

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

MAY 2020 ISSUE

WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

President	Phil King	ZL1PK	07 847 1320
Vice President	David King	ZL1DGK	07 884 9590
Secretary	Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	07 843 0326
Treasurer	Ian Brown	ZL1TAT	07 847 3709
Projects	Tom Bevan	ZL1THG	07 864 5425
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Committee	Morris Beale	ZL1ANF	07 884 8416
Committee	Neill Ellis	ZL1TAJ	07 576 1999
Committee	Kevin Hampshire	ZL1KRH	07 544 5987
Editor	David King	ZL1DGK	07 884 9590

Annual General Meeting 2020

Covid-19 has changed many things, including our AGM which we were forced to postpone. An alternative will be held online using computer software called Zoom.

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

Sunday, 24th May 2020, 1:30pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77839702239?pwd=ay9hMy8yRm5ZcVlVLOTdLODlnM2NWdz09>

Online via Zoom (see info below). We will be limited to 40min so only essential business will be covered.

Please renew your sub or join the Group before the AGM.

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

Waikato VHF Group 2020 AGM to be held on Zoom

To join this meeting and vote, please ensure your subscription is paid before Friday 22 May.

While we're unable to meet face to face, our Annual General Meeting has been scheduled to be held using the video conferencing application Zoom. You've likely seen TV coverage of people meeting on Zoom, from schools to Parliamentary Select Committees. If you've not used Zoom yourself, don't worry, joining a Zoom meeting is straight forward, the process will go like this:

1. Our president Phil ZL1PK will most likely host this AGM as Chairman ("host" in Zoom speak), and via the link below, you're invited to attend provided you've paid your 2020 membership;
2. To join our Zoom meeting (commencing at 1.30pm on Sunday 24 May), simply click on this link which has an embedded password
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77839702239?pwd=ay9hMy8yRm5ZclVLOTdLODlnM2NWdz09>
3. If Zoom is already installed on your computer, you'll be taken directly to the Join Meeting log-in screen. Otherwise Zoom will first prompt you to download and save the file, then run it to install the application (your computer operating system will likely ask you to agree to that download and installation, follow the prompts). Depending on your computer's default web browser, you may then be prompted to open Zoom.
4. Next, you'll be given the opportunity to Test your Audio and Video and resolve any issues prior to joining the meeting. This is a good idea if you haven't used video conferencing before.
5. At the Join a Meeting log-in, type in your name plus callsign (this becomes your screen name displayed during the meeting), then click "Join Meeting". You can join with or without your camera on (we'd prefer to see you), plus you should join with audio (otherwise we won't hear you). At this point you'll go into a "waiting room", from where the host admits you to join our meeting as a "Participant". Please be patient to be admitted.
6. To minimise background noise, the host will "Mute participants on entry". When you want to talk, hold down your Space Bar while talking (just like a microphone PTT switch). Your outgoing audio is indicated on the green microphone icon displayed in the lower left of the Zoom window on your screen. While muted, the microphone icon has a diagonal red slash through it.
7. For maximum use of screen space, click on "Gallery View" in top right-hand corner of Zoom window.
8. As we're using the free version of Zoom, our meeting time used to be limited to 40 minutes, however Zoom is presently auto-extending that limit. Around 40 minutes in, you might see a message pop up advising the "host has extended the meeting".

To see a demonstration of joining a Zoom meeting, view this 1 minute video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>

and / or an alternative 4 minute video... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRK_3z1dhps

Using Zoom. The company's website recommends a minimum 1 Mbps download speed for group calls. Doing group video calls in 1080p HD resolution requires at least 2.5 Mbps upload and download speeds. ADSL and VDSL should cope OK, and fibre on a typical broadband home internet plan will be no problem.

Test your internet speed: <https://www.chorus.co.nz/speed-test>

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Presidents Report to 2020 AGM

2019 was an eventful year for the VHF Group.

After a lot of work from Ian, the WaiPlenty repeater system was restored to full operation after some of the equipment stolen from Te Uku was discovered in a storage unit in Hamilton. We appear to have two sources of interference impacting the WaiPlenty network at two sites. Short-range local data transmissions at Te Uku have been getting into our Maungakawa facing link receiver, mostly on week-day mornings. Unfortunately for us, 30% of the 70cms amateur band (for which we pay annual licence fees) is available to licence-free Short Range Devices, making it difficult to identify the interfering party. They don't know they're causing interference, and we don't know who they are. Over this past summer, we also experienced occasional interference into '5475's repeater receiver at Maungakawa during periods of enhanced radio propagation. Further complicating access to sites, 4WD vehicles are required to visit three of the four sites in the WaiPlenty network, accompanied by a general tightening up of access to those sites by their owners. Prior permission is required, we simply can't roll up.

Thanks to the efforts of Neill, Peter, and Kevin with some other helpers the antenna on the National System at Kaimai was lowered on January 27th this year and the 4 dipole antenna repaired plus new coax installed. Also leaks in the building have been fixed and some new paint applied. We still need to finish the paint job and replace the roof.

The Kaimai '540 data repeater was removed on 29th September by Neill, and a new APRS repeater supplied by Warren ZL2AJ installed there on 19th December.

The use of this hall at Te Aroha has worked out well, as has use of Skype for committee meetings.

Roll on 2020.

