



Bay of Islands Marine Radio Assn. Inc.

The Strand, PO Box 108, Russell, 0242 Bay of Islands, New Zealand

Russell Radio ZMH310

Ph/Fax +64 (09) 403 7218.

russellradio@clear.net.nz

www.russellradio.org.nz

Newsletter April 2009

Russell Radio on the Strand

The move to the new premises has been a great success. Russell radio is now firmly established at the front of the Swordfish club building on the Strand in the centre of Russell.



The new position has made the station much more visible with large numbers of visitors and members dropping in to say hello when they are in Russell. Sometimes we also seem to function as a general information centre and contact point for visitors from the Shetlands (looking for their compatriot who is now the Radio Station manager). The view over the Russell anchorage and Veronica channel to Paihia provides the radio operators with a much closer contact with Members, their boats and the weather.

It is easy to find the Station, just to the south of the Russell Wharf, on the water front. The front window is usually open (weather permitting) and the Station is manned from 0800hrs to 2000hrs daily. Please come and say hello. Give a call first (on Ch 63) and we can usually direct you to one of our moorings in Russell.

Radio Activity

Keeping a Radio Station on air for 84 hours a week is a major undertaking, and would be impossible without the dedication of our full time station manager, Stewart Irvine, and radio operator, Bev Craig, with the assistance of several volunteer radio operators:

- Barry Bell on Wednesday mornings
- Kevin Pyne, Ed Ackman, Tony Atkinson and Vera Warren alternating on Friday mornings
- Sandra Egen on Saturday mornings.
- And
- Ricky Blomfield on the SSB on Mondays

The normal benefits of a 9am to 5pm job and time off for meal breaks don't fit well with the demands of a radio station.

Activities for the months of January, February and March have shown a significant increase over the previous year. The following is a list of VHF calls:

| Jan, Feb, March 2009 | Total | 8062 |
|----------------------------|-------|------|
| Trip Reports Outward bound | | 3433 |
| Trip Reports Inward bound | | 2752 |
| Trip Reports Shifting | | 106 |
| Trip Reports Anchored | | 968 |
| Radio Checks | | 173 |
| General enquiries | | 478 |
| Medical | | 7 |
| SOS | | 42 |
| Navigational warnings | | 50 |
| Customs | | 3 |
| Weather | | 50 |

VHF: Ch63 (working), Ch03 (commercial) and Ch16 (listening)

SSB: 2182 (Listening 0800 – 2000), 6516 (1800 – 1830), 4445 (1830 – 1900), 4417 (1900 – 1930)

Proud supporters of
Russell Radio:



Opua Marine
Painters
Ltd

Far North
Holdings
Ltd

Russell Radio owns two channels covering the Bay of Islands area, Channel 3 and Channel 63. The majority of these calls were on Channel 63.

Channel 3 is used by a small number of commercial operators, who pay a premium subscription and the Swordfish Club for fishing tournaments. It is not available for boat to boat communication.

Of the total number of calls it is interesting to note that 5843 calls were from members and 2219 calls were from non-members. Russell radio will always respond to any call on the Channels it owns and maintains but it would be helpful if Members could point out to non-members that our continued existence is dependent on membership subscriptions and donations.

Radio Equipment

We are in the process of acquiring some much needed new radio equipment. Provided we have some success with grant applications, we hope to be able to complete the purchase of a new SSB HF radio and aerials, and 3 new VHF radios. There have been some problems with the HF aerials but hopefully these have now been rectified.



Please contact us by phone or email if you are having problems with reception. Our VHF coverage area is from Elizabeth Reef just North of Tutukaka in the South to Knuckle Point at the northern end of Doubtless Bay. There are a few blind spots for communication at Cape

Brett, Doves Bay Marina, Russell Wharf, the northern ends of Whangaruru and Whangamumu bays. This is due to VHF radio waves being unable to transverse through a land mass!

We now have better SSB coverage around New Zealand, north to the Pacific Islands and east to Australia. This is sometimes limited by the vagaries of propagation (and the quality of the radio installation in some boats) but we are still working on this.

