



Papakura Radio Club

March 2026

Newsletter

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I intend to produce a newsletter each month and it is planned to be sent out prior to each monthly meeting. If you have any items you would like to see in the newsletter, please send to me at iana@kcbbs.gen.nz In the March issue I've increased the font to 14 pts.

Ian Ashley ZL1AOX, Secretary.

Next Meeting 4th March 2026 at 19:30

This Wednesday's evening meeting... the third for 2026...

At the Papakura Radio Club... Wellington Park, Papakura... Opposite the GULL S/S, Takanini

This Wednesday starting at 7.30pm, after the normal business meeting the main topic will be a report on the Jock White Field Day (JWFD). The Club station call is ZL1VK which has had great success over the past years.

If time permits, Ian ZL1AOX will present Space Teddy which reviews the launch of a Teddy Bear into space by the Forrest Hill School in 2019. This is for the newer Members of the Club.

Everyone is invited to participate, and visitors are welcome to join us also.

Murdock Stewart McDonald ZL1TEY 1930 to 2026

Murdock was a longtime member of Papakura Radio Club Inc. having joined in 1985, and apart from a brief period where other interests took over, remained a paid-up member for 31 years. His home station was well equipped for the day and his presence on club nets was distinctive as he always started his report with the temperature, pressure and an abbreviated weather report.

Murdock served as President of the club during a tumultuous period spanning 1997 and 1998 when the club was forced off the Council site where the clubrooms had been built by members many years previously, as the Council wanted to redevelop the land for housing. As a result of Murdock's diplomatic efforts and persuasive powers, the club was provided with a brand new Econobarn clubroom on an alternative site next to an estuary, an ideal site for HF propagation, though down a hollow so not so good for VHF and UHF.

Murdock died in hospital a few days after his 96th birthday after having suffered a major stroke having been confined to the local private hospital after a smaller stroke some two years previously.

Murdock is survived by his wife Lois and their three daughters, multiple grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Murdock's legacy with Papakura Radio Club lives on as club members will continue to enjoy the clubrooms he was able to secure.

Dave ZL1MR



Ian ZL1DM in the Box Truck from South City Motors operating on 40 metres during the JWFD.



Jock White Memorial Field Day Report.

By David ZL1DK

Hi Folk... well the JWFD has been and gone, so if you are interested in operations in the years activity and didn't... you're too late and they will need to be quicker next year. Plans for the activity were never set correctly so it was a bit of hit and miss for the weekend. The week started good for me as I was finally able to get both the MicroHam Keyers working correctly right up to Friday evening. On Friday afternoon I spent just over 4 hours outside the AREC room sorting out guy ropes and connections. Ian, ZL1AOX had made up another plate for the guys. We were one short for the three we needed for the three poles... two for the ends and one for the centre area. Then I found that we were eight of the split chain links short also... so up to Mitre 10 and bought them.... much more than the \$5 I thought they would cost. Back at the clubrooms and with a hammer, I fitted those links to the plates and locked them in place. Then the ropes; well, we had talked about the need for new ropes many times before but that's as far as it got... talk. So out of my vehicle came my ropes and after a bit of measuring and a limited number of cuts... finally had all the guys sorted.

On the day ... Saturday the 28th of February 2026 ... all started out well... I was at work early and at around 9.40am hopped into one of the box trucks we were going to be using for accommodations for the weekend and headed for the clubrooms.

Ian ZL1DM was there or arrived shortly after me and took me back to work in Drury to collect the second truck. We threw a couple of bits and pieces in and off we went... forgetting the reel of coax but Ian, ZL1IRC had that covered, fortunately... saving another return trip to Drury. On the return with this second truck there we were... 10.30+ and nothing else done at all at the clubrooms... so... we then had a discussion on dropping the broadband dipole and did that, then we brought out the sets of poles, that I had made into groups on Friday evening before going home. Then we opened the AREC room and bought out the guys, ropes and pegs and I got some other big pegs out of the truck, that I had brought from Drury. Into the assembly of the sets of poles. Having thought about this operation for a bit of time earlier, we set out the pegs at 5 metre spacings from the centre swivel block... one at the back, one at the front and one each side at 90 degrees.

