

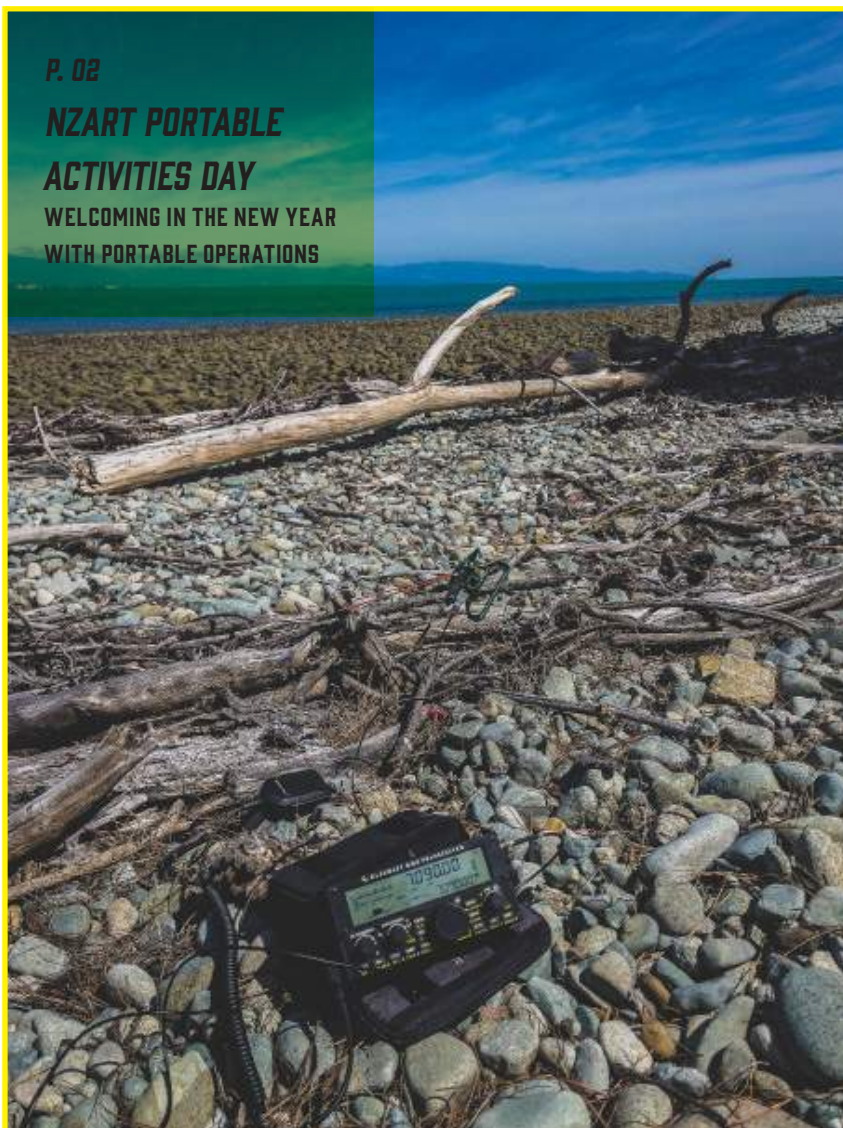
# THE SWATTER

THE NEWSLETTER FOR QRP NZ.

P. 02

## NZART PORTABLE ACTIVITIES DAY

WELCOMING IN THE NEW YEAR  
WITH PORTABLE OPERATIONS



HAULASHORE ISLAND ZLI/TM 012 – AUTHORS IMAGE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



IMAGE COURTESY – ERIC ZL2BMI

**RED DATE – QRP SECTION,**  
**BROWN DATE – QRP MULTIPLIER,**  
**GREEN DATE – HIGHER POINTS FOR QRP**  
**QSOs.**

**FEB 11-12, 2023 [X 1.5].** NZART DX  
(VHF) CONT. SAT 1700-2300 NZDT, SUN  
0700-1300 NZDT. 6M AND ABOVE.

**FEB 25-26, 2023.** NZART JOCK WHITE  
MEMORIAL FIELD DAY. SAT. 1500-2400  
NZDT, SUN. 0600-1500 NZDT. 80M AND  
40M.

## P. 02 NEWS AND TECH

### RADIO SILENCE

CANTERBURY MOUNTAIN RADIO ENDING  
SERVICE

### USB C TRIGGER BOARD

A GOOD WAY TO POWER A QRP RADIO AT 12V

## P.03 THE EDITORS DESK

### WELCOME BACK READERS

THANKS TO OUR PREVIOUS EDITOR PHILIP  
SHARP ZLIPSH

### AUTHOR, CONTACTING

Unless stated otherwise, all articles were written by the editor Rob ZL2 RMC.  
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# NZART PORTABLE ACTIVITIES DAY

