



## BRANCH 27 NEWSLETTER October-November 2025

Hi Everyone,

September has been a really busy month for our Club with our annual Junk sale and The Taranaki award. We have a great Club so come and join us at our meetings.

Ham radio is hands-on science. You can build antennas, experiment with digital modes, bounce signals off satellites—or even the Moon.

It's a practical way to learn electronics, propagation, and communications technology. So don't let anyone tell you it's out of date.

Our Congratulations also to Daniel ZL2DRV for passing his Business Accounting New Zealand Certificate Level 4 with A+ quite an achievement, we know your have worked really hard for this.



**REMINDER OF THE TARANAKI AWARD** from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Please make an effort to come up and at least give out points even if you don't want to participate in award. Lets make this the best turnout for Taranaki stations

This is a fun activity

**Next meeting** will be at TEMO 45 Robe St NP Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30  
Speaker to be confirmed

**Amateur radio**  
**Licensed and Legal**



**In 2 Days**

If you want to join the fraternity of Amateur radio operators, come to this short course and learn Ham Radio. This weekend's training session will finish with the Amateur exam.

Date : 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Cost: \$50

For more information, contact:  
Trevor Jones  
trevorjones@xtra.co.nz

### **President's report.**

Hi all, The committee has a lot of work to do in the remaining 3 month's of the year. We have the new constitution to pass at the AGM. Also, to implement and meet the new requirements, a lot more administration of the membership list is required and some of the committee have put up their hand to do this, many thanks to them.

November we are running a "Ham Cram" and we hope to gain some more members from this. We have so far interest from 11 candidate's and registration forms will go out this week to them. Once we get confirmation and payment we will have definite numbers

The junk sale was not a huge success this year but it looks like we have at least made a small profit. It may be time to look at having it at a different time of the year. It was good to meet up and put faces to call signs.

Ngaire, helpers and Francois provided the catering again so thanks must go to them for their work on that.

Vy73 de Terry ZL2TNB.

### **PROFILE My Amateur Radio Journey –Steven Barriball ZL2KJB**

My amateur radio journey began when I was growing up. My father, a licensed ham (formerly ZL2OPB and now VK5DDD), was deeply into FM and TV DXing. One of his most impressive catches was receiving a colour TV signal from a station in Cairns, Queensland — on UHF around 800 MHz — all the way in New Zealand. That's a distance of roughly 3,700 km!

As a kid, I loved climbing towers for Dad and listening to him work some DX on 2 metres. Those early experiences planted the seed, but it wasn't until 2013 that I finally got licensed myself. Things started out slowly with an Alinco HF rig and a Chinese dual-band mobile radio.

Then, one day, Jonny (ZL2JBK) came around to install a heat pump, we got talking and from that point on, things began to escalate as I saw some of the cool stuff he was doing with radio.

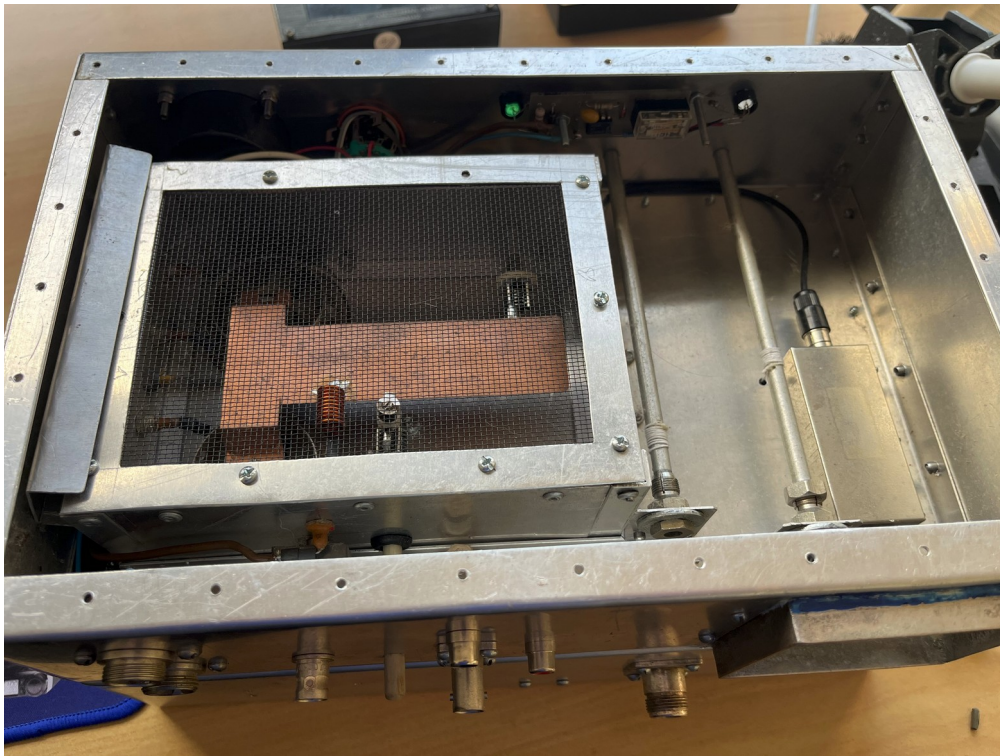
One of my more recent projects was putting together a DMR repeater. I'd always found DMR intriguing and had wanted to build a repeater for a while. My opportunity came at the Hamilton Junk Sale, where Jonny spotted an MMDVM board and said, "Isn't this what you need?" I picked it up — along with a dual-band handheld — and suddenly the ball was rolling. Jonny and Ken (ZL2KJT) also walked away from the sale with DMR radios, so the pressure was on to get something up and running!

