



# Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

March 2015

The North Canterbury Amateur Radio Club Inc.  
PO Box 14, Woodend 7641



[www.ncarcinc.weebly.com](http://www.ncarcinc.weebly.com)

*Meetings are held at the Woodend Youth Centre, unless otherwise advised.*



QTH

## CLUB CALENDAR

Meetings start at 1930 hrs, unless otherwise stated.

### *Host for March –*

March 12 General Meeting - “YJ0X DXpedition to Vanuatu” by Geoff ZL3GA

### **Branch 01 Ashburton**

March 9 General Meeting - Host is John ZL2AYQ

### **Branch 05 Christchurch**

March 4 General Meeting - “Proposed DMR Repeater for Christchurch” by John ZL4JY

### **Branch 56 Christchurch West**

March 11 Free & Easy (1330 hrs)

24 General Meeting - “Hexbeam” by Tony ZL3HAM

### **CARDS**

March 18 General Meeting

## Nets and Frequencies

**Club HF** 3.665MHz, 1930hrs 1st Thursday of the month

**Canterbury 2M SSB Net** 144.200MHz every Tuesday from 2000 hrs (vertical polarisation)

**Canterbury 6M Net** 3850 6M Repeater Thursdays from 2000 hrs (vertical polarisation)

**Canterbury Area Net** 5625 Repeater, 2000 hrs on Sundays

**National Broadcast** last Sunday of the month at 2000 hrs on 3.900MHz, National System, 6975 and 705 Repeaters

*Secretary: Colin Rowe ZL3COL Phone 03 313 2303 Email: [colingr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:colingr@xtra.co.nz)  
Editor: Tony Buckland ZL3HAM Phone 03 312 5352 Email: [buckland@scorch.co.nz](mailto:buckland@scorch.co.nz)*

# BAYLEYS

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## President's Report

As I write this I am about to embark on a 3 week road show for work, through the North and South Island.

Good luck to all our members who are participating in the Jock White Field Days this year.. I am disappointed that I can't be with you as I would have liked to have tried my new (and not yet that great) CW skills. If you need more info on Field days (location etc) contact Geoff ZL3QR.

At our next meeting (12th March) we will have Geoff ZL3GA giving a talk on the YJ0X DXpedition to Vanuatu held in October last year. This will be a fantastic talk so come along and see how these guys do it.

**73 Don ZL3DMC**

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## AREC Report

AREC and CDEM

No AREC activity last month.

Forest / Rural Firecomms: (AREC Supplied Comms / Logistics to Forestry Fire Teams).

Thurs. 5/2/15. Assistance call for mopping-up operations following a major rural fire near Oxford.

There have also been a few call-outs or alerts to the Eyrewell Forest area where clearance to turn old forestry into farmland has seen working heavy machinery creating clouds of dust which is often mistaken for smoke and it is only when the first unit on the scene can confirm this that other responding appliances can then be stood down.

Geoff ZL3QR

**Geoff ZL3QR**  
**Dep S/L**

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## Repeater Reports



### **Mt. Noble 6975**

Still operating successfully for another month with strong signals most of the time. Battery voltage seems to come back fairly quickly after being down for a day or two.

**Mike ZL3AKZ**

### **Mt. Grey 675**

Mt. Grey repeater is working well with no known issues.

**Geoff ZL3QR**



## Antenna Cannon for Amateur Radio By Brian Benchoff



As an amateur radio enthusiast, [Andrew] sometimes has to set up impromptu antennas up to 160 meters in length. The easiest way to get these antennas off the ground is to drape them over trees, a feat normally accomplished by lofting fishing line into the air with a slingshot or bow and arrow. [Andrew] thought slings were *so* last century, so he came up with a [spud gun inspired antenna launcher](#).

The launcher is built out of PVC and launches a foam filled tennis ball that can reel out 150 yards of Spectra line. In a moment of brilliance, [Andrew] decided to add [an augmented reality HUD](#). The display is actually [Andrew]'s phone running an app called [Geocam](#) that provides him with a display of elevation and azimuth overlaid on the phone's camera feed. The [results](#) of [Andrew]'s build are fairly impressive. The cannon was able to lob a tennis ball over a 110 foot tree at half the pressure rating of the PVC. The grouping was pretty tight as well, more than sufficient to run a line over a tree.

[Andrew]'s antenna cannon is an awesome piece of work and unlike most french fry cutters, it's a useful tool.

<http://blog.kotarak.net/2011/04/say-hello-to-my-little-friend.html>



### March Meeting

Our last meeting was our AGM with no changes in the Club Committee. Following the formal business Don ZL3DMC gave us an informative illustrated talk about the recent Silver Ferns Rally. This was well received as Don highlighted the well organised intricacies of running a rally of this calibre with regard to both the communications and the detailed instructions given to the drivers and navigators. Thanks Don.

This month we are pleased to welcome Geoff ZL3GA who will give us a presentation of the recent "YJ0X DXpedition to Vanuatu". One not to miss!



**\*\*March Happy Birthday's\*\***

Liz ZL3LIZ  
Emily ZL3WEM



## New Honorary Life Members

### Colin Rowe ZL3COL

Colin, then as ZL2TKN, moved to Rangiora from Stratford and joined the Club in 1997 and was almost immediately nominated to the Committee and in 1998 to the office of Secretary and has continuously held this position now for some 17 years. In our AREC Section he served as Deputy Section Leader 2002 – 2009, and in the special duties our Section has with regard to communications for Forest Fire, has been as Assistant from it's inception in 2002 to date.

All in all, an exceptional service to the North Canterbury Amateur Radio Club Inc.

*Colin (on the left) cheerfully receiving his Hon. Life Membership badge from President Don.*



### Geoff ZL3QR, Archivist

### Lem Willum ZL3ULW

Lem attained his Amateur Radio Licence about 1995, close to the time that the Mt. Noble 6975 repeater came into use. Living at Hanmer at the time (but soon after moved to Waiiau) he had a very active interest as a Honorary Ranger in the North Canterbury Lakes area (Loch Katrine, Lake Sumner, etc.) and possibly either owned or had shares in one of the baches there as he spent considerable time there during each fishing season, even when he moved to Woodend about 2000. He was then able to join in the Club activities and attended many meetings. Unfortunately age and deteriorating health for both himself and his wife meant moving to a retirement village in Kaiapoi in 2007. Since attaining his licence some 20 years ago, he has always supported our Radio Club but now at the age of 91 years he finds it difficult to continue.

He was quite overcome and so very pleased and proud to be given the honour.

*Lem having just received his Hon. Life Membership badge from Treasurer Denise.*



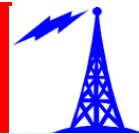
### Geoff ZL3QR, Archivist Denise ZL3HI, Treasurer





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	Tony Buckland	ZL3HAM	03 312 5352
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**SPECIAL INTEREST CONTACTS**

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**CALENDAR for 2015****General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-		12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10

**Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		26	23	28	25	23	27	24	22	26	-

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**Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI**, phone (03) 313 4907**\*\*SUBS DUE BY 30 APRIL\*\*****Annual Subscriptions****\$40 Single, \$50 Family**

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