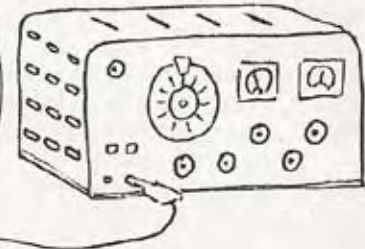


NZDX

Times



Vol. 1, No. 1

Club Membership 7/6 a year, Overseas 9/-. October 1948

We present this, the first issue of "The New Zealand DX Times" confident that we can supply a service unequalled in New Zealand and Australia. With a galaxy of foremost dxers as members of the N.Z. Radio DX League, and with the assured support of leading overseas dx clubs, this claim is no idle boast. In this number is news from November and December "Radio and Television", October "Universalite", October "Newark News" and many rare titbits supplied by our own members. This service will be improved on as we progress.

Because of a misunderstanding with our artist our League badge does not appear in the heading. This will be rectified next month.

.....ooo0ooo..... TOPICS OF THE TIMES

League Stationery.--Report forms and letterheads are at present in the hands of the printers and will be available soon. Details of prices etc. will be given in next issue.

Overseas Representatives.--Our American representative is Mr Lincoln Mayo who has a record of many years in the service of N.Z. dxers. Lyn understands N.Z. conditions and will act in an advisory capacity in the meantime. At present he is a control engineer at AFN Frankfurt, Germany. Co-operating with Lincoln as our North American agent will be Don Trelford of 198 Strathallan Boulevard, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Don's work is well known to readers of the "Bulletin" and needs no enlarging on. In Europe our representative is Arne Skoog, dx editor of the Swedish Broadcasting Organization, the Swedish national broadcasting service. Arne will also co-operate with Lincoln Mayo. American subs may be sent to Don Trelford and European subs to Arne Skoog.

Address Service.--"The Times" is pleased to announce that Bill Gunn, 15 Margaret Street, Christchurch, has a substantial list of Amateur addresses and will be pleased to supply any available address to members. Bill Milne, 77 Lowe Street, Invercargill, has a complete list of Mexican stations, broadcast and short-wave, with call-sign, power, freq., location, owner and address. A stamped addressed envelope should accompany inquiries to either address.

New Zealand Radio DX League.--Membership inquiries should be addressed to the League's office, 15 Plunket Street, Dunedin, S.2. Notes for the "TIMES" to Box 283, Invercargill. Inquiries re unidentified stations should be sent to the "TIMES" address.

Publicity Agent.--Ken Mackey, c/o Mornington P.O., Dunedin, has been appointed Publicity Agent by the Board of Directors.

Log Book.--A copy of a log book compiled by the NZRDXL is enclosed with this issue. As only a limited number was available, the log has been omitted from several city dxers' copies of the "TIMES". It is suggested that these members apply to the H.M.V. agents in their respective centres.

Notes for Next Issue.--It is proposed to issue next month's bulletin on November 20. Notes will close at P.O. Box 283, Invercargill, on November 12. Important late news until November 19. Be on time for the Times.

WN THE DX TRAIL		(By Alex Allan)	Log Builders on Warpath.	
550	KMVI logged at 4.0	(Smith)	1180	WHAM with Aussie 11p.m. (Free)
560	KSNO news 7-7.15	(Clayden)	1190	WOWO with 2CH at 11.30 (Free)
	KPQ news 2 and again 2.30	(Cush)	1210	WCAU news 6-6.5 then s.o. (Clayden)
570	KLAC opens 1a.m. with clock		1220	CJOC so. 7 (Clayden)
	chimes, then news (Free)			Heard 1.2 news and weather report (Allan)
	WNCI 1.30 sign on (Marsh)		1230	KXO signs 7 (Clayden)
	WNAX after 12 (Smith)			KDAC fair at 6.30 (Clayden)
580	KMJ an all-niter news 12	(Smith)	1240	KSON on 1240 Club tops. (Clayden)
600	KSJB received at 12.10	(Marsh)	1250	KPACs.o. 6. Reg. freq check till 7.40 2nd Sat. (Mackey)
610	KFRC fair after 6.0	(Mackey)		KTMS s.o. 7p.m. (Mackey)
	Logged at 1.45 (Smith)			KTW s.o. 7pm. Mons only (Clayden)
620	KWFT heard 11.30-11.45	(Branks)		KWSC also s.o. 7 (Mackey)
650	WSM heard after 11	(Marsh)	1260	KGIL Supper with the Lamplighter till 8 (Clayden)
660	KFAR poor at 7.30	(Clayden)		Signs on at 1.15a.m. (Marsh)
670	WMAQ fair after 7	(Clayden)		CFRN s.o. 7.2 (Clayden)
680	KABC farm news 12.20	(Smith)		KUSF also s.o. 7 (Clayden)
710	KGNC after 12	(Smith)		WOL heard 10.30 on reg. prog. when on DST. Now 11.30 (Cushen)
720	KMPC farm news 1.15	(Smith)	1270	KFJZ is there at 11.10 (Free)
740	WGN sign on at 10.58	(Marsh)	1290	KHSL call at 1.45a.m. Sun (Free)
770	KTRH received at 11.45	(Marsh)	1300	KOL at 1.a.m. (D.Smith)
790	KOB s.o. 7 after NBC News (Cush)		1310	KWBR after KFBB signs at 7 until 9p.m. (Branks)
	KGHL s.o. 7.2 (Clayden)		1320	KDYL s.o. 8 (Allan)
	KVOS heard late Sat. night on football relay (Clayden)		1330	KPAC good allnight. (Mackey)
	KECA s.o. 6.58 (Clayden)		1340	KRUX News 8-8.6 (Clayden)
	KFOD fair 8 on (Clayden)		1350	KID s.o. 7. open 1am. (Clayden)
800	XELO an all niter (Clayden)		1360	KRIS s.o. 8. open 12 (Branks)
810	WGY news at 10.1 (Smith)			KRNT morning prog. 12.30 (Cushen)
	KCMO o 12, news 12.15 (Allan)			WSAI news 10.55 (Cushen)
780	WJAG opens 11.30 (Marsh)			KSCJ heard 12.30-12.45 (Free)
840	WHAS o 11 hill billy (Allan)			KGB s.o. 7 (Mackey)
850	KOA s.o. 7 (Cushen)		1380	KSBW News 1.45am. (D.Smith)
890	WENR s.o. 7 after News (Allan)		1390	KSLM s.o. 9.0 Suns. (D.Smith)
940	KTKC Open 12.45 (Cushen)		1400	KEWO "Your round-the-clock 24 hour station. Best 8 to 10p.m. Is A.B.C. (Mackey)
950	KDSH s.o. 7, open 1. (Clayden)			KIFI S.O. 7 after news (Clayden)
	KJR ABC chain 7.30 (Branks)		1410	KAYS call heard 7.24 (Mackey)
960	KOOL s.o. 7, open 1. (Clayden)		1420	KERN s.o. 7p.m. (Clayden)
	KOVO s.o. 7.1. (Clayden)		1430	XEXX fair 6.16 mixed with 2AP
990	XECL 1.15 reg. program (Cushen)			KLO s.o. 7, o 1a.m. (Marsh)
	CBW s.o. 6.15 after News, & weather forecast (Clayden)			KARM S.o. 7, o 12.58p.m. (Clayden)
	WHOO Orlando Fla at 10.23 (Marsh)		1440	KNEW sports news 7-7.5 (Clayden)
1000	KOMO news 7p.m. (Allan)			KPRG s.o 7 (Clayden)
1010	CBX s.o. 7.3 weather report also 1.0a.m. (Clayden)			KEIO received at 12.33 (Marsh)
1030	WBZ-WBZA s.o. 6 to return at 10.28 (Clayden)		1450	KOKO reg. F/C 9.15-9.30 on 2nd Friday (Mackey)
1050	XED reg. program 1.30a.m. uses single chime (Cushen)			KWOCJ Reg. F/C 7.45-8p.m. 2nd Friday (Mackey)
1060	CFGN s.o. at 7.5 on at 1.30 (Cushen)			KVEN Ventura Calif. so. about 7p.m. (Clayden)
1080	KWJL badly interfered with by KEGO at 2.0 (Allan)			KWPM tested till 7.45 Oct. 19
1090	KING news at 8, off 8.5 (Allan)			WLAY on test 8.15 Oct. 19
1120	KMOX from Oct. 12 on 24hrs a day except 5--12 Mon. (Clayden)			WWDC heard on all nite program 8.00 (Cushen)
1130	KYOR o 1.0 250 watts (Clayden)		1490	KTYL test 1st Sat. 8-8.15 (Allan)
	GBR signs off at 7 (Cushen)			KAFY freq. test 3rd Friday 7.15-7.30 (D.Smith)
	KWKH news at 7 (Cushen)		1500	KKRX 24 hours daily except Mon. 7p.m.-1a.m. (D.Smith)
1140	XENT good allnighter (Branks)			KSTP news 8.00-8.5 (Allan)
1150	KOKY s.o. 7.1 o 7.35 then Spanish (Branks)			
1160	KLAC very good around 10 (Free)			
1170	KEOK testing 1.10 Sept. 24 (LC)			
	KEOK testing 1.10 Sept. 24 (L. Clayden)			

DOWN THE DX TRAIL (Cont.)

1490 KVOW s.o. 12.30 (Marsh)
 1510 KGA still one of the best
 s.o. 8 after news (Allan)
 1530 KFBK off at 7 (Allan)
 WCKY Nighthawks Club all nite
 1540 KLKC Parsons, Kansas a new
 one testing Oct 23-24 all
 night. Asking for rpt (Branks)
 KXEL midnight, news 12.15 (Allan)
 1550 KENT sign on midnight (Marsh)
 KSMO heard at 1.44 (Marsh)
 1560 KPMC opens at 1.30 (D. Smith)
 KSWI signs on at 12.14 (Marsh)
 1570 WPTW test to 7.25 Sep t.26 (Clay)
 KQVR news 2-2.15. Test till
 9.22 Sept. 7 (Branks)
 Test Sept 28 till 9.19 (Smi)
 1580 KGAF s.o. 12 Sept 24-25 (Marsh)
 KLOU s.o. 12 with SSB (Branks)
 WSUI test till 7 Sept. 30 (Clay)
 1590 KVVC s.on 2a.m. (Hickey)
 Good sig. 7.0 (Free)
 KCHE testing Sunday nights,
 El Reno, Okla (D. Smith)
 KVGB heard at 12.30 (Marsh)
 1600 WBAT sign on at 11.30 (Branks)
 KCRG o 12 with S.S.B. news to
 12.5 then cowboys (Free)
 WHRV o 11.5 (Allan)
 CHCV on test Oct 4 till 7.52
 KPMO test 9.40-10 Sat Oct 16.

HERE AND HEAR

CBX(1010) opens 1...
 WLO (1590) news 11.30...KGLU s.o 7..
 KXLF news 6.55 s.o. 7...KOGT (1600)
 opens 12....KSCO opens 1.30 "Morning
 Recorded Program"...KFVD(1020) s.o.
 9p.m. with a KFVD ditty...KYOR(1130)
 o 1.0, request program 1.15...KVOO
 (1170) weather report 11.55...KMO
 (1360) on reg. program 7.30...KVOE
 "The Voice of the Orange Empire" s.o
 7 after requests...CKMO(1410) 7.5
 to 7.30. Hockey results 7.7...KMJ
 (580) news at 12...WWL(870) till 7..
 WPDF(990) 12.2 to 12.10 after 2ZB
 and while 2GZ on news. Heard news
 till 12.5 then popular prog...KTRH
 received at 11.47...KTPI(1270) at
 1 o'clock...KPKD(1150) news 12.45..
 KUBA(1600) 1.44 weather forecast...
 WJJD all nite Oct. 24...KHJ(930) is
 good 8pm...KPB(1310) s.o. 7...KRE
 (1400) s.o. 7.10 but time varies...
 XERF opens 10 s.o. 7...KYA(1260) at
 2a.m...KMBC schedule 1a.m. to 8p.m.
 daily...WNOX(990) Knoxville on top
 at 10.33...KXLA(1110) all nite...
 after 9 XFMG WCKY KHON KOMB WING...
 KASH(1600) s.o. 8...KWB(1030) at
 midnight...ROMA (1520) WLAC(1510) &
 KSTP(1500) open 11...KWKH(1130) at
 11.15...WAKR(1590) at 10.30...KVC
 (1590) s.o. 8...KREN(1370) & KSBW
 (1330) s.o. 7...KMK(1070) o 12.30 a
 strong signal...KPGA 830 after 8.0.

SPECIALS FROM NORTH AMERICA.

Every Saturday CKVL(980) 8.15-8.30
 Nov. 1: WNY(790) 8.0-9.0p.m.
 Nov. 1: KLOU(1580) 7.0 on
 Nov. 3: WATW(1400) 8.30-9.0
 Nov. 3: WGN(1210) 7.15-7.30
 Nov. 5: WWOL(1120) 9.0-10.0
 Nov. 10: WKLV(1490) 8.0-9.0
 Nov. 10: WSAJ(1340) 8.15-8.30
 Nov. 16: KPQ (560) 9.0-10.0
 Nov. 29: WATN(1240) 6.0 on.
 Dec. 6: WQPA(1100) 9.0-10.0 (NARC)
0000....

KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

ALASKA.-KBYR(1230) Anchorage schedule
 is on the air 22 hours a day from 4a.m.
 sign-on till 2a.m. sign-off NZT.
 Hopes to be 24hrs a day soon. (Marsh)
 U.S.A.-KLKC(1540) Parsons, Kans, 250w
 at present testing and asking for
 reports from dxers. (Branks)
 U.S.S.R.-A Russian on 618kc announce-
 ing program for the United States and
 relaying Moscow has English news at
 12.45. (D. Smith)
 NEW ZEALAND.-LYD temporarily on 1280
 Kc will return to assigned channel
 when new transmitter is installed.
 EXG(1010) Gisborne now verifying
 with N.B.S. card.
 AUSTRALIA.-The C.E. of N.B.S. Auck-
 land informs us that 7BU and 2DU are
 to be assigned to 810kc instead of
 1250kc. Both still on 660kes, however.
 2KY(1020) Sydney will shortly be
 operating on its new transmitter
 which is located near the new 2UW
 transmitter already in operation.
 New transmitters are also to be
 installed at 4RK and 6WN. (Hallett)
 PHILIPPINES.-The Voice of America,
 Manila(920) using 50kw and beamed
 to China is in operation from 11p.m.
 to 3.5a.m. (Cushen)
 KZRC (630) Cebu 1kw Manila Broad-
 casting Co (KZRH affiliate)
 KEFM (710) Manila 1kw Philippine
 Government.
 KZRH (750) Manila 10kw Manila Broad-
 casting Co.(NBC affiliate)
 "Voice of the Philippines"
 KZPI (800) Manila 1kw Philippine
 Broadcasting Corp.(CBS-
 MBS-ABC)"Radio Philippines"
 ---- (920) Manila U.S. Govt. relay.
 "The Voice of America"
 KZMB (950) Manila 1kw Manila Broad-
 casting Co.(KZRH affiliate)
 KZOR(1000) Manila 1kw Philippine
 Bdotg Corp.(KZPI affiliate)
 WVTM(1300) Clark Field Manila 1kw.
 U.S. Army AFPS.
 KZBU(1250) Cebu 1kw Philippine B.
 Corp. (KZPI affiliate)
 (NARC)

KINGS OF THE KILOCYCLES (By Herb.) A Happy Band on the Broadcast Band.

Americans at dusk, Aussies in the evening and early morning, more Americans from 10p.m. until 2.30a.m., Asiatics from midnight on, Europeans just before dawn.....that's October. Next month look for Yanks around 7 to 8p.m. and again from 10p.m. to 3a.m. E.S.T. Stations from 10-11p.m., C.S.T. 11-12 midnight, M.S.T. and P.S.T. after that with the Hawaiians at 3.30 and 4a.m. Even though your loggings may be few, and may we say but common, yet will they be welcomed....Be one of that happy band of broadcast band dxers. And some right goodly reports for our first issue.

ALEX J. ALLAN, Invercargill, has reports away to KRIS KNBR CJOC KSCO KYOR while veries in from 2AP Manila(920) Penang(1270) KTYL KYA KNBC WGIV XELO KUSN KRKD and KIMO (with three photos of station and transmitter.....I would be content if KIMO would reply minus sphotos!

MURRAY LAMONT, Dunedin, has veries from 4XD 4YC and 2YZ and loggings are 1YD KXRX KXXX KCKY (closing at 7) and KDSX(1220 testing Sept. 19 7p.m.).....A voice from the past along DX trails, soon steamers speed southwards top-heavy with mails.

LLOYD CLAYDEN, Matakana, has veries from WGIV KXRX 2YZ 2AP. Reports to KSCO KVEN KDSH WPTW WHRV CPPL CBX CBW KLOK KENO KPUG. WJVA KTV IXO KDAC KYOR KNEW KPQD KPAC KGIL KERN KVSP and KTUL.....The wonderful winterless north.

ARTHUR T. CUSHEN, Invercargill, reports some fairly good evening signals though noisy. These written KENO KCLE KWPM KNBC KPQ KYOR KSCO XED XECL CBX KGAF KVOE WWDC WJAC WHKY WHIO WOL. Verifs from XET XERF KRUX CKMO Manila(920) 2AP 1YD 1YC KAFY..Dear Old Southland.

KEN MACKKEY, Dunedin, has reports away to KVVC WNOX KAYS KWCT KPAC KENO KOKO KGB Rome, Montpellier(1158). Verifs include KFWB 1YD 4XD 4YC 3YC 2PK and WCKY Nighthawks Card. KOKO advises station now owned by the University of Denver. A.F.R.S.(1420) heard opening 5.30a.m.?....I Dinna Ken AFRS on 1420kc. Does anyone else?

BILL MILNE, Invercargill, says latest logging is Claremont(France) and verifs are CPPL KWIK 4CA Bratislava(1004) Rome(713) Turin(1357) and Venice (1222).....You seem to have been turin.

FRANK WILSON, Dunedin, admits that with the exception of all the N.Z. changes(2XM only one yet to verify) the only logging for some weeks has been KSCO. Verifs more satisfactory from VUC VUZ Kuala Lumpur, Lille, KBPS KPRO KGLU KIPA KNEW KPMO KRIO KUCB WAGO WASA WBYS. Total to date 798Soon be over 800 among the good dxers!!!

ARTHUR H. HUME, Invercargill, lists verifs from WXRK KCRG WAKR KVVC KASH KXRX 7DY 2XN 3YC. Reports to 2QN 2BH WING XELO.....Hope you are OK again now and that the QRM has disappeared.

RON FREE, Wellington, gives new loggings as: WWL WAKR WHRV KPDP CKMO KGIL KCRG CBX. Verifications are KVVC 4QL 2NB 2XG and 2YZ bringing 558 up. Ron has two queries: Yank on 1250kc weather report 10.50, news 11p.m. and 1200kc at 1.40 Spanish program with woman announcer..... D eXams instead of D eX. Good luck.

ALLAN GODFREY, Dunedin, has logged 4QY and 6AM with veries from 1YD 2ZB 3YC 4XD 2CH 5RM KGMB ROMA WCKY.....Mounting up Allan.

AL PERKINS, Invercargill, has reported KPOA also Madrid on 31m. Back are 2CH 4QR XERF with VLW3 XGOY(15170) and ZL3 on s.w.,....Perkin Up!

ERIC HAYLOCK, Waipukurau, has written XEB XELO KFBK 4QB 6WA 2GF and 3XY Verifs home from KGMB KULA KPOA ZJV LYX 2YZ 2NA 3GI 2WG 3SR 5RM 3HA 4QS 2MW and 5DN.....It's a wonder they can spell Waipukurau!!

BILL MARSH, Invercargill, advises reports away to KLO KARM KGIL KSBW KEIO WGN KJR KXLF WGOO WGI KCKY KING WVKL KGAF KRIS KCMO KCVR KGLU KIPA KXEL WWL CPPL CHVC KSEM KCRG KTRH WJAG KVGB WSM KMJ KSJB KRED KLAC KUBA KPAC WHOO KCHL KENT KSWI KYOV WJAG GFCM. Heard on 1150 was a call sounding like "KING Hawaii testing." Veries back from KULA KOWL WALA KASH WARR KXOX KUSI WCRY KVVO WLS 2JV 2XZ 2NL 2YA 4ZD 4XD 2YD 2NZ 2UW 2YC 4ZB 1ZB 3YA 3YB 2EA 1EA 3ZB 3YC 1YD 2ZB.....You make me billious!

KEITH ROBINSON, Auckland, has reported radio Pakistan, Lahore (news at 3.30), KWTI and KBA. Veries from all the new N.Z. calls except 4XD 2XG and 2Xm, Singapa. 270 Penang CPPL 2NB VUZ.....At Waituna Sunday,

BERT THOMSON, Invercargill, has reports to WCKY and KGA with verifs from KULA KPOA KELO WARR KGA WJAG 2QAT WUOR!st report from

NORTH AMERICAN CHANGES

(Per Don Treiford)

From N.N.R.C.

Calls Assigned.

WIRC(650) Hickory,N.C.
 WMEV(1010) Marion,Va.(WMEB)
 WGNK(1130) Middletown,Con.
 KSUM(1370) Fairmont,Minn.
 WRKO(1430) Roxboro,N.C.
 WROY(1460) Garmi,Ill.

Net Stations

W---(1330) Haleyville,Ala.250
 K---(1340) Batesville,Ark.250
 K---(1340) Springdale,Ark.250
 K---(1220) Palo Alto,Cal.250D
 K---(1360) Ft.Morgan.Col.500D
 W---(1250) Lakeland,Fla.250
 W---(970) Decatur.Ga.1000D
 K---(1200) Centerville,Iowa,100
 W---(1570) New Albany,Ind.1000D
 W---(1590) Seymour,Ind.500D
 K---(1580) Winfield,Kans.1000D
 W---(1300) Jennings,La.1000D
 W---(1260) Greenville,Mis.1000D
 W---(1490) Grenada,Mis.250
 K---(1230) Deming,N.M.250
 K---(1200) Albuquerque,N.M.1000D
 K---(1450) Clovis,N.M.250
 W---(1240) Brevard,N.C.250
 W---(1340) Oxford,N.C.250
 W---(1240) Youngstown,Ohio 250
 W---(1280) Defiance,Ohio,500D
 K---(1260) McMinnville,Ore.1000D
 K---(1570) Frederick,Okla.250D
 W---(1380) Kittanning,Pa.500D
 W---(1230) Westerly,R.I.250
 W---(300) Greer,S.C.250D
 W---(1280) Mullins,S.C.1000D
 W---(1350) Nashville,Tenn 1000D
 K---(930) Midland,Tex.1000D
 K---(1050) Electra,Texas 250D
 K---(1580) Shamrock,Texas 250D
 K---(1600) Brownsville,TeX.1000D

Delete

K---(1220) Alameda,Cal.
 KE--(1240) Nogales, Son.
 KE--(1270) Gusman,Jal.
 XENJ(1430) Navajoa, Son.
 KCOV(1600) Eastland,Texas.

New Stations

HI2R(630) San Cristobal.D.R.250w
 HI9U(1150) Puerto Plata,D.R.250w.
 HIL(1450) Ci.Trujillo.D.R.250w.
 XE--(1270) Zamora,Mich.250w.

Power Changes

WCPA(900) Clearfield,Pa.1kwD frm 500wD
 KNEB(970) Scottsbluff,Neb.1kwD frm 500D
 WAAT(970) Newark,N.J.1(5) from 1kwU
 WJHO(1400) Opelike,Ala.250U frm100(200).

Frequency and Power

KYUM(560) Yuma,Ariz.1kwUfrom 1240 250w.
 KONO(860) San Antonio,Tex.1(5)from
 1400 250w.
 HIG(930) Trujillo D.R. 250wfrom 900kc
 WNOE(1060) New Orleans,La. 5(50)from
 1450 250w.
 KBIO(1230) Burley,Ida.250wfrom 1400 250w.
 KEON(1560) Tuxtla Gutierrez Chia.
 500U from 770kc.
 KEPO(1400) SanLuis Potosi.S.L.P.100U from 1510kc.

KINGS OF THE KILOCYCLES

Members' Comment Cont.

a location more than 1000 miles distance), 7EX 2AY 2PK 2DU 2SM 3KZ 4IP 5DN 6KGVKOP a good kop.

ROLAND DUFF, Invercargill has verifs. from KFAC 3SR 2LF 2CH 2UV 2KO 4SB KASH 2NC KPOA KFI WOAI KOMA 7AD 3YL 7DY KVVC KSMO KTOH. Reports to KOOL KSGN WKBW XENT KMO KGER 4YD 1YX 2ZM 2ZJ 5RM 2YB 3AV KDYL...Exams ????

DES LYNN, Dunedin, reports little logging though quite a lot of listening. Reports to 2NU(on test) and KNGS(news 7.55pm).Only veri from XE'W on s.w....Our busy secretary not too busy!

