

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Newsletter – July 2012</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor &amp; QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki 5542, New Zealand. - Tel: 06-364-6339</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter Distribution &amp; QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK2CTN, P O Box 65, Dickson, ACT 2602, Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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="text-align: center;">QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above. QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK2CTN at address above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 --: <a href="http://www.fistsdownunder.org">www.fistsdownunder.org</a></p>	  <p style="text-align: center;">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 MEMBERS**

This month we welcome **Don Smith VK3ASD #14143** who lives in Box Hill, Victoria. Box Hill is a suburb of Melbourne, 14 km east from Melbourne's central business district. Box Hill is known for its multicultural diversity, and its resulting large range of restaurants and cafes of various international cuisines.

Additionally from the Melbourne area we welcome **Peter Lord VK3FPL #14144** of Camberwell, a suburb of Melbourne 9 km east from Melbourne's central business district

Another welcomed is **Graham Hassall VK4HZX #14145** from Top Camp, Queensland. Top Camp is a locality near the city of Toowoomba, located 9 kilometres (6 mi) from the city centre. Graham said I first heard about the 'Fists Club' some time ago from John, VK4TJ who lives not far away from me. Since then I have "ummd and arrd" about joining the club several times but never did anything about it. Finally, it was your advert that appeared on page 14 of the June 2012 edition of Amateur Radio Magazine that stirred me into action and to lodge a membership application. Graham kindly supplied us with this personal profile: - G/day to all Fists Club members. My introduction to CW operating began in 1964 when I enlisted into the British Army. Eventually I applied for and passed the selection course to serve for about seven years in the British SAS. Amongst other things I worked often as a patrol or base signaller. Most radio communication work were carried out by CW although VHF and SSB working were also used as required. In 1971 I transferred from the British Army into the Royal Australian Signals serving in a unit based near Sydney NSW.

In about 1974 I left the Australian Army and began working for the QLD Government. By 2003 and with retirement looming ahead for 2005, I began looking for possible retirement interests. For many years a Yaesu FRG 7 communications receiver had been permanently switched on at our home. However, of more interest to me was an Australian made, Leo Cohen manufactured 'Simplex' Auto Bug Key (Melbourne circa 1940) which had been given to me many years earlier. Only once had I used this key before, when in 1974 I was the Sydney Based Radio Operator for the Sydney to Rio De Janeiro Leg, of the Whitbread Round-the-World Yacht Race and for which the radio communications mode for this task was mostly CW. This Auto Simplex key had been a pleasure to use back then and so I decided to restore it and maybe Amateur Radio could be the place to use it again.

In 2006 I passed the Australian Foundation Licence exam obtaining the call sign VK4FZZX.  
In 2007 I passed the Australian Standard Licence exam obtaining my current call sign VK4HZX. My radio interests are of course CW working used for 98% of the time, seeking for that elusive DX signal or for the signal not heard before.

Other radio interests include SSB working, VHF Digital Linking, VOIP, Satellite Tracking & Communications. However, I'm only a learner here and just tip toeing around these fascinating subjects.  
Good Luck to you all. Good DX and pleased to work you on the bands but, please only around 20 WPM plus a little bit more/ or less, much faster than that and I can't write it down and at 72 years I can't remember it either. Current Key in use is a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer.  
*We hope to have personal profiles of the other new members in a later edition of FISTS Down Under*

**TRAWLING THE WEB**

A comprehensive report on the Titanic 2012 activities by **M0BPT -Robert #5576**:  
[http://www.m0bpt.org.uk/TITANIC%202012/TITANIC\\_2012.htm](http://www.m0bpt.org.uk/TITANIC%202012/TITANIC_2012.htm)

From **N1EA-David #9227** - <http://www.qsl.net/n1ea/> - Hello Men and Women of the Telegraph Key, I wanted to tell you that I've been uploading historic Morse code recordings to *Dominion Post* on the Internet Archive. I am not finished with all of them, but I have a good amount already done and I am sending the link to you for your pleasure. They are for non-commercial use only and for your enjoyment. Here is where you will always find the latest list of recordings and other related documents. Internet Archive Historic Morse Recordings <http://archive.org/search.php?query=n1ea>

We recently reported in FISTS Down Under about plans by former operators of Wellington Radio ZLW to place a memorial plaque on the site of the station on Tinakori Hill, Wellington, (recently renamed by the city council as Ahumairangi Hill.) This is to recognize the service of those who manned ZLW and also to remember the New Zealand Coast Watchers (including several New Zealand Post Office radio operators) who were executed in the Gilbert Islands during WW2. (The Gilbert Islands now comprise the island nation, The Republic of Kiribati.) An additional national memorial for the executed radio operators was announced in a recent report in the Wellington daily newspaper <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/capital-life/7098926/Beheaded-men-to-be-remembered>

**MEMBERS NEWS**

Thanks to **VK3OZ-Pat #9070**, **#ZL2BIL-Bill #9003**, **ZL2AMM-Stan #9023**, **VK7TW-Justin #9077** and **VK3PC-Jim #9679** for including a donation when renewing their subscriptions.

The winners of CQ Magazine DX Marathon 2011 have just been announced, and the winner for Oceania, and also Zone 30, is **VK4CC-Col Clark #14133**! He will receive a trophy for his efforts, a huge achievement in what was really his first year as a serious DXer. Full results are published in the June 2012 issue of CQ magazine, out now. *Congratulations, Col!*

The news is from Bob Locher W9KNI from Dayton, and who Col cites as his DX Elmer, having been inspired to tackle the Marathon when he read Bob's book "A Year of DX". *(Item thanks to WIA News)*

**ZL2AOH-Ralph #1072** is going to be in Melbourne in December to attend the wedding of a grandson. It is hoped that a meeting of VK3 members can be arranged. We will advise you of developments.