## ISLAND ACTIVATION ROB ZL2RMC

As most qrp and SOTA operators know, the first of January is always the NZART portable activities day. This is combined with the added bonus of the resetting of the SOTA summits. For those not familiar with SOTA, activators and chasers can only activate each individual summit to gain points once per year, so

after 1pm (as SOTA resets at midnight UTC time), all the summits reset and points are up for grabs again. This year myself and Dylan Smart ZL-2SAR decided to activate an off shore island near Nelson. Off shore may sound serious, but it was certainly far from it for this particular one. Haulashore Island (ZLI/TM 012) sits about 500m from Nelson's Rocks road and nearby Tahunanui beach. I chose to packraft and Dylan

was on his sit on top fishing kayak. I had my trusty KX2 running on internal battery power, paired with an end fed antenna resonant on 7.090 MHz. Dylan was operating a Yaesu FT818 powered by external power pack, paired with a multiband dipole. Multiple contacts with ZL operators on SOTA summits and parks, were made mostly on 40m and one VK SOTA operator on 20m.

For those members wishing to see the selection of ZL Parks, Peaks, lakes, Huts and Islands head to [ontheair.nz](http://ontheair.nz) Thanks to all the work that has gone into this website which allows up to date alerts, spotting and also logging of contacts.  
Rob - ZL2RMC

## USB C TRIGGER BOARD

This piece of tech comes courtesy of a post by a ZL-SOTA facebook member. A usb trigger board is equipped with jumper pads that allow the user to set the board to 9,12,15v outputs. Beware the trigger board may only be limited to 3-5A output, although the power bank may be limited further also to a particular output. I personally carry a power-bank on multi day trips in the bush to charge my headlamp, gps and phone etc so this could be a good addition to adapt the power source to power my KX2 in the field without carrying a separate power source. These can be bought online or aliexpress.



IMAGES OF TRIGGER BOARD - ZLSOTA FACEBOOK POST



SR3 FIELD RADIO - NZMRS

## RADIO SILENCE

This article is courtesy of RNZ 'Summer times 6 January 2022'

For almost 60 years Canterbury Mountain Radio Service (CMRS) has provided a lifeline to trampers and hunters in some of the most remote parts of the country. But later

in June this year the service will close due to a funding shortfall, changing technology and lack of volunteers. I personally have hired mountain radios before I became an amateur, which originally sparked my interest in radio. But as we all know they can be heavy,

they require a suitable area to erect the antenna (CMRS runs on 90m band 3.345MHz) and compared with emerging in reach and plb technology they are not the first choice for joe public. The CMRS provides a morning and evening forecasting service plus a check in.





## THE EDITORS DESK

**W**elcome readers back to the 5 watter. Firstly I want to thank Philip for all his hard work putting together and distributing the newsletter to date. QRP in NZ much like the hobby of amateur radio has its own sub groups within in it, whether it be dedicated home based QRP operators, SOTA, POTA, backcountry users, homebrewers etc. I feel it is important we maintain a monthly publication as QRP in itself represents a very wide group with many active members. Much like Philip, I'm very keen on any articles or images readers want to submit, a lot of our members are doing interesting

things with their radios and have some cool gear that a lot of us would love to know about. Im based in Nelson, a member of branch 26 Nelson Amateur Radio club and NZART. My interests in the hobby are mainly portable HF and VHF operations, I dont have a home station as such, only a 40m HF dipole in the backyard I sometimes connect with to do some SOTA chasing. I have a couple of Tait UHF and VHF portables and also have VHF mobile rigs in my vehicles and at work. For those that wish to contact me or submit content I'll be keen to hear from you. [mcdonald.t.robert@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonald.t.robert@gmail.com) or [qrpnz12021@gmail.com](mailto:qrpnz12021@gmail.com) or cellphone 0275235253. Enjoy all your operations in 2023. Bye for now. 73's Rob ZL2RMC



IMAGES OF DYLAN ZL2SAR OPERATING ON HAULASHORE ISLAND – AUTHORS IMAGES.

