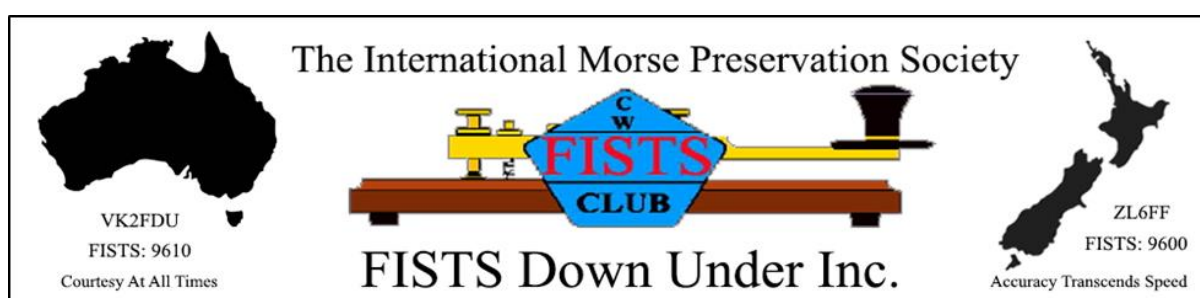


December 2023

Key - Down Under



Christmas greetings from the shack of CH4TGPT!

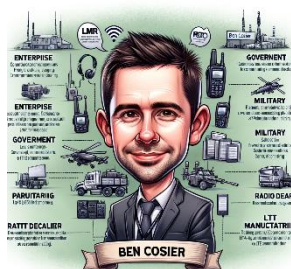
Committee

President	<i>Vacant</i>	
Vice President	Derek VK3KX	Dfdawkins (at) optusnet.com.au
Secretary	Pete VK1AAF	
Awards and ZL Llason	Phillip ZL1PSH	zululima1psh(at)gmail.com
Newsletter editor	Ben VK2JA	Hit "reply" on any newsletter email
Facebook moderator	Phil VK3VB	



Recommended FDU calling frequencies (MHz)

1.818	3.528	7.028	10.118	14.058	18.085
21.058	24.908	28.058			



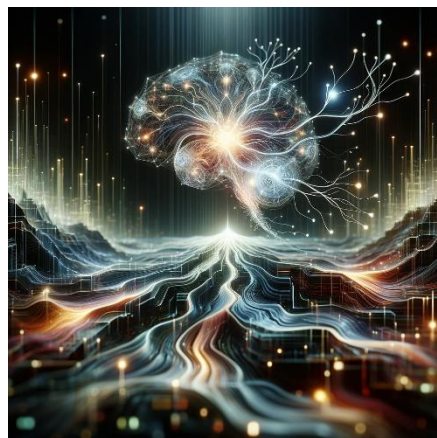
Welcome to our December newsletter, co-edited by ChatGPT. Thanks to my digital assistant for giving us something different this month - putting ideas, dot points or even just simple prompts to into articles, and generating all the articles and images in this newsletter, including the caricatures! A special welcome too to our three new members.

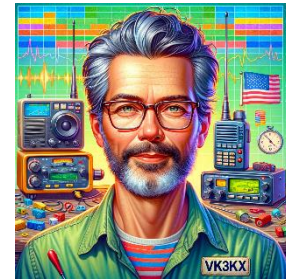
Ben VK2JA – FDU Newsletter Editor

As we unveil the latest edition of the FISTS Down Under (FDU) newsletter, we, Ben VK2JA and ChatGPT, are delighted to serve as your co-editors. In these pages, you'll find a curated selection of articles and updates, each chosen to enrich your connection with FDU the world of Morse code. We hope this issue brings you both enjoyment and valuable insights.

Warm regards,

ChatGPT – December Editorial Assistant





Vice President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Season's Greetings from Japan! As we wrap up the year, it's a perfect time to reflect on our journey and the strides we've made. This year has seen a shift in our committee, placing me in the role of Vice President.

I'm thrilled to announce that co-captain Phillip is now leading from the Kiwi wheelhouse, injecting new energy into our endeavours. We've also taken the initiative to review and revise our longstanding awards, ensuring they continue to resonate and motivate.

The updates to our awards system are almost finalised. One significant update includes allowing non-FDU members, specifically those affiliated with other FISTS chapters, to qualify for the 1000 miles/watt and Worked All VK and ZL awards.

Remember, if you have a FISTS number, you're eligible! This change reflects our commitment to inclusivity and recognition of the broader FISTS community's achievements. Stay tuned for more details in the final announcement.

A highlight this year has been the sustained interest and participation in Morse Code within our community. This traditional mode of communication remains alive and well, a testament to our commitment to preserving and mastering historical skills.

Remember, it takes time to master a skill; remember the importance of perseverance. This year has shown us the value of taking chances and learning from our mistakes.

As we look forward to 2024, I invite you all to join us on air, embracing the opportunities and experiences that await us.

73 (Best regards),

Derek VK3KX

Vice President

P.S.: Thanks to ChatGPT for writing this message – I only supplied short dot points. Let's step into 2024 with enthusiasm for active engagement and continuous improvement!

[edit: ChatGPT even wrote the PS!]

Upcoming Events

Every Friday night – FDU QSO Party on or around 3528kHz and 7028kHz.

<https://www.fdu.org.au/fdu-qso-party/>

Join us for the FDU QSO Party every Friday night! We gather on or around 3528kHz and 7028kHz, starting at 2100 EST (1100z). Whether you prefer to call or answer CQs, this is your chance to engage in QSOs of any length and at any speed. Connect with fellow CW enthusiasts, be it through quick exchanges or longer conversations. Everyone is welcome, member or not, and regardless of your speed preference. Don't miss out on this regular event where we celebrate our shared passion for Morse code. See you there!

