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 Vice President: Peter Henderson ZL1PX
 Secretary: Tom McDonald ZL1TO Ph. 09 238 8580
 Committee Members: Mike Jane ZL1UOM, Ted Doell ZL1BQA,
 Durlene Griffin ZL1ULK, Gary Collins ZL1GAC

Examiners: Tom ZL1TO, Peter ZL1PX

Web page: www.qsl.net/zl1sa/ Webmaster: Peter ZL1PX

MEETINGS: The club meets on the third Tuesday each month, in the clubrooms, 19 Stadium Drive Pukekohe, 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome.

The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (excepting January) at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$20.00, family \$30.00.

NETS: Every Sunday at 9.00 am on 3.700 MHz (controller ZL1UOM) and 9.30 am on the 146.900 MHz repeater (first log-on becomes controller). Other 2 metre frequencies are 145.775 MHz, 146.625 MHz, and 146.900 simplex if repeaters off air.

Newsletter: Editor Peter ZL1PX pjh@teachlit.com

A copy is sent to members and clubs in the Auckland area. Sent free of obligation by e-mail to anyone interested.

Club News

Next Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be at Franklin Amateur Radio Clubrooms, 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe, 7.30 PM, Tuesday 21 June. All are welcome. We will be allocating a question and answer slot during our meeting for those studying for the operator licence. After the meeting, Ted Doell ZL1BQA will present a 30 min talk on WSPR (weak signal propagation report). One use of this mode is to test the effectiveness of an antenna.

Ian Sexton - Silent Key

Franklin Amateur Radio Club were well represented at the funeral of Ian Sexton ZL1PZ at Graham's Funerals, Tuakau on Thursday 19 May. Franklin Club members who attended were Ted ZL1BQA, Durlene ZL1ULK, Bob ZL1BBZ, Gary ZL1WGL, Tom ZL1TO, Lynette ZL1LLK, and Gary ZL1GAC. Ian ZL1AOX and Northern Councillor Howard ZL1BXA also attended. My apologies to the many other hams who attended but whose names and call signs I did not record. Ian was active in a number of other groups throughout his life - Justices of the Peace, Probus, RSA and Pukekohe Aviation. I think it fair to say with Ian's passing we have lost a much valued and respected member of our community.

Clubhouse Graffiti

On Saturday 11 June around mid-day, this graffiti appeared on the walls of the clubhouse. (See Clubhouse Concerns below)



Clubhouse Relocation Progress

Since our last QUA, Panuku, who manage the development of Auckland Council recreation reserves, have communicated they are aware of the council offer to relocate our clubhouse to a site away from the skate-park. Hannah Ross has contacted Secretary Tom to say Panuku will begin investigating possible relocation for the club and no further large scale development will take place on the skate park while the relocation is investigated.

News from Other Groups

Branch 65

Papakura Amateur Radio Club will host a regional training weekend June 10, 11 and 12. See details below.

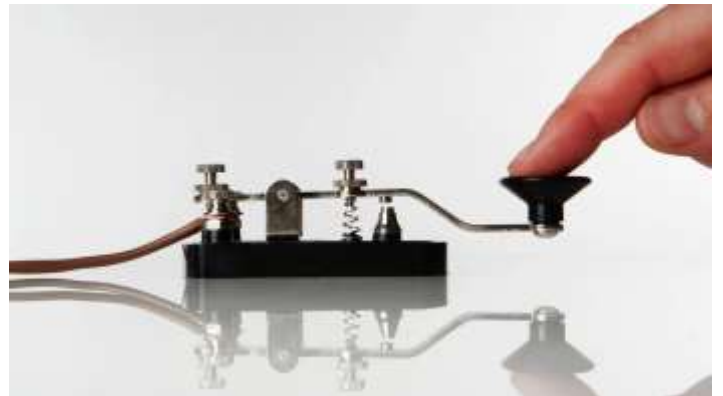
Papakura Branch Newsletter

Branch Newsletter contains a useful article on using SSB or CW on 2m and 70cm bands. Benefits of using SSB rather than FM include a 10dB difference in signal strength – even more in CW. Gavin includes details on specific frequencies in these bands and useful advice on optimum antenna configuration.