I started with a high-powered VHF node, but eventually decided to put together a full UHF repeater. It initially ran from my QTH, but access was limited for some local hams. It's now up and running at the Branch 27 repeater site at the end of Mangorei Road, operating on the club's UHF frequency (8475).

My latest project is building a high-voltage power supply for a home brew 430 MHz, 1 kW amplifier I found on Trade Me. Right now, I'm focused on sourcing the high-voltage components needed to bring it to life. Once the amp is up and running, I plan to give EME a go — both voice and digital modes. It's been on my ham radio bucket list for a long time, and I'm excited to finally be heading in that direction.



Steven ZL2KJB at his station



**Steven's High Voltage Power supply project**

### **Graeme ZL2TE Aerial installation**



This 8.4 metres vertical leg with a 15 metre Horizontal leg inverted L antenna is being erected behind our villa at Maida Vale retirement village - our new QTH. At present it is driven by a Hermes lite Digital radio running 15watts with hopes of increasing power soon.

## JUNK SALE

We held our annual JUNK SALE on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September and thank goodness the weather was perfect and even the mountain showed itself.

Lovely to see many come from out of the district and the locals turned up to snap up a bargain. Wasn't quite as big as other years, but an enjoyable day.

Thanks to all the locals that turned up on the Friday night to help set up and those who manned BBQ etc. on the day.

Such a great opportunity for Hams to get together and talk radio.



Some of the crowd



Graham ZL2AHR Wanganui



Geoff ZL2AGT



Peter ZL2QP Opunake



Val ZL2FO, Mavis ZL1TDS, Ngaire ZL2UJT  
Gail ZL2TZG catching up



Bruce ZL2BN

Thought you might get a laugh out of the next article sent from my ALARA sponsor Dot VK2DB She presented this speech to the 50th Birthday of the ALARA (Australia Ladies )in Melbourne this year.

As you can see Dot is a good sort and very keen radio amateur for many years representing the Hornsby Radio Club in NSW.

Her OM John VK2ZOI was the designer of the *Flower Pot Aerial* that many of us have made over the years. Dot is happy for me to put this in newsletter.

## Story about an antenna.

My OM John did a lot of work in Canberra so built an 11 element, 2 metre antenna using a long 4 x 2 boom mounted on a spare pole on the roof. For Canberra he made a beam using metal sticky tape on a large piece of cardboard which he could put at the motel window to get the Mt Ginini repeater. About 11pm on a clear night we could have a good long contact.

One summer night there was a ferocious storm and the beam was swinging wildly around the pole. We were wakened from sleep, raced outside, John gathered ropes, put the ladder against the house, and up we went.

He tried to tie it down to some bricks on the roof while I held the boom.

Now it was the middle of a hot, hot summer so I had the flimsiest nighty on, which became drenched, see-through and clung to me, all over.

John was shouting instructions over the noise of the thunder and torrential rain and I fought to hold the boom without getting spiked by an element.

Suddenly, from down below, a beam of very bright light flashed up and down my body. And a gruff voice shouted 'what are you doing up there?'

I let the beam go to cover the very visible private parts of my body.

John shouted, 'hold the beam'.

Man below, shouted 'who are you?' (we found he was the next door neighbour).

I shouted, 'it's me Dot, go away' while frantically trying to hold the beam, cover myself and not slip off the roof.

John finally got the beam tied down, the storm stopped, and while I went for a hot shower, John and the neighbour came inside for a hot toddy.

The moral of the story is – If you ever have to fix an antenna,, on the roof,, in a storm,, make sure you are wearing thick clothing that won't become see-through.



Dot VK2DB won the Icom Hand-held Radio at the ALARA 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Melbourne this year

Take care everyone Summer's on the way soon

Ngairé ZL2UJT