GEORGE GOODSIR, Invercargill, has received verifs. from KUSN 2XP 2XG CKWX 5UL. Loggings are KPAR VUY KZRH Manila(920) JOAK KLOU CHVC(test) ...Improving.

RON GRAY, Christchurch, has reports away to KGU KMVI WENR KWKH KMJ KGA. Verifs. from Romel(713), Manila(920), CBR ZJV XEW KOGT WAKR 1YX 1ZM 2YB 2XN 3YL 3ZR 4Y0 4ZB 2AY 2UV 2MW 2PK 2WL 3BA 3HA 2A7 4BH 4BU and 5DN... A good month, Ron!

LEN KITSON, Invercargill has verifs. from WAKR KFLW 4CG 7EX 7AD 2KM and loggings are KSO KXEL 4BU 2MO 5MU...KFLW will make Uncle Lloyd jealous

ALLEN T. CLARK, Manurewa, has reports to 4QR 3TR 3SR 4BH. Veries back are 2CH 5PI KPBK...Thanks for well set out notes.

DES SMITH, Invercargill, has reported WCCO(test) WGY KCHD(test) WGN KXEL(test, 2nd report), KWBR, WWL CPPL KSLH KLOU(test) WSM KABC KMPC KMJ KONG WMAX Russian(318) KFRC MID KTKC KSJO WLOV WEXL KCAF KQVR KPNC KSMO KGLU KSB7 KXLF IRIS WCAM KOL KIPA WJJD XEET CRK KJR WHAS CKWX KTFI KTEL KPAC WMOO KSJB KMVI KCHE KCEX. Verifs. arrived bring total to 122, from KJV SAN SAD 5DN 2XG WTOP KOMO WLS KFVD WSB KORG KAFY KXFX KRKD KVIK KASH KSO KMOX WOAI WKBW KULA Penang, KIEM....The village blacksmith has nothing on you.

LLOYD WARBURTON, Invercargill, has verifs from KVVC and WDEF but an old man power leak is defying both Lloyd and the Radio Inspector.

MEV BRANKS, Invercargill, has no verifs but reports to KSCO KLKC

THE SHORTER WAVELENGTHS (By Arthur Cushen) Fops, Topics, Transmissions

Included in the information listed below are items taken from October Universalite, November and December Radio & Television News, and details on verifications from stations confirming first reports from New Zealand.

- kcs.
- 4205 HQ4LVC, Bahia, Ecuador, "La Voz de la Caras" new station. (URDKC)
- 4850 HJCAB, "Radiodifusora Nacional" Bogota, Colombia, schedule 3.00-7.00am, 10.00am-4.15pm weekdays, 4.00-8.00am, 11.15am-4.15pm Mondays. English broadcasts 1.50pm daily, and 1.30pm Wednesdays. HJCAB uses 10kw, HJCQ (11680kcs 12kw), HJOT (6200kcs, 3kw). (S.W. News)
- 5840 OAX1B "Radio Piura" Piura, Peru, moved here from 610kcs, signs 4.30pm (URDKC)
- 5915 HRA, Tegucigalpa, Honduras "Radio Lepira" to 4.25pm. (URDKC)
- 6000 HJKB "Emisora Nuevo Mundo" Bogota, Colombia, relays HJCK (830kcs) heard 2.00-4.00pm, asking for reports. (R & T News)
- 6060 HORT "Radio Balboa" Panama, new station, asking for reports, signs off at 4.15pm. (URDKC)
- 6065 HOFA, Panama, verified on same card as used by HP5A, signer is Cristana Jaen y Jaen. (R. Gray)
- 6062 Radio Pakistan, Karachi, verified George Major, by airmail letter, from S. A. Aziz, Research Engineer, Radio Pakistan, Karachi, using 250 watts, schedule 2-4pm, 7-8.30pm, midnight-5.00am. English news 2.30, 3.00pm, 3.30am. IS NOW ON 6210kcs. (Radio Aust.)
- 6065 SBO, Stockholm, broadcasts the DX session 7.15pm Saturdays, with SBU (9535), other sessions at 3.00am Sundays on SDB2 (10760), SBT (15155) and 1.00pm Sundays on SBO and SBU (9535). (Arne Skoog)
- 6135 Near East Arab Broadcasting Station, Box 219, Limassol, Cyprus, informs Paul Kary that by Nov 1 all their 7½kw transmitters, moved from Jaffa Palestine, will be on the air on this schedule: 3.55-6.35pm on 9650, 6170, 6135; 10.30pm-3.00am, 11720, 9650, 6170; 3.45am-3.15am, 9650, 6170 6135kcs. News in Arabic 4pm, 5.30pm, 4am, 6.30am, 6.45am. (R & T News)
- 6200 Paris, France transmits for the United Nations 6.00-7.30am with Eng. at 6.30am, also Eng. on 6000 and 15200kcs, 9.30pm-12.15am. (UN)
- 6220 The Danish Brigade Radio, Germany, verified by card from Erik Berland, Station Manager. Station used 400 watts, but ceased transmissions on July 27th because of "special reasons" (A. Cushen)
- 6270 HJWO "Emisora Colombia" Bogota, new station signs 4.00pm. (URDKC)
- 6375 CS2MA, Lisbon, Portugal, to North America, daily 7.30-8.30am with CS2MF (9724kcs). (URDKC)
- 6460 "Radio Mundial" Panama, new station broadcasting in Spanish only to 4.00pm but suffers from rather severe interference. (URDKC)
- 7098 XNNR, Harbin, Manchuria, schedule 10pm-2.35am, Eng. news 1.00am, announces as "Liberated Manchuria" is also on 10256kcs. (R & T News)
- 7190 Forces Broadcasting Service, East Africa, Mombassa, Kenya, reported by Bert Bluman, opening at 3.59pm and sign off at 7.00am. (Radio Aust)
- 7240 VLCS, Melbourne, Aust. on this new frequency, 5.00-6.05am with German broadcast with VLB2 (9650) and VLA3 (11760).
- 7615 Russian Armed Forces Station, Berlin, broadcasts 3.00-7.00am often relays Moscow, uses 100kw. (Swedish DX)
- 8000 KJOY, American Armed Forces Radio Service, Athens, Greece, operates 6.30-7.30am Saturdays. (R & T News)
- 8090 CR6RF, Caixa Postal 19, Benguela, Angola, verified with a very attractive card showing elephant and map of Africa. (A. Cushen). Ernie Moore reports CR6RF at fair strength opening at 6.30am.
- 8035 "The Arab Voice of Lebanon" Bierut, has an English transmission Tuesdays 6.30-6.45am, also reported on 6030kcs. (S.W. News)
- 9500 HOLA "Emisora Atlantico" Colon, Panama, verification by card with large red call sign on white ground, using RCA 1kw transmitter. (A. Cushen)
- 9520 HJKF "Emisora Nuevo Mundo" Bogota, Colombia, heard at 4.00pm at good strength. Better now that ZL2 has stopped testing. (A. Cushen)
- 9530 "Radio Gambia" Bathurst, Gambia, tested 5.15-10.40am, but has now closed down, will return to the air again shortly. (S.W. News)
- 9540 "The Voice of America" Munich, verified by letter from James C. Matheny, Chief Engineer. Full address is Foreign Service, of USA c/o American Consulate General, APO 407-A, c/o Post master, New York. Munich has been heard on 6170kcs. at 6am on Oct. 23. a new outlet. (A. Cushen)

THE SHORTER WAVELENGTHS (continued)

- 9590 POJ, Hilversum, Holland will increase power to 100kw by Aug. 1949 also use this power on 15220kcs. Other increases are PHI(17770) to increase to 40kw early in the new year, and then to 100kw by 1950. PHI, 21430kcs is now using 16-17kws. (P. Schoon).
- 9630 GBFX, Montreal, relays CBC Home Service to 5.00pm, signs off in French and English, replacing OBLX(15000).
- 9765 OT02, Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, run new DX session Thurs. 8.00am.
- 9770 PRL4 "Radio Ministerio de Educacao", Rio de Janeiro, relays PRA3. (URDKO)
- 11760 All India Radio, Delhi testing at very loud strength daily from 7.00am to 8.00am, asks for reports. Also on 15130, 9680, 9565kcs. (D. Carter)
- 11820 GSN, London broadcasts for UN to New Zealand, 8.30-8.45am also on GSO 15180kcs. Has verified reception by airmail letter from Kenneth Boothe, at UN Radio Division, Palais de Chaillot, Paris 16. (A. Cushen)
- 11845 Paris, France, 6.30-7.30am to Middle East, and also used 7.40-10.00am to USA, states airmail letter from UN at Lake Success.
- 11850 British Far Eastern Broadcasting Service, Singapore, heard on this freq. from Oct. 2, carried 9.15pm-4.30am transmission.
- 11850 LLK Oslo, Norway, used in the morning programme, relays Home service, 6.45-7.40pm, fair signal, signs with 10 note identification.
- 11950 PRL5, Ministerio de Educacao, Rio de Janeiro is the call of the station, reported by Des Hickey in June, signs at 2.30pm.
- 15100 Paris, France broadcasts for UN 7.40-10.00am to USA.
- 15105 Berliner Rundfunk, broadcasts in German, 2.30-2.45am. (R & T News)
- 15150 Munich Germany, relay unit of the Voice of America, dropped this frequency on July 18 according to verif. from Chief Engineer.
- 15150 Radio Batavia, Koningspl. 217, Batavia, in verifying Arthur Hume states it uses 3kw but has a 100kw transmitter opening in the near future.
- 15175 LKV, Oslo, Norway using 100kw replaces LIM on this channel. (J. Fox).
- 15240 Paris, France relaying UN 2.00-6.15am. Other schedules are 15295kcs 12.30-12.50am, 2.00-5.00am, 7.15-7.30am, on 17700kcs 12.30-12.50am, on 17765kcs 2.00-6.45am, and on 21640kcs 12.30-12.45am.
- 17800 HCJB, in verifying Ken Boord state they use 10kw transmitter (from 12430) for tests on this frequency, 8.00-10.00am, on Wed (Swedish), Thurs (French), Friday (English), Saturday (Spanish). Asks for reports. (R & T News)

OUR SHORT WAVE MAILBAG

- ARTHUR HUME, Invercargill, has reports to XEQQ JKC Delhi (9680, 15150), W00C (15130), WNBI (17780), VLG, O7TY, LU4BH, VR5PL. Verifications from ZL2 ZL3 HLKA HEI5 VLG11, W4DXW-KJ6 (Johnstone Is.)... Been in the "News" recently?
- JACK FOX, Dunedin, has reports out to Denmark (520), XGOA (5670, 15105), TGWA (15170) Mondays 8.30am, XGAF (11680), Delhi (9680). Verifs. from HLKA, Seac (9825), Monte Carlo, LLG, LKV... XGAF is the call on 11680kcs.
- BILL MILNE, Invercargill, has verifs. from TGWB, JWV (2500), Monte Carlo (6035) Noumea, G2DPZ... No loggings?
- RON GRAY, Christchurch, has reports away to YV3RN, Stuttgart, TGWA (15170), Denmark (9520 signs 7am), CBLX, XEQQ, ZL2, ZL3, ZL4, CS2WD, OE960 (9580 to 6pm), YV1RL, YV5RM, VLB2. Verifs. from VLT7 HI2T (9740), YV5RY OE615, PRA (11995), ZBW, HLKA, WGEO (9525), HLKA (2510), Vienna (7240), HOFA, ZL2, ZL3... HOFA nice work.
- DUDLEY CARTER, Invercargill, has logged WRUL (15650), CKCS XEBT HLKA (2510) VLT5, VUD8, Delhi (11760, 15130, 9680, 9565), JKE, JKE2 JKC JKA... No Dunedin loggings!
- ALLEN T. CLARK, Manurewa, has verified Capetown (5880), PHI, ZL3, ZL4, Monte Carlo (6035), TGWB, LXXI. Reports to Munchen (6080), ZPA5 (11950) 11.10pm, LRM, Damascus (12000) 5.30pm... Would say your 4980kcs station is Singapore.
- ARTHUR T. CUSHEN, Invercargill reports two 1st from NZ verifs. Danish Brigade (6220) and HOLA (9500). Other verifs. from Singapore (4895), KNBA (9650) Munich (11870), CR6RB, CR6RF, CFVP, Monte Carlo (6035), OQM4 (7945), GSN-GSO. Reports to XLRA, UN (11845), HJWO, LLK, Singapore (11850), Delhi (15130, 11760, 9680 9565), Paris (17850), Munich (6170), PRL5.
- JOHN MILLER, Wellington, reports little DX, reports to VKO and verifs. from HCJB (5900), Rome (15120), VLT5, VLT7, ZL2 ZL3 ZL4... Thanks for the interesting net.
- ERNIE MOORE, Brisbane, has written Delhi (11760, 9565), Paris (6200), KZFM (9620) CR6RF, HLKA, ZY09 (15370) 11pm, Baden-Baden (6315), PRL7 (9730) 8am Sundays, HER3, Warsaw (6215), Bucharest (9250), YNVP (3760) 12.30am, YV1RG (6150) through VLR2 11pm, Denmark (9520) 7am. Verifs. from CR7BE CR7BU CR7BV HCJB, YV3RN, FET22 (7130), and VB2BG, ZL2BN, VR2AQ, W6ZKU ZL4BC HHEX G6HP I1SM KSLHI G3AW G8OLYQ2JM CT18Q ZL2...
- PETER THORN, Dunedin, has logged XEYU PCV Baden Baden, VLG9 KGBX XMPA XEPR YDA Colombo VUM2 VKG YV4RD HLKA XEHH Kuala Lumpur TG2 ZAA YDZ. Verif. OBRX ZL2 ZL4 VKK HCJB (5900, 9565), Noumea... Thanks Peter.

SHORT WAVE MAILBAG(Cont.)

BERT THOMPSON, Invercargill, has reported VLH4 WGEO CKCX KZRH ZL3 WCRC Saigon VUD8. Verifs. from VLG10 VLA8 VLB11 TGWA VLB3 XGOY HER6 HER5 VUD11...The new set in action?

ERIC HAYLOCK, Waipukurau, has written "Voice of America", YDC, HCJB, Leipzig, Rome (15120), XGOY. Verifs. from HEU5 HEU6 CHOL CHLS Paris (9550) (15240), VLR2 VLG3 VLG11 VLG10 VLB2 VLB5 VLB11 VLA8...Thanks Eric.

ALLAN GODFREY, Dunedin, has logged VLT5 Delhi (15160), CXA10 HER6 and VP4RD. Verifs received from ZL2 ZL3 ZL4 VLB2 XEBT and Monte Calor... The Monte Carlo booklet is well worth receiving.

DES SMITH, Invercargill lists some early morning ones, XMAG (4275) 3.30am, VUB2 (4840) 3.30am, while other reports to HER4 WVV (15000) Madrid (9368), VUD3 (17760), KNBX (15250), XEBT, ZL3, WGEO (15330), WNRI (18180) 10.20am, Verifs. received from VLG9 VLB11 VLB9 VLA8 VLB4 VLG10 VLG11 VLR2 VLW3 VLW5 VLQ3 HER6 POJ VLWK APN WRUL WNBI Paris (9550)...Been "cleaning up" the Aussies!

ALEX J. ALLAN, Invercargill is delighted with a variety of verifs from Manila (11890, 15330), WRCA (15150), VLB11 (15210, 15160), VLW5 VLG3 VUD11 (15290), VLW5 (9700), HCJB (5990), LRM, HS8PD, HER7, VLG7, VLG10, VUD4 (11850), WRUA (15290) VLG8, KNBA (9650), KNBI (9770). Reports away to XGOA (17765, 15105, 8970), VUD9 (15350), KCBF (11810), VP4RD, VLT5 KNBX (15250), KNBA (6060), WLWR (15330) and KOBK (15130)..HS8PD is a worth while verification.

JOHN GREGORY, Hastings, in his first report states he has wrtten VLB11 HER5 Singapore, Madrid, HER5 HCJB and VLB11...Munich is on 9540kcs.

KBYR Station TGWA "The Voice of Guatemala" is broadcast ing daily 5.00-5.30pm on 9760kcs a special programme to in English for the Associated Tourist Companies of move Guatemala. Asks for reports, which will be verified by to card, and offers to all reporters a large photo album 1450 of coloured views of Guatemala. soon. VLA-11 (9580) a new Aussie commences Nov. 1 6.00- (Marsh) 6.45pm (in French) and 7.00-7.45pm (in English).

TAQ, Ankara Turkey, now broadcasts the mailbag on Mondays at 9.30am on 15195kcs.

YDC, Batavia announces a new outlet, YDB3, 7270kcs, which has English news at 9.45 and 11.00pm.

The Short-Wave Listeners' Annual.-Our good friend, Norman Stevens, and the members of the International Short-Wave League are to be complimented on the 1948 issue of the Annual. This excellent publication is ideal for the S.W. listener and Ham. It lists many outstanding features including a guide to the short-wave spectrum, how to report, W/T information, identification of S.W. stations, propagation of S.W. radio waves, ham codes and abbreviations, QSL managers in every country, maps of ham districts, time conversion chart, and an extensive S.W. log. Containing 112 pages, the price is 3/9 posted from Amalgamated Short Wave Publications, Ltd., 57 Maida Vale, Paddington, London, W.9.

Special program for N.Z. WHRV (1600) Ann Arbor, Mich. ALL INDIA RADIO THREE NEW B.O. STATIONS

The latest list of All India Radio stations shows three new broadcast stations, bringing the total to 13. They are at Shillong, Gauhati and Nagpur. The full list of A.I.R. stations is as follows:- VUD (886) Delhi 10kw. VUB (1231) Bombay 1.5kw. VUC (810) Calcutta 1.5w. VUM (1420) Madras 500w. VUV (1022) Lucknow 5kw. VUP (881) Tiruchirapally VUJ2 (1333) Jullundur 250w. VUZ (1131) Patna 5kw. VUK2 (1355) Cuttack 1kw. VUA2 (1305) Amritsar 1kw. VUS3 (1460) Shillong 500w. VUG3 (780) Gauhati 1kw. VUN3 (1290) Nagpur 1kw. N.B. VUM now 500w. New Spelling of VUT 5kw. (Allan)

WHRV November 19, (Friday).... 9.30 to 11.0 p.m. N.Z.T.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS Your Big Opportunity.

The evening of Wednesday, November 3, is your big day. The election for the President of the United States takes place on November 2...that's Wednesday our time and stations will be late.

Labour Week-end with Ken Mackey.-KRMD (1150) 6.30, KBYE (1400) Perrytown Tex 7.0-7.30 tone test., WHBC (1400) all nite, KXRX 8.30, KLKC (8.5), WPBL 11pm. KXYZ 11, WBBM 11.40 (all Sat); Sun: KIOX 6.0-7, WNOE all nite. Mon: WLPM (1450) test 6.30p.m.

THE ORIGINS OF DXING IN NEW ZEALAND

Barry C. Williams



Cyril Blucher, a foundation member of the New Zealand DX Club, with his home built 4 valve battery Hammarlund Roberts receiver and horn speaker. (circa 1928)

FORWARD

As I began this project of recording the history of DXing in New Zealand, it quickly became apparent that I keep to my original aim and not end up writing a history of broadcasting in New Zealand. At times this was difficult as the history of the hobby of DXing is so closely intertwined with the growth and development of broadcasting.

Initially this history of DXing deals mainly with the broadcast band. Shortwave was still developing in the late nineteen twenties and it was not until the early thirties, when dual wave radios became more readily available to the general public, that shortwave listening became another medium for DXing. Broadcast DXing was for many years and still is considered by some, to be the ultimate mode of DX. At that time, low noise levels and the limited transmission hours of New Zealand stations, were most conducive to distant broadcast DXing. World War II and the Cold War that followed, led to the dramatic growth in shortwave broadcasting.

So often we leave things too late and always regret that it was never done earlier. Documenting the history of DXing in New Zealand is an example. Those DXers who were involved in the development of our hobby in New Zealand have now passed on. Some I have met: Cyril Blucher 1928, Alan Breen 1930, Eric Watson 1931, Merv Branks and others. Of course we talked of DXing but never did I record their recollections of the early days. Fortunately some DXers, such as Arthur Cushen, Jack Fox, Merv Branks, John Stuart and Wally Singleton, who started listening in the mid thirties have written historical and reflective papers. These I have referred to in my research. We are thankful that these DXers did record their knowledge; in particular, Wally Singleton for his detailed history of the NZ DX Radio Association.

Although I have been actively DXing for over 50 years, this history is taken more from research rather than recollections. I have been fortunate in having sufficient reference material on hand, to enable me gain an insight into the founding of the hobby and its development over the last 75 years. I believe it is an accurate, if not comprehensive, history of DXing in New Zealand.

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 THE BEGINNING OF BROADCASTING IN NEW ZEALAND

The transmission by Professor Robert Jack on the 17th November 1921 was the first voice and music broadcast ever heard in New Zealand. The programme was subsequently on the air for 2 hours every Wednesday and Sunday. The station, located in Dunedin, initially used the call sign "DN" and was reported as far away as Hamilton.

By February 1923, a second station was on the air, when Charles Forrest of the International Radio Company began broadcasting music and speech from Courtenay Place, Wellington, on Mondays and Fridays from 7.30 to 9 pm. Auckland was next on the scene in the middle of the year when Radio Service Ltd began broadcasting on Saturday afternoons with much the same commercial motivation as Forrest.

By the end of 1923, eleven stations were operating in New Zealand, catering for the 2000 radio license holders. Also in 1923, each station was given an identifying call sign:

- 1YA Radio Service Ltd. Auckland
- 3YC Radio Society of Christchurch
- 4YA British Electric and Engineering Co., Dunedin
- 4YO Radio Supply Co., Dunedin
- 4AB Otago Radio Association., Dunedin

Others were 1YB Auckland, 2YM Gisborne, 2AH Wanganui and 2YA Nelson (using battery power as Nelson's electricity supply was not yet in service).

Broadcasting in New Zealand continued to develop rapidly with the government forming the Radio Broadcasting Company, which essentially took over 1YA, 2YK, 3AQ and 4YA as their regional stations in the four main centres. This took effect in August 1923.

Six years later the government decided to create a Broadcasting Board to take over the running of these stations. Privately owned stations were known as "B stations" and these continued to operate as before but with some financial difficulty. After the election of the Labour Government in 1930, two new boards were formed: the National Commercial Broadcasting Service, and the NBS, National Broadcasting Service, which was later absorbed by the NCBS. October 1936 saw 1ZB been purchased to become the flagship of the Commercial Network. 2ZB, 3ZB and 4ZB followed in 1937, and 2ZA in 1938. Private stations continued to exist and in 1938, there were 16 government-controlled stations on the air, and the remaining 9 were privately owned. By the end of 1940, only four private stations remained: 2ZJ and 2ZM in Gisborne, 2YD in New Plymouth and 4ZD in Dunedin. 4ZD continues broadcasting today as 4XD, the oldest radio station in New Zealand and the British Commonwealth.

1.2 THE DAWN OF THE HOBBY OF DXING

Even in 1923 there was a monthly publication catering for the growing number of wireless enthusiasts. The New Zealand Wireless and Broadcasting News, a 32-page magazine selling for one shilling and published by L.T. Watkins Ltd., covered the current news and development of broadcasting around the world. In the March 1923 issue,

there appeared articles such as "What is Broadcasting", "How to Listen", "Our Shortwave Problem", "British Regulations for Receiving", "Broadcasting in the United Kingdom", "Amateur Radio" etc. By 1925, the magazine was including regular features about Australian and North American broadcast stations and lists of NZ Australian and North American broadcast calls. Some readers were sending in lists of morse signals heard, amateur and commercial. There were even reports of reception of KDKA Pittsburg, USA, with music. One report of KDKA was on a 2-valve receiver.

By the late 20s broadcasting in New Zealand was well established and growing, and for some listeners, the thrill of hearing stations further afield than their local ones became a challenge. After hearing the local station, some listeners would look for the high-powered national stations and the lower powered regionals. The occasional Australian station would be heard and possibly even an American broadcaster.

One must remember that the radios of the late 20s were crystal sets and TRF or neutrodyne battery sets, many of them home-assembled from kit sets. Aerials were essential and ranged from indoor loops to extensive outdoor wire antennas. It was also around this time that the beverage antenna came into use by the keen listener who had the space to run out the very long wire. Great emphasis was put on the need for an effective earthing system, remembering that there was no return earth through an AC power supply as most receivers were battery powered. Few receivers had a single tuning dial, and tuning in a station normally meant the manipulating of several knobs. The dials only gave an approximation of the wavelength and it was essential that the call sign and location of the station was heard. Access to reliable reference material was very limited. Despite these hardships, a growing number of listeners continued to search for distant stations.