Funding

Russell Radio is a voluntary organisation dependent on membership subscriptions, donations and fund raising activities. We have been most grateful for some generous donations and funding activities during the year. These have included:

- New Years Day donation pledges with all donations matched by a very generous member of Russell Radio.
- An Auction and BBQ at Pompallier Mission organised by kind members and supporters, with the proceeds donated to Russell Radio
- A Raffle for haul out, antifouling and a week on the hardstand, donated by Opu Marine Painters (Robert Aukett) and Far North Holdings.

Why belong to Russell Radio?

We are continually trying to improve the service we offer to our membership. The following we think are some of the benefits of belonging to Russell Radio. Do you agree? Please let us know if you think that there are other things we could do?

1. A friendly voice on the water in the Bay of Islands.
2. A dedicated VHF channel (Ch 63) covering the area from Tutukaka in the south to Knuckle Point at the northern end of Doubtless Bay, encompassing the Cavalli and Poor Knights Islands. (Some areas are not covered by Channel 16)
3. Continuous radio monitoring from 8am to 8pm for 365 days a year. Two full-time radio operators assisted by several volunteers

VHF: Ch63 (working), Ch03 (commercial) and Ch16 (listening)

SSB: 2182 (Listening 0800 – 2000), 6516 (1800 – 1830), 4445 (1830 – 1900), 4417 (1900 – 1930)

Proud supporters of
Russell Radio:



Opu Marine
Painters
Ltd

Far North
Holdings
Ltd

4. Russell Radio is building a database of member's boats. Provided we get your call when you set out, the radio station will listen out for your safe return and try to arrange assistance if you require it. (Please provide as much details as possible.)
5. Daily Weather reports for Bay of Islands, and coastal areas Cape Brett and Kaipara on VHF Channel 63 at: 0800 - 0930 - 1330 and 1750.
6. Improved equipment to cover SSB for trans-Tasman and trans-Pacific yachts. Blue Water Cruisers can call on SSB on the following frequencies and sked times:
 - 6516 daily 1800 - 1830
 - 4445 daily 1830 - 1900
 - 4417 daily 1900 - 1930
 - Other frequencies and times by request
7. Peace of mind whether on an offshore passage or just cruising the Islands. Member's position and messages can be relayed by email to the folks at home
8. Overseas visiting yachts can call on Channel 16 or 63 and directions will be provided for the right course for the "Q" berth and the Customs dock in the Opuia Marina.

Emergencies and Radio Protocol

One of the advantages of Russell Radio is the friendly nature of our communications. However, it is important when transmitting emergency or urgent information to use the correct procedures. The following is an extract from the Maritime New Zealand Radio Handbook for Coastal Vessels. (This is available free from Maritime New Zealand, Russell Radio and Coastguards).

Emergency procedure:

- Listen before transmitting to avoid interference to others
- Use the vessels name and radio call sign (if available). There are many vessels with similar sounding names or names that are difficult to distinguish.
- Try to use accepted operating procedures - see below
- Be brief

- Speak as clearly as you can
- Wait for a reply to calls before transmitting again, or before changing channels

Correct voice procedure:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • This is | Used to separate the target's call sign from your own. Station that you are calling first , then your name (and call sign if available) |
| • Over | This is the end of my transmission. I will listen for and expect your reply. |
| • Out | This is the end of our contact. No reply is expected and I have no further messages for you. This lets other parties know that they will not interrupt if they start transmission. |
| • All understood | I understand what you want and I will do it. |
| • Romeo, Copy or Acknowledged | I have received your message correctly and it is understood. |
| • Say again | I did not receive correctly, or I don't understand your message. Please repeat it so I can be sure I have it right. |
| • Correction or I say again | I have made a mistake; this version following is the correct one. |
| • Wait or Standby | I will call you back soon. |
| • Clear | I have finished with this communication but will remain listening. |
| • Affirmative | Yes. |
| • Negative | No. |
| • I spell | I will spell the word using the phonetic alphabet. |
| • Radio check | Respond with indication of strength and clarity (5x5). |
| • Numbers | All as single digits only, eg nine-nine-nine, not nine hundred and ninety nine. |

VHF: Ch63 (working), Ch03 (commercial) and Ch16 (listening)

SSB: 2182 (Listening 0800 – 2000), 6516 (1800 – 1830), 4445 (1830 – 1900), 4417 (1900 – 1930)

Proud supporters of
Russell Radio:



Opua Marine
Painters
Ltd

Far North
Holdings
Ltd