

NEWS OF COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

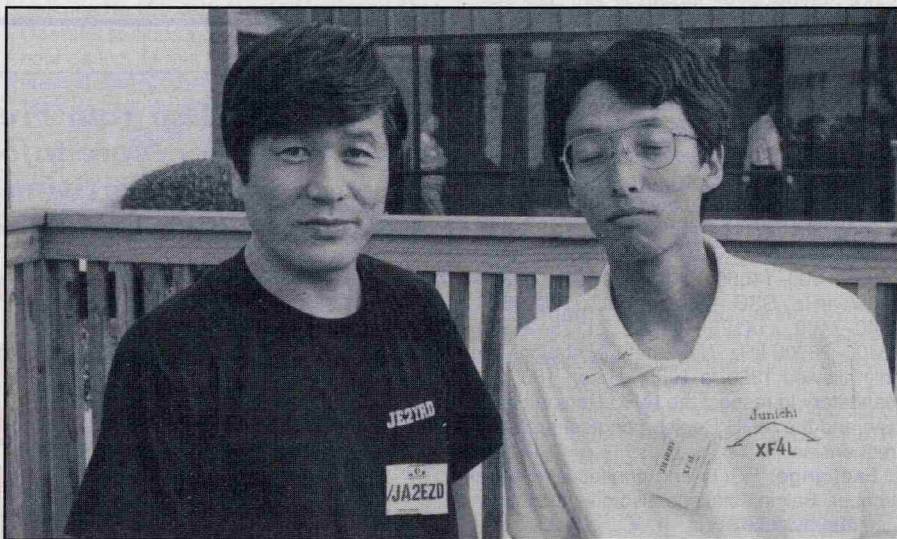
Campbell Island

This month DXers can look forward to an excellent opportunity to work one of the Top 50 Most Wanted countries—Auckland and Campbell Islands ZL9. A large and highly experienced group of DXpeditioners aims to depart New Zealand on the first day of the new year, with arrival at Campbell scheduled for January 9. The twelve-man team will operate under the callsign **ZL9CI** until January 25, giving everyone a good shot at this rare DXCC entity.

The DXpedition is under the guidance of the Kermadec DX Association, which did such an excellent job with the **ZL8RI** Kermadec operation in 1996. That operation earned the ARRL's DXpedition of the Year award that year. DXpedition leader is Ken Holdom, ZL2HU, leader of the ZL8RI operation and no stranger to the DXpedition circuit. Other New Zealand operators include Ron Willis, ZL2TT, and Lee Jennings, ZL2AL, both veterans of the ZL8RI operation; Murray, ZL1CN; and New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) staff member Jason Christensen, ZL2URN. Jason will represent the DOC on the trip.

Other team members include three operators from the Heard Island VK0IR DXpedition: Al Hernandez, K3VN, who has operated from several other Antarctic locations; Mike Mraz, N6MZ, who has experience on Wake, North Cooks, and Kerguelen, as well as Heard; and James Brooks, 9V1YC, also known as VS6WO. Other members of the DXpedition team are Brian Biggings, VE3XA; Declan Craig, EI6FR; Jun Tanaka, JH4RHF; and Andrew Williamson, G10NWG. These ops are not newcomers to the DXpedition circuit either. Declan and Andrew are members of the WestNet DX Group, which has successfully activated many of the islands around England and Ireland, and Jun has a fine record of DXpeditioning from XF4, KP1, 3D2, and Pratas BV9P, among other locations. Such an experienced crew should ensure that all openings are carefully covered.

The list of equipment headed for Campbell highlights how extensive an operation is planned. Yaesu transceivers include four FT1000MPs, an FT1000, three FT900s, two FT920s, an FT990, and an FT655 for 6 meters. Amplifiers include three Command Technologies HF2500s and an HF1200; Yaesu VLX, FL7000, and FL2100B; and oldies of Heath SB220,



Jun Tanaka, JH4RHF, on the right, is one of the Campbell Island ZL9CI operators.

