

2026 Jock White Field Day Report

Apologies that this is not in the May/June Break-In. Late entries made life difficult for me and I had some senior moments preparing the results table and I would like to thank the outgoing Break-In editor, Doug ZL3DUG with some proof reading help.

A big thank you to everyone who turned out for this years field day and especially those who organised the teams and scored and sent in their entries.

There were a total of 94 multipliers active this year compared to 92 last year and that was up on previous years, long may this continue. Band conditions were good this year, probably the best all round for several years.

A very close race for the 80 meters only section first place, less than 10 more phone contacts and first and second place would have been reversed. The ZL1XH team again were the top scorers.

Band pass filters ex China have become quite cheap and there were noticeably more stations reporting using them this year. We used them at ZL2KS this year, one on each band and they worked well.

VK2AZL joined us this year operating as VK2AZL under portable conditions, great to have a VK entry this year.

You may be wondering where the branch numbers 91 and 92 came from. The system of teams wanting to use a branch in recess contacting me in advance works well and prevents clashes. This year two mainlanders wanted to operate field stations, an individual in Marlborough and a team in Christchurch. There are few branches in recess in the South and the only ones in these two areas were already in use. I ran this past Geoff, NZART contest manager and we decided to make numbers 91 to 99 available to be allocated on a temporary basis as needed in this situation. It worked well. These numbers will be available in the future if there is a shortage of branch numbers in recess in any area.

Minimum contact numbers: there were a few cases of being under this. Make sure you plan what bands/modes you intend to operate on to reach 50 phone or 20 CW contacts. It is crazy to make hundreds of phone contacts on one band and less than 50 phone on another for example. Leadership and coordination is needed to avoid this. I have allowed a few cases to get away with being just under the limit, I may not be as lenient next year.

Some feedback: I have noticed the event being called field 'days', it does grate a little with me: its field 'day'.

There were a few field stations active and with valid contact numbers that did not submit an entry. I'm a stuck record here: don't enter a field station until you have someone allocated to doing the scoring and sending me an entry. On that subject this year was a bad year for late entries that I had to chase. The cut off date is clear in the rules, a month is plenty of time. The sooner after the event the easier it is to score.

I have had several requests for a 40 meter only section. I have mixed feelings about this, we have a lot of sections already some with minimal participation e.g. single station 80 and 40 meters. Something for discussion at the Auckland conference forum?

See you all again February 27 and 28 in 2027.

Genuine team comments

On Sunday at 0910 we had a 4.2 earthquake right in our location, right at the start of a contact, we stopped then continued at the end with an explanation of what had just happened.

All operators patient and courteous

Overall a very worthwhile event.

75ml rain fell Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

One stations CW sending was so bad, had to guess what was being sent!

Be back next year, hopefully with one extra operator, losing battle to silent keys.

Great weather.

Same old band having a weekend of radio..!

Great weather and band conditions.

Band conditions on 80m better than last year...40m back to normal, rubbish early morning Sunday.

Our forty meter antenna was a completely mad 3 element hex beam with a rotator in the tent.

Valid Multipliers

Total of 94 with a field station maximum of 90 (you cannot claim yourself)

80 Phone

01 02 04 05 08 10 13 16 18 19 20 22 26 27 28 30 40 48 61 65 68 69 76 77 83 87 89 90 91 92 (30)

80 CW

04 05 08 13 16 17 22 26 28 30 68 69 76 77 87 90 (16)

40 Phone

01 02 05 08 10 13 15 16 19 20 22 27 28 29 30 34 35 38 40 48 56 61 63 65 67 68 76 77 83 89 90 91 92 (33)

40 CW

01 05 08 13 16 17 22 27 28 30 56 67 68 76 77 (15)

Invalid Multipliers

80 m phone: branch 38, 40 m CW: branch 63.

Team Stats

242 operators at 39 field stations

Stuart Watchman ZL2TW