**CHANGE OF CALLSIGNS**

**ZL1AZE Brian #9078** is now **VK3MI** and holds **ZL1AZE** as an additional call sign.

**VK8FQRP Brendon #14134** is now **VK4FVLP**.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in July 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>

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z; Jul 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship; CW	1900Z-2030Z; Jul 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z; Jul 3
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z; Jul 4 to 0300Z; Jul 5
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z; Jul 7 to 2359Z; Jul 8
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2359Z; Jul 8
QRP ARC! Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2359Z; Jul 8
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z; Jul 11 and 1900Z-2000Z; Jul 11 and 0300Z-0400Z; Jul 12
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z; Jul 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z; Jul 19
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z; Jul 25 and 1900Z-2000Z; Jul 25 and 0300Z-0400Z; Jul 26
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z; Jul 28 to 1200Z; Jul 29
RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z; Jul 1

The **IARU HF World Championship 2012** will take place the second full weekend of July, beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday (July 14-15, 2012).

The objective of this contest is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

The rules for this year are available here: - <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>.

**DIGITAL AWARD FOR TITANIC EVENT**

Dear friends, on the occasion of the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic, Brave Radio Friends have sponsored a digital award for all radio amateurs and SWLs who worked or heard at least five of the Titanic special event stations.

An award of similar design is also available for the Titanic special event stations provided that they made at least 1,000 QSOs with the special call. If you are interested in this award, you only have to send an e-mail containing the special Titanic call, the number of QSOs made with the special call and the e-mail address to which the award should be sent. It would be a pleasure to send you this award as a PDF file.

73 de **Hans DE3EAR** - Award manager of BRF [hugotir@t-online.de](mailto:hugotir@t-online.de)

**CLUB CALLSIGN FOR FISTS DOWN UNDER AUSTRALIA**

VK2FDU is the Australian call sign of Fists Down Under. As a national call sign, it's worth a valuable 5 points to those members who make contact with the station. VK2FDU also has a CC (Century Certificate) number.

As manager of VK2FDU, I have decided to trial the allocation of the call sign on a monthly basis. This allows a member to use it whenever it's convenient for them during 'their' month.

I'm pleased to report that we have several volunteers to operate VK2FDU until the end of 2012. However, more operators are always welcome and suitable times can be arranged.

Month	Operator	Fists No.
June	Chris VK3CGB	9087
July	Chris VK2CTN	9057
August	Alan VK6PG	9018
September	Chris VK3CGB	9087
October	Ray VK4ZW	9681
November	David VK3DBD	3756
December	Chris VK3CGB	9087

So keep an ear out for VK2FDU on-air during the coming months. Activity will generally be around the Fists calling frequencies, depending on band condx. Skeds can be arranged with the operators.

Please consider volunteering to use the call sign. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it's all appreciated and especially by those with whom you make contact.

If you would like to volunteer and help to promote the club, simply get in touch with Chris VK2CTN.

**Notes on using VK2FDU**

**Who can use it?** - All licensed VK members of the Fists Club can apply to use the call sign, in accordance with their own licence grade.

**Do I need to send at 25 wpm?** - No! All members are encouraged to use the call sign, irrespective of CW ability. Remember that 'accuracy transcends speed'. Give it a go!

**How do I apply?** - Contact Chris VK2CTN.

**Do I have to use it for the whole month?** -

No. The call sign is simply allocated to you for a month or whatever time suits you and it can be used during that period when convenient.

**Is a log required?** - Yes. An Excel spreadsheet is available which specifies all the info that needs to be recorded for both legal and club award requirements. If you don't have a computer, then a paper log is fine.

**Who manages the QSLs?** - Chris VK2CTN. He can send VK2FDU QSL cards to be completed by the operator and they can be returned to Chris. He can also complete QSLs on the operator's behalf.

QSLs are distributed via the Fists and WIA bureaux. Cards to VK stations are sometimes sent direct, along with info about the club and a membership application, HI.

***(How about the ZLs, adopt a similar roster for operating their club station – ZL6FF. Volunteers please - Ed)***

**28MHz Extended Double Zepp Loop Antenna**

**By Doc VK5BUG (ex VK5MGY R.M.S. Titanic APR – MAY 2012)**



**Notes:-**

Orientation : 150 / 330 degrees Pole Center SSE / NNW = Mid Scandanavia / Iceland

Feedpoint : 4 Metres above ground on timber mast. Long Sides 16ft 11ins / Short Sides 5ft 5ins

Feedline : 450 ohm dogbone ladder line

Computer Modelled Gain: 8.31dbi (6.3dBd)

Take off angle : 23.9 degrees

Design Freq : 28.018MHz

Final Version as shown above made from 2 x 28MHz directors (ex VK5LB 5 ele yagi) 20 /15mm telescoped aluminum tubing top and bottom sections from 20mm aluminum tubing. Corner joints hammered flat, rotary wire brushed. Aliminox conductive paste both surfaces, 2 x SS bolts each corner silicon sealed and 3 coats of bronze plive outdoor paint ( "colorband" range). Feedpoint 2x SS washers and conductive paste, separating copper wire and aluminium elements, 2x SS crews.