



**1 December 2002**

**Issue # 43**

Seasons Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to **Headquarters-Info-Line** a fortnightly bulletin of news from NZART Headquarters E-mailed directly to Branches.

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### **NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says:**

**Elections** - In the November/December Break-In due in the next few days, you will see that Evan Sayer, Returning Officer for NZART has placed a call for Council/Presidential nominations. Nomination forms can be obtained from me here at Headquarters. All nominations **MUST** be received at HQ by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Subscriptions** - Remember that all who have paid their 2003 subscriptions before 31 December 2002, will go in the draw to win.... 1<sup>st</sup> prize of a 2m FM 50w Yaesu FT1500 Mobile Base Transceiver, 2<sup>nd</sup> two years free membership to NZART & 3<sup>rd</sup> one year's free membership to NZART. This is a Council initiative to attract more members and also to say thank you for the continued support from existing members. Good Luck! The draw will be made on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2003, winners will be notified by mail.

**Award Nominations** - Early in the New Year would be a good time to consider forwarding nominations for the **Young Amateur of the Year Award** and the **Amateur of the Year Award**. Nominations for the Young Amateur should be sent to reach me at Headquarters by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2003. Nominations for Amateur of the Year for the year 2002, should be forwarded to the NZART President at his Callbook address to arrive by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2003. Full nomination criteria is available from HQ.

'Til next time....

## Contests:

A reminder that the next VHF/UHF contest, Annual Field Day is to be held next weekend Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of December. All bands above 50 MHz will be in use. More details on this VHF/UHF contest can be found at <http://www.vhf.d2g.com>

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## DID YOU KNOW:

That New Zealand is one of very few countries in the world where licensed amateurs visiting from overseas can immediately operate without the hassle of getting a licence and without paying a licence fee?

A visiting amateur can walk down the gangplank from the arrival aircraft into the terminal building and start operating on 144 MHz and above with the callsign ZL/(homecall)! Details are in the NZART Call Book and at the MED web site.

NZART works in the interests of all radio amateurs in New Zealand and needs the support of your continuing membership. Suggest to others that they join NZART too. See: <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/join/join.html>

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## BRANCH SPOT:

**Branch 74, the Wellington VHF Group bring news of the success of the National System Award 2002.**

The NS Award was devised as a response to the Branch Committee's concerns that the National System wasn't being fully utilised. The aim was to foster on-air contact via the National System, to emphasise the coverage provided, promote contacts with the NZART branches, and provide opportunity for Limited grade calls to participate in a major award.

The award certainly stimulated activity on the system. One wit commented that at times it sounded a bit like a 20 metre pile up. A lot of new on-air friendships were established and old acquaintanceships were re-forged. Some enthusiastic Amateurs made special effort to travel to the “hard to get” branch areas to ensure those were available to award hunters. Others, equally enthusiastic, coordinated the availability and timing of their fellows to ensure optimum opportunity was provided for award hunters to log yet another branch. Kevin ZL1TEA reports he made 1340 contacts on the system during the award period.

As anticipated, several branch areas featured on the “hard-to-get” list. Members from Southland Branch 37 travelled north to Clinton several times to access the system via Dunedin 905. (There was a plea from them to have the system extended south to Invercargill). Similar excursions by members of Central Otago Branch 61, and Westland Branch 49 assisted award hunters achieve contact with those branches. Early success for Mercury Bay Branch 85 was achieved by aeronautical mobile, but later it was found that contacts could be made from several high points on roads within that branch area. Contact from Gisborne Branch 11 could only be achieved from a point just north of Wairoa, via Mt Erin 4175 in Hawkes Bay, and several Amateurs parked on this hill site from time to time to ensure the branch was made available.

As mentioned in the last issue of Q-Bit, Rahotu Branch 32 proved to be a difficult nut to crack. On several occasions Amateurs travelled from Opunake to near Kaponga to put Branch 32 into the system via Egmont 4025. It was only 3 days before the close of the award on 31 October that a contact was made from within the branch area. Ian ZL1AOX had the honour of a mobile contact from near the top of the Kiri Road into Belmont 900, the Wellington port. He was running 75 watts to a collinear, pretty much the conditions and location predicted previously as the most likely for success by Doug ZL2TAR.

Sadly one award hunter didn't have the opportunity to collect his “75” certificate. Before he had time to submit his log, Patrick ZL2WPR of Wanganui became a silent key. Subsequently the committee of his branch, Wanganui Branch 48, sent in Patrick's log and they will present the certificate to Patrick's family at a future branch meeting. Vale Patrick, let's hope there are radio awards to chase where you are now.

At the time this article goes to press, just on 90 certificates have been issued so far, and I expect more applications to arrive before the close-off at the end of November. Thanks to all who participated in the award, and thanks also to the many who sent complimentary comments with applications, you obviously enjoyed yourselves.

73 Dick ZL2TGQ

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## **Dates To Remember:**

- **Final HQ-Info-Line for 2002 e-mailed on Sunday 15 December.**
- **Next Official Broadcast Sunday before Christmas, 20<sup>th</sup> December.**
- **NZART President & Council Elections All nominations MUST be received at HQ by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.**
- **Remits for consideration at NZART 2003 Conference MUST be received at HQ by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.**

73

*Jim Meachen ZL2BHF*

**Editor**