

THE WORLD BELOW

400 GHz

The Periodical Newsletter of the
WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc.,
ZL1IS,
PO BOX 606,
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240.



NZART
BRANCH 81

MARCH 2009 ISSUE

WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

President	Alan Wallace	ZL1AMW	07 843 8738
Vice President	Morris Beale	ZL1ANF	07 884 8416
Secretary	Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	07 843 0326
Treasurer	Ian Brown	ZL1TAT	07 847 3709
Projects	Tom Bevan	ZL1THG	07 846 5425
Committee	Phil King	ZL1PK	07 847 1320
Committee	Derek Stansfield	ZL1CYK	07 549 0884
Committee	Brian Farrell	ZL1HN	07 843 4847
Committee	Kevin Murphy	ZL1UJG	07 847 0041
Editor	Kevin Murphy	ZL1UJG	07 847 0041

Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the Waikato VHF Group will be held on
Sunday March 22nd, 2009 at 1:30pm,

at the Anglican Church Lounge

on the corner of Broadway and Hokia Streets, Matamata.

The Te Aroha 146.950 MHz repeater will be monitored for anyone
requiring directions.

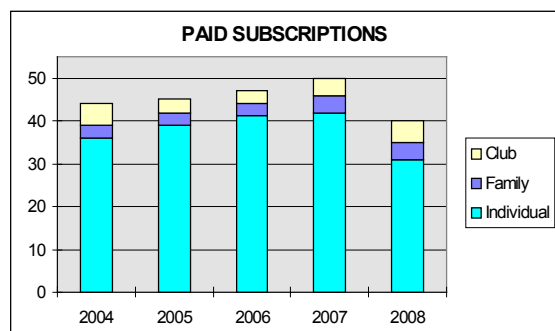
A 15 minute slide show on the Kaimai site upgrade will be shown at the
end of our AGM, so come along to see what was achieved over
the 6th and 7th of February 2009

WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc.
TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

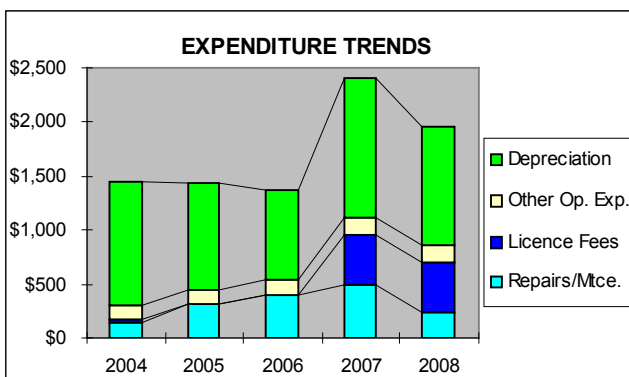
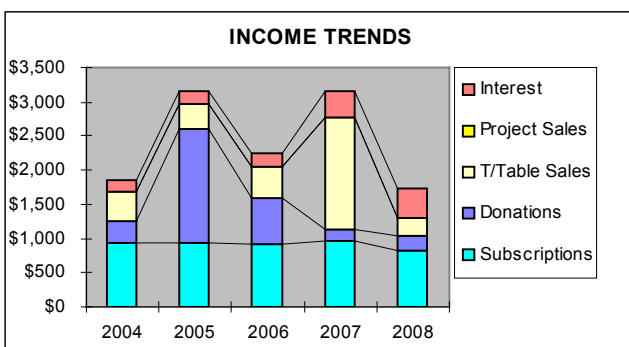
2008 was the Waikato VHF Group's 45th year of continuous service to amateur radio, and I now report on its financial result. Our independently reviewed **Financial Statement (opposite)** summarises the Group's position at the end of our last financial year, alongside comparative figures from 2007 in the left margin. Last year's expenditure exceeded income by \$248, the first time since 2003 we've not covered costs. This change arose from paid subscriptions falling 17% (11 fewer members paid during 2008), and lower income derived from **trading table sales** (principally due to the Cambridge Market Day no longer operating). Most of last year's trading table revenue was produced by efforts of long time supporters ZL1THG and ZL1UJG, - thanks again guys.

The Waikato VHF Group also records its appreciation for financial support from new and renewing **members** during 2008, and gratefully acknowledges **donations** totalling \$235 received from ZL's 1BGH, 1BNJ, 1GEO, 1GZ, 1HP, 1KIP, 1KL, 1KP, 2UJ, and NZART Branch 67.