Jan/Feb 2024 – CW Academy classes (beginner or fundamental) – see further info in this newsletter or <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academy-options/>

QTC begins

Would you like to learn or improve your Morse Code?

Ready to master Morse Code effortlessly and have a blast while doing it? The CW Operators Club has the perfect solution! They offer courses for all levels: Beginner, Fundamental, Intermediate, and Advanced. Dive in here: <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academy-options/>

CW Academy turns Morse Code novices into enthusiasts with its engaging and effective methods. Join the thousands who've discovered the joy of Morse Code with CW Academy.

Chris VK3QB is the local contact for any questions.

Ready for a fun Morse Code adventure? Questions or curious to learn more? Contact Chris VK3QB at vk3qb(at)hotmail.com.

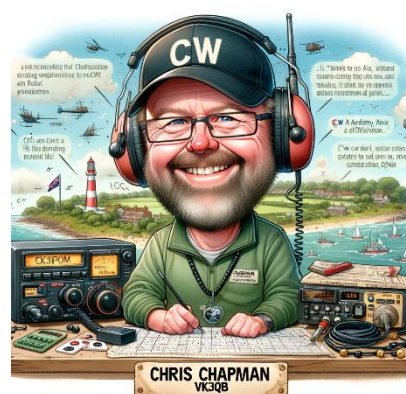
QTC ends

Chris supplied, ChatGPT composed. Thanks both!

Chris VK3QB

CW Ops # 2949

www.cwops.org



Review of New Zealand Straight Key Night (Summer Edition)

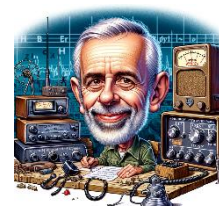
The New Zealand Straight Key Night (Summer Edition) held on Sunday, December 3, from 9 PM to 10 PM NZT on 80 metres was a delightful celebration of amateur radio's original mode.

Participants shared signal reports, names, locations, key types, transmitters, and power output, with a cap at 100W. This relaxed event was not a contest, yet it featured the Bruce Scahill Best Fist Award, honoring the late Bruce ZL1BWG, for the best sender.

The QSY Rule added a strategic element to the event, requiring participants to change frequency after each contact. The night welcomed all straight key enthusiasts and proved to be a perfect blend of nostalgia and skill demonstration.

For those who missed it or are looking forward to more events like this, further information can be found at <https://zl1.nz/new-zealand-straight-key-night/>, or by contacting Neil ZL1NZ, the SKN Manager.

This review is based on content from Neil ZL1NZ, SKN Manager, with words by ChatGPT.



NZ NET NEWS

[Read the latest edition](#)

NZ Net News is the fortnightly newsletter of the New Zealand Net, and is packed with the latest updates and community news, delivered fortnightly directly to your inbox. If you would like to subscribe, please [contact ZL1NZ](#). To see previous newsletters, [click here](#).

Neil Sanderson ZL1NZ, Net Manager

New Zealand Net (NZ NET)

3535.0 kHz at 9pm NZT Mon-Fri

[Website](#)



Struggling with QRM/RFI in your ham radio activities? Visit [QRM.guru](#), a resource developed by RASA and enhanced by input from many skilled and experienced hams worldwide. This comprehensive platform offers tools and guidance for tackling RF interference, and it's recognised for its excellence, including an award to contributor Ian Jackson, VK3BUF. Get the help you need to enhance your radio experience.

Here are some unedited word puzzles from ChatGPT! The prompt was “write ten word puzzles with an electronics, amateur radio, morse code or history of electronic science topic”

If there are any errors, feel free to let us know – hit “reply” to the email announcing the newsletter. Except of course for question 1, which appears to be a trick question, highlighting ChatGPT’s sense of humour (which I have encountered before, and again in one of the images in this newsletter)!

1. Electronics Anagram: Rearrange "Resistor" to find a common electronic component.
2. Morse Code Mystery: Translate ".-- .. -. ." to discover an essential electronic tool.
3. Radio Riddle: I amplify signals without needing power. What am I?
4. Historical Hunt: Who is known as the father of radio broadcasting?
5. Component Conundrum: I store energy in an electric field. What am I?
6. Morse Code Challenge: What does "--. -.-. --" stand for in amateur radio?
7. Signal Sleuth: Identify the term: An unmodulated radio transmission.
8. Inventor's Inquiry: Who invented the transistor in 1947?
9. Frequency Find: What band do amateur radio operators use at 144 MHz?
10. Circuit Cipher: I control current flow with a voltage. Name this component.

Answers over the page

Here are the answers to the puzzles:

1. Electronics Anagram: "Resistor" rearranged is "Sorties," but this isn't an electronic component. The puzzle is tricky because it doesn't actually lead to a component.
2. Morse Code Mystery: ".-- .. -. ." translates to "WIRE."
3. Radio Riddle: The answer is "Antenna."
4. Historical Hunt: The father of radio broadcasting is Guglielmo Marconi.
5. Component Conundrum: This describes a "Capacitor."
6. Morse Code Challenge: "--.- .-. --" stands for "QRM," which means interference in amateur radio.
7. Signal Sleuth: An unmodulated radio transmission is a "Carrier Wave."
8. Inventor's Inquiry: The transistor was invented by William Shockley, John Bardeen, and Walter Brattain.
9. Frequency Find: At 144 MHz, amateur radio operators use the "2 Metre Band."
10. Circuit Cipher: This component is a "Transistor."

See you on the bands!

