	<h2 style="margin: 0;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Newsletter – September 2012</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Editor &amp; QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki 5542, New Zealand. - Tel: 06-364-6339</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Newsletter Distribution &amp; QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK2CTN, P O Box 65, Dickson, ACT 2602, Australia</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Membership/Awards Liaison: Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847. Fax: 0-4-473-0848</p> <p style="margin: 0;">QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above. QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK2CTN at address above</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Address e-mails for all persons above to: &lt;<a href="mailto:fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz">fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz</a>&gt; Web site --: &lt;<a href="http://www.fistsdownunder.org">www.fistsdownunder.org</a>&gt;</p>	  <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">FISTS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p>
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#### SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808 MHz (160m) – 3.528 MHz (80m) – 7.028 MHz (40m) – 10.118 MHz (30m) –  
14.058 MHz (20m) – 18.085 MHz (17m) – 21.058 MHz (15m) – 24.918 MHz (12m) – 28.058 MHz (10m)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

#### NEW MEMBER

This month we welcome **VK2YN-Derek Nelson #14148** from Annandale, New South Wales. Annandale is a suburb of Inner West Sydney located within 3-5 kilometres west of the Sydney central business district. In applying to join, Derek said “You may recognise the Call sign, which i picked up a few years ago, when updating to a 2 letter call. My understanding is that Lindsey ? , was a previous holder of the call and a well respected CW operator, although i would like to learn more of his history. I am happy to follow in Lindsey’s footsteps as a keen CW operator.” *Can anyone tell Derek more about Lindsey? We hope to publish a brief personal profile of Derek in a forthcoming issue.*

#### MEMBERS NEWS

**ZL3PAH-Phil #14103** has been appointed to the Council of NZART. Congratulations, Phil.

Thanks to **VK4BUI-Les #9617**, **VK2HGQ-Terry #9660**, **ZL2AUJ-David #9668** and **ZL4SA-Peter #9694** for enclosing a donation when renewing their subscriptions.

**ZL2SWR-South Wairarapa Amateur Radio Club #9618** has been put into recess by NZART. It was down to one member. Consequently it doesn’t now qualify as a new contact as a FISTS Awards club station.

Recently joined **ZL3WD (Ex G4CWD) Les Bagnall # 14146** sent is this personal profile:- I am 79 years old and reside in Mosgiel, Dunedin. My potted history is: Emigrated from United Kingdom to New Zealand in May 2008. Wife died in 2004. Three sons moved to NZ with their families and took up residence in the south Island. (Dunedin Timaru & Queenstown). Having visited them I decided to settle in NZ.

Active on HF using SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK. Over past two years have worked 160 countries and have 80 confirmed. Station consists of a Yaesu FT DX-5000MP and a Kenwood TS-2000AT. Explorer 1200 Linear AMP amplifier. 4 Element TA-53-M Mosley beam, Cushcraft R7 Vertical, 80 and 40 Meter Dipoles. Photos of shack and antennas on QRZ.com.

As G4CWD I obtained DXCC Honour Roll, 5 Band and Challenge awards. As an IOTA activator I received the Millennium Platinum award in 2000 for activating two new African islands in Ghana and Gabon. Activated more than 20 Scottish islands for the IOSA (Islands of Scotland Award).

My other activities are Motorcycling, Microlight and model aircraft flying and building. I am currently attempting to improve my Morse reading skills.

This is from WIA [News](#):- Recently, several **Redcliffe & District Amateur Radio Club** members (**VK4RC FISTS #9066**) were addressed by a pirate station on their local Redcliffe repeater. The station was using the call sign, VK4NFL.

**OTHER MEMBERS'NEWS**



We are sorry to report that an old friend of FISTS Down Under, **I2VRF-Giancarlo Vaia #8325** recently became a Silent Key. From being very active and athletic Gian became completely disabled through a degenerative disease, though he retained his mental faculties completely. With assistance from his family he had his radio equipment and computer set up alongside his bed so was able to operate and communicate with his friends worldwide. – Gian used to regularly acknowledge the receipt of our newsletter and several times rang us to wish us a +happy Christmas. An inspiration to us all, he will be greatly missed. We have sent condolences to his wife Concetta and his family, on behalf of FISTS Down Under.