AREC

Auckland Training Weekend. This will be the last of the AREC regional training weekends and is scheduled to take place on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June at Papakura Radio Club, 1 Great South Road, Papakura. There will be a National Manager's meeting on Friday 10 June and the club will be hosting a Beer 'n Pizza meet and greet that night from 5.30pm for anyone who would like to swing by. The training weekend is open to all AREC members and will follow the format used in other areas (as reported previously in AREC.info)

NZ Net



Straight Key Night (Winter Edition) will be held on Sunday 12 June from 8pm to 9pm on 80 metres. SKN is not a contest, but it is a great chance to dust off that straight key and let us hear what it can do. Call CQ SKN rather than CQ TEST. The usual exchange of information is RST / Location / Name / Key / Transmitter / Power.

	Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) General Meeting held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe 17 May 2022		Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) Committee Meeting held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe 7 June 2022
<p>President Gary ZL1WGL opened meeting at 1930 hours.</p> <p>Attendance: ZL1WGL, ZL1TO, ZL1BBZ, ZL1BQA, ZL1ULK, ZL1PX, ZL1UOM, ZL1GAC, ZL1LL, ZL1TZP, Guy. Apology: ZL1MFL Received ZL1ULK/ ZL1PX</p> <p>Acknowledgement The passing of Ian Sexton ZL1PZ was remembered in silence.</p> <p>Correspondence Panuku will begin investigating a possible relocation of club. The Secretary was asked to reply thanking Panuku for the update, and that we look forward to further consultation. With potential new amateurs on meeting times and exam learning (Ben, Jason, Alan and Richard). Bob ZL1BBZ tabled an article from eLocal regarding changes to Incorporated Societies ACT.</p> <p>Finance Income: Subscriptions \$20 banked. Expenditure: Power bill to 19 April \$52.73 paid 2 May. Water bill still in credit. Received ZL1TO / ZL1BQA</p> <p>General Business Tom ZL1TO and Durlene ZL1ULK will attend AREC training at Papakura June 10,11 and 12. Peter ZL1PX to fill out registration form as NZART examiner. Decision required on July Junk Sale. Not much junk available yet. Peter has donated TAIT 2M rig for sale. Vaccination pass requirement for our meetings rescinded. ZL1BQA/ZL1PX Ted ZL1BQA will talk on WSPR (weak signal propagation report) at the next general meeting. Bob ZL1BBZ asked that new Life Members be presented certificates. Farewell for Ian ZL1PZ will be Thursday 19 May at Graham's Funerals, Tuakau.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 2018 hours.</p> <p>Auckland City Council video on World War 2 Piha Radar station screened. Local historian Sandra Coney whose family bach was built nearby at the same time, walks us through the various parts of the station and describes how it was operated.</p> <p>Link to Auckland City Council video</p>		<p>President Gary ZL1WGL opened meeting at 1930 hours.</p> <p>Attendance ZL1WGL, ZL1TO, ZL1BQA, ZL1ULK, ZL1PX, ZL1UOM. Apology ZL1GAC, ZL1UOM Received ZL1BQA / ZL1WGL</p> <p>Correspondence Inward: Newsletters from branches 03, 29, 65 and 86. From John ZL1AQS with list of silent key Ian ZL1PZ items for sale. Outward: To Hannah Ross of Panuku saying we look forward to further consultation. To Police 105 with follow up reports to 220525/0421 and 220603/5599 regarding willful damage and burglary at the clubhouse. Email to Manukau Beautification 1 June. The inward correspondence was received and outward approved. ZL1TO / ZL1BQA</p> <p>Finance Income: \$20 donation. Expenditure: Power bill to 19 May \$48.76 paid 2 June. The finance report was received ZL1TO/ZL1PX</p> <p>Reports Damage at clubhouse. Gary ZL1WGL thanks the members who fixed clubhouse two or three times in last months. Electric wiring has been run between points. Wall paint is in back room. AREC. Tom ZL1TO and Lynette ZL1LL attended regional meeting 19 May. Rally of NZ requires 17 mobile VHF stations to serve midpoints in Te Uku in September. Start and finish will be coms will be by commercial contractor. Each station will require two people, suitably fit and able. We will field three stations: Tom ZL1TO and Lynette ZL1LL, Durlene ZL1ULK and Mike ZL1MFL, Gary ZL1WGL and Michael.</p> <p>General Business Next meeting: Ted ZL1BQA to talk on WSPR. Junk Sale: will be in July. Life Member certificates not yet prepared. Proposed obituary to Ian ZL1PZf for publication to Breakin condensed to fit Breakin word count needs. Peter ZL1PJH advised <i>West Franklin Breeze</i> will shortly run an article on amateur radio based on Waiuku hams.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 2045 hours.</p>	

Clubhouse Concerns

Since 2018, when Auckland Council built a skate-park next door, our clubhouse, a rock solid symbol of our hobby, built in the 1960s and maintained with care by our members, has been targeted by individuals whose hobby is to destroy the enjoyment other people gain from their hobbies.

