

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

www.zl1is.info

MARCH 2024 ISSUE

WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

President	David King	ZL1DGK	07 884 9590
Vice President	Neill Ellis	ZL1TAJ	07 576 1999
Secretary	Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	07 843 0326
Treasurer	Ian Brown	ZL1TAT	07 847 3709
Projects	Tom Bevan	ZL1THG	07 864 5425
Committee	Morris Beale	ZL1ANF	07 884 8416
Committee	David McMillan	ZL1TLQ	027 477 0854
Editor	David King	ZL1DGK	07 884 9590

Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Waikato VHF Group will be held on

Sunday, 24th March 2024, 1:30pm

at the Silver Fern Farms Event Centre, (aka Te Aroha Events Centre), 44 Stanley Ave, Te Aroha

The "WaiPlenty" 2m network on 146.950 will be monitored for anyone requiring directions.

A sub renewal/joining form can be found [HERE](#).

WAIHI NORTH '5475 OFF AIR

Following what appears to be a PA failure in our Waihi North repeater, it is presently off air. It will be restored to service soon after the radio module is repaired in Auckland.

DISASTER ON CHRISTCHURCH REPEATER SITE

The Port Hills fire which started on 14 February 2024 ran over Marley's Hill (502m ASL), a major repeater site accommodating radio facilities for emergency services and others. That fire destroyed several radio installations, including wooden antenna masts, taking out numerous repeaters and associated links. Christchurch Branch 05 '705 and 144.575MHz APRS 2m repeaters plus '840 and 439.875MHz UHF repeaters were there.



Remains of Christchurch Branch's Marley's Hill "top pole". Observe butt of that wooden mast burnt off about 1 metre above ground, collapsing and destroying all antennas and feeders on it.

This photo and text from an email on Friday 16th February, is reprinted with permission from the author Rob ZL3RX:

"Hi Guys just Back from a trip up the hill. Our hut is undamaged and the gear looks all OK, some blistering of the paint on the door and that's all. But the top pole is on the ground in 2 pieces and all the antennas and feeders are gone. The lower pole is OK but the feeders are melted and gone. We have no power and it looks like it will take a week to get the power back on. As per my email yesterday it will be some time till we get the national system in CHCH back on the air."

NATIONAL SYSTEM disrupted at Christchurch

As outlined in the previous article, destruction of radio infrastructure including amateur radio facilities at Marleys Hill (on the Port Hills) has taken the Christchurch 439.875MHz National System repeater off air, disrupting communication with all points south.

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Delivery of Waikato VHF Group NEWSLETTER

Our quarterly newsletter is now **delivered via email only**. It is therefore important for us to have your up to date email address. To confirm or update your details in our records, simply send an email to branch.81@nzart.org.nz with your callsign in the subject line, and if there's been an address change, place those details in the message body please?

* * * * *

Waikato VHF Group EMAIL ACCOUNT

Our last newsletter advised our email address branch.81@nzart.org.nz had stopped working while NZART transferred addresses to a new server. Thankfully, this issue was resolved in January this year, so email can once again be sent to us via that address.

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Waikato VHF Group SUBSCRIPTIONS

These fall due on 1 January each year for the ensuing twelve months. Our subs for 2024 are:

Member or Associate Member - **\$30.00**

Family or Club Member - **\$35.00**

Family membership = two or more members residing permanently at the same physical address, please give all names and callsigns.

Student member - **\$15.00**

RENEWAL OF EXISTING MEMBERSHIP:-

If you're already a member, your subscription payment can be made by payment to the Waikato VHF Group, Westpac account, No. 03 1555 0091289-00 via internet banking. When paying by this method, please include name and callsign details where appropriate so our treasurer can identify who the payment came from.

CHANGE OF DETAILS:-

Any change in membership details can be notified by:

1. posting a [Membership Application/Details Update Form](#) to PO Box 606, Hamilton 3240.
or
2. scanning the completed form and emailing it to: branch.81@nzart.org.nz
or
3. placing details in an email to our email address in 2 above.

If you've already paid for 2024, you will have been emailed a receipt by our treasurer. **Money saving tip**; please confirm or inquire to avoid paying a second time.

First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, is Now Transmitting

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.



A rendering of the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the lunar surface. [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Image]

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been **transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz** since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analysing JS1YMG's signal, with Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string. It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analysing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision - within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.