A discussion has been brewing on the UK FISTS internet chat group There were various options suggested and one is the use of the Morse prosign "II" to denote that a group was being repeated, e.g. "My FISTS No is 10743 II 10743".

**N1EA David # 9227** posted this amusing story of how it was used once in a news flash. "II was used famously by the RCA Globcom Station WCC during their 0300Z PX transmissions. One hilarious moment was their sending:

BOSTON (AP) POPE JOHN PAUL II II ARRIVED TODAY FOR A PAPAL VISIT WHERE HE REMARKED QUOTE I GREET YOU AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL UNQUOTE TO A CROWD OF ALMOST 400,000 II 400,000. POPE JOHN PAUL II II CELEBRATED MASS ON BOSTON COMMON IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

It was John Paul 2 in Roman Numerals which is II and WCC added II after the II for the number 2 so it came out: JOHN PAUL II II II that completely flabbergasted about every R/O who copied the PX that night so very long ago at 0300Z October 2, 1979. Well maybe some of them weren't flabbergasted, but I was thrown for a loop the first time."

The information has already been passed to the ACMA, the Australian regulatory authority..

It just goes to prove that the club's regular foxhunts can not only find the fox but in this case are close to finding a pirate! The club's activities are frequently recorded in the weekly WIA News.

This from **G5VZ-Chris #12540**. – We have recreated the Antenna Experimenters group on Yahoo! Some of you may have seen the message I posted on the G-QRP list or you might recall the group's previous incarnation. As it is, we've retained the original AntExp name.

It's a group focusing on radiating RF and the design of systems to do just that; plus modelling and construction then evaluation of the results. The creation of an aerial that's smaller, better, stealthier or otherwise innovative is a quest many of us pursue and there always seems to be something more to share with the rest of us. AntExp is the place to share it!

I would like to take this opportunity to ask each of you if you'd like to join us. The joining link is [antexp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:antexp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) by email or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/antexp/join> on the Yahoo! Groups web site.

I look forward to welcoming you into the experimenters' lab!

**LZ1AF-Dimiter #0416** will be in Brisbane, Australia from 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 and intends operating as **LZ1AF/VK4** with a TS590S and a dipole. Lazy holiday style operation on the 14 – 50MHz Bands. **No "599 up" and mostly CW**. He reports that he has already had QSL cards printed so look for him around the bands!

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in September 2012 most of which will be of more interest to our northern hemisphere readers. Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Sep 1
Colorado QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 1 to 0400Z, Sep 2
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 1
MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 3 to 0300Z, Sep 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 4
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 7
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 9

North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 9
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 9
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 12 and 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 12 and 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 13
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 14
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 15 to 1200Z, Sep 16
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 15 to 0700Z, Sep 16 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 16
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 15 to 1800Z, Sep 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 20
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 21
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 22
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Sep 22 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Sep 22 (432)
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 26
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 26 and 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 26 and 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 27

### **TRAWLING THE WEB**

Alltop - Ham Radio News - Ham and CB radio news and headlines from around the web: [http:// ham-radio.alltop.com/](http://ham-radio.alltop.com/)

A group of radio amateurs using Morse code have established an informal web site to promote the use of the sideswiper (cootie) Morse key: <http://www.sideswipernet.org/>

A retired lorry driver creates a replica of the Titanic radio room : <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2188270/Titanic-communications-room-created-retired-lorry-driver-parts-bought-eBay.html>