There is little doubt that American broadcast stations were heard as early as 1923. One DX magazine in 1933 made mention of the earliest known North American DX verified by W.K.Lane: KFI on 640 kcs in September 1923 and CFRC Calgary on 690 kcs in October 1923. By 1925, stations such as KGO Oakland, KHJ Los Angeles, KXAA Cincinnati, WOJ Chicago and WEBH Chicago were being reported in New Zealand. KFON Long Beach was undoubtedly the most regular American heard in 1926. Some remarkable loggings were also being made- CKAC Montreal 1200 watts and KFKX Chicago 5000 watts. 1928 brought in the first "ship station" in southern waters, ARDI on 700 kcs, broadcasting from the ship "C.A.Larsen".

In 1929 the DX fraternity had grown throughout New Zealand and more new DX stations were being heard, such as KFKB Kansas 5000 watts and KJEK Santa Monica 500 watts. Shipping was now frequently heard calling VK2ME with calls like VJNM, VJNL and VJNK, all operating on about 1420 kcs. 3EK, an AWA "model station" operating from the Melbourne Radio Exhibition, was one of the most consistently heard Australian stations heard in New Zealand at this time. By 1930 the AC powered receiver was becoming more popular and many more listeners were catching the DX bug. In September that year, the first European stations were heard on the broadcast band and Bratislava Czechoslovakia later became the first European verified. Africans were the next to be sought and several were reported in 1931.



1.3 E. H. SCOTT, THE DEAN OF DXRS

After being involved in the radio industry in the USA for four years, the New Zealander E. H. Scott and his New Zealand wife, decided to return to New Zealand for a holiday. Scott was determined to build a top class receiver and receive North American broadcast stations while in New Zealand. He had some information to encourage him that such reception would at least be possible. In March 1924, a broadcast station WJAS located in the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, received a letter dated January 31st 1924, telling of the station's reception from Motueka, Nelson, New Zealand. According to the newspaper article, this reception broke all previous records for long distance reception.

Scott realised that he would need to build a sensitive and selective receiver for the reception of the low powered

500 – 1000 watt American stations from New Zealand. He had had experience with the neutrodyne, tuned radio frequency, and superhetrodyne circuits. Based on all his knowledge he concluded that the superhet was the right choice for the finest receiver he could build. He chose the basic Remler 8 tube superhet components (kitset), which were the basis of the Westinghouse 4B receiver. Westinghouse then held the license for the production of the superhet.

Drawing on past experience Scott made several modifications and improvements to the Remler circuit. A key circuit change was to use two tuned IF and two untuned IF stages instead of the one / three combination. Scott attributed his success in New Zealand to the fact he used two adjustable tuned IF stages, instead of the normal one fixed tuned stage.

Further, Scott paid special attention to the layout and the use of the highest possible quality components. The receiver was finished while Scott was still in Chicago, and while testing it in November 1924 he picked up 2LO in London and a Mexican station. Shortly after, he left Chicago for San Francisco armed with his new receiver and antenna.

While travelling across the States, Scott had written to WEBH Chicago and the station agreed to conduct a special broadcast for him, after midnight on New Years Eve. By that time he would be in Tasman, Nelson, New Zealand. Further special broadcasts were arranged from other Chicago broadcast stations - WGN and WOJ.

In January 1925 when Scott was finally in New Zealand, he did not have a very happy month of reception. The situation did not change dramatically until he received WGN's special broadcast on January 29th. WEBH was finally heard on February 8th from 8.06 to 8.43 pm when the station identification was heard: "WEBH, the Voice of the Great Lakes, Chicago".

The reception of WGN from NZ made the news in the Chicago Tribune newspaper. The full identification heard was reported: "This is WGN, the Chicago Tribune station located at the Drake Hotel Chicago, transmitting a.....".

During February, Scott also picked up a special transmission from WQJ Chicago. That programme transmitted on February 18th was logged for over 2 hours. A cablegram was sent to WQJ, which was jointly owned by the Calumet Baking Powder Co. and the Rainbow Gardens, quoting the highlights of the programme heard.

During his three months in New Zealand, Scott made 100 loggings of 20 different American stations. He continued his logging till April 10th with one new station heard WHB, Kansas City, Missouri.

In a letter to WCBD he included a copy of his log book. It showed stations logged by him at Tasman from December 27th 1924 to March 27th 1925. Most of the stations were heard between the hours of 6.00 and 7.30 pm. The following log sheet was included in Scott's letter to WCBD.

(1)	WOC Davenport, Iowa.	Dec 27	7,900 miles
(2)	KHJ Los Angeles, California.	Dec 28, Jan 25, Feb 15,	6000 miles
(3)	KGO Oakland, California.	Logged on 39 occasions	6100 miles
(4)	KFRU Bristown, Oklahoma.	Jan17	7500 miles
(5)	WCBD Zion City, Illinois.	Jan18 and March 17	8375 miles
(6)	KJR Seattle, Washington.	Jan 27	6800 miles
(7)	KNX Hollywood, California.	Jan 27,28, Feb.3, March 10 logs.	6000 miles
(8)	WGN Chicago, Illinois.	Jan 29, March 9	8300 miles
(9)	WGJ Chicago, Illinois.	Feb.4,19 March 12	8300 miles
(10)	CFCN Calgary, Canada.	Feb 4,5, March 7,8 11,14	7500 miles
(11)	KXAA Cincinnati, Ohio.	Feb 5,8 and March 14	8400 miles
(12)	WEBH Chicago, Illinois.	Feb 8,15, March 5,8,26	8300 miles
(13)	KFI Los Angeles, California.	Feb 9, march 13	6000 miles
(14)	WFAA Dallas, Texas.	Feb 10	7600 miles
(15)	WJJD Peoria, Illinois.	Feb 18	8300 miles
(16)	WDAF Kansas City, Kansas.	Feb 19, March 5, 20	7600 miles
(17)	KLA Cincinnati, Ohio.	March 5	8300 miles
(18)	KPO San Francisco, California.	March 5,8,25,26	6100 miles
(19)	KGA Denver, Colorado.	March 8, 12, 15, 19,26	7000 miles

The above information was taken with the authors permission from his book, "E. H. Scott, The Dean of DX", written by Marvin Hobbs, in which chapter 3 gives a detailed account of Scott's early exploits of DXing. Marvin Hobbs quoted "When one considers Scott's professional approach taken in achieving his stated aim, the use of a home made receiver, the fact only a loop antenna was utilised and his dedication at the dial, I believe that he will certainly take a place in the history of DXing as the "Dean of DXers".

1.4 THE EARLY YEARS

During the 1920s some amazing feats of DXing were achieved. An Australian journal of 1925, reported that 2BL Sydney, 1000 watts, had received correct reports from Warsaw (USA), New York, San Pedro, Terminus Island. and San Francisco, while 4YA Dunedin 750 watts, was being heard all over New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, USA and Fanning Island in the Central Pacific. In 1926 excellent reception was reported by New Zealand listeners of KFQN Long Beach and KGO Oakland, while Mr Stone of Balclutha forwarded details of a complete programme heard on WENR, a station in Chicago listed at 100 watts. In 1927 reception was reported in the New Zealand publication "Radio Record" of an American DXer, Mr Walter Pierce, Rhode Island, USA, using a 2 valve radio and an "exceptional earth system", hearing 691 stations, including 4 New Zealand ones. He reported details of reception of 1YA Auckland, but these left some doubt as to the quality of his report.

1.5 DX NOTES FROM THE RADIO RECORD 1929

In volume 1 #6 of the Radio Record (the forerunner of the "NZ Listener"), dated 26th August 1927, there appeared a reference to a Mr Claude McGrey's wonderful feats. A heading stated: "Who is the Champion Listener? 59 stations heard on 5 valves". A 135 foot aerial, 45 feet high was used. His log of 59 stations was listed as: KFXD, KFSD, KSL, KNX, KFVD, KFRC, KFVB, KFAB, KWKD, WBBM, KEF, KFWI, KOA, KMTR, KCC, WCY, WLW, KPC, KFI, Philippine stations KZKM, KZRM, Japanese stations JOCK, JOAK, JOBK, 20 Australians and 12 New Zealanders. This article set the ball rolling.

The September 9th 1927, Volume 1 #8 issue of Radio Record, saw Mr C. O. Hutton of Dunedin enter his list of stations heard over three years on a 4 valve set using a 100 foot antenna and, for an earth, a zinc plate and water pipe. His total log was 63 broadcast, plus 7 shortwave. As well as 37 Australian and New Zealand stations all heard at speaker strength, the following DX stations had been heard on phones; KZM, KZRC, JOAK, JOCK, KFON, KFI, KFO, KGO, KNX, KDKA, KYW, WBBM, WLW, WGY, WEHF, KOA, KGU, KFVD, KPKX, KFF, KFSD, WORD, KNRC, KOP, VJY and CMRU. The same issue made mention that a Mr Douglas Wright of San Pedro, California had reported reception of 3YA Christchurch, heard on a 10 valve deluxe Super Zenith.

Two weeks later the Radio Record, Vol. 1 #10, reported that Mr T. W Ward of Inglewood, had verified 144 radio stations, about a third being on shortwave. Mr Ward commented that he knew of several other listeners who had over 100 stations verified. His list comprised 59 Americans, 3 Japanese, 1 Philippine, 2 Indian, 1 Russian, 1 Dutch, 50 from New Zealand and 35 from Australia. These broadcast and shortwave stations were heard on 5 and 7 valve receivers.

Another early New Zealand wireless magazine was the "New Zealand Radio", a 24 page magazine selling for 6d, which first appeared in stationery shops on May 29th 1926. It was published and printed fortnightly by the Dawson Printing Company, 407 Queen Street, Auckland. From listeners letters, it was obvious they listened to whatever radio station they could pick up; broadcast stations, shipping, radio amateurs, shortwave and morse. The radios varied from crystal sets, home-made valve radios to commercially manufactured radios. One listener in Hokitika reported hearing 4QG Brisbane, a distance of 1300 miles, 2BL Sydney and 5CL Adelaide, all on a crystal set. Another listener in Wanganui had heard 5CL on his crystal set and queried whether the distance of 1600 miles was a record. One article in the November 1926 issue featured Mr O.T. Guest who, on a home-built radio described in an earlier issue of the magazine, had heard KGO California. He had added a 2-valve amplifier to the one valve radio to give speaker reception of KGO.

The magazine contained much information regarding the rapidly changing scene of broadcasting and wireless in Australia and New Zealand. In May 1926 the magazine featured the new 1YA transmitter and studios to be located on top of George Courts building in Karangahape Road, Auckland. The new Western Electric 500 watt- transmitter would make 1YA the most powerful broadcast station in New Zealand. A photo of George Courts shows the two 100 foot lattice masts on top of the building.

Right from the first issue of the Radio Record there was frequent reporting of current shortwave news, such as the new Empire Service of the BBC, American and foreign broadcasters and broadcasts from Holland. Every few months updated lists of American and Canadian broadcast stations appeared along with shortwave frequencies. But this was topical news aimed at the general listener, rather than the DXer. It was not until January 11th 1929 when the first page was devoted specifically to the "DX Club", that news and views entirely for the serious DX listener was printed. This rapidly grew in volume and depth of information.

Perhaps at this point we should give recognition to Mr S. R. Ellis who put forward the proposal to the publisher of the Radio Record, that a separate page called "DX Club" be incorporated in the magazine, to cater for the ever growing number of DX contributions from listeners. As a young man in 1926, Spencer Ellis used to listen to broadcasts from the local radio dealer's shop in New Plymouth. His interest was broadcasts of motorcycle racing from the Takapuna Racecourse. He soon wanted a set of his own but quickly discovered that of a 5-valve radio retailed at about 65 pounds. After much discussion a cheaper 3 valve reflex radio was purchased. It proved to be a splendid "distance getter". The most common stations heard were 1YA, 2BL, 2AC, 4QG and 2FC, while on one evening a Japanese station was finally identified.

For a year or so Mr Ellis did not bother much about DXing and used the set mainly for entertainment. However, after a move to Okato in Taranaki, a 5 valve battery set was purchased. Early in 1928, Mr Ellis was looking through the Radio Record when he noticed a letter to the "Mailbag" section, from a Mr E. J. Crabbe stating he had logged KFON Los Angeles, California. This aroused Mr Ellis's interest and he wrote to Mr Crabbe asking for full particulars. A short time after receiving his reply, Mr Ellis heard and logged his first American station KFON on 17th April 1928. Mr Ellis heard dance music, then the station announcement, "You are listening to KFON where your ship comes in, at Long Beach, California. You are listening to the music relayed from the Majestic Ballroom by remote control." On June 6th, Mr Ellis was successful in bringing in KGER, which was then only 100 watts.

Both stations confirmed reception: a letter and an interesting and prized folder on KFON, which was known as the Piggly Wiggly station. This folder, which only a few DXers ever received, was considered rare in the early days. KGER mentioned that Mr Ellis's report was the first received from New Zealand. He was now a keen DXer.

Mr Ellis then commenced recording his reports in the "Mailbag" page and these were followed by reports from other listeners who were also listening to the American broadcast stations. Shortly afterwards Mr Ellis wrote to the editor of the Radio Record on the subject of having a DX Club. His letter was published in the magazine and the idea was supported by Messrs G. Holmes, C. Blucher and R. Crabbe. As a result they were granted a special page in the Radio Record where ideas and reports could be exchanged. Letters then came in from all over New Zealand.

Below is a random selection of interesting notes and items taken from various issues of the Radio Record published in 1929. This magazine was published weekly so one would suspect that the local DX material was reasonably up to date.

We start with an extract illustrating the difficulties in finding the correct wavelength on most of the receivers of that time. During the 1920s, the tendency was to quote the wavelength in metres, but as 1930 approached this gave way to listing the frequency in kilocycles..

In the August 23rd DX NOTES, a request for identification illustrates the difficulty in identifying stations heard. "A Japanese station between 1YA and 2BL, slightly nearer to 1YA". Another Japanese "2 degrees below 2LO". Another Japanese, "Just above 4OG".

In the same issue "Kuspanka", the non-de-plume of a Hastings listener gave the full list of Japanese stations currently operating and taken from a QSL card just received. All stations were 10kW except JOCK, which was just 1 kW. The calls were JOAK 870 kcs, JOCR 810 kcs, JOFK 850 kcs, JOGK 790 kcs, JOBK 770 kcs and JOIK 820 kcs. Kusopanka had just received his 34th American verification with KSFJ. His stations had all been heard on his 4-valve radio.

These days saw the beginning of the competitive aspect of the hobby of DXing which has been part of the New Zealand scene ever since. A loose form of competition, listing the number of verifications received, was gradually formulated. Mr Ellis had entered a total of 60 verifications heard on a 5-valve receiver, while a Mr Ireland was second with 45 stations heard on a 4-valve radio.

Another letter to the "DX Club" page reported the following: "At 6.54 on Monday August 26th, I picked up KHT broadcasting organ music and reporting the arrival of the Graf Zeppelin. I held it to 8pm when 1YA just above started up. After 10 pm, I had it again with the description of the arrival of the Zeppelin. It was still going after 11 pm when I left."

In another issue of the Radio Record, we read, "I am enclosing a copy of a letter received by the last Frisco mail, in reply to one sent, asking for confirmation of reception from WTIC, Hartford, Connecticut." From the letter we read, "The report to WTIC was one of five we received from New Zealand in the same mail." WTIC included an EKKO stamp and schedule with the verification letter. WTIC ran 50kW on 1060 kcs. E.H. White, of New Plymouth, reported the above. Hearing American stations was the cream of DXing, but New Zealand and Australian stations were still keenly sort after. Some must have been difficult to hear at times with their low transmitter power. An example of a low power station was 2ZD Masterton, operating since April 1929. The hours of transmission were Mondays, Wednesday and Saturdays, noon to 2 pm; and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 7 – 9 pm. This station operated on 254.1 metres with a power of 8 watts. The aerial was 180 feet long with an earth return. Reports from Taranaki and the Waikato show that daylight reception was good. The transmitter was assembled in the workshop of

the owner and operator, Mr W. D. Ansell.

A typical listeners report to the DX Club page in the Radio Record would be like the following: "After a bad spell of static, conditions seemed to be improving. I have added several stations to my log lately. KOA Colorado 830 kcs (good speaker strength), WOC Iowa 1080 kcs (good speaker strength), WIXG Hartford Connecticut, 1600 kcs (full speaker strength) and KTHF Arkansas 1040 kcs. The announcer said the RF was finding its way into the shielded control room and causing poor modulation – it was a bit rough. I now have 22 from the USA and 10 more to come. My log now totals 80 stations, all heard on a homemade set using ordinary triodes."

The single page allocation to the DX Club in the Radio Record continued to prosper and in the edition dated May 16th 1930, the following notice to DX Club members was published:

"Owing to the heavy demand made on our space, and to the increasing amount of correspondence received from DX enthusiasts, we have found it necessary to request the following courtesies.

Address letters to the Editor, DX Club, Box 1032, Wellington. (the magazine's address). Non-de-plumes may be used but all letters must be signed. Write in ink and write on one side of the paper only. Be brief, but do not omit interesting or essential details. When stating the wavelength of stations, if possible give the wavelength and the frequency. This may be calculated from the following formula. When enquiring about the identity of a station, give the following particulars: date and time of reception, approximate wavelength and frequency. If unable to state wavelength give dial reading and proximity to well known stations."

By May 1930, the DX Club section had grown to two pages and the indications were that, as the popularity of wireless grew in New Zealand, so would the hobby of DXing.

FOLLOWING is a list of suggestions for members. They were originated by "Radio" (Australia), under the title of "Ten Commandments for the D.X. Man."

1. Good reception begins with the interception of ample signal strength. Therefore, make sure of a good aerial and ground connection. Joints should be soldered, or at least taped. A suitable socket aerial plug will often prove more efficient than an aerial, particularly in poor radio localities. It may be employed as a "booster," in addition to the usual aerial.
2. Reception can be no better than the valves employed. Valves, contrary to general opinion, do not last forever. Even if they light, that is no indication of their goodness. When valves have been in use more than a year, they should be replaced with fresh ones. Only those of a reliable brand should be used. Cheap valves are most expensive in the end.
3. Proper A, B and C voltages should be applied. In the case of batteries, this may be done by voltage taps. In the case of radio power units, this may be done by employing efficient variable resistors in obtaining precise voltages for all purposes.
4. The grid leak in the detector circuit should be adjusted for best results. While the two megohm valve may be satisfactory for powerful local signals, this resistance value is too low for weak DX signals. Either a collection of grid leaks of various values should be on hand, or a suitable variable grid leak should be employed if you would enjoy DX results.
5. Regeneration is practically essential to real DX results. It can be secured in various ways. For practically every radio-frequency circuit has some form of stabilizer to prevent regeneration, and this can be altered when in search of DX, so as to permit of regeneration or approach to maximum sensitivity.
6. A sensitive loudspeaker should be employed, or, better still, a pair of head-phones plugged into the first radio stage. Many loudspeakers to-day are relatively insensitive, because they are design-

THE D.X. CLUB

Views and News.

ed to operate on powerful local signals without blasting.

7. It is well to change valves around so as to obtain the best valve for each function in the radio set. There is sufficient variation in most valves to make some better for one purpose than for another.
8. If troubled by excessive background noises or microphonic interference, the cause is generally traced to

or. Always closed down at 7.50, N.Z. time. The last item is always the same song, "The End of a Day"—SATISFIED LISTENER (East Coast).

[We can find no record of an American station WGN]. There is a powerful station (25 kilowatts) AWGN, Chicago, operating on 416 metres.]

WHER Received.

I RECEIVED the station WHER on January 1, at 9 p.m., and held it

LONG distance enthusiasts have suggested the formation of a club for DX men, the object being to exchange notes on this fascinating aspect of radio. The suggestion has been adopted, and the club makes its debut this week. Notes will appear only as they are sent. The club will be run entirely by correspondents, so that the onus of keeping it going will depend on every DX man. Long competitive lists we must, through lack of space, bar. Interesting notes about strangers will be welcomed. In reporting stations correspondents should mention the wavelength.

All correspondence for publication should be addressed: DX, "Radio Record," Box 1033, Wellington.

the detector valve, which should be changed.

9. By-pass condensers of 1 or 2 mfd., connected between minus B and the various plus B terminals of the radio set, will improve sensitivity and tone quality of weak signals.
10. And in the final analysis, DX is largely a matter of patience and skill, for some fellows can hear 300 on a crystal detector, while others cannot cover 500 miles with an eight-valve super-heterodyne.

WGNL

NOTICE in your "Record" of a fortnight ago some DX enthusiast, asking for a station with four call letters just above 200 wavelength. This station is WGNL, Chicago. Comes in here at good loudspeaker strength, can hear it 300ft. from speaker.

for several items. By my dialing, the wave is 260 metres, approximately. My set is a 4-valve Br-Drake; aerial, 150 feet long, and 40 feet high. I can get 1YA, 1ZL, 2UE, etc., on the speaker, music being clearly heard 50 yards or more away. Static has been so bad lately that when I place my fingers over the phone terminals I get a kick about 25 the strength of the lighting system.—KAUSPANKA (Hastings).

KEJK, California.

COULD any listener locate the American station with call KEJK, Beverly Hills, California, on 270 metres? I am sure the call is right. I held him for 15 minutes when he seemed to fade away, then I went back to KEON, on 230 metres, on a dance number; then they said they will rebroadcast KEJK from Beverly Hills, for the next hour, and they also were on dance music till 9 p.m. N.Z.M.T. Did any D.X. enthusiast hear this. Has any D.X. listener noticed KNX has changed hands, now owned by Paramount Pictures. I heard him for the last few nights now, and close down at 9 p.m. They are on about 285 metres, with a power 5000 watts.

I received a letter from another DX enthusiast from the DX Club, in Los Angeles, and they say 1YA comes through well on his set (8 valves, screened grid) at wonderful speaker strength, no fading or distortion. This DX fan said our New Zealand programmes easily equal that of any station in U.S.A. He tunes in 1YA every evening when conditions are good. This speaks well for our super station, Chicico.—S. MLIJS (Okato).

[The latest list of Americans gives KEJK 1250 kilocycles, 230.9 metres (shared), situated in Beverly Hills, California, owned by R. G. Macmillan. Power, 500 watts.]

Another Club Supporter.

I ALSO would like to endorse Mr. Pl.

As a matter of fact, the station was made by me see back, per medium of your c that is necessary really is t a DX Mail Bag" column, in the present Mailbag" column; or to contain the letters of DX only. This would mean goods could immediately be would be one of the most pages, and learn the "id without having to peruse a letters praising or conde R.R.C., and on the other readers not interested in D have to wade through letters they had no real interest.

1YA Heterodyne

FOR some few weeks but have been annoyed by coming from Auckland at through the children's see o'clock or thereabouts, at it seemed to stop. Two weeks ago it struck me in another station, and between session and the 8 o'clock cleaned this whistle up, a few attempts (mostly apoc static) I discovered it was zeros, California station, Christmas Eve from 7 to 5 beautiful organ music from on Christmas Day when silent we had an hour's which finished up by heard distinctly say "The time i night and I wish you all greetings." The time by 7 just 8 o'clock, a difference hours. We are using a four-valve Browning-Drak volume was strong enough three or four yards away loudspeaker. Perhaps heard the carrier coming thought it the fault of 1YA stations are working on same length (333 metres) necessary to "arr on all th bring in KEJK. I think mo long range should get the s they know it's there. Th forest many, and I pas what it's worth.—G. A. BO land).

Stations Heard in Au

I SEE by your "Notes and of December 28 issue (ington listeners have been pick up 7ZL, Hobart. I been my experienced, how have no difficulty in pick on the speaker at 11 pm at quite good 'phone stre 4YA is at full loudspea soon after 9 p.m. 1YA strength in daylight, an time the volume is asfo is fairly good this mima superior to 2RL for 1. 3YA keeps in good form 2GB, and 4UZ have gone amateur locals, 12B and 12 good on 1YA's silent 'ag 2YM, 3AC, and 42M are in form. Back to the win pick up 320 in daylight s with 2YM and 42M alind the speaker at night with the short waves the result very disappointing of late heard no amateurs for how I have picked up a French about 25 metres at about is only R5-6 with me.



"1928" Log Condenser

The smallest, lightest, most efficient Condenser made, also the lowest in price.

.00025, .00035, .0005

7/6

At all the better radio dealers.

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N. R. CUNNINGHAM, Ltd.
MASTERTON.

CHAPTER 2

2.1 THE NEW ZEALAND DX CLUB

The early 1930s saw tremendous growth in the popularity of wireless, as more and more radios became part of the household. As radio sales increased, so did the interest in the hobby of DXing as listeners attempted to see how far their new set could reach.

The two-page restriction of the DX notes in the Radio Record could no longer cater for the growing interest. Keeping in mind that the DX Club was basically run by the publishers of the Radio Record, with the commercial view of selling magazines, a decision was made to publish a new publication catering especially for DXers.

One must realise that the DX Club had no constitution or elected officers, although during 1931, the editor of the Radio Record had begun organising branch secretaries in main centres throughout the country. The membership fee was 2/6, which entitled a member to a membership certificate and badge. Initially a rather large one I gather, as there was correspondence from members about the size of it.

