

#1, May, 2026

Editor's Desk

The aim of this monthly newsletter is to encourage Auckland hams to get on the air more. The newsletter will include information about upcoming activities, reports on recent activities and how to make your on the air activities more enjoyable. Individuals and clubs can submit articles. For each article, there is a limit of two photographs and 150 words including the byline.

Philip ZL1PSH



Activation of Moire Park

John ZL1KLF activated the non-POTA park Moire Park in West Harbour on April 27. The park has the ZLOTA designation ZLP/AK-0548. John made the following comments in the FB group *The Potaholics Crew*.

"23 contacts, thanks chasers. It was very soothing to have a noise floor of practically S0 rather than the consistently annoying S5 at my home QTH."

The first photograph shows John relaxing at the activation point. The second photograph shows the map of John's contacts produced by the Polo logger John uses.



Branch 03 ANZAC activities

On ANZAC day, Br 03 (Western Suburbs) ran the commemorative station ZL1PPY. They also ran their club station ZL1AC on their SPST 2m repeater. With ZL1PPY, Br 03 ran FT8 and SSB on all open bands throughout the day.

Each station who contacted ZL1PPY should receive a special QSL card. The same goes for contacting ZL1AC. I have few QSL cards, mainly because I do not collect them, and I looking forward to receiving two special cards from Br 03.

Branch 02 POTA activation

On April 26, Br 02 (Auckland) activated the POTA park NZ-0241 Musick Point Esplanade Reserve. The park is the brown shaded area in the following map extract (taken from ontheair.nz with permission).



I presume the activation was successful because I know several ops at the Br 29 (North Shore) club rooms chased the activators on 40m and 2m.

POTA park activations are an enjoyable on the air (OTA) activity for Auckland branches because Auckland has many POTA parks that can be reached by vehicle. This enables branches to take extra gear compared to what a SOTA activator can usually take. The activations are also a good way for new hams to gain OTA experience.

Why not organise a club POTA activation?

Branch 29 weekends

Branch 29 (North Shore) has been holding open days from 10am to 4pm most Sundays for approximately one year. The activities on the open days are a mixture of construction and repair, testing, instruction, and OTA activities. More recently, Cillian ZL1RPC, John ZL1KLF and Philip ZL1PSH been opening the Br 29 club rooms on Saturday from 1pm to 4pm for mostly OTA activities.

The OTA activities on the weekend just gone included chasing LLOTA (see below), NZ LOTA, POTA and SOTA activators on 40m SSB, and making HF FT8 contacts. On May 3 76 FT8 contacts were made, most of which were DX and mainly on 17m.

You are welcome to join the fun at Br 29 club rooms on the coming weekends.

LLOTA

Lakes & Lagoons on the air [1], known as LLOTA, is a recently introduced outdoor award program. As of May 4, 46 countries including New Zealand have national LLOTA programs.

It should be no surprise that the goal of LLOTA is to activate and chase designated lakes and lagoons. The rules are still being refined but it seems they are or will be very similar to those for POTA. In particular, contacts with the same station on different bands, or on the same band with different bands count towards the 10 QSOs required for a qualifying activation.

New Zealand currently has 1022 LLOTA references. You can find information about them on the excellent ontheair.nz website. Auckland's two main urban references are Lake Pupuke, LLOTA designation NZLL-0607 and Mangere Lagoon NZLL-1157.

[1]. LLOTA (https://llota.app/)

Short SOTA QSOs in the Winter

A sonnet by chatgpt.

On frozen heights where biting winds persist,
And daylight fades too soon behind the ridge,
The activator's breath becomes a mist,
Each moment balanced on a narrow bridge.

The rig grows cold, the fingers stiff and slow,
The logbook flutters in the icy air,
Yet signals leap where only few would go—
A fleeting thread of voices, crisp and rare.

No time for long exchanges, drawn and wide,
For warmth and safety hang on swiftness here;
A call, report, and thanks must then suffice,
Efficiency outpacing cold and fear.

So brief the QSO, yet its worth runs deep—
In winter's grip, it's contact we must keep.

Ten Watt EME

DO3OI reported in the FB group *EME Moonbounce Radio Communications* that on March 25 this year (2026), they completed full QSOs with NC1I and UA3PTW on 70cm using 10W (ten watts). No doubt NC1I and UA3PTW had done the heavy lifting. These two stations would likely have gained a lot of satisfaction from picking up such a weak signal.

DO3OI used an IC-705 and a seven-element Yagi. They had had 60 unsuccessful attempts at making QSOs spread over several months before completing the two QSOs on the same night.

HEMA vs SOTA

HEMA and SOTA both require four QSOs for a qualifying activation. What is a key difference between these two sets of four QSOs?

Calendar of Events

Below is a calendar of some local, NZART, POTA and SOTA events until the end of 2026. Further information about the events can be had by googling. If you know of events you believe should be added to the calendar, please let me know.

May 16. Sangster Shield. CW on 80m. 0800-1100 UTC.

June 14. Winter Straight key night. 0800-0900 UTC.

June 20 & 21. Auckland QRP weekend. Details later.

July 4. NZART Memorial Contest. CW & SSB on 80m. 100W & QRP sections. 0800-1100 UTC.

July 18. Trans-Tasman Low Band Contest. CW, SSB, and PSK & RTTY (combined) on 160m, 80m and 40m. 08:00 UTC - 14:00 UTC.

July 18 & 19 UTC. POTA Support Your Park.

Each Tuesday in August. ZL Winter Sprints. CW, SSB & FT4 on 80m. 100W & QRP sections. 0800-0829 UTC CW only, 0830-0859 UTC SSB only, 0900-0929 UTC FT4 only.

August 15 & 16 UTC. ILLW.

(TBC) September 12 NZST. Andrew White ZL3CC Memorial Day. A SOTA event.

October 3 & 4. NZART's VHF and above Microwave Contest. All bands 32 cm and up. All modes. 0400 - 1000 Sat UTC, 1800 Sat UTC - 0000 Sun UTC.

October 17 & 18 UTC. POTA Support Your Park.

December 5 & 6. NZART's VHF and above Field Day Contest. All bands 6 m and up. All modes. 0400 - 1000 Sat UTC, 1800 Sat UTC - 0000 Sun UTC.

December 6. Summer Straight Key Night. 0800-0900 UTC.

December 8. H Night Contest. AM only on 80m. 0630 - 0900 UTC.

Author and Contact

Unless stated otherwise, all content in this issue was written by Philip ZL1PSH zululima1psh@gmail.com. I welcome feedback, corrections and articles.