



ZL1AM

QTC

Newsletter of the Whangarei Amateur Radio Club Inc For Club Members Heritage Park Whangarei

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Neil Shephard ZL1KH (SK) Bill Adams ZL1AHV (SK) Jim Oliver ZL1BIA (SK)
Neville Barnaby ZL1BWO (SK) Spencer McNae ZL1WF (SK) George Midwinter ZL1AYE (SK)
Bruce Rowlings ZL1WB (SK) Hugh Deverell ZL1BHS Don Ewen ZL1DTE
Charlie Moates ZL1DAC (SK)

Welcome All to a much cut down Newsletter

Only a few Stories to share during the Lock Down Period.

My Own Covid-19 story started about 2 weeks before Lock Down started.

It started with a 10day Trip down to Queenstown, Myself, Jayme my Wife and in-laws. It was a extra trip planned before In-laws returned to UK after spending the Summer with us since last December.

Day trip to Doubtful Sound, day in Arrowtown. Saturday night, think it was day 4 into trip. FIL had indigestion, wasn't eased by Gaviscon, early Sunday morning trip to Queenstown ED.

Unable to do a particular Blood Test, staff were pretty sure after consultation with Specialist, that FIL has had a heart attack.

So, this resulted in a 4hr trip for him in the back of an Ambulance, which we followed in the hire car, to Dunedin Hospital. On the Friday, I had to travel back to Queenstown on my own, drop off hire car following morning, get to Airport to fly back to Auckland, collect, collect my car and drive back up to Whangarei.

So, leaving Jayne and MIL in a Motel, FIL was on waiting list, had another heart attack, into theatre following day for triple Bypass operation, 2nd day in ICU, LOCK-DOWN Level 4 started. I spent 6 weeks by myself at home, I'm classed as essential worker, but on reduced work hours, so I still had to go to work.

After operation, FIL had to stay in the Motel after being released from Hospital, then they managed to get a flight from Dunedin Via Christchurch to Auckland on April 20th. 8 people on A320.

I had to travel down to Auckland Airport to pick them up.
Got stopped by Police Road Block where the new road is being built just south of Whangarei.

Luckily I was given a Letter of Authority by the GOVT, and the Officer sent us on our way.

Now the In-Laws are self isolating again in the Batch round back, they were meant to fly back to UK middle of April. Immigration has extended Visitors Visa until September, but we are still fighting with their Insurance Co who insisted they went back last Saturday on a repatriation flight, and paid NZ\$12,000 to go Business Class as Insurance Medical deemed FIL was fit to fly after 10 days, DON'T THINK SO... they already paid for a return flight, which Emirates have put on hold for now.

This was an unknown flight route, we believe via Hong Kong, from Auckland to Heathrow, then about 6 hour taxi ride back to North Wales, which they would have to pay extra for. Two people in middle 70's, 1 had major operation to deal with 2 large suitcases etc., on a long haul flight.

Executive Decision.. they are staying around the Back for now until this Mess is sorted.

Have you seen how bad the UK is???

Ian ZL1MVL

And Relax, Breathe.... More Tablets Please Nurse !!!!!



A few Members would now know that most of "On Air" Radio time I have is using FT8 Data Made.

As part of this I am also one of the Award Managers for FT8DMC the FT8 Digital Mode Club. I manage 21 Awards, the 1st Award is WANZ Worked All NZ.



www.ft8dmc.eu



I have had a couple of QSOs with Club Members, Allan ZL1AML, David ZL1TA, Lars ZL1IF and a newcomer who I don't believe is a Member, (Yet) Owen ZL1TTR. Will need to Twist 2 of these 3s Arms to have a Sked on 24MHz as I need 2 ZL1 & 2 ZL2 prefixes on 12mtrs.

The Great Southern Road Trip

This tantalising heading was deliberately chosen to make you read further! Ham radio forms part of the tale. On 25th March 2020 campervan "Time Warp" set off from Kauri on a road trip to Christchurch. Friends Hugh and Rose had gone a month before and the plan was to meet up somewhere. Our first night was spent near Clevedon by the Oyster factory at the farm of cousin Noelyn.

In the morning we followed the coast road through Kawakawa (not the one with the toilets) to Orere Point. Kawakawa has one shop and is well used in Summer as a dropping off place for trailers by yachties cruising the Hauraki Gulf. Ponui Island and Waiheke Island can be seen a few Kms out. Orere Pt is a quiet enclave of homes with a general store and access to the beach and sea. The road continues South along the Western shoreline of the Firth of Thames. Side roads lead to the Hunua Ranges and its Regional Park. Our destination for the night was a large freedom camping area called Rae's Rest on the shell banks near Miranda.

