

THE NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

AN ORGANISATION DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION AND
RESTORATION OF EARLY RADIO EQUIPMENT AND THE
COLLATION OF ASSOCIATED INFORMATION.

Yes, you can believe your eyes, New Zealand now has a vintage radio society. Of course such organisations are quite 'old hat' in some parts of the world, particularly in the U.S. where the world's oldest was established in 1960. Still, we're not such new chums when compared with the U.K. where their first (and only) society was not established until 1976.

On the local scene it has been apparent for some time past that there is a growing interest in what, for want of a better term, has become known as 'vintage' radio. After talking to several interested persons the writer duly convened a meeting to discuss the feasibility of forming a society devoted to vintage interests. The ten people who attended the inaugural meeting, held on Nov. 5, 1979, were all in favour of proceeding forthwith and after some discussion it was decided to hold a second meeting to which any further persons known to have vintage interests would be invited to attend.

The second meeting was held on Dec. 19th at which fifteen were present and further discussion took place concerning the aims and objects of the proposed society. At this time ^{it was decided} to adopt the name New Zealand Vintage Radio Society.

At the third meeting held on Jan 29, 1980 an election of officers was held and it was decided to hold regular monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month. It was also decided to produce a newsletter from time to time as seen fit and to aim for the production of a regular bulletin when membership figures warrant it. At this meeting a most interesting and informative talk was given by Arthur McClay on his youthful and illegal wireless experiments in pre-World War 1 days. Arthur was one of this country's pioneer broadcasters who, together with Hugh Simpson and the late Bob Apperley and Clive Drummond, set up the so-called 'Federal' broadcasting station 2YK Wellington in 1923.

On February 25th the fourth meeting was held on more formal lines and on conclusion of business a very informative talk on the subject of transformers was given by Bill Farmer. To those who know Bill is well qualified to speak on the subject as he has been, and still is, actively engaged in transformer work. The talk concluded with a lively 'questions and answers' session which indicated the amount of interest amongst those present. Then followed the playing of a taped version of an historical disc recording made in New York in 1952 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Radio Club of America. Actually present at that time were two distinguished members - Major Edwin H. Armstrong and Captain H.J. Round, both of whom gave talks which were recorded at the time. The tape used at our meeting was obtained by John Stokes during a visit to the U.S. in 1968.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion during which George Weston mentioned a recent visit to the site of the historic

spark transmitter VLA, located at Awanui in North Auckland. George believes he has discrepancy in the published figures for the measurements of the base of the triangular mast. The three original jacking pads are still visible and were personally measured by George as being 9ft apart as compared with the published figure of 12 ft.

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A calendar of talks for the next three months has been arranged and is as follows:

March 24. Some Aspects of Vintage Receiver Restoration.

George Weston.

April 28. Neutralisation - Ancient and Modern

Arthur E. Allen

May 26. Valves, Toobs and Bottles.

John Stokes.

N.B. Volunteers for future talks are still required; please contact the Secretary.

Elected Officers of the N.Z.V.R.S.

President - Arthur Allen.

Secretary } - Eric Kirby.

Treasurer } -

Committee members - Graham Jessop, Jack Paton, John Stokes.

Correspondence should be addressed to the secretary
C/- 617 Dominion Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland 4.

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month or
on the following day if the Monday is a public holiday.

Location: 617 Dominion Road, (opposite the Auckland Savings Bank
Balmoral.

DID YOU KNOW?

The three millionth Atwater Kent radio was produced in 1930. It is interesting to speculate on just how many of those three million receivers have survived to this day. A.E.A.

The record for quantity production of a single model at that time must surely have been held by Philco who, in 1930, produced 343,903 of their 'cathedral' model 20. J.W.S.

NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

RULES

DEFINITIONS

"Society" means the New Zealand Vintage Radio Society.
"Society Members" means subscribing members of the Society.
"Committee" means the Working Committee of the Society.
"Foundation Members" means those who attended the inaugural meeting (26/11/79) to discuss the formation of the Society.

NAME The name of the Society will be "New Zealand Vintage Radio Society"

OBJECTS The object of the Society is:
"The preservation and restoration of early radio equipment and the collation of relevant information".

MEMBERSHIP There shall be two classes of members:
1. Foundation Members
2. Ordinary Members

APPLICATIONS
FOR MEMBER-
SHIP

Each applicant must complete and sign the prescribed form of application for membership. The form shall then be forwarded with the annual subscription to the Society's Secretary. The Society reserves the right to decline any application.

SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription shall be \$5.00 or such other amount as may be determined by the Society. The subscription shall be paid by 31 March for the ensuing year, this being 1 April to 31 March.

RESIGNATIONS

Any members who fail to pay their subscriptions by 30 June will be deemed to have resigned from the Society.

MANAGEMENT
OF THE
SOCIETY

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Working Committee comprising:
The President of the Society (Chairman)
The Secretary/Treasurer
Three members

The Working Committee shall have a quorum of three.

ELECTION OF
OFFICERS

The February meeting of the Society shall be deemed to be the Annual General Meeting at which the election of Officers shall take place.

FINANCE

The Society funds shall be banked with the Auckland Savings Bank and shall be administered by the Working Committee. Cheques drawn on the Society shall be signed by any two members of the Working Committee. A balance sheet shall be distributed to all members in respect of each financial year.

WINDING UP

If for any reason the Society is wound up, any remaining funds shall be dispersed by way of donation to a charitable organisation nominated by the Auckland Savings Bank.