The club membership was steadily growing with approximately 40 new members enrolling each month. As of October 20th 1931, membership stood at 432 spread across the country as follows: -

Auckland	104
Otago/Canterbury	98
Wellington	81
Hawkes Bay	51
Marlborough	41
Nelson/West Coast	35
Taranaki	21
Overseas	1

Each member was allocated a club number; beginning with DX, followed by an individual number and the province initials. For example:

DX 10C	Adams D. N.	Timaru
DX 14W	Angellini L.	Paihiatua
DX 3A	Armstrong R.	Auckland
DX 20C	Atkinhead A.	Oamaru

Although there were no elected club officers, there was, in name only, a "President". The winner of the 6 monthly DX competition was appointed as president of the club, the first president being Mr S. Ellis.

2.2 THE RADIO LOG

The move to a special publication solely for DXers was made on July 20th 1931, with the first issue of "The Radio Log", the official organ of the New Zealand DX Club. This 20-page publication was, in essence, only an enlargement of the two pages previously issued in the Radio Record, and was still edited by the publishers of that magazine.



<p>FOR THE LISTENER</p> <p> </p> <p>N.Z. RADIO RECORD</p> <p>Programmes from the Y.A. Stations, programmes from the leading Australian Stations, programmes from England and programmes from Germany—<i>a week in advance</i> a technical section for the more serious radio minded containing D.X. club news and shortwave notes reviews of the latest films and books due for early release pages of interest to women interesting news of the Dominion's Radio celebrities All these features and many others appear regularly in the "Radio Record."</p> <p>Order from your bookseller. Price fourpence.</p>	<p>FOR THE CONSTRUCTOR</p> <p> </p> <p>N.Z. RADIO TIMES</p> <p>New Zealand's only technical Radio magazine. Apart from solving the home constructor's many and varied problems month by month, a number of new and improved circuits—covering all types of sets—are published in detail in each issue. These sets before being described in the "Radio Times" are put through exhaustive tests and alterations are made until the performances given are of the very highest standard. As the official organ of the N.Z. DX Club, the "Radio Times" publishes pages of interesting news and articles by prominent DX'ers throughout the Dominion. Ask your bookseller for a copy of the latest issue. Price one shilling.</p>
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The RADIO LOG

Vol. 1, No. 7.

Price 6d.

Wellington, January 20, 1931.



IN THIS ISSUE

2CO Corowa.

WABC's New Antenna.

Improvements at
WHK.

Notes from
Verifications.

American DX
Programmes.

Breaking into Short
Wave.

Complete List of Club
Members.

Time Map of the
World.

EDITORIAL NOTES

UNFORTUNATELY, it is impossible in this issue to announce the winner of the DX Challenge Competition, as all the cards sent for are not yet to hand. Some have come in and have been checked and some of the district awards made, but the Cup finalists are not available. It will be a close contest and I believe the winner will have over 200 stations to his credit.

It is encouraging to see how some of the newer dxers are getting down to work. Some who have been dxing only twelve months have sent in splendid logs. At the end of this year, it is easy to see, there will be very many logs vying for the premier position.

One must not forget the dxer with the small log who sends in his entry. He is to be commended and, although he does not win the Cup, he shows at least he understands the true spirit of dxing-sportsmanship.—Yours,

THE EDITOR.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE N.Z. "D.X." CLUB

Commercial profit was still a major consideration, with several full page advertisements featuring RCA Radiotron valves, Stewart Warner radios, F. J. Fear & Co., Crosley Radios, Te Aro Book Depot, Majestic Radio and Ultimate Radio. On the inside of the back cover, details of the publishing of the Radio Log were printed.

Subscription rates 6d per copy; 6/6 per annum post-free.

Published monthly, approximately 20th.

Address literary matter: Editor, "Radio Log", PO Box 1032, Wellington.

Business communications: "Radio Record", PO Box 1032, Wellington.

Printed by the Commercial Printing and Publishing Co of NZ Ltd.

Published by Roy Cecil Temple of Te Kainga, Khandallah, publishers for the owners, The Radio Publishing Company of NZ.

The content followed that as previously seen in the Radio Record, but enlarged to include articles on overseas radio stations, DX Club news, DX news of the month, the monthly mail, monthly station logs which were quite basic compared with today's magazines, amended calls and DX Club notes.

Vol. 1 #8, dated February 20th 1932, was the last issue of The Radio Log as a separate publication. The next issue was to be incorporated in the "New Zealand Radio Times", a new monthly magazine established to cater for the growing interest in wireless. The new and bigger magazine was to broaden the scope by including technical and instruction features.

Probably The Radio Log, priced at 6d, was not a viable commercial proposition catering for DXers only and the market base had to be expanded. It is difficult to assess the actual number of financial members of the DX Club, as I believe that although there may have been over 400 members, they may not have all been financial. The membership was now increasing by over 20 a month but that may have not taken into account the non-renewals. As well as receiving the magazine by subscription, there were limited sales through selected retail outlets,

2.3 THE INTRODUCTION OF DX COMPETITIONS

Over the years New Zealanders have shown their competitive spirit in many of their activities, and the competitive side appeared early in the history of DXing in New Zealand. The first competition was the Radio Record Challenge Cup, to be competed for every 6 months. The Radio Record, when donating the cup, stated that the object of the competition was to stimulate long distance reception. The handsome silver cup was to be presented to the listener with the largest number of overseas stations verified. The actual cup remained the property of the Radio Record, although an engraved miniature was given to the winner. A certificate was awarded to each district winner. Basically the rules were:-

The winner was the DXer who sent in the largest log of verified stations as of June 30th and December 31st, making it a 6-monthly competition.

Stations eligible for the competitions must transmit on frequencies between 545 and 1500 kcs. (1500 kcs was at that time the top of the broadcast band.)

All stations must have verified and, upon request,

the competitor must provide a QSL card, verification letter, or EKKO stamp as proof. It is interesting to note that although an EKKO stamp was considered a verification in its own right, most American stations verified New Zealand DXers with a covering letter as well as an EKKO stamp.

A change of frequency by a station signified a new logging.

A list of the more powerful Australian as well as all the New Zealand stations was given and these stations were not eligible for the competition unless logged during the hours of daylight and the verification stated so.

The winner of the DX Cup automatically became the President of the DX Club for the period the cup was held. The decision of the judge was final. Entries were to be typed out in accordance with requirements.

The DX Cup, which had been presented in July 1930, was the major DX competition run by the DX Club. Monthly DX competitions had also been introduced but were dropped due to lack of interest. In 1932 another cup, the Fraser DX Cup, was presented for the best logging made on a battery-powered receiver. An unusual move, as battery-powered receivers were rapidly becoming obsolete.

2.4 THE DX CUP

For the first period, July to December 1930, the DX Cup was won by Spencer Ellis (DX5T) of Okato, Taranaki, with 89 stations. The next period, January to June 1931, it was won by Morley Stafford of Pehiri, Gisborne with 142 stations. Again, in the July to December 1931 period, Morley Stafford won - this time with 227 stations. The January to June period 1932 saw a new winner, F.W. Barnett (DX 760T) with 291 stations. Frank Barnett was the president of the Otago Branch of the DX Club, and owner/operator of 4ZO Dunedin (25 watts on 1050 kcs). Frank was a popular and well-known figure in radio circles in the South. The January to June 1933 competition saw Frank Barnett increase his log to 366 stations and again take the cup. J.P. Cowlshaw of Palmerston North was the winner of the next competition period, January to June 1934, with an impressive total of 500 verified stations all heard since 1930. Mr Cowlshaw described his set up as a commercial 8-valve TRF receiver purchased in August 1930. Up until the last 6 months all his DXing had been done on a speaker but he then changed to earphones, particularly for the low powered VKs. The antenna used was 90 feet long and 65 feet high, running north and south. The earthing system was comprised of a copper kettle with a 1 inch copper pipe attached and buried 5 feet deep. This was joined to 4 perforated galvanised iron pipes driven into the ground at intervals. A single wire connecting all of these ran to the earth terminal of the radio.

2.5 THE NEW ZEALAND RADIO TIMES

Vol 1 #1 of the new publication, The New Zealand Radio Times and Traders Digest (including the Radio Log), first appeared on April 1st 1932, retailing at 9d. The magazine, now 32 pages, was to cater for a far wider market, with only 7 pages devoted to DX. "The Radio Log", the official organ of the DX Club, was retained as the DX section of the new magazine. No change in format was made to the Radio Log and it continued to contain club news, new station news, the monthly mail, amended calls and other items. Membership now numbered over 600 but still no indication as to the true financial membership, which I believe may have been somewhat less.

It was reported in the May 1st 1932 issue that Eric Watson (DX 28MC) had successfully organised the first Christchurch branch meeting of the DX Club. The meeting was informal and attracted a good gathering with talk, centering on DX matters. In the same issue of the NZ Radio Times, Mr R. Kerr of Auckland was endeavouring to raise the interest of Auckland members in forming a local branch. However the first branch was formed in Dunedin with a very enthusiastic gathering of 22 DXers who met at the RSA clubrooms on April 13th. A full report of the meeting and election of officers appeared in the Radio Log. By the end of the year there were NZ DX Club branches in most main centres in New Zealand. In January 1933 the size of the NZ Radio Times was enlarged

and the contents expanded. However the Radio Log retained its same format and number of pages and still only covered broadcast DX, despite the increasing interest in shortwave DXing. The larger Radio News remained at 56 pages but the Radio Log DX section increased to around 16 pages. This increase appears to be partly due to the transfer of overseas broadcasting articles from the main body of the magazine to the DX section. The format of the Radio Log changed little over the next few years. In the December 1934 issue, Wellington, Napier, Marton, Taranaki, Waikato, Manawatu, Poverty Bay, Marlborough/Canterbury, Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Southland, Wanganui, and South Canterbury reported on Branch activities in their areas. In many cases the details reported tended to



be more personal rather than DX oriented. A list of current broadcast stations in New Zealand totalled 32 and included 4ZB operated by the Otago Radio Association (later known as 4XD and New Zealand's oldest continuous broadcaster.) The magazine, being a commercial enterprise, obviously had to carry advertisements. The following companies took full-page advertisements including those in two colours on the front and back covers:

Radiothon Valves, International Radio Co. (which sold National Union valves), F.J.W. Fear – radio kit sets, McMillan Radio Supplies, Radioke kit sets, Thos. Ballinger radio kit sets, A.W. McCarthy – spare parts, British Trading Co, STC,- Raython valves, and Seimens – batteries. There were also several half-page advertisements.

The section, "Notes and News from the Branches", that appeared in the July 1937 NZ Radio Times, listed 17 New Zealand DX Club branches, however, there is some doubt as to how active some of these branches may have been. It should be noted that there were no branches listed in Dunedin, as the bottom of the South Island at that time was dominated by the NZ DX Radio Association. Representatives were also listed for Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, England and the USA. The NZ DX Club membership was listed as 2179, but it is not known whether this figure was derived from the number of subscriptions or the number of allocated DX call signs given out by the DX Club from the time of its inception.

The New Zealand DX Club's Radio Log continued to be an integral part of the NZ Radio Times until Vol 7 No 4 of July 1938. This issue's editorial page had the following notice to readers:

"With the simplification of radio sets there is not now the same keenness in the field of construction and experimental radio that there was some years ago, and this declining demand for the services rendered together with the steady increasing cost of producing papers of this technical character has led to the decision to suspend the publication of the NZ Radio Times. This will be the last issue. Some of the services that have been

given in these columns will be carried on in the shortwave section of the Radio Record, to which readers are referred. The same factors that have contributed to this decision have led to the recent cessation of corresponding papers in England and Australia. We thank readers and advertisers for their past support."

2.6 THE NEW ZEALAND DX RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

In 1932 there was growing dissatisfaction by some DX Club members that the club was basically run by a publishing company. They felt that the quality of the material published in the Radio Log section was not as up to date as it should be. Some members in the South Island wanted a democratic DX club run by the members for the members.

Eric Watson, a foundation member, wrote: "Officially, the New Zealand DX Radio Association could be said to have originated on January 17th 1933, when the Dunedin and Christchurch branches of the DX Club endorsed the agreements entered into by their delegates at a special meeting in a railway carriage at Timaru on January 1st. The first issue of the NZDXRA's 40 page magazine, TUNE IN, appeared on March 10th 1933 and contained photos, advertisements and a call book section as well as DX news etc. The club was the first official DX Club in New Zealand and prospered for more than 70 years.



2.7 THE NEW ZEALAND SHORTWAVE RADIO CLUB

Although early DXing was mainly confined to the broadcast band, probably due to the limited availability of shortwave receivers, there was a small but enthusiastic following of shortwave DXing. These listeners tended to listen to all shortwave signals, ranging from the limited number of international broadcasters through to radio amateurs, shipping and other CW signals. In the May 16th 1930 issue of the Radio Record a list appeared of the shortwave stations heard during the previous week.

Included in the list were RA97 Siberia, W0XF Chicago, Zeesen Germany, PCJ Holland, NRH Costa Rica, VK3ME Sydney, GBX England and CJRX Winnipeg

The best known shortwave DXer of the late 1920s was Mr F.W. Sellens who edited a one page shortwave column in the Radio Record which started around November 1929. This page was headed "Round the World of Shortwave" and was conducted in the interests of shortwave enthusiasts. This was the foundation of the New Zealand Shortwave Radio Club, a club that never really ever got well established. However Mr Sellens and the club secretary Mr A.B. McDonagh did much to promote shortwave DXing during the 30s. As well as the page in the Radio Record, a newsletter was sent to Shortwave Club members. The club continued to operate from 1930 until at least 1937 but with both the NZ DX Club and the NZ DX Radio Association catering more for the growing interest in shortwave it eventually closed. Their monthly publication was a newsheet type of publication called the NZ Shortwaver, which members received for a 5 shilling annual subscription. It is of interest to note that the 1934 NZART call book shows the callsign ZL2QZ, N.Z.S.W.R.C., under A. McDonagh's name and address and the trustee being Roy Clark ZL1AW.

2.8 ELECTIONS

Early 1932 saw pressure mounting from DX Club members that a president of the club be elected, rather than appointed by the publishers of the Radio Log. Nominations for president were called for, and DX Club members voted in August 1932. The first president of the DX Club, Mr S. Robson, was elected by a narrow margin.

During the same month, the editor, who always remained nameless, visited the main centres to explain the various clauses of a proposed constitution for the club. In brief they were;

To establish an advisory board of 4 directors, together with a permanent chairman, who is on the editorial staff of the official organ, the New Zealand Radio Times.

To introduce the district scheme whereby branches have a chain of authority up to the head office in Wellington. An entrance fee of 2/6 to be paid to head office, and an annual fee of 1/- to be paid to the district headquarters.

In 1933 nominations were called for, to fill the positions on the Advisory Board. As only 4 were received, no elections were necessary. L. Illingworth and J. P. Cowlshaw represented the North Island, while S. Robson and D. N. Adams represented the South Island.

Even though a slight degree of democracy had come to the club, discontent from certain branches continued. The editor of the Radio Log publicly admitted at the end of 1932 that all was not well within the DX Club. Members of the southern branches of the club had withdrawn and it appears that the main reason for discontent was the quality of the DX news appearing in the DX Log, and the proposed constitution. The division had grown to such an extent that the publishers of the magazine were claiming poaching of material from the

Radio Log by one of the breakaway branches.

In 1939, members of the NZ DX Club began negotiations with the publishers, National Magazines, for DXers to take over the independent running of the DX Club. After 7 years of incorporating The Radio Log with the Radio Times, the publishers were happy to be relieved of the running of the DX Club. It was soon realised that the NZ DX Club was not in as strong a position as had been expected. Instead of 20 active branches listed in the Radio Log, the new owners found there were only 2 branches actually operating, Auckland and Southland, and the Auckland branch was more interested in running regular dances than DXing.

In September 1939, Auckland became Headquarters for the NZ DX Club and Southland produced the NZ DX-TRA, the new name for the club magazine. When the President visited the Southland branch on one occasion it was revealed that he did not possess a radio. Disagreement soon grew between the Southland and Auckland branches, due to the fact that the NZ DX Club was losing its DXing direction.

2.9 THE LAST MONTHS OF THE NZ DX CLUB

By 1947 dissent had grown in the South to such a point that Otago and Southland DXers met in Dunedin in September and the decision was made that, over the next 12 months, a new DX organisation would be formed by the Otago and Southland Branches of the NZ DX Club, if a more practical arrangement could not be made with the Auckland Headquarters.

In October 1947 a special meeting was called, where several representatives from the Dunedin branches of both the NZ DX Club and the NZ DX Radio Association met to discuss the possibility of amalgamation of DX clubs throughout New Zealand. Representing the NZ DX Radio Association were Messrs Stanton, Greenway, Bell and Mackey, while the representatives for the NZ DX Club were Messrs Whitworth, Fox, Martin, Lamont and Lynn.

It was moved by Mr Stanton that "this meeting agree on the principle of amalgamation and to endeavour to find some grounds for it to be arranged". The motion was carried. The chairman Mr Whitworth spoke in support of amalgamation, as there were no longer enough DXers to support two clubs in New Zealand. During discussions, it was revealed that a previous attempt at passing an amalgamation remit at a Radio Association conference had failed. At this stage Mr Greenway tabled a letter from the Radio Association Headquarters agreeing to the meeting of the two branches, and the advising of Headquarters not being adverse to amalgamation. Mr Whitworth outlined the financial position of the NZ DX Club as far as it was known. Mr Stanton then stated that the NZDXRA finances were satisfactory although in debt, and that another issue of the Call Book would wipe out any deficit. It was duly revealed that there were 300 subscriptions to the NZDXRA's magazine Tune In and a like number to the DX Club's DXTRA.

Several discussion points were resolved at this meeting and were to be put forward to the respective headquarters.

Name;	The "New Zealand DX Radio Club" was the preferred name with the "New Zealand DX Association", being second choice.
Call Book	It was agreed that the current call book was a good publication and should continue to

Magazine be published in Dunedin.
Considerable discussion took place on the location and format of the DX magazine. Mr Greenway was in favour of a printed magazine while others preferred duplicating the magazine with the aim of supplying DX information faster. It was finally moved that the magazine be published in Invercargill and the style be left until the matter of finance became clear.

Headquarters After much discussion it was moved that Headquarters be located in Wellington. It was felt that the location of both the Headquarters and the Magazine Committee be voted on annually.

Finally it was moved that a report of this meeting be circulated by the respective headquarters to their branches, and that a reply be received not later than the 17 November. However after the above meeting the situation did not change, and in August 1948 the Otago and Southland Branches broke away from the NZ DX Club to form the New Zealand Radio DX League.

By June 1948, issue # 106, the New Zealand DX-TRA was down to 8 duplicated foolscap pages and contained minimal current DX material. The club was now in dire straits and this was reflected in the leader on the front page, "It brings us to the end of another financial year which has been one of the most difficult in the history of our club". A request was made to return voting papers along with 6/6 for next years subscription. The Annual General Meeting was to be held on the 10th July in Auckland where Headquarters were located at that time. The June 1948 issue of the DX-TRA had been sent to "a number of persons who were financial members at

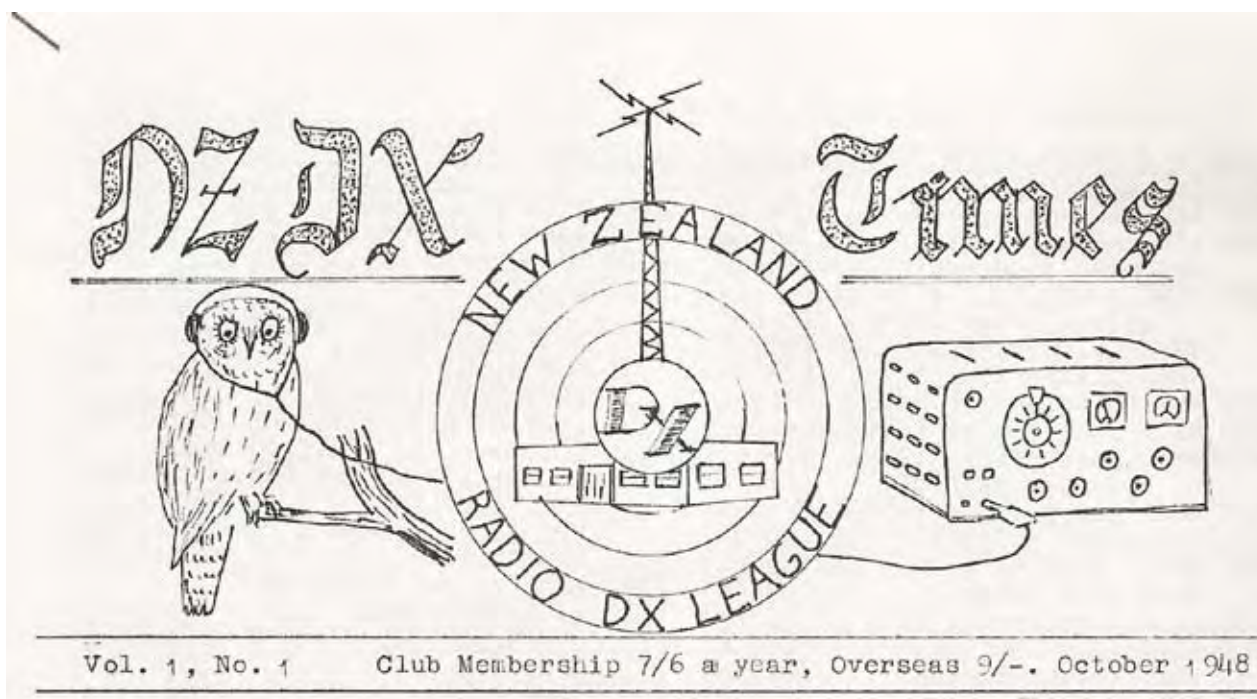
some time previously with the hope that they may once more become financial members of our club". Desperate measures were needed.

The first two pages of that magazine were mostly club news. On page 3 Shortwave Mailbag listed contributions from 9 members and only took half a page. The balance of the page was taken up with Shortwave Notes from overseas sources. The following page was devoted to a sample of how to fill out a Spanish report form. Page 5 listed Australian frequency changes and 7 small contributions to the Broadcast Mailbag and the last page covered radio amateur loggings and new American broadcast stations. The last 2 pages were shortwave news from overseas magazines. The magazine and club were in serious trouble.

The July 1948 issue of the DX-TRA published the report on the Annual General Meeting, which was attended by 11 members. The 1947/8 balance sheet showed that expenses exceeded income but the club was still in a sound financial position to continue for another year. However it was also stated that 150 pounds would be required to give the same service to financial members over the next year, and that the first executive meeting would discuss means to raise those funds. There was disappointment shown, with only 74 voting papers being returned. After the previous month's call for more member contributions to the magazine, all sections were better supported.

However this was not to continue and within the year the NZ DX Club ceased to function. There is no record of the club ever being officially wound up.

So ended an organisation that played an important role in New Zealand's early radio history. Nevertheless the DX hobby continued to thrive in New Zealand with the established NZ Radio DX Association and the newly formed NZ Radio DX League.



A GREAT MOB.

A Bunch of Individuals.

Part One.

The New Zealand Radio DX League Oamaru Convention Address 2008 - Presented by Frank Glen

Memorial Introduction

This address is to the memory of Eric McIntosh who died six weeks ago in Invercargill and who during his lifetime was a loyal and enthusiastic member of the Southland Branch. Eric was the last Southlander to possess the corporate memory of the beginning of the League in Southland and whose friendship was a close one with the larger than life apostolic legends and pioneers of the hobby.

From his hospital bed a week before he passed away he gave the title for the address and together we outlined what its contents ought to be and chuckled at the humorous memories of those now long gone. We both realised this 60th Anniversary is a watershed for our hobby for what we do as Dxers now shapes our future survival or the maintenance of our present position as we tentatively enter into the 21st century. Our ability to change and to contemporise our reporting style to the nature of electronic radio signals of today that could result in continued and greater verifications presents still an incredible opportunity and challenge for the hobbyist.

Ray Crawford, Peter Grenfell, Don Reed, Paul Aronsen have provided much of the material herein and along with many others who have left records of our history over the past fifty years this paper represents a simply non definitive overview of the past 60 years. We actually begin further back beyond 1948 where memory is now dimmed. The interpretation of the events is entirely my own as I was told or researched it, or sometimes imagined might well have been. Pretensions to truth are not claimed in every case, but fifty years on many of the tales have defied the odds of time and persist in our mythology and culture.

The Dxers, rough hewn and individual.

In the high days of the birth of the NZ Radio DX League Albert Stanton a stationer from Dunedin led the charge as one of New Zealand's most experienced Dxers with 1300 Broadcast verifications on the July 1950 ladder, while Arthur Cushen led on shortwave with 1171 and Dave Thompson of Dargaville was well ahead with 3795 utilities.

