

# 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

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### SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE

#### WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

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Secretary	Gavin Petrie SK	ZL1GWP	07 843 0326
Treasurer	Ian Brown	ZL1TAT	07 847 3709
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Committee	Morris Beale	ZL1ANF	07 884 8416
Committee	David McMillan	ZL1TLQ	027 477 0854
Editor	David King	ZL1DGK	07 884 9590

## General Meeting September 2024

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

Sunday, 22nd September 2024, 1:30pm

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

44 Stanley Ave, Te Aroha (Balance Room, our usual venue)

Our guest speaker will be Neill Ellis ZL1TAJ telling us about his recent storm chasing adventures in the USA.

A sub renewal/joining form can be found HERE.

The 'Waipenty' 2m network on 146.950 will be monitored for anyone requiring directions.

### Repeaters/Beacons

The Waikato VHF Group owns and maintains several 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).

## Waikato VHF Group newsletter delivery

Our next (September) and future **newsletters will be delivered via email only (there will be no more posted newsletters)**. So long as we have your current email address, you'll receive our quarterly newsletter (March, June, September and November). To confirm or update your email address in our records, simply send an email to [branch.81@nzart.org.nz](mailto:branch.81@nzart.org.nz) with your callsign in the subject line.

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## Election of replacement Officer(s)

Following Secretary Gavin Petrie ZL1GWP's passing, we need to elect replacements for the two positions he filled. Bring your nomination(s) to our next general meeting;

1. **Secretary** for Waikato VHF Group
2. **Web Master** for [www.zl1is.info](http://www.zl1is.info)

Remember to check with your nominee first, or you're welcome to self-nominate. Neither position has particularly onerous work load, just a little bit of dedication and organisation.

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## WaiPlenty Repeater network

**Te Weraiti '695** has developed a buzz on its tail, likely caused by failure of the 5V plug-pack used to sense presence of mains supply. Mains supply obviously remains on our battery charger, or that repeater would have shut down after a few days. Our equipment at Te Weraiti is suffering from hostile wet conditions inside the now unmaintained shelter it occupies. This fault has no impact on the repeater's performance other being annoying. **Te Uku '5675** mysteriously lost its Tx modulation in June, although signals received via '5675 were still linked to other repeaters in the network. Tx modulation returned just before 29 August without any intervention from us – someone else working on site? All four WaiPlenty network repeaters were working and linked when recently monitored. **IRLP** remains operational across all our WaiPlenty network repeaters.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Kaimai National System '850 Repeater

Reliability of the National System relayed via Kaimai was fully restored after a loan repeater was installed there on 25<sup>th</sup> May. A permanent replacement repeater, displayed at our June general meeting in Te Aroha, will take up residence on site along with replacement batteries after ground conditions dry out later this year.

Kaimai links Klondyke with the National System north and south and Hamilton '9975, Rotorua '9925 and via Edgecumbe '9975 to Mercury Bay '4800. Taupo '9825 also linked via Kaimai, but appears to have a link Tx issue. Waitomo '9925 was linked via Kaimai, but that licence has been transferred to Mt Tuhua (N/E of Taumarunui) linking to Mt Egmont.

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## Tairua '6975 – end of an era

Originally established by the Waikato VHF Group in December 1983, this repeater has covered the eastern Coromandel peninsular from its Paul Road site for nearly 41 years. It was linked to Te Aroha '695 between 1987 and 1996, prior to responsibility for its operation and maintenance being transferred to Mercury Bay Branch 85 (currently in recess) during 2011, who linked it to their “Mercury Bay” '7075 repeater at Kakatarahae. Access to the Paul Road site has now been withdrawn, so the '6975 repeater and its associated link were removed from site on 27 August 2024.

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## Waikato VHF Group SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions 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 means 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 renewing membership, your subscription 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](mailto: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.

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For maximum operating flexibility ...

**an "Every-Band mobile"**

### **Branch 12 Market Day**

Another successful day was held on Saturday 31 August 2024. Our thanks go to Tom ZL1THG who manned Branch 81's table, helping to dispose of some of Gavin ZL1GWP (SK) items. Thanks also go to those who attended and supported the vendors.

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### **Look after your Lithium Batteries**

Lithium-Ion batteries offer high energy density, however must be treated with respect! Catastrophic fires can be the result when something goes wrong. Many fires are the result of battery abuse, including physical damage and improper charging, while others arise from internal failures due to manufacturing defects especially evident in counterfeit batteries. Dangers arising from inadequately packaged Lithium batteries is a major reason airlines, couriers and postal services won't accept them in freight. As "class 9

dangerous goods”, special freighting arrangements are required, check with your intended freight company for guidance. Couriers specialising in transporting dangerous goods are available.

A presentation at a Fire Safety Conference in London by Professor Paul Christensen highlights challenges faced by first responders to fires involving Lithium-Ion batteries (Paul’s 30-minute presentation commences at 1m00 minutes in this video. Skip the promo between 12m49 to 13m55, and after 27m23):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIXTP-TgPEw>

ABBREVIATIONS: SEI SEPARATOR ELECTROLYTE INTERFACE

LEL LOWER EXPLOSIVE LIMIT

LEV LITHIUM ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Increasing incidence of Lithium battery fires in New South Wales has been highlighted in this article, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-30/house-fires-caused-by-lithium-batteries-rise-in-nsw/102783846>

Rubbish truck fires like the one shown in the video above occur all too frequently in New Zealand too. Disposing of batteries in household rubbish is NOT the place to send them off. Many councils offer battery disposal collection points. Some retailers including Bunnings also have collection points, <https://www.bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice/home-improvement/sustainability-recycling/where-and-how-to-recycle-batteries>