Amateur 9cm Band Lost in new Amateur GURL

Radio Spectrum Management have published a new Amateur GURL dated 15 December 2023. In it, the new amateur allocation at 5 MHz is shown. What has come as a complete surprise is the removal of the amateur 9cm band (3300 to 3410 MHz). In the notes at the end of the new GURL, we are advised that this spectrum is now covered by a General User Spectrum Licence. More information on how this change "just happened" is being sought from NZART.

Updated Chart of Radio Spectrum Usage in NZ

Radio Spectrum Management have updated their chart showing spectrum allocations

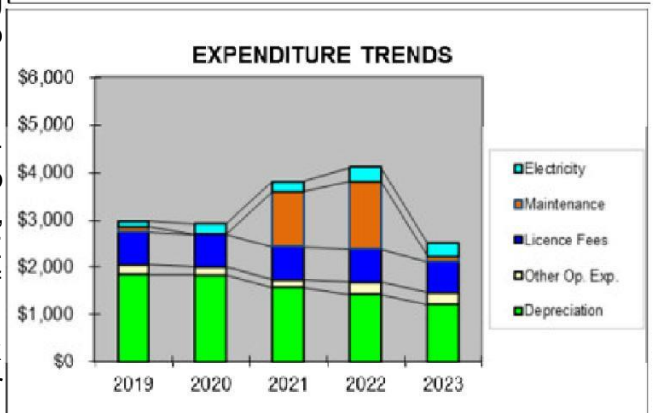
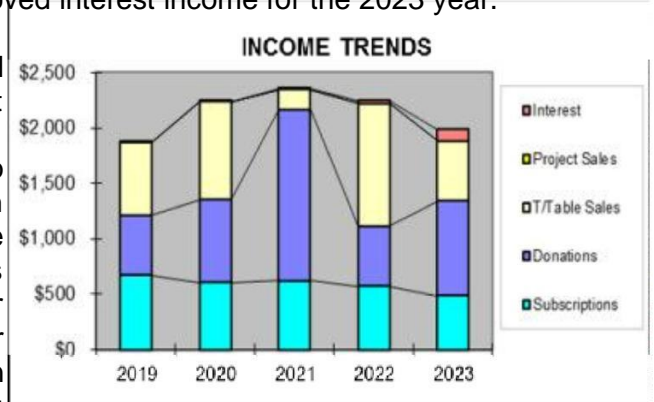
<https://www.rsm.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/documents/radio-spectrum-usage-chart-feb-24.pdf>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

After sixty years of continuous operation, it's my pleasure to summarise financial results from the Waikato VHF Group Inc's 2023 year. Our independently reviewed **Financial Statement** follows with the reviewer's report. Membership subscriptions for 2023 were slightly down on 2022, while four members also payed advance subs for 2024. Trading table income returned to near normal last year after being boosted by several large one-off sales during 2022. We express our appreciation to Life Member Tom ZL1THG for supporting this activity. Maintaining our account balance above the bank's threshold for paying higher interest rates is reflected through improved interest income for the 2023 year.

Seventeen individuals plus two families paid subscriptions for 2023. Members are reminded that **subscriptions fall due on 1st January each year**, and that you must be a financial member to participate in voting at our March AGM. Subscription rates have increased by \$5 for 2024, although these remain well below many similar organisations at less than one dollar per week which supports all our facilities. Renewal details can be advised via our membership application/update form (available on our web site <https://www.zl1is.info/>). While paying your sub, how about considering adding sponsorship of one or more of our radio licence fees?

Subscriptions to the Waikato VHF Group for 2024 are **\$30.00** for a member/associate, **\$35.00** for club or family membership (all residing at the same address), and **\$15.00** for a student currently enrolled at NZ secondary school or tertiary educational institution. If you're one of the four members (ZL1BPB, ZL1FW, ZL1KRH and ZL1TLQ) who've pre-paid for 2024, thank you, you have this year off from paying! A further small increase in subscription rates has been proposed for 2025, to be voted on at our AGM.



Branch 81 gratefully acknowledges **donations and licence sponsorships received during 2023** from ZLs 1AOX, 1BPB, 1GWP, 1KRH, 1RWR, and 1TLQ. Thank you all, your support is greatly appreciated.

