

## QUARTZ HILL ANNUAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2009



Meridian Energy Ltd is making good progress with the construction of the new wind farm at Makara, and the first turbines are scheduled to be up and running in the second quarter of 2009.

Our plans to build a new ZL6QH station are temporarily on hold until we have greater certainty about the technical compatibility of amateur radio operations with the RF noise that will be generated by the wind farm. The Committee has recently received additional information from

Siemens about measurements of the radio noise produced by the turbine technology, but this information does not give us enough confidence to make a decision about whether to continue with our plans to rebuild the station at the existing site, or to look for an alternative location. This decision will now be made around the middle of 2009, after the initial turbines have been installed and we have measured the actual noise level on site.

The ex Radio New Zealand 45 metre steel lattice mast and 22 metre steel pole were moved from Auckland to Quartz Hill in August 2008. We are very grateful to Tranzcarr, one of the transport companies working with Meridian Energy, for moving these items at no cost to the club. The club's assets continue to be stored in the eastern end of the Quartz Hill building and in the two containers kindly provided by Meridian Energy.

PowerPoint slide shows explaining the history of ZL6QH and our future challenges were presented to meetings of the Wellington Amateur Radio Club and the Titahi Bay Branch in 2008. The 'road show' will be updated and continued with other clubs in the region once we have more certainty about the plans for the new station.

The number of financial supporters in 2008/09 was 27, down slightly from 28 last year, 36 in 2006/07 and 34 in 2005/06.

The total number of QSOs logged by ZL6QH is 171,733 35,287 QSL cards had been dispatched by 10 January 2009. Vertex Standard was not forthcoming in response to a recent request for additional QSL cards so the Committee agreed to purchase another 1000 cards from a local printer (Charles Smith Printing Limited).

The Quartz Hill account continues to be in good shape. Not surprisingly there was little expenditure over the past year while operational activities have been suspended. The unaudited records for the period to 31 December 2008 show the expenditure being \$322.80 and income \$1722.69, to produce a net surplus of \$1399.89. The closing bank balance was \$5505.15.

Thank you to everyone involved for your support over the past year - in particular: Meridian Energy for supporting our transition planning; Tranzcarr for the moving of the mast hardware from Auckland to Quartz Hill, the Quartz Hill Supporter Group members for their contributions of finance, time and other resources; ZL1AXG for hosting the web site; ZL2AOH for his services as Finance Manager and QSL Manager; and the other members of the Management Committee (ZL2AMI, ZL2BCW, ZL2AOV, ZL2CA, and ZL2ACG) for their advice and practical contributions.

We look forward to making progress with plans for a new station over the coming year, and will continue to keep the club and the individual supporters posted about developments.

Brian Miller ZL1AZE, Chair Quartz Hill Management Committee, 2 February 2009