The five poles were connected with a spacer plate at the second, third and fourth length. At the top of the top pole, Ian, ZL1IRC had drilled a hole through each side of the pipe and having cut a small plastic spacer, inserted the eye bolt, that I had gone back to Mitre 10 for, through the spacer and secured with the nut. This gave us a good support for the aerial; to be attached to with using the main heavy rope that we run through the entire length of the aerial system. Having tested this system earlier on Wednesday evening, we knew that only two people were needed to get the finished sets of poles up in the air. Ian, ZL1IRC walked the pole up while I pulled the guys, the top one shorter than the rest to keep the top bent towards me and make it easier to control. As we had already connected the guy ropes to the pegs... we didn't have any problem as when the guys became tight, the poles were very nearly in the vertical position. Then we threaded the larger rope through the entire length of the two aerials having linked them together with some rope to give some space between each other. Ian, ZL1IRC then mounted the Baluns and coax to both the 40M and 80M aerials. Up went the aerials and after a bit of mucking around, where we had attached the halyard rope and then lifted the poles vertical only to watch that halyard rope run slowly back up the pole and out of the pulley and back to ground! Nothing to do but drop the pole and reattach the halyard and this time... tie it to the anchor point at the base. Finally... from a 10.00am start we were finally finished with the erection of the aerial assembly... but it was now 2.35pm and no radios were set up in the vehicles at all. My fault.

I should have been taking care of that operation while the others were doing the aerial stuff. Disorganised is the term I think... or maybe something else but that was when it finally became a bit too much for me, and when I finally finished setting up the radios and keyers... they didn't work as expected... or at least one was the problem but that was it for me... I was out of patience, and we were out of time as it was now 3.00pm and the contest was running... I gave up and went inside the clubrooms and sat down.

Operating:

On Saturday there 4 operators... Trish ZL1TTM, Tristan ZL3TI, Ian ZL1DM and Kimi ZL1KIM.

On Sunday there was one operator at 6.00am ... Ian ZL1DM and then Kimi ZL1KIM arrived later thinking that someone else was going to be on air from 6.00am but no... so 40 meters was worked by Ian ZL1DM for quite a while and the 80M radio sat idle for the same time.

This year we ended up with both keyers sitting idle and the operators calling CQ using hand mikes... and consequentially having to rest their voices, for some time etc, etc. That way... had we stayed on the starting frequency we may well have lost it but as it was, it had been decided to hunt and pounce up and down the bands etc, etc. whereby, it didn't matter losing the frequency unless we were very lucky.

In future activities there needs to be a lot more planning. This needs to start at least in December and the planning should include, but not be limited to, operators, including days and times on and off the air, who is responsible for the overall operation, who is in charge of the aerial erection and who is in charge of the radio setting up.

Finally, operating in the contest... not for everyone. You need to work out are you are in this to win or in it for a fun day. I have, in my introduction, been involved with mainly Dave ZL1AMN (SK), Richard ZL1BNQ, John ZL1BYZ and John ZL1ALZ, and at time, others... all with the same aim... winning. While we didn't always achieve this aim... it was still the aim of the team, and we all worked together very well. We all knew and understood that you need to call CQ to get a reply and the more times you called CQ... the more replies you got... and that's the way to win... keeping the calls coming in.

That's it from me... ZL1VK, good luck in the future ...
David ZL1DK

Brief report from ZL1AOX.

I set up for the JWFD as a Home Station. I used computer logging VKCL program which is not recommended by Stuart Watchman the runner of the contest. Used my Icom IC-7300 to an end fed antenna as my 80 metre dipole is broken. Worked 18 multipliers on 80M and 22 on 40M using SSB. 140 contacts logged, with Rob ZL3RS with similar results.

We were the only other Club members active on the air.

Photos of JWFD by Ian ZL1AOX

Guy rope tie down.





Photo from near pine tree looking at the 40 metre station with 80 metre mini truck visible behind



Ian ZL1DM at the controls on 40 metres.



Kimi ZL1KIM working on 80 metres.

Remote Operation Shakedown

Helen (ZL1HOW), and Trish (ZL1TTM, both AREC members at Branch 65 decided to test how they could operate remotely with their AREC issued radios and also have a fun weekend camping which they both love.

The site chosen was Upper Mangatawhiri Dam campsite in the Hunua Ranges. While most camp equipment was well used, our new tents needed a run. We also needed our radios to be set up to run on battery, and to have pole antennas. While having seen all this done previously, we needed to do it for ourselves.