This region is famous for sea birds and visitors come from all over the world to see Knots, Godwits, Terns etc. There is a hide for bird watching about an hours walk from the Miranda Bird Centre. At night we could see lights over to the east. A map and compass bearing told us we were looking at Thames. We had thought it might be Coromandel but that is much further North almost opposite the Eastern end of Waiheke Island.

After a quiet night in the company of about 20 other vans we set off down SH 27 heading for Hamilton but a detour sent us off to SH2 and a lunch stop in Te Aroha. In Hamilton we met up with daughter Kirsty in the Hamilton Gardens. Several new themed gardens have been opened and more are planned. The surrealist garden has large ivy covered arms which move up and down as they rotate. We liked the quiet simplicity of the Chinese and Japanese gardens. That night we checked into the Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club. This is a large complex of bars, restaurants, snooker tables, bowling greens etc and car parks. As is usual we had a meal and beer as a goodwill gesture. We were advised to park in a particular area and the reason became obvious when the first of several Kiwi Rail trains rumbled past down one boundary. I guess each train (I counted 50 wagons on one) represents several trucks not on the road We had been advised to avoid road works by going to Tokoroa then down the Western side of Lake Taupo.

That evening we decided to camp at Mangakino in a freedom camping area. It certainly looked very inviting with landscaped banks and wide water views with parking areas among the trees. However that day a sign had been erected closing the camp and directing all campers to Top 10 and other commercial camps. Everyone was mulling over whether to ignore the sign and most resolved to stay put. Our travel guide said there was a DOC camp in the Pureora Forest about 30 km away. It was a pleasant drive through rolling farmland formerly in pine forest. Only 2 other vans turned up but there were some people sleeping in cars. Payment for the site was \$8 per person into an honesty box. After another very quiet night the journey South continued. We kept trying to hit the Taupo Vhf repeater and this happened when we got to Whakamaru.

Trevor Gould ZL1KAG heard my call and gave us directions to his place in Turangi. We spent 2 hours with Trevor inspecting his little empire and returning his Baofeng radio microphone left behind after the Jock White Field Day. Trevor was well and looking forward to further improvements in his domestic facilities. The road up the Eastern side of the lake gives views over the lake in many places.

At Taupo we went to the popular NZMCA park at the airport. Luckily there were a few places left unoccupied but they filled up fast. Skydivers were floating down near the park boundary so we went for a walk to watch a plane carrying more take off. Four tandem pairs were released at 9000 ft and another seven singles at 15000 feet. A safety officer with a handy told us this.

A parachute instructor more or less fell out of the sky making a great flapping racket before swooping to a stop on his feet. Talk about free entertainment. On the news that night we heard that DOC camps were closing and level four Covid 19 lock down was 48 hours away. We didn't want to risk being stranded in the South Island so drove all the way home stopping only at a supermarket in Whangarei. New roading misses out Cambridge, Taupiri and Huntly and is impressive. Total trip distance 1230 km. So our six week road trip was over in one.

Our cat was surprised to see us.

Allan ZL1AW and Barbara.

Now, I did hear of a few members who had made plans to attend the Wings over Wanaka event.

I hope he doesn't mind being "Mentioned in Dispatches",

Bill ZL1BNA and Linley ZL1LIN were also travelling down to this event, trying out their new Caravan. So, they were both caught up in the potential Lock Down problem, they were hoping to see my FIL in Dunedin Hospital, but they headed Northward to catch one of the remaining Ferry Crossings to get safely to family in Mata Mata before lock down began, and they were to happily report safe and sound home in Onerahi during Level 3. That's 1 Tiki Tour they wont forget.

Ian ZL1MVL.



Ideas, help for a 160Mtr antenna. In 35 years of being Licenced, 26 years as a HF operator, Hand on Heart I can say I have NEVER operated on Top Band.

As I am participating again this year as ZL6FTDMC, I would like to operate on 160mts too. Also I'd like to improve 80mtrs. My current 80mtr antenna is a MyDel 80/40 dipole. Full size on 40m but with 80m loading coils which make the overall length an extra 1mtr each side. Making this a very narrow band width, reduced efficiency, and when it rains the resonance shifts a lot. It works, but I want to "Work the World".

Ian ZL1MVL. Email: gw0vml@gmail.com



Till Next Time

And PLEASE Help us out, a Newsletter is Not Possible without NEWS.