Our **WaiPlenty 2m repeater network** continued to operate as a four-repeater system throughout 2023, although performance of Te Weraiti '695 remains down due to unresolved antenna system issues there which are beyond our control. Maintenance costs have been minimised through the generosity of individuals donating time and resources to keep our facilities operational. Radio site access continues to become more challenging, with some owners now not wanting non-commercial operators on site.

Annual **radio licencing fees** reduced to \$650 for thirteen licences in 2023 after we cancelled the licence for our 2m beacon which remains off air. Our WaiPlenty network accounts for twelve of those licences.

Payments to the Waikato VHF Group should be direct credited to our bank account, details of which are on the membership update/renewal form on our web site at Branch.81@nzart.org.nz).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

for the WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc. for F.Y. Ended 31 December 2023

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>
	INCOME ...	
\$570	Subscriptions received	\$485
\$545	Donations received	\$855
\$1,109	Profit from Trading Table	\$541
\$25	Interest received	\$108
\$2,249		\$1,989
	EXPENSES ...	
\$1,427	Depreciation	\$1,213
\$715	Repairs & Maintenance	\$100
\$301	Electricity	\$282
\$700	Radio Licence fees	\$650
\$260	Other expenses	\$256
\$3,403		\$2,501
(\$1,154)	Excess Income / Expenditure	(\$512)

BALANCE SHEET

<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>
	CURRENT ASSETS ...	
\$5,576	Bank Current Account	\$6,292
\$0	Bank Term Deposits	\$0
\$0	Cash on hand	\$0
\$0	Stock on hand	\$0
\$5,576		\$6,292
	LIABILITIES ...	
\$105	Subscriptions received in advance	\$120
\$5,471	Working Capital	\$6,172
\$8,086	Fixed Assets	\$6,873
\$13,557	Member's Funds	\$13,045
	EQUITY ...	
\$14,711	Opening Balance	\$13,557
(\$1,154)	This Year	(\$512)
\$13,557		\$13,045

SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS & DEPRECIATION

ASSET	Original Cost	B/V at 31.12.22	+ Addns.	- Deprec. 15 %	Book Value at 31.12.23
	plus Addns / Disposals at Cost			Xfd to Branch 85 in 2011	
<u>Tairua '6975 Repeater</u>	<u>2,731.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>			
Waihi North '5475 Rpx & Link	11,220.65	1,784.01		267.60	1516.41
Maungakawa '5575 Rpx & Link	7,421.61	1,311.22		196.68	1114.54
TeWeraiti '695 Rpx & Links	8,185.57	1,514.71		227.21	1287.50
Kaimai Repeaters Site facilities	6,317.50	363.68		54.55	309.13
<u>Kaimai '540 Data Rpx</u> (Closed 2019)	<u>2,468.45</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Kaimai '485 N.S. ULS Repeater	2,829.20	128.80		19.32	109.48
Kaimai 12cm Beacon	449.00	3.43		0.51	2.92
Hamilton 2m/70/23cm Beacon	315.22	10.14		1.52	8.62
Hamilton '9975 Nat. Syst.Rpx.	4,382.73	106.81		16.02	90.79
Te Uku '5675 Rpx, Links + IRLP	17,765.16	2,852.46		427.87	2424.59
<u>Oto '465 Digipeater</u> (Closed 2017)	<u>295.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TK705D 2m Transceiver	225.00	10.25		1.54	8.71
TOTALS:	64,607.41	\$8,085.51	\$0.00	\$1,212.82	\$6,872.69
Less Accumulated Depreciation	61,450.93				
Equals Book Value at 31.12.23	\$6,872.69				

W. Brown
W. Brown (Secretary)

G. W. Patria
G. W. Patria (Secretary)

P. D. King
P. D. King (President)

**REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
WAIKATO VHF GROUP INCORPORATED**

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Waikato VHF Group Incorporated. The financial statements provide information about the past financial performance and financial position of Waikato VHF Group Incorporated as at 31 December 2023. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out separately.

The Committee's Responsibilities

The Committee are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which fairly reflect the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023, and the results of it's operations for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 judgements 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.

Unqualified Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements fairly reflect the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023.

My review was completed on 15 January 2024 and my unqualified opinion is expressed at that date.



M Y JAENSCH

TAURANGA

From the 1933 World's Fair. A radio to print a newspaper.