An exaggeration perhaps? Let me provide you with some general detail in support of this claim and specific detail on the most recent attacks on our clubhouse.

Club secretary Tom McDonald has been meticulous in his documentation of police reports, phone calls and photographs of these attacks. In 2018 there were three buildings on our site. Our club, Franklin Amateur Radio Club, was nearest to the road. Pukekohe Performing Arts had two buildings in the area directly behind us, a garage and a small house, which were used to store props and clothing. Less than a year after the skate-park opened, individuals who used the skate-park to hang out had broken into both Performing Arts structures by kicking through the weatherboard cladding. Auckland Council repaired the breakages many times but attacks continued. Soon both Performing Arts buildings were so damaged the Council was forced to demolish them but not before the attackers attempted to burn them down in a final spasm of hatred for other people's hobbies.

Since Performing Arts were destroyed, we have kept close watch on our clubhouse, not wanting to be next. Several of us visit when we can and report any graffiti or damage so it can be addressed. Durlene ZLIULK walks her dog in the mornings and checks the clubhouse often.



On the morning of Wednesday 1 June, Tom checked the clubhouse and found persons unknown had kicked in the boarding which covered the underfloor area of the clubhouse. Several plastic cups and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia were inside the underfloor area.

Tom hammered the boards back into place as well as he could and Durlene was able to help with screw fixings to ensure the boards were screwed securely into the uprights.



On June 4, Durlene found the attackers had come back and struck in the same location. This time, they removed the boarding completely so they would not damage themselves or their clothing while crawling about under our damaged clubhouse.



As before there was evidence of fresh plastic cup material, soft drink cans and some broken balloons. As Tom had done for every attack, he reported this damage to police who sent a forensic expert to acquire what biologic clues might be present.



The next day, June 5, a three man team of Mike, Steve and myself came with power tools, nails, and coach screws. We did our best to fix the boarding back to the uprights. We managed to find some slightly wider planks to replace those the attackers had ruined.

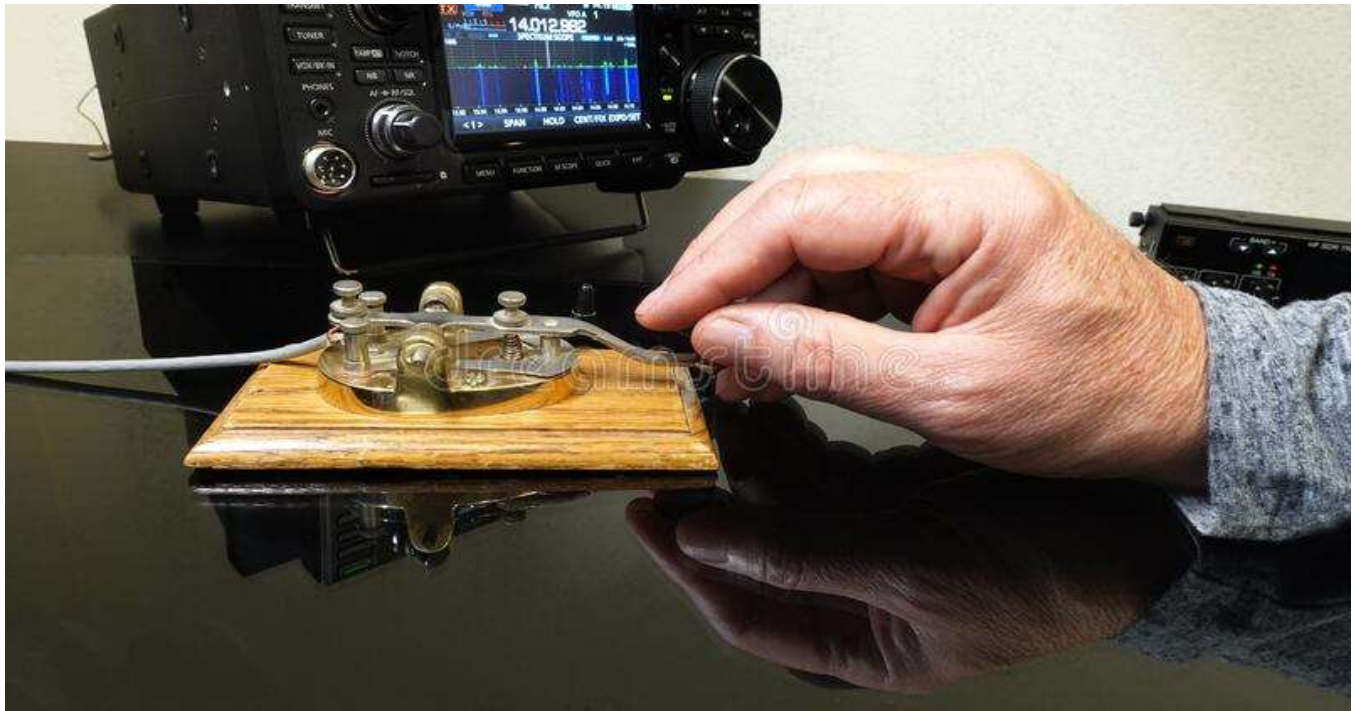
Faced with this evidence of sustained and deliberate damage to our clubhouse, it is hard to avoid the thought that our hobby is under threat. Auckland Council appear to think this also. Local Council Member Andy Baker met with four committee members at the club on Thursday 14 April and told us a fence between the radio club and the skate-park would only invite further continued trouble as we saw when they trashed the back buildings. He wanted to hear our reaction to the council lifting our clubhouse, at no cost to us, and getting us away from the skate park. We responded that we would welcome such a move.

