

THE WORLD BELOW 400 GHz

The Periodical Newsletter of the
WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc.,
ZL1IS,
PO BOX 606,
Hamilton 2015, New Zealand.



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WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

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Vice President	Morris Beale	ZL1ANF	07 884 8416
Secretary	Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	07 843 0326
Treasurer	Ian Brown	ZL1TAT	07 847 3709
Projects	Tom Bevan	ZL1THG	07 824 2242
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Committee	Dave McGuire	ZL3DM	07 863 5484
Committee	Kevin Hampshire	ZL1KRH	07 544 5987
Editor	Kevin Murphy	ZL1UJG	07 847 0041

Annual General Meeting 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the Waikato VHF Group will be held on
Sunday March 19th at 1:30pm
at the Anglican Church Lounge
on the corner of Broadway and Hoha Streets, Matamata.

The Te Aroha 146.950 MHz repeater will be monitored for anyone requiring directions.

Pages 3 & 4 show financial statements for the year ended 2005, compiled by Ian, ZL1TAT

IRLP

IRLP Node on 695

In accordance with a motion passed at a General Meeting in May 2004, that the IRLP system be reviewed, after one year of operation, the following motion will be moved at the AGM - "That the IRLP Node continue to operate on 695 at Te Aroha, for the foreseeable future".

IRLP Node Operating Protocol.

Prior to Christmas there was some discussion on the Sunday Night Net regarding the use of callsigns when accessing the IRLP System. At the last Committee meeting this was discussed and it was agreed "that an announcement of the operators callsign should be made immediately their first transmission is commenced, and prior to accessing any IRLP node, 'Help' files, 'Group News' and other 'Special Codes'. This is in accord with the Amateur Radio Regulations and IRLP protocols.

We ask for your co-operation, as a number of users do not use their callsign when accessing the system, particularly when using the 'Help' files etc.

General

Cambridge Market day

The Cambridge Radio Club Annual Market Day is to be held on Saturday May 20th at Cambridge Town Hall. The Main Doors open at 10 am (vendors @ 8.30 am). The VHF Group will have a table. Please support the group by donating items for sale. Contact committee members if you have items for sale, or donate them on the day. See you there.

Frequency counter

The scribe has recently purchased a handheld 10 Hz to 2600 MHz Frequency counter. It also has a level indicator which works over ~ 30 dB range. The accuracy of the unit is very reasonable due to the use of a Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator (TCXO). The sensitivity is good from 10 Hz over the HF range and relatively good up to ~ 2 GHz. The unit does cover up to 2600 MHz, but sensitivity falls so that about 1 mW is required. But it's a real neat unit, and versatile. Recommended for Radio amateurs and Techies, at a price that wont break the bank.

Further info may be found at www.featuretech.co.nz.

Please note I have no connection, with this company, other than being a satisfied customer...

Microwave

There has been an increased level of activity in the 5760 MHz band during, the last few contests, due to the availability of the DXR700 up/down converters, filters and amplifiers from the Wellington VHF Group. These require retuning to 5760 MHz. A number of stations are also working on 10 GHz equipment, from a number of different suppliers, so that will also increase activity. However this 10 GHz equipment is low power 10 mW to 50 mW. This is OK for short paths, Line of sight (LOS) paths, and under Lift conditions.

However amplifiers for 10 GHz are harder to come by. However there are options. Buy from DB6NT, DEMI and similar companies. These are expensive but assembled and pretuned for insatlation.

An alternative amplifier is surplus Qualcomm Ku band 1 watt amplifiers. Require retuning from ~ 14 GHz to 10 GHz. See <http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/sd/projindx.htm>

Contact Chuck WB6IGP if interested. Details are on the above page. Prices are very reasonable and he has other components as well.

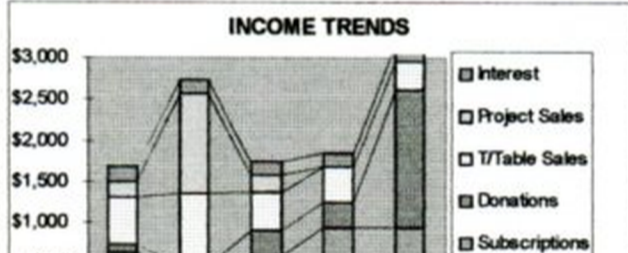
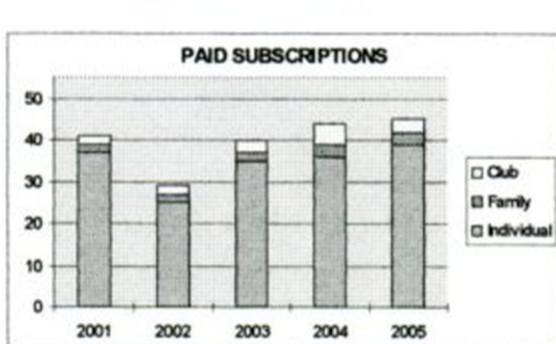
With surplus GPS units (must have 10 kHz o/p) and 10 MHz VCXO's such as those from the DXR units (VCXO's seperately available from Wellington VHF Group) a simple disciplined 10 MHz oscillator may be constructed for calibrating or externally clocking a frequency counter, or controlling another oscillator See <http://mysite.verizon.net/nl.jez/osc/page5.html>

WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

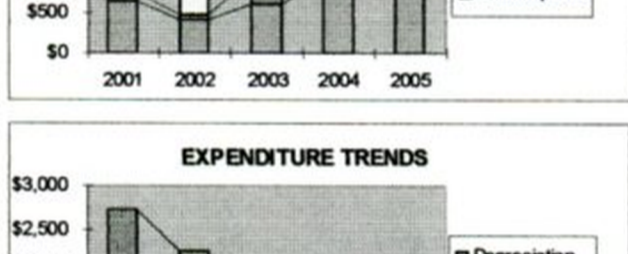
It is my pleasure to again report the Group's financial result, this time following our 44th year of continuous operation. The audited Financial Statement (opposite) summarises our position at the end of last financial year, alongside comparative figures from 2004 in the left margin. It records a 13% increase in 'members funds' to \$14,897 at 31 December 2005.