39 paid **subscriptions** were received during 2008, our lowest number since 2002. Those subscriptions, plus revenue from trading table sales along with member's donations help keep our 13 **beacons and repeaters** on the air. While all our operating costs are closely monitored, they continue to rise (electricity alone cost us 13.5% more last year), so we'd prefer those who regularly benefit from the group's services contributed by paying an annual subscription. **Maintenance and capital development costs** would be much higher if it wasn't for many hours of time donated (often at personal cost) by a few members and our repeater trustees. Although no capital improvements were carried out last year, major work on essential upgrading has recently been carried out at our Kaimai site.



Radio licence fees continue their impact on our **operating expenditure**, plus we're likely to face significantly increased site access costs in 2009 (despite considerable progress having been made in negotiations with our site hosts, this has the potential of forcing us to consider abandoning at least one site). These fees have the potential to make 2009 one of our most financially challenging yet.



Most quarterly **newsletters** are delivered to members via email in full colour PDF format. If you're not already receiving yours this way, then please advise your email address in the space provided on our membership application form, as this helps keep our newsletter costs down. Except for one member who paid their 2009 sub during 2008, remember **your subscription is now due**. Your committee proposes keeping our 2009 subs at last year's rates (Individual = \$20, Club or Family = \$25).

In closing, I wish to thank all members for your ongoing support, plus fellow committee members, particularly Alan ZL1AMW and Morris ZL1ANF who held the fort for Gavin and I during our absences overseas last year. The Waikato VHF Group looks forward to your, and others, support in 2009.

Ian Brown ZL1TAT, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

of the WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc. for F.Y. Ended 31 December 2008

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

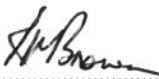
<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>
	Income ...	
\$955	Subscriptions received	\$795
\$175	Donations Received	\$235
\$1,601	Profit from Trading Table	\$260
\$390	Interest received	\$416
-----		-----
\$3,121		\$1,706
	Expenses ...	
\$1,293	Depreciation	\$1,099
\$499	Repairs & Maintenance	\$244
\$450	Licence Fees	\$450
\$167	Petty Expenses	\$161
-----		-----
\$2,409		\$1,954
\$712	Excess Income / Expenditure	(\$248)

BALANCE SHEET

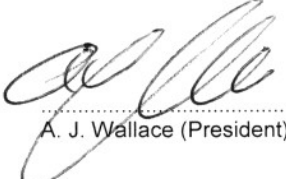
<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>
	Current Assets ...	
\$5,391	Bank Current Account	\$5,928
\$3,812	Bank Term Deposits	\$4,086
\$170	Stock on hand	\$170
-----		-----
\$9,373		\$10,184
	less Current Liabilities ...	
\$60	Subscriptions paid in advance	\$20
\$0	Accounts Payable at Year End	\$0
-----		-----
\$9,313	Working Capital	\$10,164
\$7,327	Fixed Assets	\$6,228
-----		-----
\$16,640	Member's Funds	\$16,392
=====		=====
	Member's Funds ...	
\$15,928	Balance at previous year end	\$16,640
\$712	Excess Income / Expenditure for Financial Year	(\$248)
-----		-----
\$16,640		\$16,392
=====		=====

SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS & DEPRECIATION

ASSET	31.12.09 B/V plus Addns / Disp at Cost	B/V at 31.12.07	+ Addns.	- Deprec. 15 %	Book Value at 31.12.08
TeAroha '840 Repeater	\$915.27	\$63.61		\$9.54	\$54.07
TeAroha '695 Repeater	1,909.00	102.42		15.36	87.06
TeAroha Linking Bridge	160.02	8.58		1.29	7.29
" IRLP Link Eq.	2,240.95	1,778.87		266.83	1512.04
Tairua '6975 Repeater	2,924.23	348.41		52.26	296.15
Kaimai Repeaters Site	4,514.64	2,042.26		306.34	1735.92
Kaimai '540 Data Repeater	2,468.45	169.71		25.46	144.25
Kaimai '485 N.S. ULS Repeater	2,224.56	489.89		73.48	416.41
Raglan '5675 Repeater	5,188.78	932.92		139.94	792.98
Hamilton '9975 Nat. Syst.Rpx.	4,357.03	1,222.78		183.42	1039.36
Hamilton 2m/70/23cm Beacons	157.41	10.47		1.57	8.90
Hamilton 12cm Beacon	449.00	39.23		5.88	33.35
TK705D 2m Transceiver	225.00	117.45		17.62	99.83
	-----	-----		-----	-----
TOTALS:	27,734.34	\$7,326.60	\$0.00	\$1,098.99	\$6,227.61
Less Accumulated Depreciation	21,506.73	-----	-----	-----	-----
Equals Book Value at 31.12.08	\$6,227.61	-----		-----	-----


I. W. Brown (Treasurer)


G. W. Petrie (Secretary)


A. J. Wallace (President)

**REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
WAIKATO V H F GROUP INCORPORATED**

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Waikato V H F Group Incorporated. The financial statements provide information about the past financial performance and financial position of Waikato V H F Group Incorporated as at 31 December 2008. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out separately.