The campsite is a beautiful spot below the dam but surrounded by hills and trees, with one narrow valley out, the latter assisting no doubt with radio comms. We used TM200's connected to our pole mounted antennas, but our handhelds, TP300's, didn't get us out, even when connected to a pole antenna. Trish's GM399 mobile with car antenna did reach a few amateur channels. There were zero connections to the outside world on PRS, as expected, even from the elevated dam site, but within the area worked well as tested when Trish went for an evening walk and checked in with Helen at the campsite.

Food is always important. Originally was going to be ratpacks, but we decided on gastronomic delights versus sustenance, after all a weekend camping holiday! Beautiful stew, Chicken Korma, fresh salads, with homegrown tomatoes, a good red wine, bacon, eggs and toast, and freshly brewed real coffee. The newly purchased jet boil ensured coffee in no time at all.

A huge thankyou to the lads from Br 65 who got us set up for remote operation, and to all who connected with us on radio. We used 146.625, 146.975 successfully including for the Br 65 net Sunday morning. We also had regular radio checks on EE122.

Our food and wine got lots of comments on air and on Facebook! A few campers also came to check us out, some even thinking we had a Starlink set up to watch Netflix! Wearing AREC caps and jackets we were able to talk about what AREC does and what we were up to apart from having heaps of fun. Also, having chosen the poles we wanted for ourselves, we now have our own issued ones, complete with reflective tape. Trish was super impressed with how the poles stood out in the dark. There was no walking into them, but you would possibly trip over the guy ropes first. Imm, maybe Glow in the Dark tent pegs to add to the shopping list of camping kit upgrades!

A big thankyou to everyone that helped us get sorted with gear set up and live comms. We are both looking forward to the next lot of upcoming SAREX's, and perhaps even more fine tuning. We had an awesome weekend.



Helen and Trish learning AREC Comms and camping out.

Park Fest '26 is almost here.

This Saturday, Papakura Central Park comes alive from 10am–2pm with live music, food stalls, free activities and a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere right in the heart of town.

It's one of those proper community days — bring the whānau, catch the Summer Variety Concert, grab something to eat and enjoy Papakura at its best.

If you haven't made plans yet, now you have.

Check Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1936363130647992>

📅 Saturday 7 March

📍 Central Park, Opaheke Road

🕒 10am–2pm

See you there, Papakura ☀️

The Papakura Radio Club intends to have a display on the day. Please contact Richard ZL1BNQ on 021 729 270 if available to help.

Calendar

March, 2026

- 7th/8th [Commonwealth Contest](#)

April, 2026

- Each Tuesday in April – [Autumn Sprints](#)
- 11th and 12th [Low Band \(VHF\) Contest](#)

May, 2026

- 2nd [WIA Harry Angel Memorial 80m Sprint](#)
- 16th and 17th [NZART Sangster Shield](#)

June, 2026

- 6th and 7th [WIA VK Shires Contest](#)
- 14th [Straight Key Night – Winter](#)

July, 2026

- 4th and 5th [NZART Memorial Contest](#)
- 18th [Trans Tasman Low Band Contest](#)

Musick Point Newsletter link

A Happy new year to all. Please find the latest MUSEletter at-

<https://museletters.zlham.net.nz/>

If you do not want to receive the newsletter please advise via this email.

Best 73, ZL3CK

New Zealand & Australian Amateur Radio Magazine

<https://thehamshack.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fcf22f553297b6cd6262f884e&id=e0ec0ac30a&e=effe0514bb>

ZL1RJS Website

Rob ZL1RJS/ZL3RS has created a website at <https://zl1rjs.co.nz/> which has information on projects run and supported by the Papakura Radio Club Inc. He also has links to manuals for various radios and other interesting items. Thanks, Rob.

Just a reminder that our General Meeting supper is provided by Members bringing a plate, preferably with some goodies on it! We don't need a banquet just a snack after the meeting.



ZL1VK Kitsets available now...for immediate delivery.

- Anderson Power Pole Distribution, PC Board only... \$5.00
- 2 Radio into 1 Headphone set switching radios, incl. PTT, PC Board only... \$9.00
- Radio Interface for digital modes incl. Winlink, FT4, FT8 etc. Complete kit... \$69
- Tait Radio TM8100 Series VFO unit... 100 Memories, Complete kit... \$125
- Tait Radio VFO Escutcheon... clips over the VFO Unit... \$15

The kits above are all designed by Keith Dix, ZL1BQE for the Papakura Radio Club.

