



# Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

## May 2018 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn,  
 PO Box 15-122 New Lynn WAITAKERE 0640  
 President: Ian Sangster ZL1RCA, Vice President – Grant Manning ZL1GSM.  
 Secretary: Andrew Mitchell, ZL1AF. Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE  
 VHF Club Net Wednesday 08:30pm 146.525 MHz,  
 HF Club Net Fridays 08:30pm 3.650 MHz  
 Website <http://www.amateurradio.co.nz/>

## Club Calendar

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	May	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	May	Club Meeting – 10am. Ivan Pivac will talk on Amazon Alexa
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	June	NZART Conference
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>		
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	June	Queen's Birthday
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	June	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	June	Mid-Winter Dinner – Venue and Date to be confirmed.
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	June	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	June	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	June	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	July	Franklin Amateur Radio Club Sale
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	July	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	July	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	August	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	August	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	September	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	September	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	September	Daylight Saving Starts
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	October	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	October	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	October	Labour Day
Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	November	Used Equipment Sale – Venue and Date to be confirmed
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	November	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	November	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	November	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	November	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	December	Christmas Dinner – Venue and Date to be confirmed.
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	December	Christmas Day
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	December	Boxing Day
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	January	New Year's Day
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	January	Day After New Year's Day

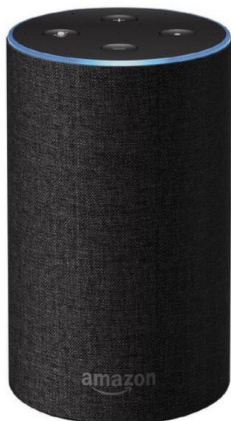
## Meeting Agendas

If you have a topic that you would like to present at a club meeting, could you please contact the President or Vice President prior to meetings so that the item can be programmed for a future date.

### May Meeting

The May meeting will be a talk by Ivan ZL1IA on Amazon Alexa. Alexa is a virtual assistant developed by Amazon, first used in the Amazon Echo and the Amazon Echo Dot smart speakers developed by Amazon Lab. (Wikipedia). For information on Amazon Alexa, visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon\\_Echo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Echo) . Ivan has two products he will bring down to the club and present, “Amazon Echo” and “Amazon Dot.” To open an Amazon Alexa account, go to <https://www.amazon.com>

Amazon Echo



Amazon Dot



### April Meeting

The April meeting was the Annual General Meeting. We also voted on the remits which are to be voted on at the June NZART Conference. Most of the Committee positions remain unchanged however Allan, ZL1AML has stepped down from the committee because he has moved to Whangarei and Tony, ZL1TLC, comes on. Thank you, Allan, for the work you have put in and thanks for continuing with the management of the website for us. Thanks also to Tony for joining the committee. Remits took quite a bit of time and this left insufficient time for part two of Ian Sangster’s, ZL1RCA, recent trip to the USA and his trip home on a ship. We will most likely have that at a later date.

### Informal Wednesday Meetings

Informal meetings are held fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. There is no programme. Just turn up for morning tea and a chat. Bring with you the project that you are having trouble with and perhaps others will be able to point you in the right direction. The numbers attending each meeting has been approximately six people. They are proving to be very popular so do come along if you can make it.

### Silent Key

It is with sadness that we record the death of a long-time club member **John Turnwald, ZL1JT**. John passed away peacefully on April 24, 2018. John was a long-time member and life Member of the Western Suburbs Radio Club. He served for many years on the club committee and was Treasurer for many of those years. John was always ready to talk with other hams and would willingly give advice on any topic, not just radio. He was active in AREC in his earlier years. John was a long-time member of the Order of St John and because of this association he gave club members tuition in first aid on many occasions. We will miss John’s friendship and wise counsel. Our condolences go to Fortuna, ZL1TCZ, and her family.

## Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz **8:30pm** every Wednesday, HF Net 3650 KHz +/- QRM/QRN **8:30pm** every Friday. All are welcome to check in on the nets.

The HF Net roster is opposite. The full HF Net roster can be found on: <http://www.amateurradio.co.nz/>.