Today, two months later on Saturday 11 June, we have yet to hear of any further development from Auckland Council on their suggestion to move us. Just half an hour ago, I found the latest attack in the form of graffiti on the walls of the clubhouse showed our attackers have not given up.

Meanwhile, we will keep those power tools and paint tins ready for whatever those whose hobby it is to hate other people's hobbies will throw at us and trust that when the council tell us they are ready to relocate us there will still be a clubhouse left.

Straight Key Night: June 12 8PM

Straight keys were the first Morse keys developed in the 1840s to send code across America. A straight key is a single-pole switch turning a current on or off with the default position set as off. Later, many other types of key came into operation to reduce operator fatigue but the straight key has never really gone out of use and thousands of hams worldwide still use them.



Early American Morse key on wooden platform

Straight Key Night is an hour long event organised by Neil Sanderson, the creator of [NZ Net](#). The event is held twice a year on the first Sunday in December from 9 PM and on the second Sunday in June from 8 PM. All transmissions are on the 80 metre band. Contacts must be CW-to-CW at a maximum transmitter power output of 100 watts.



Portable Camelback key and sounder on wood from mid-19th century. These were sometimes used to link army units in pitched battle situations by generals like William Tecumseh Sherman in the American Civil War.

As with SSB phono transmissions on Jock White Field Days, a certain amount of information is exchanged on Straight Key night. Neil suggests we transmit our intention to straight key with a direct 'SKN DE ZL1CALL' rather than calling CQ. When a station replies with their call sign, we send some or all of the following info – RST/location/name/key/transmitter/power. RST refers to readability, strength and tone information. I don't know where my straight key comes from so I will leave out that part. To portray all this more clearly, I have created a 'cheat sheet' below of what I expect to happen in one of my Straight Key Night contacts. AR means 'end of message' and is sent with no space. K means 'handing transmission over'. It is common for operators to use N as a 'cut number' or abbreviation for 9 as Joe does on this cheat sheet when he sends me a signal report of 57N. Joe also uses 'cut number' T for zero in his description of his power as 1TT (100).

Me: SKN DE ZL1PX K

Joe: ZL1PX DE ZL1CU K

**Me: ZL1CU DE ZL1PX 589/WAIUKU/PETER/KENWOOD/100 AR ZL2CU
DE ZL1PX K**

**Joe: ZL1CME DE ZL2CU 57N/PETONE/JOE/KENT/ICOM/1TT AR ZL1PX
DE ZL2CU K**

Me: TU (dit dit)

Joe: TU (dit dit)

Last June I listened to Straight Key Night but as my Morse receive speed was less than 8 words per minute, I felt dismay upon seeing the speed of most operators and the way the exchange information was sandwiched between slashes so closely it was impossible to copy. This year, I can handle faster copy speeds and when I send I will take care to go at a speed I can handle and trust that some stations make the choice to match the speed I have sent to them. My cheat sheet will help.



So here I am, ready for your SKN call!