The Diplexer is a kit designed by Rob, ZL1RJS for the Papakura Radio Club.

- Diplexer... UHF/VHF unit and metal Die-cast box, supplied, complete kit... \$35

The following kit is still being finalised and will be available soon...

Voice Keyer... Record 4 messages, push button to play selection through TX radio, complete kit.
TBA

Collect from the Papakura Radio Club most Wednesdays 7.30pm to 8.30pm or email zl1dk@nzart.org.nz for postage costs etc...

Operators wanted... ZL100C... NZART Centennial

If you are an NZART Member and would like to use this special event callsign, ZL100C, contact David Karrasch, zl1dk@nzart.org.nz. David will need notification at least 24 hours prior to use, so details can be recorded in the register. You will receive a reply within 24 hours of confirmation, subject to other operator's commitments. CW operators desperately required. You will need to advise the date, times on and off, band and modes required. You will also need to supply regularly, a computer generated, adif file of your log so the details can be added to QRZ.com and later, LoTW, on a regular basis. Any queries contact David zl1dk@nzart.org.nz or phone him... 021 560 180.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR **PROMOTION**

SAVE 15% when you order any of the
following radios below

MARCH 1ST - 31ST

IC-7100

\$2,150.50
(INC. GST)

BEFORE: \$2,530.00
SAVE: \$380.00



ID-5100

\$976.52
(INC. GST)

BEFORE: \$1,148.85
SAVE: \$172.33



ID-52A PLUS

\$976.52
(INC. GST)

BEFORE: \$1,148.85
SAVE: \$172.33



RWB Promotion

CALL US ON 09 274 4062

Offer available 1st to 31st March.

Price does not include freight from our warehouse to your delivery address.

[PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW](#)

Papakura Radio Club Inc.

Branch 65 NZART Club Directory
Wellington Park, 1 Great South Road.
Westpac 03-0399-0019896-00

Club website: <http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk> Club email: zl1vk.club@gmail.com

Acting President	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	021 729 270
Secretary	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	021 198 1810
Treasurer	ZL1MR	David Wilkins	021 185 7903
Committee	ZL1DK	David Karrasch	021 560 180
	ZL1IRC	Ian Clifford	021 082 48400
	ZL1RJS	Rob Stokes	021 307 005
	ZL1RIC	Ricky Hodge	027 533 8155
	ZL1KIM	Kimi Nooroa	021 024 66004
	ZL3TI	Tristan Ilich	027 889 3309

AREC Section Leader	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	021 729 270
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Newsletter Editor	ZL1AOX	021 198 1810	
Hall Custodian	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	021 198 1810
Newsletter.	Contact: Ian Ashley	iana@kcbbs.gen.nz	

Our newsletter is published monthly and normally distributed just before the club meeting.

Please forward articles etc to the editor Wednesday 1 week before the general meeting.

Please notify any change of address including E-Mail Address to the secretary.

Meetings

General Meetings are held at the Clubrooms on the 1st Wednesday of each month, starting at 7.30 pm. Look at your calendar and mark these nights. The speaker follows the General Meeting.

Activity Nights are held on the 2nd Wednesday starting at 7.30 pm.

Committee Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm unless advised.

Project Evenings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

AREC Meetings are on the 5th Wednesday night, also starting at 7.30 pm

AGM: Held in November

Subscription: Full membership and newsletter \$30.00 Family Membership and newsletter \$45.00

Bank Account number: 03-0399-0019896-00

Working Bees: As required.

Branch 65 21 Award: For contacts with ZL1VK (5 Points) and 8 Papakura Radio Club Members (2 Points each). Total 21 Points. Cost \$5-00. Certified list and \$5-00 to Secretary, Papakura Radio Club. Address above.

ZL1VK Club Nets

146.625 MHz Sunday at 8.00 am. Controller ZL1RJS, Rob Stokes and any others available. If the repeater is not available, listen 146.475 MHz FM simplex.

3.755 MHz LSB, Sunday at 9.00 am. Controller Richard. ZL1BNQ

(Linked to 146.675 & 438.775 FM Tone 141.3Hz)