Somewhere I was warned in this address I had to be consistent and use some Latin for there have been a clutch of members who have chased the Latin stations, among them Arthur Cushen who for some time was the radio observer for Radio Vatican. Perhaps the proverb 'omne ignotum pro magnifico' aptly describes the 250 Watt North American Broadcast stations whose frequencies were monitored 'adnausium' because as the proverb says 'everything unknown is believed magnificent.' The constant rivalry in those high days of searching for the 250 watt frequencies to capture that whisper of signal had many rewards frustrations and failures.

I am reliably informed that in the 1940s about the time of the sinking by a German mine of the Niagara of the North Auckland peninsular Onehunga beach was considered a cracking 250 watt site and attracted members with portable or car radios. Some members of the Auckland Branch not only attended the dances but also managed good catches on Waiheke Island. A nameless keen Dixer on this particular evening, resplendent with headphones and determined look,

pencil poised, eyes focused was logging furiously his third 250 Watter on the 1450 Khz channel. Suddenly torches flashed, dark uniforms emerged and the door of his car was wrenched open and there stood a sergeant of police displaying in hand the statutory baton drawn in the posture of one about to drop a villain if there was any hint of nonsense. 'Get out of the car' ordered the harsh command. The locals had reported the Dxers presence over several occasions noting that just on dark he was acting suspiciously, headphones, furtive light from his torch, note book and there till midnight. Spies, traitors and collaborators by November 1940 were even considered a possibility in New Zealand. The 'unknown' was far from magnificent at that point for the Dixer concerned who took four hours to explain to the police why he was there, why he was dxing, and explaining what dxing was all about. He later volunteered for the RNZAF and became an aircrew wireless operator.

Dxers are odd balls at any time, but Keith Robinson was observed fifty years past wandering about with a wheelbarrow resplendent with radio and battery. His object was to find the best reception for the equipment he had and the means of finding that was to wheel the radio around. Neighbours wagged their heads and tut-tutted, but eventually he settled on the Waituna Lagoon and shifted his caravan and radio gear there. The rewards were legion.

A younger member who shall remain unnamed had built for himself a Hikers One. Having learned how effective this single valve set was as a receiver as well as being immune from noise, had set the radio on the handles of his bicycle. He had fastened and insulated a number eight wire aerial and complete with headphones biked off down the road. Darkness had overtaken his enthusiasm and concentrating every 25 meters to register the strength of the signals he was simply not in this world. A 'yank' was heard on a 250 watt channel and he decided to halt his ride and copy the programme. His attention was drawn to a torch being waved in his face that was owned by a stern voice of a city traffic officer who ordering him to stop his bike and dismount. Astounded the young man discovered that not only was he committing an offence by riding on the footpath but that he was compounding that offence by not having a bicycle light. He was 'failing to throw a beam of light forwardly visible for 300 yards whilst the bicycle was in motion...etc etc.' The traffic officer was not in the least interested in the explanation that there was a 250 Watter on air and ordered the young man to walk home afterwards. The policeman enquired did he have a radio licence for that 'thing' on the handle bars, and there was no reply from the lad. The court fined him thirty shillings on the charge of riding on the footpath and a further twenty shillings for not 'throwing a visible beam of light etc.' To add insult to injury the court costs of ten shillings were added making a total of three pounds or for this lad a weeks wages. Then he missed logging the 250 Watter and was broke for a month and had to live down the newspaper headline 'Youth rides bike with headphones and no night light' Nor did he hear the 250 Watter again.

Conventions and camps, DXpeditions as we call them these days, were perhaps more common in days past. At such functions with men food is always important and even

in times of rationing during WW2 much care was exercised in the selection of what meals were to be prepared. Don Reed tells the story that at one such expedition Jack Fox and Frank Wilson were designated cooks. In that capacity they naturally wanted to prepare food that would be eaten so they enquired of the group what they wanted, in particular asking Arthur Cushen what his favourite was. In his modest reply Arthur requested if it was not too much trouble just a little salad and meat would be a satisfactory lunch for him. He was then served with a freshly dug worm and several blades of grass to go with it. There was much laughter. It may well have been at the same gathering that Don Reed made his equally definitive remark that runs parallel with Mervyn Branks definition of a Dixer. Don was heard to say with more than a modicum of conviction, 'Dxers don't sleep at conventions.'

As in the case surrounding the suspicion of the character on the Onehunga beach who was anxious to log a bagful of 250 watters that same suspicion can also work in ones favour. During a Canterbury gathering sometime in the 1940s when few cars were available to Dxers and with what petrol rationing would allow, they gathered at one of their member's beach front batches. The Dxers were disturbed by a number of hoons appearing in vehicles who gave every indication of being hell bent on making a noise, disturbing the peace and generally wrecking the tranquilly of the weekend. It transpired, as the evening went by, that the Dxers, with lights flashing and radios bellowing moved deliberately and without hesitation towards the mob that was causing the problems. The result was electric; they fled in their vehicles to a man. No doubt they were firmly convinced that they were being pursued by the recently upgraded police vehicles. At least they recognized they were guilty and took off leaving Don and his companions to a good DX weekend.

Tiwai may well take pride of place in the history of listening posts but I have been told that Ken MacKey and George Beardsmore in company with Murray Lamont constructed a number of beverage aerials on the Spit and at Dunedin's Long Beach. Memories of the remarkable reception at these isolated locations of the 1940s ought not to be dimmed by the more recent and equally fine setup at Tiwai. Perhaps today's smaller DXpeditions at the latter site gave rise to the recent behaviour of elderly Dxers who livings through their youthful days of the past now annually gather at Tiwai. Paul Aronsen is the life long caretaker of Tiwai and he can speak from experience as he watched two elderly 70 year plus old former Compulsory Military Trainees of the 1950s raise the national flag with all the pomp and ceremony of a royal or national occasion. Indeed, this has been reordered on video and I'm lead to believe that Peter Jackson of Lord of the Rings fame was so impressed with the video trailer that he is thinking of offering these elderly Dxers leading parts in his next film. His flim is to be the Dances of a Valkeries and it is as a dancing valkeries that these gentleman are sought as actors. Tiwai is famous for many things in history from the times of nineteenth century Maori battles, to whaling and sealing but it has had to wait over 35 years as a DX listening post to produce the aged talent now tragically so lately recognised.

A Dixer of national note many years ago went the extra mile and stayed on the job all night into the late morning because the reception was exceptional and he had made some magnificent scoops. He really pulled in some fine signals and could see the best of the month cup appearing with regularity for some time to come. As he put the headphones down,

looked at his watch and saw that the sun was just about the rise he was alarmed to see a fleeting running figure dash past the unblinded window. There had been some burglaries in the area in recent times and being a fit individual always game for a challenge he took off out of the house after the running figure. He quickly overtook the villain and with a mighty thrust fell onto him bringing him to the ground with a thud. There was of course another sound that alerted him instantly to the startling fact that all was not as he thought. There was a crashing of glass and breaking of glass and milk spilt all over the footpath. He had tackled the local milkman. It needs little imagination to work out how the conversation went from that moment onward.

The various branch newsletters as well as the national Times during the heyday when there was nationally over 800 members regularly carried social news. Family occasions were attended by other Dxers who represented the branch to which the particular individual belonged. There was more than a nascent sense of family among them. The following is quotation taken from a publication 50 years past. There is little question the tongue of the 'Congratulations to Lofty Gardiner on the birth of twin sons on April 18. Also our apologies to Lofty for omitting him from the honourable mentions in the final of the ladder competition. He had an addition of 103 loggings in the past six months. Is it any wonder Lofty had time either to log or notice the omissions? It is this final sentence or the editorial after thought which lacks subtlety and no politically correct understanding of today. 'Our congrats also to Mrs Lofty.' I'm wondering if the historian of the future will not ponder the nuances in this par. Is this a reference to a double virgin birth? Or a wise crack attempt at humour on the bed room antics of the couple, or does it simply reflected a time when feminists were unheard of?

Mervyn Branks is a strong DX pioneer figure that history still projects into the present day. He died in 1979 aged 72 but his influence on the lives of the once young men in Southland has been one which they have carried with them all of their lives. These were members of the Boy's Brigade Movement and the Southland Branch of the NZ Radio DX League and extant photographs of him show him always with a smile on his face. He had a hesitant tentative manner that quickly vanished as he gathered his confidence in conversation. You never heard him swear- 'such words as gosh, golly blow or hang' were common, but never a word out of place. This reflected his upbringing in Central Southland in a strong Presbyterian culture where he was part of the first Boy's Brigade Company to be established in New Zealand. Rumours had it that he had knocked off going to Church because he had a muscular difference of opinion with his Church on a matter now lost in history. His loyalty to his Christian convictions took him to the top of the Southland executive office of the Boy's Brigade in Southland. He met me when I was seven years old, barely old enough to join the junior corps of the BB. This was a point of contact he had with all ages and if anybody could 'deal with' or 'cope with' Arthur Thomas Cushen full marks always went to Merv. His ability to act as the broker and to be the peacemaker among his peers was a natural characteristic of his quiet personality. His definition of a Dixer is a classic, 'A person who is prepared to get out of bed at any time and log the difficult stations.' The stories of his 6 x3 Dxing shack at Riverton Rocks are legion.

On one occasion after a hard time at the 6x3 Trevor Service, the son of a pillar of Methodism and the grandson of

a Methodist Minister, and who I think was taught in Sunday school by my wife Margret, found half a dozen bottles of beer among the flax bushes. These bushes abounded about the 6x3. There was little excitement but much anticipation by the clutch of DXers who back at Merv's crib cracked open the bottles and began a harmless 'drinkies session.' Trevor no doubt free of his tee total parents was feeling quite happy. Merv then appeared around the corner of the crib and observed his lads enjoying the quite drink. He said nothing, his face did the speaking and he quietly walked away.

While recalling Merv's 6x3, there is a story repeated through the years of two curious individuals who stumbled upon the shack early one morning. Merv had been DXing until early in the wee small hours and finally weariness had overcome him and he slept. He was woken by the voices of his two explorers. He listened to their conversation for they were quite unaware there was anyone inside this rough hewn structure. 'What on earth is it?' questioned one, and the other answered 'Could be something to do with generating electricity, look at all those wires and insulators' replied the other. 'Perhaps' suggested his companion, 'it is an electric fence' His associate pondered the idea and then replied that the insulators were pretty high off the ground for that. The companion then made the thoughtful and no doubt reasoned reply that if that was the case then perhaps they farmed 'giraffes?' They then wandered slowly off and Merv decided it was time to get up and greet the day.

I was not keen to mention the name of the individual responsible for this particular part of the narrative, but I'm informed on good authority that Des Frampton rode in the boot of a motor car to the 6x3 rather worse for the wear from the demon in the bottle. That evening there were more people DXing than drinking resulting in a bell tent was erected to provide the bedding for the overflow of bodies. Although the imagination boggles I am reliably informed Des was given the task of holding the tent prop up because of inclement windy weather. A task he did for the remainder of the evening with not the slightest memory of it as a sun rose

A youthful Eric McIntosh was equally very keen to get to the 6x3 and log KMTH on broadcast. The station was presenting a special DX programme to New Zealand and was to be an excellent catch. Merv had arranged to pick Eric up and drive him to the Rocks a distance of some 25 miles. For some reason Eric missed him and Merv anxious not to be late for the special went off on his own. Eric was not a powerfully built man, but slight of frame and not always in good health. Disappointed but still enthusiastic Eric biked the 25 odd miles to the Rocks and arrived at the 6x3 just in time to log the special. Enthusiasm, good fellowship and physical effort all went to make the logging possible. The DX Times 60 years ago was not only a record of loggings, but it was also interspersed with wedding bells, 21st birthday greetings and personal celebrations. Eric McIntosh and Phyllis's wedding was recorded in the Times on 2 June 1950 and a life time of association will be remembered when Eric's obituary appears later this month.

Margret and I returned to Invercargill in 1976 after serving as an inland flying padre and an RAAF Padre. We had come home because there was no where else to go. Margret was unwell and my career was in tatters. Within ten days or so Merv poked his head around, my office door, grinned and simply said 'There as DX meeting at Arthur's on Thursday night Frank – and you will be there. You just be there.' On the evening at Arthur's home he greeted me genuinely and

warmly and was the beginning of a new friendship that lasted until his death. Two years ago at Tiwai with Paul Aronsen and Peter Grenfell we re-erected an aerial and named it the Mervyn Branks Memorial Aerial. For what its worth it was a serious gesture and hopefully will remain for years yet to come.

In many ways Merv epitomised the character of the DX League where all sorts of conditions of men and women gathered and shared their hobby. He reminded those judgmentalists of whom there were few, that everyone was welcome. Many of us have examples from his quite vast and historical radio library of DX material that was auctioned after his death. Much of it some 30 years later quite priceless and historically of considerable value as the hobby enters its eight decade. At this time Merv we remember and once again salute you.

There have been achievers who have been honoured members of the League. One example comes to mind and at a time such as we are celebrating he ought not to be forgotten. Lloyd Warburton served in the RNZAF during WW2 and returned to Invercargill to his business as a jeweller and watchmaker. He was a remarkable DXer, but also a remarkable and very fit mountaineer. He led the New Zealand Expedition to South America and sadly died of a heart attack before middle age. There was Charlie Chester who was a graduate of an English University with a degree in literature. I first met him at the DX meetings in Invercargill and then professionally as the Salvation Army officer of the court who represented Alcoholics Anonymous. Charlie's night job was as the telephonist in Kew Hospital and he with his faithful 'Barlow Wadley' is worthily remembered. Charlie was a man who tragically suffered the impact of WW2 and who with courage and bravery reinvented his life. He too died long before his three score and ten. One wonders what became of people like Bing Harris who 50 years ago was a member or George Griffiths, who was responsible for getting me interested in DXing. He lived over the road from me and looked after his Father who was a Gallipoli veteran. Then there was Peter Chin the younger, the father of the present mayor of Dunedin who came to NZ in 1938 from Canton as a refugee. Peter later qualified as a dentist and took up practise in Dunedin.

While we are remembering the humorous events and recalling the fun and the frolic among our late and present members it is appropriate to recall and to reflect upon the more serious factors that members have experienced. As Eric McIntosh and I spoke together just a few days before he died we both agreed that we might well be a great mob, but we were also individuals. DXers, without exception, are for the most part strong minded, inner directed and self driven individuals. They are focused largely on their hobby, for when they lose that focus they cease to write reports. With so many individuals with contrasting characters and personalities it is little wonder that at times there have been agreements and strains. One such major difference was the cause of the NZ Radio DX League separating from the NZ Radio DX Club back in 1948. I learned recently that in one branch there was a serious division over accepting back into the branch an individual who had fallen foul of the law. He was a farmer somewhere in central Southland and had for many years led the charge in climbing the ladders. The debate went head to head and finally he was accepted back and there he remained until his death. There were times in the past when observers wondered if one nationally known member was the only DXer in New Zealand, but little did we know that were it not for another well known member who kept him regularly humble,

it might well have become an actuality! There were checks and balances as well as excitements and fun. DXers seem also to fall into the category of inveterate collectors, some are philatelists, and others collect Billy Bunter comics or some other form of laughing literature. The odd one or two are book collectors while most seem to own a sense of history and almost all have a good knowledge of world events and where the countries of the world can be found on the map. We come from a wide, extremely wide net of life's experience. There are school teachers, store keepers, plenty of electricians, many self employed, and a good representation of the various professions. In the membership list of 1973 I noticed two army officers, one a major and other a Colonel.

The single most important factor that arises from the great mob of individuals is that they all know they are part of the mob, and they also know they have a place in the mob as individuals. They are also accepted as individuals in the mob. There is no threshold of financial equality, nor any educational threshold or community status that determines ones place in the mob. If there is a pecking order it used to be where one was placed on the verification ladder, that's changed in recent years. The problem today is that hardly anyone moves up the ladder or if they do they do, everyone moves at the same pace and in effect there is little change in their individual placing. The descriptive word for the mob and its individuals is that there is

a spirit of egalitarianism, jack is as good as his master – in the DX world to which we have claimed a place there is neither master nor Jack. We are bound by a common stimulus and excitement of the chase and the common satisfaction of having once hunted the signal down to the point it where it becomes a verification that is satisfaction enough. It never ceases to amaze me that for the most part DXers can remember where they were and who they were with and from which receiver they heard this or that particular signal.

The individuality within the mob ought to be the key to the survival of the hobby for therein lies diversity of skills and personal gifts of how to persue the hobby in a changing world. Unless that comes about fairly soon there may well be individuals, but the mob will have passed, the DX mob will have ceased to exist. Let us learn from the past 60 years of the history of the League and the almost 90 years of the hobby and develop into today's electronic world a new style of reporting and responses to the changes of radio that gives an assurance the hobby will survive. If we can do this then we shall have fulfilled an important task in preserving into, and for another generation, one of the most fascinating and challenging hobbies of our era. It is fun, it is demanding and for it to remain so we must change, our individuality is the key and the survival of the hobby is within the mob.

A GREAT MOB.

A Bunch of Individuals. The Dxers of the New Zealand Radio DX League. Part Two. The History of Radio Dxing in New Zealand and the roots of the NZ Radio DX League.

Abstract.

Part two of this address about radio and Dxing in New Zealand is an attempt at the impossible by providing a brief historical overview in the nature of a potted history of the generic development of the NZ Radio DX League. It is my hope that someone in the future could find this compilation as a beginning of a more definitive history of Radio Dxing in New Zealand. At the outset it does not pretend to be a definitive biographical record of those who pioneered the development of the hobby or who in their lifetime via the medium of contemporary radio in New Zealand have become national or international figures. The bibliographical location for the basic historiography is provided in the footnotes while it will direct a researcher towards more accessible records where there is an ample unrecorded, although a somewhat cluttered mountain of biographical and narrative information germane to the League's history. The primary task in this paper is to make available to those members of the League attending the Oamaru 2008 60th Anniversary an overview of how the League was born, has matured and is continuing to influence the lives of those dedicated to the hobby.

The Beginning

Dxing as we know it today was conceived when radio transmissions in New Zealand began experimentally in 1919 by Dr Robert Jack,¹ then professor of physics at Otago University. He successfully transmitted the first radio telephone system in this country that was among the pioneer broadcasts of the world from the University to the home of Mr E L Meinung in Forth Street Dunedin. Further advances were made in November 1921 when Dr Jack and his associates transmitted the first radio programme and radio broadcasting in its technical infancy was born in New Zealand. On 1 August 1922 the Otago Radio Association was formed with popular local appeal resulting in a transmitter being built in Dunedin and allotted the call sign DN.²

One wonders how many reception cards or verifications with this call sign exist today. DN was the first serious public radio station that over the following decades into the present time has gone through a series of changes of call sign

1 Patrick Day. *The Radio Years. A History of Broadcasting in New Zealand.* (Auckland University Press & Broadcasting Trust) Auckland 1994. Vol. 1. Pp. 39-42. Photo of Professor Jack.
2 There were 572 holders of radio listeners permits in 1922.

e.g. from DN, 4AB, 4ZB, 4ZD, 4XRJ, and is now living with its longest designated call sign 4XD³. The Otago Radio Association is still in existence and is one of the oldest radio stations in the world for its continuous transmission with public and community involvement.

The first serious radio publication available to the New Zealand listening community was the New Zealand Radio⁴ that commenced publication on 31st May 1926. The weekly journal encouraged the first Dxers to report their listening, share with readers their verification experience and pin point the frequencies of interesting overseas transmissions. The newspaper the Evening Star was another media vehicle where the growing number of radio listener's regularly reported their log findings and informed the public of the various frequencies that were active on their dials. One correspondent 'Neutron' writing of his experience with a 5 valve neutrodyne radio was jubilant at the clarity of reception on the broadcast-band of North American, Asian and Australian stations. The emergence of a frequencies chart or handbook publishing known transmitting stations appeared as the Scott Radio Handbook in 1923, although another authority suggests such a publication did not appear until much later in 1930. The evidence for the earlier date seems more compelling for prior to 1930 there existed alongside the sales and development of broadcasting the little known NZ Shortwave Club that came into existence in 1929.⁵ It seems likely Mr F. W. Sellens of Wellington was president for at least two years with branches in the south and north island with an estimated membership of at least 200. We know little about this club but they were obviously enthusiastic shortwave listeners and verification hunters as the Radio Record published reports of their dxing activities and information gleaned for publishing frequency transmission lists.⁶

The 'Radio Record'

In common with today's requirements reception reports of the 1920-30s were obligatory in reporting accurate details identifying stations, times of transmission, frequencies and programme details. The needs of the hobby were amply reflected by the hobbyists themselves in the columns of the Radio Record to the degree that the editor opened a dedicated section of the magazine titled 'Our Mail Bag'. It must not be forgotten that in 1928, another publication emerged The DX Club News & Views where the nationally growing number of Dxers could collate and share their knowledge of the active frequencies. The first DX trophy, known as the DX Cup was presented by the Radio Publishing Company and was likely first offered in July 1930 to encourage the growing movement of 500 members. One year later on the 19 June 1931 during the hard times of economic collapse and the great depression the Dxers of Wellington met at the 3rd Wellington Radio Exhibition and formed the NZ DX Club. The claim was made at the time they were the first constituted DX Club in the then British Empire.⁷

The eminently successful Radio Record was purchased by the New Zealand Listener and following the amalgamation the Dxing information was incorporated into the Listeners columns. DXing was an established hobby by 1934, the hobbyists identifying themselves with a RAHOB⁸ prefix, their Club or branch membership number. Closely associated with the first DX enthusiasts were the original radio hams and during the years of economic depression of 1929-34 there was a natural co-operation between Dxers and the amateur broadcasters. The growing band of DXers were encouraged by the hams to report on their signals and responded to their reports with verifications. These reports were of significant technical value to the hams as DXers were scattered (like pepper and salt) all over the country. The reports enabled the hams to gain clear indications of the worth of their 5 to 25 watts transmission into the empty spaces of New Zealand. The DXers on the other hand were frankly encouraged to become licensed operators and become qualified amateur radio operators as well as DXers. This cooperation and encouragement that resulted in double skilled radio buffs was not uncommon among DXers in the early 1930s. It would be interesting to make some statistical comparisons among contemporary DXers of the present day as anecdotal evidence suggests a return to this position.

Independence

The depression years did little to enhance the growth or development of DXing, but clubs were established in Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. The first of the separations of DX groups then occurred in 1933 when the Otago and Canterbury Branches severed their connection with the NZ DX Club and on the 17 November formed a regional NZ DX Radio Association.

To understand the reasons for the breaking from the parent DX body the reader has to view the event contextually. The parent of the NZ Radio DX Club was the Radio Record during which time its management had kept a firm commercial grip on the hobby but it was impossible to disguise the fact that the commercial interests of National Magazines Ltd constituted a bottleneck to the growth of the hobby. This suspicion, long held by enthusiastic DXers of Otago and Canterbury proved correct when the publishing company surrendered all their interests to the new amateur body. Nor were the officials of the new club surprised to discover that of the 20 clubs listed in the Radio Record only two were

3 'Radio Dunedin. 1305 Khz. 200 watts.

4 *The New Zealand Radio Record* Published weekly by Archibald Sando. (Wellington Publishing Company) Wakefield St Wellington.

5 F. W. Sellens 'Listening on the Short Waves' In *the New Zealand Radio Guide and Call Book 1931*. P.109-110. (Radio Publishing Co. of NZ Ltd) Wellington 1931.

6 *New Zealand Radio Record*. (Wellington) 28 June 1929. Vol.2.p40.

7 Merv. Branks 'New Zealand Radio DX League, 30 Years On.' In *NZ Radio DX Times* p9-11. August 1978.

8 RAHOB Radio Hobbyist. Before WW2 Arthur T Cushen was known as **Rahob Cushen** with the addition of the membership number added.

functioning as dedicated DX clubs. It was revealed that in the Auckland Branch their social activities were of greater interest to its members than the business of DXing. As the hobby continued to grow into 1934 Auckland was designated the Headquarters of the NZ Radio DX Club and Southland delegated with the task to produce the official newspaper **The NZ DX-TRA**.⁹

The membership or those associated with DX clubs in 1936 throughout New Zealand had reached 1721 with a disproportion of members residing in the South Island.¹⁰ The numbers in the South Island again demonstrated an unbalanced number of members residing in Southland and Otago. Practical experience by South Island DXers confirmed that reception, both for broadcast and shortwave in the southern part of New Zealand was superior to elsewhere. This resulted in more interest in the south which created a phenomenon of strong regional representation within the hobby as noted by the *Otago Daily Times* in October under the heading *What Dxers hear*. The report outlined the Otago DXing activities with the encouraging comment that 'reception (was) still improving'. As a result the Best of the Month was VK4LD on 1495 KHz won by Mr Stanton (a contemporary of Merv Branks) who verified their 7 watt transmission. Pro-forma DX Report forms were developed about this period and the *International Dxers Alliance* and the United States *Newark News Radio Club* monthly publication made their appearance in the New Zealand hobby literature with numerous New Zealanders subscribing for the American broadcast news.