25-May-18	ZL1RCA	Ian
1-Jun-18	ZL1LK	Roy
8-Jun-18	ZL1BAK	Graeme
15-Jun-18	ZL1NE	John
22-Jun-18	ZL1AF	Andrew
29-Jun-18	ZL1RCA	Ian
6-Jul-18	ZL1LK	Roy
13-Jul-18	ZL1BAK	Graeme
20-Jul-18	ZL1NE	John
27-Jul-18	ZL1AF	Andrew

## Club Fees

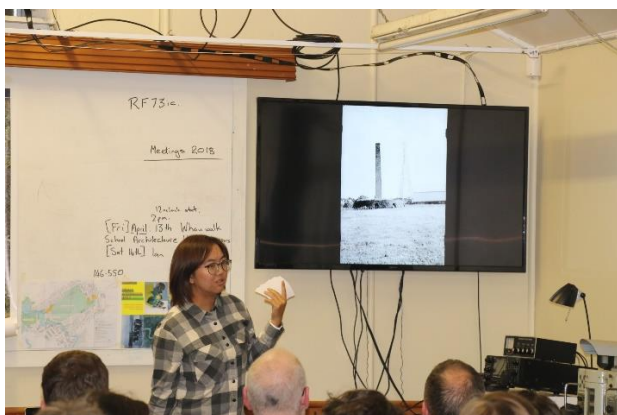
Club fees are now due. Pay by internet banking if you can. The Clubs Bank Account is **020184-0030318-00**. If paying online please add your "Call Sign" and the words "Club Fees" as a reference. If you require a receipt, the Treasurer will send your receipt to your email address or hand it to you at the next meeting. Please advise if you need one. If we don't have your email address, please provide it to Merv at: [mervthomasmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mervthomasmusic@gmail.com) Use the payment slip at the end of this newsletter if you prefer to pay in cash or by cheque.

The fees are as follows:

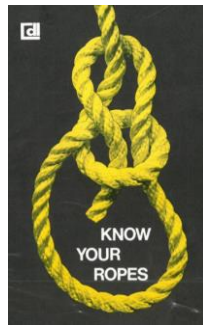
- Standard Membership           \$30.00
- Family Membership           \$35.00
- Rural Membership           \$10.00

## Whau Walk - School of Architecture

On Friday 13 April 2018, the School of Architecture held a walk along the Whau River finishing at our clubrooms where they held lectures on landscaping, historical buildings along the Whau and future developments. Pictured below is the lecture in progress and discussions over a cup of tea following the lecture. It was nice to see the Clubrooms and equipment being used by the local community.



# Know Your Ropes



## KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 23

One of a rope's worst enemies is direct sunlight. This can make outer fibres brittle and cause serious damage in small sized ropes if left exposed for very long periods. The effect is most noticed in polypropylene. The deterioration is caused by ultra violet rays, and will affect least, those ropes of a dark colour. As a general rule, keep all cordage stowed away from direct sunlight wherever possible, and never store rope under glass in the sunlight.

## KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 24

Where a length of rope has a certain proportion of its length in frequent contact with a working surface such as a pulley, change the rope end-for-end occasionally—or alter its length so that the wear is evenly distributed. In this way, as with swapping around the tyres on your car, you will get longer and more reliable service from your cordage. Make sure, also, that the pulley is free to turn easily and is of adequate size to support the rope. Do not over-grease the pulley, or let the working surface become pitted with rust.

## KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 25

The most common and frequent damage done to rope, is that caused by abrasion. Avoid dragging rope over rough areas, and protect it where it is likely to chafe. Canvas or rubber buffers are ideal for this, as is a split length of plastic hose, slipped over the section of rope likely to chafe. A score or chafe along one face of a rope may be more serious than it looks if it extends far enough, since it may affect *every* outer strand. In cases like this, the best rule is to splice out the damaged section.

## KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 26

In very small ropes, the outer fibres make up a high percentage of the total number of fibres in the rope, and if a large number of these have parted along the rope's length, it is best to replace the rope. When checking a rope for damage, it is best to inspect it about a foot at a time, turning it as you go along so that every strand is inspected. Remember the golden rule of rope handling . . . if in any doubt at all about the safety of a rope, either test the rope or replace it. Better it breaks on the test bench, than miles out at sea in a gale.

**Club Fees**

Club Fees are Now Due. Please send your payment to:

Western Suburbs Radio Club  
3000 Great North Road  
PO Box 15-122  
New Lynn  
WAITAKERE 0640

Or pay the Treasurer at the next meeting.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Please Tick	Standard Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00
	Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00
	Rural Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00
	Total Paid		_____
			_____

Alternatively, you may wish to transfer your payment directly to the club by means of electronic banking.

The clubs bank account number is 020184-0030318-00. Please add your "Call Sign" and the words "Club Fees" as a reference. The Treasurer will send you a receipt if you require one.