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Repeaters/Beacons

The Waikato VHF Group owns and maintains a number of repeaters and beacons in the greater Waikato and Bay of Plenty area. These are available for sponsorship for a period of 1 year. Please see <http://zl1is.info/sites.html> for a list of repeaters, beacons & links that are currently available for sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring one of them, please contact our Secretary (ZL1GWP) or Treasurer (ZL1TAT).

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Subscriptions

With an online AGM, we will rely on you all paying your subs online or by post. Remembering that only paid up members can vote at an AGM, even one run via Zoom.

Online banking :-

03 1555 0091289 00 with your name/callsign in the description field.

Post :-

We will continue to allow renewals by post to

Secretary
Waikato VHF Group Inc.
PO Box 606
HAMILTON 3240

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Maungakawa '5575 repeater is presently stand-alone

Our '5575 repeater at Maungakawa has, for the time being, been disconnected from the remainder of the WaiPlenty network because over the summer periods of interference were entering the repeater receiver at Maungakawa and re-broadcast through the other sites. This reconfiguration was reinforced by a problem on Maungakawa's link from Te Uku.

Employing twelve receivers and transmitters across five sites, numerous opportunities from both on-site and off-site sources arise for interference to impact on our WaiPlenty network. Adherence to commercial standards minimises interference risks to/from co-located equipment. A recent interference analysis for one site we share revealed our equipment is among more than 32 transmitters and receivers operating there on VHF and UHF. We are

also aware of occasional external interference originating from licence-free Short Range Devices permitted to also operate in the 70cm amateur band, and that source is about to be addressed by changes being made on our Maungakawa to Te Uku inter-site link.

Your committee recently approved an upgrade to our Maungakawa facing link transceiver at Te Uku. Costing around \$2000, this upgrade will increase link resistance to external interference through implementation of a Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS), while also releasing one link transceiver to become a spare for one of Te Weraiti's links.

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2019 AGM Minutes

WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc.

Branch 81

Annual General Meeting

Held at the Te Aroha Events Centre, 44 Stanley Ave., Te Aroha, Sunday 17th March 2019, at 1:30pm.

Present:- Phil King ZL1PK, Gavin ZL1GWP, David ZL1DGK, Morris ZL1ANF, Ian ZL1AOX, Joline ZL1UJB, Kevin ZL1KRH, Kiely ZL1KM, Rod ZL1TFX, Neill ZL1TAJ, John ZL1PO

Apologies:- Ross ZL1AAF, Ian ZL1TAT, Gordon ZL1KL, ZL1PR, Maxine ZL1FW, Trevor ZL4GJ & Vern ZL1TKG.

Moved ZL1PK 2nd ZL1AOX

Welcome:- The President welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Silent Keys:- Noel Rowe ZL3GR, president form 1979 to 2008 was remember with a minutes silence.

Minutes of Last Meeting:- The minutes of the 2018 AGM were read and confirmed.

Moved ZL1PK 2nd ZL1ANF

Matters Arising:- Te Uku - reinstated; Te Weraiti - awaiting confirmation; Kaimai - still under action

Presidents Report:- This was presented by Phil, ZL1PK. Moved ZL1PK 2nd ZL1PO

Adopted

Treasurers Report:- This was presented by Phil ZL1PK. Moved ZL1GWP 2nd ZL1DGK

Adopted

Election of Officers:-

The vice-president took the chair for the election of the President.

President:- Phil ZL1PK was nominated by ZL1TAJ 2nd by ZL1AOX. As there were no further nominations the contender left the room, and after a show of hands, ZL1PK was elected and carried with acclamation.

Vice President:- David ZL1DGK was nominated by ZL1ANF 2nd by ZL1KRH. As there were no further nominations, the nomination of ZL1DGK was carried with acclamation.

Secretary:- Gavin ZL1GWP was nominated by ZL1AOX 2nd by ZL11ANF. As there were no further nominations, the nomination of ZL1GWP was carried with acclamation.

Treasurer:- Ian ZL1TAT was nominated by ZL1TAJ 2nd by ZL1DGK. As there were no further nominations, the nomination of ZL1TAT was carried with acclamation.

Committee:- Nominations were called for nominations of up to 4 committee members. Rod ZL1TFX moved the nomination of all existing members of the committee.

Morris Beale -

Peter Reinhard -

Neill Ellis -

Kevin Hampshire -

2nd by ZL1AOX. As there were no further nominations, the nominations were declared elected with acclamation.

Bulletin Editor:- David ZL1DGK was nominated by ZL1UJB, 2nd by ZL1GWP. As there were no further nominations appointment of ZL1DGK was carried with acclamation. The President thanked David ZL1DGK for producing the newsletter over the past year.

Reviewer:- It was proposed by ZL1ANF 2nd by ZL1DGK that Yvonne Jaensch be thanked for reviewing the Branch's accounts and that she be re-appointed as reviewer for the 2019 year. Agreed.

Subscriptions:- Phil ZL1PK recommended that "subscriptions remain at their current level of \$25.00 for an individual member or \$30.00 for a family or Club. All family members must live at the same address". Moved by Rod ZL1TFX and seconded by John ZL1PO. Carried. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:30hrs hours. Afternoon tea then ensued.

ApprovedChairman

Date/...../.....