Growth and Development

In an effort to find a solution to the eternal problem of reports going unverified or not acknowledged was just as common sixty years ago as it is today. It was a vexed question in 1937 when an interesting way around the problem was invented by American Dxers. One member would act as a monitor and take full details of a difficult to verify transmission and others listening to the programme would send their reports to the monitor. He would then check them against his log and verify their report.¹¹ This 'fiddling of the books' was never adopted by Dxers in New Zealand. Little imagination is required by the reader who can recall the founders of our hobby to know that such a scheme would be greeted by them with sheer disgust and hoots of derision. Branches had grown to respectable numbers of Dxers before the outbreak of World War Two and the membership had discovered if a branch listening post could be erected close by the sea on the coast, reception was more than marginally improved compared with the confines of a city. The Auckland North Shore, long before the building of the harbour bridge became a favourite spot for weekend DXpeditions, especially those who chose to use the expensive, but serviceable car radios. Logging North America on Takapuna Beach was not unknown. The availability of some Canterbury branch members' batches close to Christchurch, including Godley Head and similar locations became favourite spots. Other centres were close to Wellington, Oamaru, and Dunedin while Riverton Rocks boasted the famous 6 x 3. Individual members found their own special locations and at least two members, one in the North Island and the other in South were spotted with wheelbarrow and bicycle furtively angling around seeking a good receptive corner. Their attached head phones no doubt added some concept of the futuristic 'Dr Who.' The tiny village of Riverton Rocks spawned Merv Branks' famous '6 X 3' and was known throughout New Zealand and even internationally. A new member's right of passage through the pecking order of Dxers, although not officially acknowledged, was the number of hours he had spent freezing and DXing with Merv Branks as both tutor and companion¹².

With the outbreak of WW2 in September 1939 the membership of the NZ DX Club had almost reached 2500, a peak never ever achieved in its subsequent re-incarnations or history of the hobby.¹³ In a short sentence found in the May 1939 **DX-TRA** mention is made of one of the few lady followers of the hobby when Miss N Linscott was made welcome at the Southland branch meeting. She came from Thornbury and in 1939 that section of road between Invercargill and Thornbury was 20 miles of unsurfaced dusty highway.

The Impact of the Second World War.

The outbreak of WW2 changed forever the direction, and raised significantly for the first time the importance of DXing not only as a hobby, but as an essential contribution to military intelligence. Arthur Cushen, in his book *The World in My Ears* has dealt exhaustively and in detail on the Prisoner of War Monitoring Service.¹⁴ This monitoring Service had its origins through the stimulus of NZ DX Club members, among the many Jack Fox,¹⁵ and Peter Thorn.¹⁶ The experience of World War 2 created the template for continuing the monitoring of prisoner of war names in later conflicts of Korea, and Vietnam. DXers also went to war and in 1943 the Palmerston North Branch reported that from among its members one had been killed while on active service, another was missing and 20 were presently serving. Four had been discharged

9 Op.cit Branks

10 Des Lynn Otago Branch NZ Radio DX League Souvenir. (Dunedin) 1973, p.2. Q.v. Otago Daily Times September 29 1973. 'On the Beam with ACTVAM'

11 Count De Varies. 'Leaves from a Dxers Scrap Book'. In Radio Index. *The All Wave Radio Log*. December 1937. NNRC. No 114. P.9.

12 *The NZ DX Times* Vol.26 No 1. September 1973. The end covers have surviving photographs of various League Conventions and on the rear inside cover a photograph of Dxers at work in the Riverton Rocks 6x3.

13 Op.cit Lynn p.2.

14 Arthur T Cushen. *The World in My Ears*. (Craig Printing Invercargill) 1979. Q.v. Chapter 2 *Bringing Hope to Thousands* pp. 25-29.

15 There is considerable information available on the League's Web-site with an article by Patron Jack Fox

16 *The NZ DX-TRA*. February 1944. Notes the official NZ DX Club statement of the POW Listening Service recording those members who were early volunteers.

from their respective services revealing that 55% of their membership was actively involved with the armed services.¹⁷ The Southland Branch indicated they had also lost a member killed in action with another missing on air operations. Another 20 were currently in uniform. The information provided by the DXers of New Zealand to the Allied short-wave stations became for their transmissions a valuable guide in aiding the transmitters to improve their services.

The closure of the World War Two resulted in a boon for many DXers as surplus radio stock came on the civilian market. Receivers ex aircraft, naval vessels and older receivers that were being replaced with post war radios were plentiful and common. The local newspapers knew who the leading radio DXers were and were not averse to publishing reports of expeditions, meetings, and events heard on shortwave and released in the local newspapers. Radio was King.

Rebirth and Challenge

How true the revival of the radio industry may have been post war did not follow through into DXing. It is appropriate to report Arthur Cushen's opinion on the issue.

In 1945 DX Club President Ted Andrews and committee member Bill Masson from Auckland visited Invercargill to discuss the future of the club. It was obvious from the discussions that the Auckland Branch, although being our Headquarters, were not radio listeners and in fact the National President did not even own a radio and they were more interested in running dances and getting funds to keep the DX Club going. This continued and the position deteriorated until early 1947.¹⁸

The genesis of the NZ Radio DX League as we all know it today had its origins as a result of the situation described by Arthur Cushen. A sophisticated and almost professional proficiency had developed among some key figures in the hobby and when coupled with a pioneering spirit home grown in Otago and Southland the contrast with DXing in the north was significant. The numbers of DXers nationally post war had still remained disproportional in the South Island, where the hobby appealed because of the ample reception facilities and strong local branches. Leading characters, men who were individuals in their own right were in management roles in the branches and when coupled with their experience as DXers after due diligence and through among themselves the NZ Radio DX League was born on the 15th August 1948. Initially the League consisted largely of Southland and Otago members but within 12 months the North Otago Branch commenced followed by Christchurch and eventually to the high point including Wellington, Taranaki, Auckland, and Waikato. The first issue of the **NZ DX Times** appeared as a result of the work of the Southland Branch in October 1948. It cost 75 cents for an annual subscription, and that included postage.

The years from 1935 until 1954 witnessed an increasing number of New Zealand DX publications that ran parallel with the **NZ DX Times** and chief among them was the annual *Lamphouse Annual* published in Wellington. The annual by-mail sales-book was anticipated by radio buffs with some eagerness for it was the source for listings of shortwave, broadcast call signs and frequencies, while later it also included all licensed radio amateurs' call signs and addresses. The *Annual* was a home grown product that pre-dated the current *World Radio Handbook*. Among the various contributors to the *Lamphouse Annual* was Arthur Cushen with his encyclopaedic knowledge of station listings, frequencies and call signs. His appointment as the official BBC Radio Observer for Oceania shortwave broadcasts resulted in his hobby bringing him to professional international notice. Arthur connected the League at the technical and executive level with shortwave broadcasters that made him in the world of DXing an international figure. Mervyn Branks' input was complimentary – his writing fostered and encouraged the hobby and he tugged at the interest strings of the many thousands of *Lamphouse Annual* readers who had access to the construction of radios. He also met the 'at home' DXers who in isolation from a branch need to be encouraged and informed about their hobby. Merv, following Ken Mackey¹⁹ was the author and compiler of the authoritative **Pacific Asian Log** that was sold internationally and was finally produced in Invercargill. The 1961 edition contained a listing of 1275 broadcast and shortwave stations. It sold for three shillings and six pence or 50 cents in the United States. The publishers address was that of his shop 105 Tay Street Invercargill and he were aided in the stencilling work by Des R Frampton while Laurie Boyer wound the handle of the Gestetner. The 1963 edition sold for five shillings and listed 1420 stations on 54 pages of tightly printed foolscap.²⁰ Merv was very much the shoe horn that aided people to understand the hobby.²¹

17 *The NZ DX TRA* July & August issues 1943.

18 Arthur Cushen *NZ DX Times*. October 1997. Notes from his Valedictory comments. P.7.

19 Ken Mackey a Life Member of the League was the author and compiler of the log during the mid 1950s.

20 Copies are retained in the Eric McIntosh collection. It is from these examples the description is noted.

21 The *Lamphouse Annuals* from 1942 until 1948 were provided with Short-wave and Broadcast call signs and frequency details by Arthur Cushen and Merv Branks wrote about the skills required to follow the hobby. These annual articles are witness to the dedication and passion with which both of these men had towards their hobby and the desire to share it with others.

Serving the Community

Radio DXers again came to public attention during the 1949 South African All Black Rugby tour when they reported scores and proceedings directly to their local press and radio. The normal Press Association was dependant upon much more sophisticated communications, but these were subject to the vicissitudes of electronic limitations on shortwave of the period.²² The Korean War began in June 1950 and with the previous experience of WW2 Arthur Cushen re-established a listening watch for POW names. The League, International Red Cross, Hong Kong BBC monitors and other dedicated listeners together provided and collated for the United Nations over 2000 names of prisoners in Chinese hands.²³ During the 1951 wharf strike of 151 days a number of DXers reported Communist radio propaganda to local papers and New Zealand Police's Intelligence section.

Membership of the League was likely at its post war peak by the end of 1972 with just 300 members which carried the claim to be the largest DX Club in the southern hemisphere. The membership in 1975 was 260²⁴. The emerging electronic and technical development of increasingly sophisticated receiving equipment demanded more knowledge of aerials and receivers of the DXer. Looking at the anecdotal evidence of the League's records between 1965 and 1980 a sociologist might conclude this was not a good decade for recruiting people into the hobby and it became noticeably more difficult to do so. DXing ceased to be included in the activity of some secondary schools that had a period of hobby activity, and youth were not actively interested in what seemed to them to be a sedentary hobby. The Conventions held in various parts of New Zealand over the following decades were times of reunion among old friends but the complexity of modern living, the rise of TV and the increasing use of personal electronic devices, mobility, life style changes and the disappearance of the traditional valve radio as well as the 40 hour week all contributed to challenge the hobby. The record indicates that from Auckland to Southland DXpeditions into locations where reception was more likely to provide good hunting became increasingly important in gaining logging hours for confirmed verifications and where an enthusiastic individual could win a place on the ladder. One example was the Convention of 1968 when 26 members from Auckland to Invercargill assembled at the YMCA Camp at Spencerville. Time was spent erecting aerials and listening positions and the logging hauls and fellowship was memorable. The most ambitious of these listening locations was the Southland Branch's establishment of their permanent post in Tiwai in 1975. At the time they had the numbers and resources to set it up as a listening post. It was publicised throughout the DX world as the home of the Beverage aerial. The 1978 Convention was held at Tiwai and the *Southland DX Digest* for that occasion is a highly collectable item for its mine of information regarding the historic Tiwai site as well as a record of that Convention.²⁵

The Future

During the decade 1980-90 the League has experience a sense of its age, a sense of its historical past and a respect for those who gave a lifetime to their hobby and who contributed to a spirit of friendship and camaraderie amongst all engaged in the hobby. The pioneers are remembered today only by those senior surviving members of the league. This sense of history has resulted in verifications, correspondence and DXing memorabilia being deposited with the Hocken Library in Dunedin. Casualties have occurred and the long surviving **New Zealand DX Radio Association** went into recess at the end of 2006. During the period of its existence at least 3400 Dxers had been members of the Association.²⁶ Certainly, the historiological emphasis is weighted heavily towards the story of DXing in Otago and Southland. The depositing of this historic material is an academic recognition that the hobby first blossomed in the south and for decades created its own particular radio culture. It was a culture working the frequencies, working the listening posts, and sharing the excitement with your friends. Merv Branks defined the ideal DXer as 'one who is prepared to get out of bed at any time of the night and log the difficult ones.' The mid sixties was also a time when the necessity to log fifty stations a year was essential in retaining ones membership. This was a condition of membership that on rare occasions got significant results. Since that time the sense of history has moved to the internet where rare and early verifications have become collectable and worth dollars unimagined in total of sixty years ago.

The contribution by the elect and proficient masters of the hobby, coupled with those few professional DXers who contribute still to DX journalism, including the internet, international shortwave programmes, and regular weekly or fortnightly public broadcasting sessions are less frequent in our present decade. The emphasis seems to have shifted to 'old steam radio' and the era in which DXing was born when steam radio was a means of being connected with the world. There are a handful of New Zealanders who are fortunate enough to experience DXing in a changing contemporary world, and for them it is their dearest hobby with camaraderie among its followers that is both refreshing and rewarding.

22 NZ DX Times May & June 1949. Note also comment on this period in Jack Fox's biography.

23 Frank Glen 'Korea – Radio Propaganda War – A New Zealand Encounter.' In *The Volunteers. The Journal of the NZ Military Historical Society*. November 2003 Vol. 29 No 2. P.5-13. The article covers the work of a member of the League who worked independently monitoring POW material. The article won the Historical Research Award for the year 2003.

24 H. R. V Searle. Membership List. Manuscript Typed. 1975.

25 *Southland's DX Digest*. March 1978 Vol. 41. No 7.

26 Ron Killick. Killick – Glen 22 September 2008.

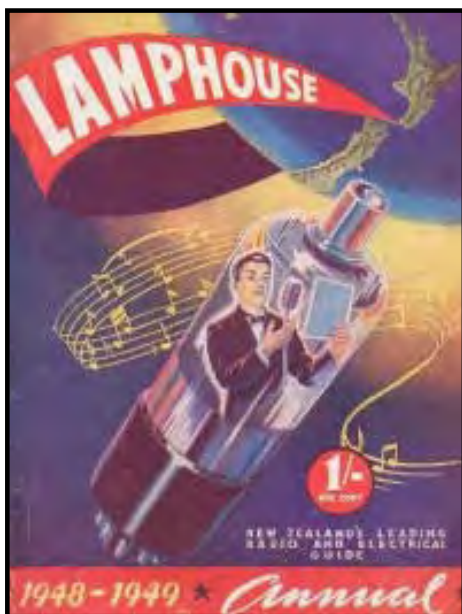
The long history of DX publications is admirably preserved in the first class publication of the present **NZ DX Times**. Those who have undertaken the responsibility for training and caretaking the hobby are too numerous to mention, but they are recorded in the columns of our **TIMES** over the past 60 years of issue and posterity will know of their work. The present membership of the League is just over 200 and branches exist as more informal gatherings of individuals wedded to the passion of radio DXing. Only the future together with that historic passion when coupled with an ability to change and be innovative will the future of the hobby have a place further into this century.

Acknowledgements.

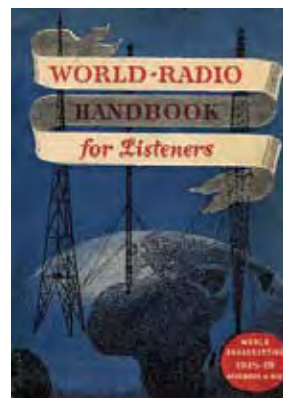
I have appreciated the advice and the work of readers undertaken by Peter and Jill Grenfell, Ray Crawford, Don Reed and Paul Aronsen in providing material for this history. Their years of personal experience in the League was helpful as was their advice on numerous points. The Searle Papers, an accumulation of a life long hobbyist was also invaluable.

The Author

Frank Glen joined the Southland Branch of the NZ Radio DX League aged 16 in 1949. The Branch kicked him out in 1953 for not paying his sub, but six months later reinstated him. He was an electrical apprentice at the time earning 30/- a week. He rejoined on returning from serving in the RAAF in Australia in 1976 at the instigation of Merv Branks and remained a member until 1983 when he shifted to Hastings. From Thames in 1987 he rejoined a third time and has remained a member. Merv Branks, Arthur Cushen, Eric McIntosh, George Griffiths, Dudley Carter and Lloyd Warburton all influenced his teenage years. Peter Grenfell, Charlie Chester, Paul Ormandy, Ray Crawford, and Stu/Mark Forsyth have in more recent years contributed to his appreciation of the hobby. He graduated PhD in 1998 from the University of Waikato his thesis dealing with the Chaplains of the 2NZEF. 1939-45.



Left:
Lamphouse Annual
1948-1949



Right:
World Radio Handbook
for Listeners
1948-1949

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<p>Vol. 1, No. 2. Club Membership 7/6 a year, Overseas 9/-. November 1948.</p>		

The NZ DX Times Vol 1 No 2 November 1948

MY GREAT DX HOBBY

by JACK FOX
(one of the Founding members of the NZRDXL)
(Originally published in the DX Times 2001)

Radio became my life in the 1930s when my parents had a mantle Oxford set, and in 1939 they purchased a Philips 650 6 valve allwave radio. I became hooked on listening to shortwave and medium wave. I joined the New Zealand DX Club and it was not long before I began sending out reports. Then the war came along, but it did not stop DXing - although I was to lose some reports through enemy action when ships were sunk or countries were captured. Even so, the return of veries was about 90 percent; that changed later. As a result of growing interest, I reformed the Otago branch of the NZ DX Club, which was in recess, and we had about 7 members. In those days Arthur Cushen and I would exchange weekly letters and keep informed of our activities.

One day I was asked to go into the radio inspectors office (I worked in the Telegraph Office) where I met 2 men who asked me to set up and organise a system to monitor enemy shortwave broadcasts and report on any mention of New Zealand and New Zealanders. They were members of the Security Intelligence Service. I arranged with Otago members and Arthur in Invercargill to carry out this assignment. It turned out to be an important part of the war effort by Dxers. (See Arthur Cushen's "Secrets of Wartime Listening to Enemy Broadcasts")



The (late) Jack Fox

I was in the Army Divisional Signals and then the RNZAF in the Pacific, and for a short period attached to US Navy flying boat squadron communications. This allowed me to continue monitoring. I obtained a battery-operated Gulbranson 7 tube all-wave set when in the army, which I lugged around various camps. At Riccarton (Christchurch) I had my own hut out in the middle of the racecourse to do the monitoring and DX !

I took up writing to the next-of-kin of NZ Prisoners of War in Germany after hearing someone I knew, and on leave I proposed a monitoring system to our branch. At the same time Arthur Cushen was doing similar work and thus evolved the well-known and successful Prisoner of War Monitoring Service that Arthur controlled, passing on messages to families. An estimated 6000 messages were received. This service also ran during the Korean War.

Up the Pacific Islands, I was in Air Force Signals and was able to use radios such as the RCA AR88s and made a number of loggings. My letters back to DXers in NZ telling what I was logging were censored by officers who did not understand what the callsigns meant so my friends would get a Dear..... 73 Jack type. I found medium wave DX to the United States very good, especially from Fiji

After the war, interest in DXing grew and the Otago branch of the NZ Radio DX League became a strong one with more than 20 members meeting monthly in a city hall. It played a strong role in the community such as getting sport results and news to daily newspapers and radio stations well ahead of the news services - most notable being the All Blacks tour of South Africa in 1949, and this is a story on its own in which Arthur Cushen played a part by making arrangements with the Radio Club of Mozambique to broadcast results ahead of the cable services. But it was the first test in which Otago created the biggest upheaval. Knowing the difficulties of getting signals from South Africa, due to the path through the South Magnetic Pole and that the South African Broadcasting Corporation had no shortwave transmitters, the League offered its assistance. The New Zealand Broadcasting Service declined the offer as it had its own receiving station at Makara. Nevertheless DXers monitored the official tests, which were to prove beneficial. On the day of the first test Ken Mackey was approached by 4ZB to set up a station at his Long Beach crib as the staffers did not have confidence in their own Wellington monitoring operation!

A primitive wire recorder was installed and with most of New Zealand listening, the first half came in strong through Makara, but for the second half Wellington played music while the southerners were receiving perfect copy. Excitement was high at the Mackay crib as the music continued to be heard from NZBS. The recording was raced back to Dunedin and Wellington ordered 4YA on the air so it could be played and be rerecorded for broadcast later in the morning. An uproar blew up over this, after the media "learnt" that the NZBS had turned down the DXers' offer, ending up with the NZBS Director General going to Dunedin and arranging for the relay of future rugby games through the assistance of the DXers. New Eddystone sets were flown down and as there was only one telephone line to Long Beach, it was extended to Ken Mackey's location and the Port Chalmers Telephone Exchange kept open all night to relay the broadcast so it could be fed into the NZBS network. It is interesting to note that Ken's 1936 Patterson radio performed better than the Eddystone communications receivers.

When the first post-war test cricket match took place in Australia between the MCC and Australia, Radio Australia introduced ball-by-ball broadcasts. This was something new and one of New Zealand's leading radio shops (Columbus Radio Centre) and Otago DXers combined in a big operation. A large scoreboard was set up in their Dunedin shop and we would feed in results. When conditions were suitable we would set up a listening post in the shop window which created such interest that the crowd packed out onto the street, such that a traffic officer had to control people so trams could get past. Olympics and other events followed and we DXers were regularly headlines in the papers. "New Zealand Dxers Calling" was broadcast weekly over 4XD, and the branch was also involved in producing the first radio callbook for some years which went on sale throughout the country and overseas.

DX FRIENDSHIPS

South Island DXers had strong friendships and became concerned about the national headquarters of the NZ DX Club in Auckland. A meeting between the southerners led to an ultimatum being given that, unless the hobby returned to its proper function, a new DX organisation would be formed. Thus we have the New Zealand Radio DX League, which was born in 1948. Leading up to the formation, Otago and Southland DXers planned for the basis of the new organisation, with the southern branch responsible for the monthly 'New Zealand DX Times' and Dunedin the administration. Today we have an organisation that has become one of the most recognised DX groups in the world.

In the late forties and fifties Otago DXers turned their attention to Long Beach where Ken Mackey had a holiday home and George Beardsmore established one. Along with Murray Lamont's location at the Spit near the entrance to Otago Harbour, Long Beach proved to be one of the country's best DX locations. Beverage aerials were erected on manuka stakes 10 or so feet above the sandhills to the beach at lengths of 1000 feet and more. These highly directional antennas would bring in low power Americans on medium wave with no trouble. Monday nights would see DXers travel some 20 miles over a rough road from Dunedin and spend a few hours chasing 100 and 250 watt American stations undertaking frequency checks with the FCC. The 50,000 watters would be "ignored" as 250 and 1000 watters were the catches sought. European and Asian stations were also excellent DX areas in the early mornings.

OUR FIRST CONVENTION

Otago launched the first DX Convention of the DX League in 1955 at Long Beach. This was attended by a large number of DXers, and a year later 23 attended at Riverton Rocks for the "Antarctic Touch". Many other conventions have followed throughout New Zealand and they even attract people from overseas.

Now, many years later, I have not lost my enthusiasm for radio and still enjoy my time listening to stations around the world but no longer send reports. In 1993 I gained my amateur license and spend time on air DXing. If I was asked, have things changed? Oh yes they have, let's look at shortwave. In the thirties the stations were more entertaining with music but the war brought along propaganda and, in the Cold War period, widespread jamming. Thankfully, most of this has now gone. In those days when you heard a station you knew it was located in its own country, not like today. Added to this, a station was identified by its callsign. Each country had its own prefix and every frequency had its own call.

What was my favourite station over the years? I would have to say Radio Australia in its heyday. The BBC and Radio Netherlands have also been high in my stakes. There have been others, perhaps it is strange but monitoring Berlin during the war led me to become a fan of German music and I now have a large collection.

What has the hobby done for me? Besides giving me a terrific amount of enjoyment it broadened my knowledge of so many countries. But it did much more, like giving me experience in developing organisational skills for future years. It was radio that changed my life when I took up journalism and founded a prize-winning newspaper. It all began through writing DX and radio notes in newspapers.

Yes, DX through radio, has been a great hobby for me - one that I have never had a regret of being associated with, through the many people I have met and known. It has been, and still is, a great hobby. I hope to be able to continue for many more years.

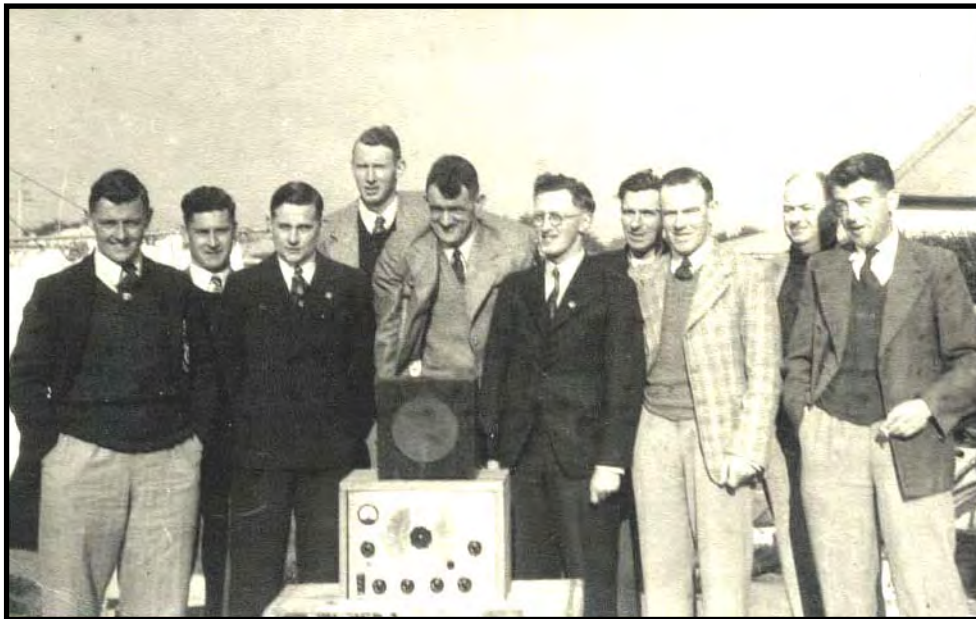


Photo taken in 1954 of DXers who ran the DX League in its early days. From left: Ross Gibson, Evan Tombs, Frank W Wilson, Jack Fox, Des Lynn, Arthur Cushen, Alex Allan, Ken Mackey, Merv Branks and Bill Milne.