## **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ!**

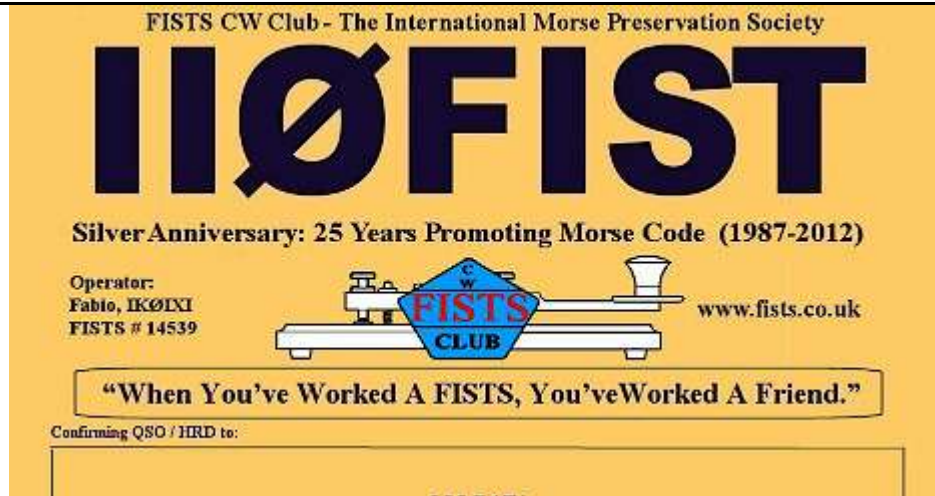
### **HOUSEKEEPING**

A reminder that now members will receive a renewal notice by post in the month before their membership expires. Reminders will no longer be e-mailed. If the membership renewal has not been received after three months, a final notice will be sent through the post, which will point out that, if the membership has not been renewed within one month, it will be considered as a resignation. If you are unsure about the status of your membership, just sent us a message.

Our email messages to [hatzis.esc@gmail.com](mailto:hatzis.esc@gmail.com) are being bounced. If any of our readers recognise this address, please ask the member to contact us with a valid email address. It is probably because they are using one of the association email addresses that on-forward to the individual's address, (e.g. [wia.org.au](mailto:wia.org.au) or [nzart.org.nz](mailto:nzart.org.nz)).

**To avoid this type of problem, please always inform us of any changes to your contact details.**

IIOFIST – SPECIAL CALLSIGN FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FISTS CW CLUB



Fabio Bonucci, IKØIXI will be on the air with special callsign IIOFIST between September 2nd and 8th to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the FISTS CW Club (1987-2012). QSL via IKØIXI.

**SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THOSE WHO MAN YOUR QSL BUREAU**

By Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX

Spare a thought for those people who man your National or FISTS QSL Bureau's. They do an excellent job, involving many hours work, tediously sorting through your QSL cards to send overseas. I know what it's like as I did a stint at the National QSL Bureau in the 1970's when it was run by the Upper Hutt Branch of N.Z.A.R.T.

In 2004 I sent a batch of QSL cards to our National ZL Bureau and sometime later received in my inward cards a card that I had sent to JT1CO in Mongolia for an 80 meter CW contact. It had a note attached to it by the QSL Manager Barry, ZL2RR who kindly advised me that JT1CO only accepted QSL cards Direct. At the time I didn't have any IRC's or the more commonly used Greenbacks and so I left it, as I had recently moved and wasn't active at the time.

Some years later I received a QSL from FISTS Member, Rob MØTIX in England who enclosed two crisp US \$1.00 notes. He wanted QSL cards from myself and Syd ZL1BRS. I contacted Syd who said he had already sent him a card and so I replied with mine and Syd's letter. I filed the two Greenbacks away in a drawer until suddenly in 2012 I was looking through my logs and realized I really did need Mongolia confirmed on 3.5MHz. It's so rare on any band that I thought what the heck. Out came Rob's Greenbacks and I posted a new card to Chak, JT1CO wondering if he was a pirate or not and would he bother looking up a QSO that was made in 2004.

You could have struck me dumb. Three weeks later there it was, an envelope from Mongolia and inside the confirmation of our contact. Another rare country confirmed! It made my day!

My thanks go to Chak, JT1CO, Rob, MØTIX, Barry ZL2RR (who made it all possible by enclosing a simple note when returning my original card) and the ZL2 Inward Manager Tony, ZL2AGY (who returned the original card amongst a pile waiting for me)

**THE TREASURED JT1CO QSL CARD**