The Committees' Responsibilities

The Committee are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which fairly reflect the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2008 and the results of its operations for the year ended 31 December 2008.

My Responsibilities

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial statements presented by the Group and report my opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

A review includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgments made by the Group in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

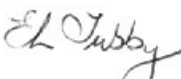
I conducted my review in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards in New Zealand. I planned and performed my review so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Other than in my capacity as reviewer, I am also a member of the Waikato V H F Group Incorporated.

Unqualified Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements fairly reflect the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2008.

My review was completed on 9 February 2009 and my unqualified opinion is expressed as at that date.


E L TUBBY

PAPAMOA

KAIMAI SITE UPGRADED

A long planned working bee got under way at 0830 on Friday 6 February 2009, when a group of volunteers and contractors assembled near the summit of SH29 ready to begin a major upgrade of the Waikato VHF Group's repeater facility. This site, at 644 metres above sea level, accommodates our '485 national system ULS Node (interconnecting six sites in the National System), plus our '540 Data Repeater. Work planned for the day included:

- Lower the tower, remove existing antennas and feeders,
- Install a new purpose designed tower onto the existing footings,
- Remove both old towers from site (the original, plus the one just taken down),
- Rig the new tower with new antennas and feeders for our '485 ULS, '540 Data Repeater, and our 12cm (2424.256 MHz) Beacon which is being relocated to this site,
- Clear all equipment out of the hut (including 250kg of batteries!)* so the hut could be lifted off its crumbling foundations, and new foundations installed,
- Lift the hut onto those new foundations, and secure in place,
- Fit new stainless steel guys which secure the hut in place during frequent high winds experienced on this site.

** The old hut foundation was crushed after the eyelet securing the top end of the N/E hut tie-down guy opened up under strain caused by very high wind pressure during a storm in 2007, and the hut moved sideways across its concrete piles. The new eyelets all have welded loops now!*

Upon arrival on site on Friday, we had to contend with being up in the clouds with light rain and very windy conditions – not quite what we'd ordered! However, prevailing weather couldn't deter such a determined group as they set about various tasks. Timber, bags of quick-set concrete, and tools were carried about 60m from the nearest 2WD vehicle access, and over the fence. Meanwhile, the contractor's truck with Hiab crane had been winched up a slope to the south of our site by a 4WD vehicle so the crane jib could reach the tower.

It wasn't long before the old tower was lowered to the ground and its antennas were being removed. While that was going on, another group set about disconnecting the old guys from the hut, and removing batteries plus radio equipment and other assorted items from inside. Next the hut was tilted northward onto its side, with its roof supported just off the ground so the iron wasn't damaged by being pressed onto the ground. By now, the weather had improved, and the rain ceased leaving cloudy skies with a little less wind.

The new tower was fitted to the original concrete foundation, stood up (without any antennas initially) so it could be plumbed vertical, and all remaining bolt holes drilled through the bottom of its three legs. The tower was then lowered and work commenced fitting a new four dipole array for '485, a two dipole array for '540, plus a bow-tie dipole in a protective enclosure for the 12cm beacon. New feeders were run to all three antennas.

Our builder, assisted by some of our helpers, set about digging out the old crumbling concrete piles, then installing nine new wooden piles into concrete footings. It was now time to let the concrete set, so all participated in a delicious lunch organised by our president. After lunch, both old towers were both cut up and loaded onto the truck along with materials from the old hut foundations. By now the concrete footings for the new foundations had rested for several hours to set, so a group of 'strong men' (that lunch did wonders) lifted the hut onto its newly installed foundation. New stainless steel guys were attached to the hut and ground anchors, while a new plywood floor was installed over the original, and the best of the original concrete piles installed as a step outside the door.