Radio New Zealand International: The Voice of New Zealand, Broadcasting to the Pacific

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In 1948 the New Zealand government launched Radio New Zealand, the shortwave division of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service. Initially, the intention was to use the service to build goodwill with audiences in the Pacific region and overseas. However, over the years the New Zealand government has shown anything but goodwill to the service. Frequent funding cuts and general lack of support rendered the service all but obsolete by the 1980s. It took a military coup on the island of Fiji in 1987 for the New Zealand government to realize it had no strong broadcasting voice in the region. The coup became the catalyst for the rebirth of New Zealand's shortwave service, now renamed Radio New Zealand International. This article examines the history of Radio New Zealand International, as well as the role it has played, and currently plays, in the Pacific region.

David Colker (1998), a journalist for The Los Angeles Times, reflects, "When I was growing up in a mountain town in Pennsylvania, shortwave radio seemed an exotic gateway to faraway locales. This was in an era before satellite when almost everything I knew of places such as London, Moscow, Berlin, Peking and Quito came from books, photographs, film clips and recorded news reports" (p. 1). Colker was amazed that someone halfway around the world was speaking to him in the United States. He felt "a part of a much larger world" (p. 1). If Colker had listened in 1948, he might have heard the sound of a birdcall as he searched the dial for a station. The birdcall, repeated four times, was followed by the voice of a distinguished-sounding gentleman saying:

September 1948, this is Radio New Zealand, the shortwave division of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service transmitting in the 25 and 19 meter bands from ZL3 on 11.78 megacycles and ZL4 on 15.28 megacycles. The time in New Zealand is just one minute past seven on the evening of Monday, the 27th of September, the day on which we celebrate New Zealand's Dominion Day. You're listening to the official opening program of Radio New Zealand from our studios in Wellington, the capital city. (Mailbox, 1998)

Then he would have heard a choir singing New Zealand's national anthem. New Zealand's Prime Minister, Peter Fraser, had launched the shortwave service. From that time, and in varying degrees, Radio New Zealand and later Radio New Zealand International have been integral parts of the economic, political, and geographic relationship between New Zealand and the people of the South Pacific.

The First 50 Years, 1948–1998

When World War II broke out, New Zealand began seriously to consider the need for an international broadcasting service to let the world know how New Zealand stood ideologically and to provide some contact between New Zealanders living or serving abroad and the rest of their country. Another determining factor was the issue of regional dominance. The major international broadcasters such as the BBC, Voice of America, and Radio Australia had strong signals in the region. Failure to establish a shortwave service might have been seen as handing the Pacific region over to Australia. New Zealand was already playing catch-up with Australia, which had begun broadcasting in 1939 (Hodge,

1995). Furthermore, New Zealand had strong ties with many Pacific islands, and this service would be a way of strengthening those ties. The desire to fortify relations with the islands and to avoid abdicating its role to other countries led to some experimental broadcasts.

Trial broadcasts for a new shortwave service began in November 1947. Following the transmissions, the New Zealand Broadcasting Service received around 1,500 letters from people who heard the station. The majority of the letters were from listeners in Australia, with many commenting on how the station came in just like a local station. Other letters came from listeners in Asia, the Americas, various parts of Europe, and

even some sailors at sea ("Radio New Zealand Signs On," 1948).

The success of the trial run led to the development, in 1948, of New Zealand's shortwave service. The external services division of Radio New Zealand began broadcasting that year to the Pacific Islands, Australia, and Antarctica, using two former U.S. Army transmitters. Each transmitter had a power of 7.5 kilowatts, making it a weak service, especially compared to Radio Australia and the ever-strong BBC World Service. Though weak, the shortwave service did establish an international broadcasting presence in the Pacific region for New Zealand.

Radio New Zealand's initial broadcasts were heard every day from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Programs included "Pacific Playground," a tourism show produced in conjunction with the Government Tourist Department, which praised New Zealand's appeal as a tourist destination. The show also provided listeners with information about air and shipping services. There was a weekly "Mailbox" session in which listener queries about New Zealand were answered. Other specialist programs featured Maori music and folklore, New Zealand musicians, dramas, farming topics, sporting results, and a program examining how New Zealanders "occupy their leisure with arts, hobbies, and sports" ("Radio New Zealand Signs On," 1948, p. 3). The emphasis on Maori culture was particularly important according to an article in the *New Zealand Listener*, a magazine about broadcasting in New Zealand:

Overseas visitors find the music of the Maori people, with its strong melodic line and well-defined rhythm, interesting and pleasant to listen to. Some of the Maori mythology, too, is good radio material, and so, at times, Maori songs and stories will be broadcast from the studios. ("Radio New Zealand Signs On," 1948, p. 2)

All of these programs suggest that initially New Zealand's shortwave service had functioned as a kind of ambassador, designed to build goodwill and educate people about New Zealand. Rather than producing programs that might benefit its audience, the service seemed to provide programs that would benefit New Zealand financially through increased tourism or even immigration. As was noted at the time, "For a long time New Zealand has received shortwave services from other countries; now it will be able to offer reciprocal services" ("Radio New Zealand Signs On," 1948, p. 3).

Within 10 years, the station was relaying national broadcasts from the terrestrial service from 5:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. In the evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., programming was broadcast that was tailored for the Pacific islands. At 9:00 p.m., the service repeated earlier programming for the benefit of Australian listeners (B. D. Clark, 1985). Unlike the larger shortwave services broadcasting in many different languages all over the world, New Zealand's broadcasts were confined to a limited area and a limited audience. Listeners in Australia and New

Zealanders involved in research in the Antarctic could speak English, but many in the Pacific Islands spoke only their native tongues.

By 1968, New Zealand realized that, for such a service to be effective, programming must address the needs of the audience, so there must be some programming in the languages of the main islands to which the broadcasts were directed. This realization led to the addition of a 15-minute weekly program for New Zealanders in the Antarctic and "once weekly broadcasts in Samoan, Niuean and Cook Islands Maori"

(B. D. Clark, 1985, p. 2). For those in the Antarctic, such broadcasts served the same purpose as the BBC's broadcasts to its expatriates: a means whereby they felt connected to their home country, even if the program was only broadcast once a week.

The main problem with RNZI broadcasts was their low power. In 1973, a Committee on Broadcasting recommended revamping the programming and transmitting power:

An overseas service would do much to promote a closer relationship between the South Pacific and New Zealand, closely matching and lending conviction to our other activities in the area. Neighboring countries (including Australia) could be better informed of day-to-day policy developments within New Zealand, particularly at times of rapid change. (B. D. Clark, 1985, p. 2)

Shortwave hobbyist Bryan D. Clark noted:

The Committee concluded that this latter point was especially valid in terms of the South Pacific, where an adequate newspaper service had not been developed, and where broadcasting had been able to identify itself closely with the heart and soul of Pacific life. (p. 2)

The committee's recommendations lay dormant, however, and no action was taken to upgrade the service. The government failed to recognize the need for a service that would strengthen New Zealand's ties with the Pacific.

RNZI Shut Down and Restarted

Early in 1976, almost 30 years after the service went on the air, the government shut New Zealand's shortwave service down. The decision was purely economic: Closing the service trimmed NZ \$300,000 from the Foreign Affairs budget. This decision was met with protests from people throughout New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Australia, and the rest of the world (B. D. Clark, 1985). An editorial on May 3, 1976, in the *Otago Daily Times*, a paper serving part of New Zealand's South Island, said the closure was a bad decision. The paper commended the service for the goodwill it provided, as well as the link it established with the Pacific Islands community. The editorial noted that sending the local radio stations a New Zealand news bulletin by telegraph would not be

the same ("Switched Off," 1976).

This kind of pressure forced the government to reconsider its position. On June 1, 1976, the Minister of Broadcasting, Hugh Templeton, issued a press release that said: "The Government had agreed to Radio New Zealand's proposal to reactivate its external service transmitters" (External Services of Radio New Zealand," 1976, p.1). The release said there had been much feedback from the Pacific region and that the service would restart "with re-broadcasts of the National Program including the broadcast of the rugby test with Ireland. Broadcasting of this kind would be of considerable interest to shortwave listeners in Tonga, Fiji, and Western Samoa" (p. 1). The Minister of Broadcasting also announced that funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs given to the station would "provide a New Zealand broadcast service of considerable interest to the Pacific Islands and of particular use so far as news and current events were concerned to the Island communities with which New Zealand had special relations" (External Services of Radio New Zealand," 1976, p.1). Among the programs carried by the service was news in Samoan and Cook Islands Maori.

From 1977 to 1982, the shortwave service continued to receive an annual grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, but in 1982, cuts in the government's budget again forced drastic changes to the external service of Radio New Zealand. The shortwave service was still operational, using the original two transmitters, but it was reduced to relaying programs from the national terrestrial Radio New Zealand network. This type of programming served the interests of New Zealanders living in the Pacific islands or in Australia, but it hardly met the needs of the native inhabitants of the many far-flung Pacific islands. Very few Pacific broadcasters carried the programs offered via the shortwave service, and the current General Manager of Radio New Zealand International, Linden Clark, observed that New Zealand effectively had no shortwave service (L. Clark, personal communication, March 11, 1998).

Bryan D. Clark (1985), in a submission to a Royal Commission examining the future of RNZI, wrote that, with the exception of Uruguay, "Radio New Zealand's 7.5 kilowatt transmitters have the dubious honor of being the lowest rated output used by any country for an external broadcasting operation" (p. 3). He also observed that New Zealand was losing listeners because it could not compete with other stations that operated on higher power. When it came to fighting with other shortwave stations for the same frequency, Radio New Zealand's service would lose every time. Clark said:

There was a time when news and other programming from New Zealand was relayed throughout the Pacific. This important link with our neighbors is now almost non-existent. In most cases, broadcasting organizations now use Radio Australia for this purpose. (p. 3)

One of the reasons for the lack of support for the

station was a feeling that the station's broadcasts were not portraying New Zealand as favorably as the government hoped. The Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1982, Warren Cooper, said that few reports coming back from the islands showed that RNZI programs were putting New Zealand in the best possible light (Gasson, 1982). In response, the Christchurch Star asserted that, in effect, Cooper was saying that New Zealand should be portrayed as the government wanted, not as it really was (Gasson, 1982).

RNZI Renewed

In 1987 the strange legacy of Radio New Zealand's external service took yet another twist when a military coup was mounted on the Pacific island of Fiji. Native Fijians, upset because Fijians of Indian descent occupied almost all positions of power in that country, led the coup. The coup ensured that ethnic Fijians would not only regain power but, as a result of a subsequent constitutional amendment, remain in power (Ogden & Hailey, 1988).

During the coup, perhaps the most widely publicized attempt at censorship by a South Pacific government was enacted. At that time, the only reports coming out of the island were censored by the new regime, or else were smuggled out by foreign correspondents still in the country. Indeed, even inhabitants of Fiji were often unaware of events taking place within their own country.¹ During the 1987 coup, the coup leaders forbade the retransmission of Radio Australia after reports criticizing the coup were broadcast over that service.² Shortwave radios became popular and shops sold out of the receivers. The army even resorted to confiscating shortwave radios in an attempt to restrict access to overseas news reports (Ogden & Hailey, 1988).

Ironically, Radio Australia had its highest ratings in the region during the coup (Hodge, 1995).

Radio was used for several different purposes by different entities during the coup. Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka, the coup leader, used radio to promote the need for military intervention in Fiji's political affairs. The governments of New Zealand, Australia, and other Western countries used radio to undermine the efforts of the coup. The leaders of the coup attempted to prevent newspapers from printing anything that would provoke unrest. A Ministry of Information representative had to visit each newspaper to check the pages before publication, and newspapers were instructed not to publish blank spaces on pages indicating that stories in those spaces were censored. The coup leaders also restricted reports by local radio stations (Associated Press, 1987). At the time there was no television station in Fiji.

A correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation was detained and deported, accused of "reporting lies" on Australia's shortwave service, Radio Australia. Trevor Watson of Radio Australia said that because "the station had no jamming equipment the army considered confiscating every shortwave radio in the country" (Associated Press,

1987, p. 2). The leaders of the coup recognized the power of shortwave to give the island residents a view of the outside world.

An unintended consequence of the coup was the reestablishment of an international broadcasting service from New Zealand. Interest in the coup and its obvious ramifications for the Pacific region meant that the New Zealand government and its people kept a close watch on proceedings. There was also concern that only the Australian version of events in Fiji was being heard because Australia had a far-reaching shortwave service, whereas New Zealand had practically nothing. A call for a credible shortwave service for New Zealand was renewed.

The Otago Daily Times wrote that the crisis in Fiji highlighted yet another failure on the part of the New Zealand government to provide a strong voice on South Pacific affairs. Radio New Zealand's shortwave transmitters were antiquated, incapable of broadcasting New Zealand's view of the coup to the citizens of Fiji ("Steam Radio," 1987). The paper also said that, by 1987, New Zealand had the lowest powered international broadcast station in the world. Even Bangladesh and Nigeria, two very poor countries, were better off. Bangladesh had two 50-kilowatt transmitters for international broadcasting, and Nigeria had 8, ranging up to 500 kilowatts ("Steam Radio," 1987). The Otago Daily Times went on to quote from the annual report of the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand, which said there was no substitute for the services that Radio New Zealand could provide via shortwave. Although an ideological battle was being waged in the region, the New Zealand government had given no clear indication of policy and had failed to provide a financial commitment to upgrade the station ("Steam Radio," 1987).

Several months after the 1987 coup, another New Zealand paper, the Southland Times, reported that the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fran Wilde, had toured some Pacific islands and was disappointed that New Zealand shortwave had minimal impact in the Pacific. The paper reported that it was hardly surprising, as there was much competition among international broadcasters in the Pacific with Russia, the United States, Australia, China, and Japan all operating high-powered transmitters. The United States and the BBC also used satellite to broadcast to the Pacific ("Pacific Radio," 1987).

Despite the seemingly urgent situation, the New Zealand government took its time in making an improved service operational. Current Radio New Zealand International manager, Linden Clark, noted:

In August 1988, the government decided to upgrade New Zealand's shortwave service because of the country's long-standing interests and responsibilities in the Pacific region, the growing importance of the Pacific Rim, and because New Zealand now had a greater regional focus, and therefore a New Zealand voice in the Pacific was seen as essential. Shortwave was seen as an inexpensive way to do it. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was to fund it, and all editorial control would rest with Radio New

Zealand. (L. Clark, personal communication, 1998)

By May 26, 1989, the Evening Post, a paper in Wellington, New Zealand, reported that the old transmitters were to be replaced by a new 100-kilowatt transmitter. It would cost NZ \$3.2 million (approximately U.S. \$1.6 million in 1999) to setup and NZ \$1 million (approximately U.S. \$520,000 in 1999) a year to run. The paper said that, even though New Zealand was a major player in the Pacific community, island governments were questioning the New Zealand government's level of commitment to the region ("The Airwaves' Subtle Signal," 1989). The new service would deliver an important message: It not only reminded the Pacific nations that New Zealand was willing to accept responsibility in the region but it also gave New Zealand a chance to heighten its profile and reinforce its influence in the area ("The Airwaves' Subtle Signal," 1989).

In 1990, the service was renamed Radio New Zealand International, and it officially became the new international broadcast station of New Zealand. Optimism about the station's role ran high. The general manager at that time, Ian Johnston, said the station would be able to meet a variety of needs and perform different functions ("Calling the Islands: Radio NZ on the Air," 1990). Linden Clark noted: "This allows New Zealand's views to be expressed without interpretation by another nation or its media" (L. Clark, personal communication, 1998). Clark said the initial cost of setting up the service was NZ \$2.6 million. Funding declined in the ensuing years, with the service receiving NZ \$2.1 million in 1993–1994 (about U.S. \$1 million), and NZ \$1.8 million in 1994–1995 (about U.S. \$900,000). Linden Clark noted:

RNZI was expected to achieve a strong regional voice in the South Pacific with minimum resources and maximum coverage. Its impact is extended through agreements with Pacific radio stations to relay Radio New Zealand International programs and news. (L. Clark, personal communication, 1998)

Apparently, after years of turmoil, New Zealand finally had an international broadcasting service that could effectively provide much-needed services to people in the Pacific Islands. The station used its 100-kilowatt transmitter to broadcast programming mainly in English but also in 10 Pacific languages (Radio New Zealand International Web Page, 2000).

On Again ... Off Again

Despite the new transmitter and programming, by 1997 RNZI was once more in jeopardy following recommendations by the New Zealand treasury that the service be cut. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Treasury completed a review of Radio New Zealand International in December 1997. Taito Phillip Clark, then opposition Member of Parliament for Pacific Affairs, leaked information suggesting that the recommendation would be to close the service (Guyon, 1998). In an interview for the program Media Network on Radio Netherlands, RNZI manager Linden Clark said more capital investment was needed for

the service. She said this lack of capital may have contributed to the findings. RNZI needed a second shortwave transmitter, she said, because of the large area the service was trying to cover. Clark said: "Two transmitters would give [RNZI] the flexibility to broadcast on two different frequencies at the same time" (Radio Netherlands, 1998). In other words, the service could reach French Polynesia and the Cook Islands on one frequency, and Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu at the same time on another frequency. Clark also maintained that RNZI needed the capacity to reach relaying Pacific stations by satellite.

Taito Phillip Field believed that, if RNZI were silenced, Pacific Island communities in New Zealand would feel deceived. He said that, in 1994, when Pacific Island language programs were removed, there was a promise RNZI would not only be maintained but also boosted. Field said: "This current proposal flatly breaches that pledge" (Black, 1998, p. 2). A ray of hope emerged from the then-leader of an opposition party, Richard Prebble, who said: "It's not actually a Treasury decision. Radio New Zealand International is funded by Foreign Affairs and I think ... Foreign Affairs ... get[s] very good value for money from Radio New Zealand International" (Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Online, 1998, p. 1). Then opposition Labor Foreign Affairs spokesman Mike Moore said that, if RNZI pulled out of the region, it would leave a vacuum: "Who fills that vacuum? Maybe it's Australia, maybe it's America, who knows? ... To withdraw would be extremely dumb" ("Opposition Spokesman," 1998).

When the government threatened to close the station in 1998, feedback from all over the world indicated not only that the station was popular but also why its services were appreciated. The Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, an organization based in London, monitors and assists in the development of broadcasting in Commonwealth countries. In response to the imminent closure of RNZI, Elizabeth Smith, then Secretary-General for the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, wrote a letter to the New Zealand government containing some audience analysis. She stated:

No other international broadcaster focuses on the Pacific in the way RNZI does. A survey on the main island in Fiji in 1992 found RNZI with a 4 percent weekly audience among all adults (15+) while in the Solomon Islands in 1993, RNZI had a weekly audience of 9 percent. (Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Press Release, 1998)

Smith noted that "these are significant audiences for shortwave broadcasting" and she anticipated equal or higher numbers for those islands with an even stronger connection to New Zealand (Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Press Release, 1998).

Individuals also provided anecdotes of the value of Radio New Zealand International. Tom Newenham founded a group called Save Radio New Zealand International, which was fighting the proposed closure of the station in 1998. His brother, who lived

in Rarotonga, heard cyclone warnings via RNZI and phoned his daughter in Manihiki (in the Cook Islands) just before the cyclone struck. Newenham said: "At that time they had no other warning" (T. Newenham, personal communication, 1998). Once more the government acquiesced, due both to intense lobbying efforts and to continued instability in several Pacific Island nations, including Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

RNZI, 2000–

By 2002, RNZI was broadcasting via shortwave for 105 hours per week, with 28 of those hours offering original news and programs provided by RNZI (Radio New Zealand Limited Financial Report, 2002). The rest of the broadcasts were relayed from Radio New Zealand's National Radio, the national public service terrestrial station. The quality of RNZI-originated broadcasts was measured by the degree to which the broadcasts were used by Pacific radio stations. In 2002, 11 Pacific radio stations were relaying RNZI news bulletins, and "at least 80% of RNZI news bulletins at the top of the hour are relayed by one or more Pacific radio stations" (Radio New Zealand Limited Financial Report, 2002, p. 37). RNZI had 11 full-time positions filled by both full and part-time staff.

Although under the auspices of Radio New Zealand, RNZI was not funded by Radio New Zealand. Up until January 2002, funding came from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Then responsibility for funding the station was switched to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, which provided RNZI with a budget of NZ \$1.5 million (Radio New Zealand Limited Financial Report, 2002, p. 38). Barry Corban, Chairman of Radio New Zealand, wrote in the Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report (2002) that he believes it would be more beneficial for Radio New Zealand to fund RNZI directly, in much the same way that Radio Australia is under the umbrella of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, which also funds it. Corban said: "[RNZI] operates under our organization, its people are our people and it is a key contributor to our programs and to the proper discharge of our responsibilities" (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2002, p. 8).

In 2003, RNZI suffered another setback when its shortwave transmitter was off the air for a total of 47 days in September and October due to a series of equipment malfunctions. RNZI was able to overcome this challenge in part by leasing shortwave air-time from Radio Australia to broadcast RNZI morning programs. The outage meant that Pacific Island radio stations were temporarily unable to relay RNZI programs, and even after the service leased time from Radio Australia, it was not able to relay afternoon or evening programs (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2004).

The problems caused by the loss of the transmitter proved to be a blessing in disguise as they highlighted the outdated equipment with which the service was working and led to renewed commitment to the service from the New Zealand government.

In September 2004, the New Zealand government funded the purchase of a new NZ \$2.64 million digital transmitter to replace the existing analog transmitter. The new 100-kilowatt shortwave transmitter should be operational in 2006. Radio New Zealand International also received an additional NZ \$421,000 annually to meet increased costs in operating the new equipment ("Funding Boost," 2004). Radio New Zealand's chief executive, Peter Cavanagh, said:

The new transmitter will secure the long term future of what has become a vitally important service to the people of the Pacific region. This very welcome funding recognizes the significant part played by radio New Zealand International in increasing understanding and awareness of New Zealand's role in the Pacific. ("Funding Boost," 2004, p. 1)

RNZI manager Linden Clark said

that the funding means that our Radio New Zealand International programming can be delivered to the Pacific via a high-quality signal. ... It'll sound like FM. We've known for a long time that our Pacific content is the best there is—and now we'll know that our delivery system can match it. This is a great vote of confidence; it not only protects, but also strengthens the voice of New Zealand in the world's most widespread region, a region where New Zealand really does make a difference. ("Funding Boost," 2004, p. 1)

The station is now on-air 24 hours a day and continues to originate its own programming, particularly morning programming. It also rebroadcasts programming from Radio New Zealand's national station. The station broadcasts mainly in English, but carries news in seven Pacific languages.

Like many international broadcast services, RNZI's programming cannot always be called conventional. That is, it would not work on a typical FM station in many countries of the world. RNZI has always placed, and continues to place, great emphasis on weather-related programming, particularly during the cyclone season. There is a Cyclone Watch schedule where RNZI broadcasts information 24 hours a day if necessary. The effectiveness of this programming cannot be measured, but it may be among RNZI's most important functions. It illustrates what is unique about a service like RNZI and why broadcasters and listeners throughout the Pacific region have fought back when the government has downsized or threatened to close RNZI. The station aided many Pacific nations when Cyclones Heta and Ivy hit the South Pacific early in 2004 by delivering hourly updates on the storms (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2004). The general manager of the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, Johnson Honimae, noted that RNZI's ability to carry cyclone warnings around the clock is important to his country because his broadcasting corporation

lacks the resources to provide such coverage. RNZI provides other programming to the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, and Honimae says quality programming from RNZI such as news, sports, and current affairs, is another source of information for his listeners that enables them to "make decisions that improve their daily lives" ("Solomon Islands," 2004, p. 1).

RNZI is also assisting Pacific radio stations in other practical ways, such as training current and future broadcasters. Broadcasting researcher and author Robert Seward (1999) noted that the budgets for many local Pacific Island stations are precarious: "In many cases overseas development assistance has had to provide the facilities and a lot of the personnel training too" (pp. 25–26). RNZI held a skills workshop in Vanuatu for Pacific women broadcasters and provided training in election broadcasting for the Fijian Broadcasting Commission (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2002,

p. 12). An example of the way a local Pacific island station has used RNZI in the past is found in the island chain of Kiribati. Radio Kiribati broadcasts at a low power, and the signal does not reach the entire Kiribati population. Therefore, Radio Kiribati compiles a program of local news, and RNZI rebroadcasts it. The program is aimed at listeners in the Line and Phoenix Islands who would not otherwise receive the information (Radio New Zealand Limited Financial Report, 1999).