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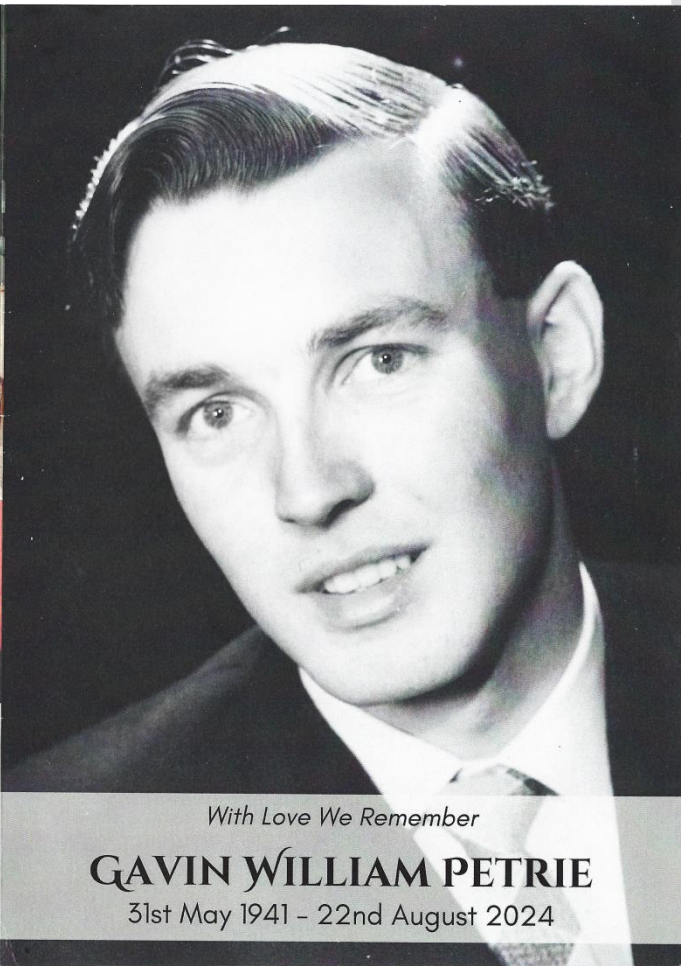
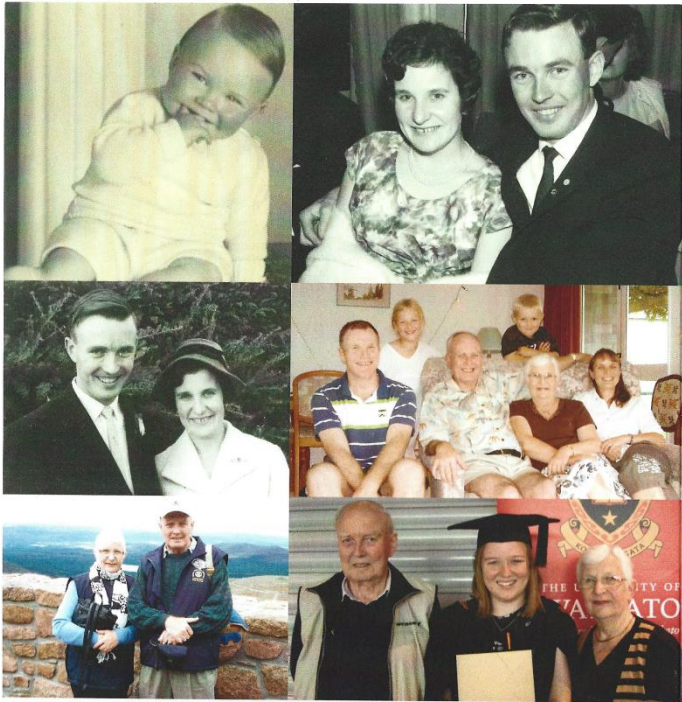
### **Minutes of our previous General Meeting**

As suggested at our 2024 AGM, minutes from our previous general meeting held at Te Aroha are included along with this newsletter, see VHF Gen Minutes2024-06.pdf

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### **ZL1GWP: Service sheet**

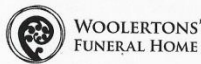
On the next page for those who didn’t make it to his funeral service.



**AN INVITATION**

After the service all are warmly invited to remain for refreshments and to continue sharing memories of Gavin.

Please remember to sign the memorial register as a record of your attendance.



*With Love We Remember*

**GAVIN WILLIAM PETRIE**

31st May 1941 – 22nd August 2024

A service to celebrate the life of

**GAVIN**

Held at Woolertons' Funeral Home Chapel  
8 Railside Place, Dinsdale

On Monday, 2nd September 2024 at 11:00am

**OFFICIANT**

Rev. Kelly Gilson

**PIANIST**

Trevor Gibbs



**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Welcome

Reading  
Psalm 121

Tributes  
Pauline Milroy  
Russell Young  
Ross Williams  
Allan Wallace  
Ailsa Petrie

Song  
God Who Sets Us On A Journey

1  
God who sets us on a journey  
to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people  
in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward,  
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour  
marks the way that Christ defined.

2  
Exploration brings new insights,  
changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding,  
mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings,  
find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction  
focused on the Jesus light.

3  
End our longing for the old days,  
grant the vision that we lack -  
once we've started on this journey  
there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding  
excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential,  
choosing treasure that will last.

4  
When we set up camp and settle  
to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort,  
pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge  
you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey,  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Prayer and Blessing