It was now late in the day, so after storing the batteries, duplexer, and radio equipment back into the hut, all proceeded down the hill and homeward. That day's proceedings had been well documented by several photographers amongst those on site, and a few of these pictures are included with this article. We will have a 15 minute slide show of this working bee available on CD at our AGM. This project was ably brought together by Iain ZL1KK, who obtained sufficient helpers well before getting through his list of names – that's why more

weren't asked. The VHF Group gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by all who joined in Friday 6th February (Waitangi Day) 2009. Participating on that day were:

Iain Harrison ZL1KK (Project Manager)
Alan Wallace ZL1AMW
Morris Beale ZL1ANF
Ian Swain ZL2IAS (Building contractor)
David King ZL1DGK
Brian Farrell ZL1HN
Neill Ellis ZL1TAJ

Ngaire Harrison ZL1KN
Ian Brown ZL1TAT
Joline Beale ZL1UJB
Andrew Moffatt ZL1MOF
Phil King ZL1PK
Kevin Murphy ZL1UJG
Don Brown, (Crane owner), & Ricky Ireland

Ian ZL1TAT and Kevin ZL1UJG returned to the site on Saturday 7th to complete some earthing work and install new surge arrestors, reinstall batteries and all radio equipment plus additional filters, terminate the hut end of all feeders, and recommission both repeaters.

The **VHF Group will gratefully accept any donations** towards the \$4,358 spent on this upgrade.



The old tower being lowered in the mist and drizzle



New antennas for '540 and '485



Cutting up the old tower for scrap



Preparing the enclosed dipole antenna for our 12cm beacon



Installation all complete



New foundations being prepared for hut



Hut back on its new foundations

Notes from Committee Meeting of Sunday 15th February, 2009

1. Kaimai - a letter of thanks has been sent to Iain, ZL1KK, for his part in the very successful working bee on 6 February.
2. Kaimai - any donations toward the cost of the upgrade will be gratefully accepted.
3. Kaimai - on the weekend of 14/15 Feb. the National System in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty area was being held up for long periods during the morning. Please make sure that if you are working on a transceiver that you always use a dummy load.
4. Raglan Repeater - reported intermittent operation - to be looked at.
5. Technology Convention - being held in Hamilton on Easter Weekend, 11 & 12 April - details in Break-In or at <http://nzart.org.nz/nzart> - look under "What's On". Also available from techcon09@nzart.org.nz
6. 2.424 256 GHz Beacon - to be moved to Kaimai.

Members and Associate Members

As a branch of NZART, the Waikato VHF Group is obliged to follow the constitution of our national body. When renewing your subscription, you must make a written statement to confirm your current NZART membership status. A convenient way to do this is to present a membership form with the appropriate detail completed and signed. This also provides an assured way to keep our details up-to-date to ensure you are circulated with the regular newsletter, and any special meeting notices. Unless we receive written assurance you are a current member of NZART, the VHF Group can only admit you as an Associate Member [NZART Constitution clause 7.3.c and Waikato VHF Group Constitution clause 5(c) refer], and while Associates are welcome, they cannot hold any office within Branch 81.

New members to the Waikato VHF group are always welcome, but must complete the application form in full on joining.

Membership Application Form

The attached Membership Application Form is provided for your convenience, and may be filled out, signed, scanned and returned via email, or posted if you prefer. It is preferred that you send in your application form prior to the meeting, to help eliminate the crush at the start of the AGM, to get everybody signed up. Receipts will be issued when both the application form and payment have been received by the treasurer.

Agenda items

Any agenda items or motions must be in the hands of the president or Secretary by Wednesday, 18th March 2009

WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc. – NZART Branch 81
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DETAILS UPDATE

NAMES¹: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

 POSTCODE: _____ Email²: _____

CALLSIGNS: _____
 are you a current NZART MEMBER? Yes No
 if yes, AFFILIATED TO NZART BRANCH No. _____

I/we apply for membership of the Waikato VHF Group as aâ

This year's **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

Post or deliver this form to:

The Secretary
 Waikato VHF Group Inc.
 PO Box 606
 Waikato Mail Centre
 HAMILTON 3240

Cross out which doesn't apply

Member / Associate @ \$20.00
 or
 Family / Club Member @ \$25.00

Paid by; Cash , Cheque , Direct Credit

Bank details for Direct Credit payment³; Westpac 03 1555 0091289-00

Membership Form Ver. 2009-1

OFFICE USE:

RECEIPT No. _____

I/we agree to abide by the Waikato VHF Group Constitution⁴

Signed: _____ Date: _____

1. Family members = two or more members residing permanently at the same address, please give all names & callsigns.
2. For delivery of electronic version of VHF Group quarterly newsletter (in colour). B/W version posted if no email provided.
3. When paying by direct credit, please enter your name/callsign in the transaction description.
4. Constitution available at www.societies.govt.nz search Organisation No 212737, or by request to Waikato VHF Group Inc.

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Fold lines for posting in DL size window envelope