RNZI also provides National Radio (the New Zealand national public service broadcaster) with Pacific news bulletins and three Pacific feature packages each week for National Radio's evening program (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2002, p. 12). RNZI staff have traveled to cover events around the Pacific, including the Pacific Forum in Auckland, the French/Pacific Leaders Summit, the Pacific Islands News and Broadcasting Association Conferences, and regional visits from the Trade Minister and Foreign Minister (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2004).

Discussion

Since its inception in 1948, New Zealand's international broadcasting service has enjoyed support from listeners and broadcasters around the Pacific region, but at times only lukewarm support from its own government. The recent change in funding source may in part hold the key to the lack of governmental support for RNZI over the years, and the renewed interest and support in the service. The mandate for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is obviously to promote New Zealand's interests abroad, but one may question whether an international radio station committed to fair and objective reporting provides a suitable vehicle for promoting trade and foreign affairs issues. The programming offered by RNZI certainly promotes New Zealand's culture and heritage, so its new association with the Ministry makes sense.

The New Zealand government has most heavily relied on the station in times of trouble in the Pacific region. The conflict in Indonesia during 2003 highlighted the station's usefulness. The New Zealand military has asked that RNZI broadcast news and current affairs programming for the benefit of the troops who were part of the peacekeeping mission in Bougainville and East Timor. Consequently, RNZI extended its broadcasts by 2 hours and rebroadcast programming for the benefit of the military. When the transmitter failed in 2003, some of the programs were not able to be broadcast, but they were reproduced onto CDs and distributed by the New Zealand Defence Forces. In addition, RNZI's Web site continued with programming, and New Zealand Defence Force programs were available as a live stream and as on-demand audio (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2004).

The two coups in Fiji and violence in the Solomon Islands illustrate the political instability in the region and are further evidence of the need for the type of service that RNZI provides. Often stations in the Pacific region have faced financial problems or censorship due to political crises in the islands. Although shortwave stations have been and are still being used as tools for propaganda, the bulk of the information carried by Radio New Zealand International seems to be news and public affairs. Disseminating information is the most important function that RNZI performs for the New Zealand government. This information may be in the form of news about the region or the world or it may be cyclone warnings.

While providing a service for the people of the South Pacific, the station also provides an important public diplomacy tool for the New Zealand government. Its broadcasts have the capacity to engender goodwill and put the New Zealand government in the best possible light. In a region of the world where media censorship is commonplace, it is important for a station like RNZI to provide a model for countries

that still face government restrictions when it comes to news. It is also important for RNZI to work with independent news organizations in the Pacific. This cooperation not only helps the flow of information in the Pacific but encourages the efforts of local reporters and broadcasters.

Despite the halfhearted commitment and continuous round of budget cuts that plagued the station during its life, it appears that the New Zealand government supports the station at last. In writing about the new transmitter and extra funding, Radio New Zealand Chairman Barry Corban noted: "The Radio New Zealand Board has supported Radio New Zealand International for many years as it struggled to secure its future. It is encouraging to see such a positive outcome for these efforts" (Radio New Zealand Limited Annual Report, 2004, p. 11).

Like many international broadcasters, RNZI's value and utility is not always apparent, but at different times and in different ways the service has been, and continues to be, of great value for individuals and organizations within the Pacific region, as well as for the New Zealand government. Perhaps, after almost 60 years of broadcasting, the station can finally live up to its slogan and truly be "The Voice of New Zealand, Broadcasting to the Pacific."

Notes

¹Fiji is a country comprising 320 islands, with a population of almost 800,000 people and over 60% living in rural areas. Around 30% of the population live in the two major cities, Suva and Lautoka (<http://fiji.gov.fj/core/about.html>).

²Radio Australia was the primary Pacific international broadcaster. The coup in Fiji spurred the rebirth of what would become Radio New Zealand International.

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Old Radio New Zealand International transmitters at Titahi Bay (photo Bryan Clark)



“THIS RADIO AGE”

The Biggest Little Programme in International Broadcasting

This programme, produced and hosted by NZ Radio DX League member CLEVE COSTELLO, was aired on the shortwave service of Radio New Zealand during the 1950s and 1960s. Below we have reproduced the contents of a small (9cm x 10cm) booklet produced in late 1953 to summarise the contents of the past year's programming. “This Radio Age” was aired on Radio New Zealand on the first Tuesday in each month at 0920 GCT. (GCT or Greenwich Civil Time was the term/abbreviation used until the 1950s – what we now know as GMT or UTC. Ed)

INTRODUCING

“THIS RADIO AGE” went on the air from Radio New Zealand, the Shortwave Division of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service on the 15th August 1950. Since then, it has won wide and enthusiastic acclaim for its forthrightness and intelligent reporting of a specialised field, It was first on the air with an acceptable and novel approach to the recording of communications history.

In the period covered by this booklet, it has expanded even more in scope than in its first two years. It has doubled its length, expanded the range of subjects covered, maintained topicality and freshness in the method of presentation. It has found a successful way of presenting controversial and scientific subjects on shortwave.

“THIS RADIO AGE” has given a faithful audience the views of authorities recognised in their fields with no punches pulled. It is receiving regular and increasing support from government and industry sources, both in New Zealand and overseas - which underlines the fact that “THIS RADIO AGE” is doing its job well.

Broadcast over the two 7.5-kilowatt transmitters of Radio New Zealand, ‘THIS RADIO AGE’ is tailored to regional requirements.

And the region is the whole South Pacific!

DECEMBER (1952) . . .

Mr Steve Henderson, one of the NZBS technicians who is today responsible for relays from the House of Representatives, told “Age” listeners about the technical problems which had to be solved.

“In 1936, Parliamentary broadcasting had not been done anywhere else”, he said. “However, at first, relays of only certain debates were carried out and the technician simply went along with four microphones on the basis of an ordinary outside broadcast.” The monitoring technician had to sit in the House with earphones, which situation continued when full scale broadcasting with a greater number of suspended microphones came into operation later. From 1950, 19 microphones have been in use, monitoring being

done from a control booth built into one side of the Chamber. The monitor is equipped with a microphone for periodic identification of the speakers and there are separate units for the Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

“Unfortunately for us”, Mr Henderson added, “the House was never designed as a studio. The 19 microphones are necessary to keep the distance of any speaker from the ‘mike’ to the minimum possible, thus keeping background noise down. The visiting public had frequently been surprised to find the House was quieter than the broadcasts suggested but today we can claim to have achieved a good reflection of the actual conditions inside the Chamber.”

New German shortwave service opened.
Schedules: New Zealand, Indonesia, Finland

JANUARY . . .

Seventeen miles north of Wellington is the Titahi Bay transmitting installation of the NZBS, which includes the two 60-kilowatt stations 2YA and 2YC, the 10-kilowatt 2ZB, a 5kw standby for 2YA and the two 7.5-kilowatt shortwave transmitters. These are self-contained except for two air blowers situated in the basement.

Mr Arnold Ryland, the engineer in charge, explained how the transmitters are put on the air, from the closing of the circuit breaker through to the application of high tension. “This must be done in careful stages,” he said, “to prevent fracture of the glass envelopes through sudden changes in the temperature gradient within the valves.” The transmitters have ten tuning crystals but regular operating points are marked by coloured dots to facilitate quick adjustment, although each stage must still be “tickled up”. If the programme level drops below 4% modulation for 30 seconds, a warning bell rings and in the event of a transmitter failure, a siren is sounded. The transmitter response is flat from 50 to 8000 cycles per second.

Mr Ryland, who designed the shortwave aerials and installed the transmitters, was very pleased with listeners' reports on the early tests. It was apparent from these that there was too much back-radiation in one direction and this was quickly remedied.

[DX broadcasts go on the air from ORU Brussels](#)

FEBRUARY . . .

That 1953 was going to be a big year for the Post Office was evidenced by the February interview with Mr S Emmett of the Radio Division.

“The biggest single job,” he said, “will of course, be the finishing of Himatangi Radio, which is already well on the way. It is hoped to open this new station before the end of the year.” The station would use 40-kilowatt transmitters for the direct London and New York telephone and telegraph circuits, thus eliminating the necessity of using Sydney as a relay

at times when Australian traffic was low. A 5-kilowatt transmitter would be used on the Australian and San Francisco circuits.

Mr Emmett also pointed out that the Post Office was becoming increasingly busy with the demand for two-way radio channels. "As with most other countries," he added, "the demand is somewhat greater than the supply of channels and the demand is by no means slackening off." In December 1949, 192 vehicles were equipped with VHF radio - now there are over 1300. The Post Office is also using radio to a greater extent in its own operations. VHF stations are now providing service to augment or replace, especially sea cables. Even though the installation of coaxial cables was proceeding, the question of setting up a microwave network was being investigated.

Big building programme underway for India
Ground controlled approach for Ohakea Aerodrome?
2RE Taree (NSW) opening
East Germany nationalises all stations, nominally

MARCH . . .

At Paraparaumu, busiest airport in the country, due largely to its proximity to the capital city, Mr J.W. Redstone, the Communications Officer, described radio aids to air traffic and safety. With New Zealand ranking second in world passenger-per-million-population figures, this broadcast had a special significance.

Mr Redstone said: "With 68 to 70 aircraft movements per day, we must depend to a great extent on radio to pass traffic directives to pilots who may request changes of altitude, approach information and so on." The tower is linked with the national teleprinter network for the passing of notams on drome serviceability and airways bookings.

At the dual tower operating positions, selector keys are used for each of the three frequencies and, as incoming messages are fed through a common speaker, a warning light advises the operator on which frequency a call is being made. He then depresses the appropriate key, presses the microphone button and transmits his instructions. A master key provides for operation on all three channels at once. Emergency equipment is, of course, provided.

The tower also utilises dictaphone belts, locked into the radio system, which record all incoming and outgoing messages for later checking.

VOA contemplating dropping leases of private stations but opens KRCA4/5, KCBR4/5
Schedules: Italy, U.S.S. "Courier"

APRIL . . .

Mr Everett Mitchell, who entered broadcasting in 1923 as a singer - "don't hold that against me" - became one of America's first agricultural broadcasters in 1925 and has piloted the "National Farm and Home Hour" on NBC Radio since its inception 25 years ago. He visited New Zealand in the course of a 74,000-mile tour of the world's agricultural countries and

interrupted a busy schedule to give "Age" listeners a glimpse of the background of the "Voice of Agriculture" as well as up to date Information on NBC Chicago operations.

The "Farm and Home Hour" heard on about 200 NBC affiliates, has an audience of eight million and is the only sponsored programme (Allis-Chalmers Tractors) in which the U.S. Government participates. "I was with WENR when NBC bought it and went along like one of the chairs," Mr Mitchell told us. Today, he conducts a sustaining TV show for good measure, which he hopes will go network eventually. Of the use of TV for farm shows, he said: "You can show on television in 20 seconds what would take 20 minutes to explain on radio. We feel we have a challenge in this new programme to present something acceptable to both rural viewers and the midday city audience." Mr Mitchell interviewed Americans here under the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme, of which he is one of the pioneers and recorded much material, as well as taking many still and movie films.

WDSI New York, new station on VOA schedule
Building plans: Egypt, Goa, Yemen, Mozambique
Schedules: New Zealand, Indonesia, Belgium

MAY . . .

Mr Stan. H. Mayne, on holiday from Fiji, told listeners of amateur radio operation in those islands. Licensee of the 75-watt VR2AS, Mr Mayne is kept busy as base station in the "Mosquito Network", specialising in Morse on 40 metres. However, he operates mostly on 20 and 10 metres, achieving world-wide coverage; he finds the South American circuit one of the best. Contact with Britain is difficult owing to the polar path which signals must follow.

The 80 metre band is not used much in Fiji owing to the heavy tropical static, he told us. "The atmosphere does not spare radio equipment," he said. "The 1952 hurricane ruined much of the gear available, even penetrating good sealed transformers." Most of the amateurs, he added, are situated either at the capital, Suva, or at Nadi Aerodrome, 130 miles away on the other side of the main island.

We asked VR2AS what he thought of listeners' reports. "I always answer them," he said. "I take the view that many of them come from young chaps who are very keen and even if their reports may be of no use by the time they reach the amateur, to ignore them might dishearten a potential radio amateur or experimenter."

KCBR4/5, KRCA4/5 all 100 kilowatts
WDSI replaces WABC on CBS shortwave, New York
ZKV 1460kcs, Wellington, starts Services Morse Lessons
"NZ DXers Calling" ceases on 4XD Dunedin
NZDXRA Conference and elections, Auckland
BBC may have colour TV on air in five years
Schedules: India, Germany, Egypt

JUNE . . . **CANCELLED FOR CORONATION COVERAGE**

JULY . . .

Secretary of the NZ Radio Research Committee, Mr G.J. Burt, gave the July interview on the longitudinal movements of the ionised layers, which his laboratory, in association with the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge, has been studying. He told how three receivers employing loop aerials on the corners of an equilateral triangle feed to a cathode ray display, which is in turn photographed, the fluctuating signal reflected to earth from a laboratory transmitter, radiating vertically. From the pattern of the three tracks, the speed and direction of the ionospheric "wind" may be calculated to the nearest mile per hour.

For international radio, he said, this knowledge may provide more economic working, in that there may be less delay in finding suitable communication circuits. The work, which was commenced at Cambridge in 1946, had reached the stage where the International Scientific Radio Union (URSI) was urging the building of a network of stations.

Coronation Medal awarded to DXer Arthur T. Cushen

NZ Radio Regulations reissued, permitting 460-470mc "citizen stations" for first time

TV on ZL3XT Christchurch brings building activity

BBC-TV Coronation relays to France, Holland, Germany

Radiophotos make headlines in NZ Coronation coverage

Schedules: VOA Salonika, Pakistan, India, Canada

AUGUST . . .

Broadcasting in Holland was the subject of an article read in the August show, per courtesy of the European Broadcasting Union. The history of the progress from a manufacturer's transmissions in 1920 to the building up of the present-day Radio Union (NRU) was traced.

When the German Army marched into Hilversum in 1940, they came equipped with a complete technical outfit ready to resume broadcasting immediately. They invited the four associations to programme the stations but soon suppressed them, whereupon Dutch listeners transferred their attention to "Radio Orange", which had been set up in London. In 1943 the Nazis admitted publicly that the Dutch were not listening to their broadcasts and ordered all receivers to be given up, "an order which received far less obedience than they had hoped for."

Today, the NRU is governed by a Board representing the five broadcasting associations, headed by a Commissioner responsible to the Minister of Education. The associations are each allotted a certain amount of air time and receive a subsidy from licence fees, while the PTT Administration is responsible for technical services.

Details of MSP, British National Physical Laboratory

Standard Frequency Station

Schedules: Holland, Paris/Inter relays, India, Canada, MSF

SEPTEMBER . . .

The story of the growth and organisation of the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps was given in September, when Mr Doug. Gorman (ZL2IY), communications manager and AREC organiser in the NZART, was at the "Age" microphone. The AREC had its beginning in the disastrous 1931 Napier earthquake, when a Mr Tyler maintained contact with Mr C. Liddell of Wellington, until normal communications, which had been totally disrupted, were resumed. New Zealand radio was then in its infancy so that today, when the Government has a nationwide emergency network, the AREC's functions have been confined to local disasters, floods, air mishaps, etc. The Wellington section seems to specialise in searching for missing trampers. The equipment used is dependent on the funds available but the Government has assisted and each section is equipped with two standard types of transceivers. Walkie-talkie units have not been found satisfactory owing to the high signal absorption of damp undergrowth and the terrain on which the AREC is frequently called to work.

Mr Gorman maintains a liaison with the Post Office and the Search and Rescue organisation operated by the Government, transmits standard frequency and official NZART broadcasts over ZL2IY and has organised a monitoring service to assist the inexperienced amateur, thus paving the way for ultimate self-regulation by New Zealand radio amateurs.

List of Indonesian stations

Schedules. New Zealand, India

OCTOBER . . .

To handle the US Joint Technical Advisory Committee's Report (Radio Spectrum Conservation), which proposed that SW broadcasting should be abolished, "THIS RADIO AGE" entered the roundtable field with a discussion between D. Lynn, K. Mackey and J. Fox, of Dunedin. "Here is the greatest means the world has known for broadening the knowledge of the average man who cannot afford to travel but can afford a receiver and someone wants to abolish it", complained Mr Mackey. The suggestion that SW audiences in the USA were on the decline was challenged by Mr Fox, who said: "One has only to listen to the mailbag session to get a indication of the audience size".

Abolition of SW broadcasting would mean "no Test Matches, no Melbourne Cup" broadcasts and point-to-point services would never have sufficient transmitters or channels to serve a truly international audience. Exchanges over domestic networks could never be satisfactory owing to local requirements and it would be cheaper for countries to net up short wave stations, said Mr Lynn. "The BBC Overseas Services provide an essential service to British colonies where the domestic service is inadequate and, with Radio Australia, Radio Canada, etc., help to maintain

Commonwealth unity”, he added. It was agreed that much shortwave programming could be improved and the JTAC Report was a valuable addition to a neglected field of radio literature.

VOA opens new MW stations, enters 3mcs. band
 7L2XW demonstrates 405-line TV to industry and government officials; “Age,” present
 Government announces TV policy is to “wait a while”

NOVEMBER . . .

November gave a glimpse into the future when Mr Arnold Hansson, of Philips Radio, gave details of the Hogan Laboratories “Faximile” System now operating from New York on the International News Pictures net. Explaining that facsimile broadcasting, no longer a curiosity, provided a permanent record on paper of the matter transmitted, Mr Hansson noted that TV and radio, being transient, could never entirely replace the printed word.

“Not so long go,” he said, “we were hearing that radio was making inroads on reading and reading matter. Now it’s TV. Facsimile could be the answer to that argument, which I think is basically unsound anyway.”

Details of the technical aspects of faxcasting were given by the speaker, who also touched on the accompanying problems of FM and multiplexing. As the political implications - state or private ownership

of fax stations - were also to be discussed, the programme was fully scripted. (Full scripts have been used on only three previous occasions).

Mr Hansson was speaking personally and said he was “fairly enthusiastic” about this new and potentially revolutionary radio service. The broadcast was one of the most controversial yet presented.

Freak 103.75mc taxi calls over 400 miles in NZ
 WOR-FM New York, 98.7mcs, heard in Belgium
 ZL2XW gives public TV demonstrations in city stores
 General Electric to resume KGEI broadcasts
 Schedules: Italy, Germany, VOA Manila, Okinawa

DECEMBER...

The 15th September 1953 was a big day for Collier & Beale Ltd, New Zealand-owned manufacturing firm, for it gave a demonstration of 405-line radiated television to an invited gathering. “ZL2XW”, Mr E.J. Bird told December listeners, “is the first TV station to have been put into operation in the North Island and is the second in New Zealand.”

The installation took about a year of intermittent work to build, the firm constructing sync. generators, video amplifiers and everything to the two 12” and 10” receivers used in displays. The system uses 25 watts on 99.9mcs (audio) and 80 watts peak white (video). Pictures from ZL2XW have been seen at Gracefield, some 10 miles distant and, of course, the range may be greater, despite the fact that the aerials are only a few feet above the roof of a mid-city building. Mr Bird described the Vidicon camera tube used as a remarkable piece of apparatus, “which can produce good resolution from a target image of only 5/8” x 1/2”.

“It was Mr Collier’s idea that the 405-line standard had economic and technical advantages,” he said. “We had the feeling that it was time to show that New Zealand could product TV equipment ... to show the public just what could be done and what the future holds for them ... we hope!”

Himatangi Post Office station opened
 ZL19, 11.83mcs - new Radio New Zealand outlet
 NZ broadcast hours back to normal December 14
 KGEI Latin American broadcast details
 Schedules: New Zealand, HCJB Ecuador

THANKS TO . . .

All this year’s contributors to
 “THIS RADIO AGE”

- SIRA Argentina
- INR Belgium
- CBC Canada
- Czech Radio



RTF France
SBC Switzerland
"Broadcasting Telecasting"
"NZ DX Times"

AIR India
Voice of America
"Sweden Calling DXers"
"Tune In"

RAI Italy
European Broadcasting Union
"Australian DXers Calling"

Mr R.H. Johnston, Chief Post Office, Wellington
Mr D.E. Wilson, U.S. Legation (now Copenhagen) and staffs

The staff of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service

ABOUT 1954

Future programmes planned show an expansion even on current programming, although the fundamental charge of publicising the regular international broadcasting services will not be neglected. As before, when prominent personalities arrive in New Zealand or new and important developments call for immediate coverage, "THIS RADIO AGE" will be ready to meet them.

WORD IN YOUR EAR

"THIS RADIO AGE" is up to date and alive to possibilities. For broadcasting organisations it represents a valuable medium additional at no cost to direct mail services to listeners. It has magazine contacts too.

If you want to reach the South Pacific, do it with the assistance of "**THIS RADIO AGE**"!

The only effort required on your part is to put this address on your mail list:

G.G. COSTELLO
115 HOBART STREET
MIRAMAR
WELLINGTON E.4.
NEW ZEALAND

"**THIS RADIO AGE**" - the biggest little programme in international broadcasting - is an independent production by C.G. (Cleve) Costello, phone 40-033, under contract to the New Zealand Broadcasting Service. It is broadcast at 0920 GCT on the first Tuesday of each month over Radio New Zealand.

VARIOUS CONVENTION/AGM PHOTOS

Courtesy of Bryan Clark



Group photo from the 1968 DX Convention at Christchurch.

From left: Terry Gloistein, Dene Lynneberg, Bryan Clark, Don Reed, George Beardsmore, Philip Bolton, Bryan Marsh, Brian Withers, Lance Johnston, Steven Reed, Bill Pearson, Jack Fox, Des Lynn, Andrew ..?, John Knight, Merv Branks, Mike Highley, Keith Robinson?, Douglas Johns, Des White, Jim Benzoni, Ian Peterson.



Photo of participants in NZ Radio DX League's 1977 DXcursion Tour to Australia organised by Tony King, with some of our DX Australia hosts:

Front Row: John Newman, Keith Glover (Radio Australia), Noel Whittington, Bryan Clark, Theo Donnelly.

Second Row: Geoff Cosier, Bryan Marsh, Gwen Glover, Maroline Weatherley, Betty Marsh, Gwen Cook, Hennie Schenk.

Back Row: Don Cook, Arthur Kindall, Tony King, Harry Weatherley, Dick Whittington, Ray Schenk.



A group of foundation members of the NZ Radio DX League at the 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at Moeraki North Otago in 1998.

From Left: Jack Fox, Jack Blacklock, Murray Lamont, Ken Mackey, George Beardsmore, Ross Gibson



This group is from the 1988 DX League Convention in Invercargill.

Seated: Arthur Cushen

Standing from Left: UNID, UNID, UNID, Duane Harding-Browne, Paul Stringer, UNID, Stephen Lawrence, Peter Grenfell, Arthur de Maine, Lindsay Robinson, Arthur Williams, UNID, Michael Pollard, Steven Greenyer, Tony Magon, Barry Williams, Mark Nicholls, Eric McIntosh, Bryan Marsh, Bob Dunstone, Laurie Boyer, Russell Winter, Noel Parry, Edgar McAskill, Jack Fox.



Group at the 50th Anniversary Convention of the NZ Radio DX League at Camp Iona North Otago in 1998. From Left:

Phil van de Paverd, Yuri Muzyka, Paul Aronsen, Sandra Clark, Jo Ricquish, Gwen Aronsen, David Ricquish, Lynn Gibson, Basil Jamieson, Ross Gibson, Jim Smyth, Peter Grenfell, Ray Davey, Jill Grenfell, Daniel Bloomfield, David Searle, Arthur Finch (at back), Dario Monferini (Italy - seated), Arthur de Maine, Andy McQueen, Barry Jones, Jack Reddan, Adrian Sainsbury (RNZI at back), Merle, Barry Williams, Adrian Petersen (USA), Keith Creighton, Alice Williams, Michael Pollard, Bryan Marsh, Stuart Forsyth, Betty Marsh, Hazel Reed, Paul Ormandy, Ray Crawford, Cliff Couch, Steven Greenyer, Margret Glen, Don Reed, Frank Glen.



This group photo is from the 1987 AGM at Oamaru.

Seated: Arthur Cushen, Paul Aronsen

Standing: Ito Tsukigawa, Ted Grenfell, Arthur de Maine, Michael Pollard, Paul Stringer, UNID from Temuka, Jack Fox, Ross Gibson, Arthur Williams, David.?, Peter Grenfell, Doug Gray, Peter Jones, Mark Nicholls, Paul Ormandy.



This is a group gathering at the North Otago Radio Shack after the DX League's 1977 AGM. From Left: Bob Boundy; Peter Mott?; Brian Withers?; Jamie Hines; Gerald Harper; Paul Ormandy; Peter Grenfell; Tamsyn Grenfell; Merv Branks?; Arthur Cushen; Eric McIntosh; Ralda Cushen; Muriel Bloxham; Ted Sutton; Bryan Clark.