The Waikato VHF Group records its appreciation for financial support from new and renewing members during 2005, and gratefully acknowledges donations totalling \$153 received from ZL's 1AI, 1BCW, 1BNJ, 1HP, 1KL, 1KM, 1KP, 1PO, 1RWR, 1SW, 1TBP, and ZL3DC. When Tokoroa Branch 57 went into recess late last year, following their constitution and NZART rules, residual assets (cash plus equipment) were transferred to a similar organisation in their area, and they chose the Waikato VHF Group Inc. to benefit, raising our total cash donations to \$1672 for the year. Your committee is currently working on disposal of their equipment.

Paid subscriptions totalled 45 in 2005, an increase of one over our 2004 total. The combined efforts of Kevin ZL1UJG and Tom ZL1THG were again responsible for gathering several of these subs, after they assisted others with various UHF and microwave construction projects. Revenue from subscriptions, plus trading table sales (principally through participation in the Cambridge and Hamilton market days) along with member's donations help keep our beacons and repeaters on the air. While operating costs for these are quite stable, maintenance costs do vary from year to year, and are minimised through many hours of members and trustee's personal time being provided at no cost to the Group. Significant expenditure is again planned at Kaimai during 2006 to maintain that site in a condition befitting its important key role in both the National System and packet data radio networks.



While revenue was boosted by the one-off donation ex Branch 57, your committee has maintained a tight rein on outgoings as the two adjacent charts record. Depreciation for the 2005 year at \$978 continues to trend down as the book value of our assets, now at \$5,539 subsides. No capital expenditure was incurred during 2005.



Where possible, we distribute newsletters to members in PDF format via email (faster delivery and less costly), so if you're not already receiving yours that way, then let us know your email address to join others receiving these communications in full colour.

In closing, I wish to thank all our members for their support, and my fellow committee for their work during the year. The Waikato VHF Group looks forward to your continued support (both financial and physical where possible in working bees) during 2006.

Ian Brown, ZL1TAT
Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

of the WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc. for F.Y. Ended 31 December 2005

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2004		2005
\$040	Income ...	\$935
\$315	Subscriptions received	\$1,672
\$436	Donations Received	\$358
\$160	Profit from Trading Table	\$205
	Interest received	
\$1,851		\$3,171
\$1,150	Expenses ...	\$978
\$136	Depreciation	\$322
\$35	Repairs & Maintenance	\$0
\$132	Licence Fees	\$130
	Petty Expenses	
\$1,453		\$1,430
\$398	Excess Income / Expenditure	\$1,741

BALANCE SHEET

2004		2005
\$3,412	Current Assets ...	\$3,415
\$3,157	Bank Current Account	\$5,860
\$170	Bank Term Deposits	\$170
	Stock on hand	
\$6,739		\$9,445
\$100	less Current Liabilities ...	\$80
\$0	Subscriptions paid in advance	\$7
	Accounts Payable at Year End	
\$6,639		\$9,358
\$6,517	Working Capital	\$5,539
	Fixed Assets	
\$13,156		\$14,897
	Member's Funds	
	Member's Funds ...	
\$12,758	Balance at previous year end	\$13,156
\$398	Excess Income / Expenditure for Financial Year	\$1,741
\$13,156		\$14,897

SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS & DEPRECIATION

ASSET	31.12.05 B/V plus Addns / Dep at Cost	B/V at 31.12.04	+ Addns.	- Deprac. 15 %	Book Value at 31.12.05
TeAroha '840 Repeater	\$915.27	\$103.58		\$15.54	\$88.04
TeAroha '895 Repeater	1,908.00	168.78		25.01	141.75
TeAroha Link Equipment	160.02	13.98		2.10	11.88
* Control Xcvr.	294.17	202.09		30.31	171.78
Tairua '8975 Repeater	2,924.23	567.34		85.10	482.24
Kaimai Repeater's Site	2,550.42	606.84		91.03	515.81
Kaimai '540 Data Repeater	2,468.45	278.35		41.45	234.90
Kaimai '485 N.S. ULS Repeater	2,224.56	787.71		119.68	678.05
Raglan '8675 Repeater	5,188.78	1,519.11		227.87	1291.24
Hamilton '8975 Nat. Syst. Rpx.	4,357.03	1,991.09		298.66	1692.43
Hamilton 2m/70/23cm Beacons	157.41	17.05		2.56	14.49
TeUku 12/3cm Beacons	449.00	63.87		9.58	54.29
TK705D 2m Transceiver	225.00	191.25		28.69	162.56
TOTALS:	23,823.34	\$6,517.02	\$0.00	\$977.56	\$5,539.46
Less Accumulated Depreciation	18,283.88				
Equals Book Value at 31.12.05	\$5,539.46				

I. W. Brown (Treasurer)

G. W. Petrie (Secretary)

N. L. Rowe (President)