on VHF once we came off the hill. It was said that we would have difficulty with VHF as we had a small range of hills between us and the repeater. As the rain started we had to kit out in our wet weather gear while we put up our dipole. A radio check with base had a poor signal of around strength 3 to 4. But after an adjustment at base the strength came up to +9. We checked with Ian if he could copy us on VHF simplex as we had put our aerial on top of our mast, about 30ft up. He could only just copy us, as he was in amongst a lot of trees in a reserve.

After checking through the safety vehicles we were ready for the first rally car. We were given the starting list to also check off the cars, as they passed. The rain was now coming down like cats and dogs making the road condition change from dry to wet and mucky. As the cars passed us they showered us with gravel and mud from the road surface, which coated the windows. This had the window wipers working hard to keep up and clear for the identifying of the next cars. Then to make things worse we had a bull come running down the road, which Betti tried to get off the road. The bull was travelling in the direction of the cars. Wise move. A radio report was sent to Base mentioning this fact... Then about ten minutes later the same bull came back onto the road. Betti in trying to get out again from the back of the van, missed her footing and slid on the wet and mucky step, sliding off onto the ground hitting her back and bottom on the step. She gave out a loud yell and sat motionless on the ground. I finished calling base with a car number and went to her attention and lifted her back into the van. I tried to get her into a comfortable position where she could watch and get the car number which I confirmed. The rest of the stage then passed without any more trouble, until the trail car gave us the all clear. I then had to dismantle the mast and dipole and wind up all cable and repack the van ready for the next stage at point 9A Re Akau South,.

We travelled though stage 6 and part of stage 10 Te Akau North. The road surface was very slippery and wet so had to take things very carefully so that I did not go off the road.. We arrived on site with time to spare then commenced to put all the gear back up again ready to do it all over again. We had time to sit down and make some sandwiches before it started over again. We got a good radio check from Base and so awaited the safety car check through. We were located in a blind road and had a good look at the cars as they speed passed us. No problems this time but on listening to the other 5km radio reports some of the rally cars did not make it to the end of the stage, with damage sustained that did not allow them to continue.

As we were only doing the one day of operating we packed up and headed for home stopping off at Huntly for tea .which we bought instead of cooking it in the van... We had a good trip back home, and left the cleanup till the next morning. Sunday we went to our local Medical Centre to find out how much damage Betti had done. It was found that she had cracked a couple of ribs and suffered a large bruise or two on her bottom. With rest and time she went back to work on Tuesday and is nearly back to her self as I write this article.

Regards Ross ZL1VRR/ ZKEKR

## **More Rally News**

The following Rally Pictures were taken by Fred Gilbert ZL1FG at 5k safety points during the rally. The first two are on Pirongia West Rd at Point B, and the second two were on Te Hutewai Rd at Point B.





That's all for this month, but interesting stories are always welcome. Ed