Dentron Clipperton, and a separate amp for 6 meters. That's pretty heavy artillery for a country with a 150 watt power limit.

Antennas include two monobanders for each of the traditional higher bands, two tribanders, two 12/17 meter dualbanders, four-squares on 40 and 80, verticals on 160 and 30 meters, plus wire loops, 6 meter antennas, satellite gear, and more. Power will be generated by four 5 kilowatt diesel generators and a 2 kilowatt gas

generator. Nine lap-top computers running CT will handle logging.

Getting all of this gear assembled, checked, tested, and finally landed on Campbell is no small undertaking. The Kermadec DX Association has leased the *Braveheart*, a 117 foot former Japanese fisheries research vessel, for the trip. The *Braveheart* is now based in New Zealand and is completing a major refit specifically for this operation. As might be guessed,

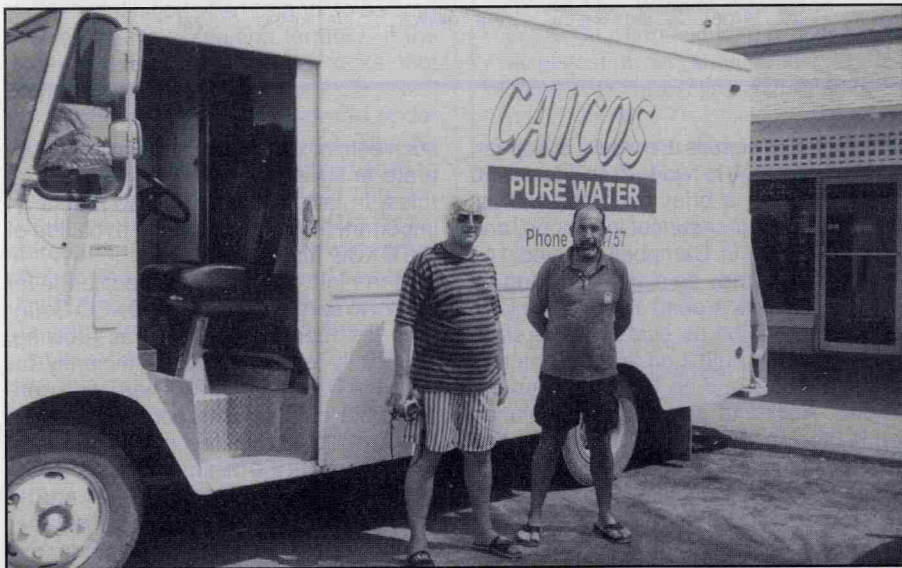


Three of the Heard Island VK0IR team will help man the ZL9CI stations. (ON6TT photo)

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all this comes at considerable cost. The boat charter alone will run about \$70,000 with costs for generators, fuel, transportation to the boat, food, etc., exceeding another \$15,000. The group welcomes contributions toward these costs. They may be sent to the Kermadec DX Association at P.O. Box 56099, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand.

Auckland and Campbell Islands ranked 19th on the latest Most Wanted survey from *The DX Magazine*. The ZL9CI should satisfy essentially all of that demand. DXers on the US east coast will probably have to settle for contacts on the lower bands and 20 meters, according to a MiniProp Plus™ analysis. Look for openings on 80 and 40 meters during mutual



Mario, VP5/CX4CR, and Bert, VP5/CX3AN, of the Uruguay DX Group operated from VP5JM's shack in the Caicos.

darkness, 08–1200Z. Thirty meters should open a couple of hours earlier and may be the best bet for a ZL9CI contact. There may also be a brief opening on 20 meters around 1400Z.

West coast DXers should have no problem working ZL9CI. The long period of mutual darkness 09–1400Z will provide band openings on 40 and 80 meters. On 30 meters, try 08–1600Z. On the higher bands, 20 should be open 06–1600Z while 17 meters offers a wide range of 04–1800Z. Of course, ZL9CI is not going to spend all this time working W6's, but west coast DXers should keep a keen ear for odd-hour activity.

The part of the world hardest to work from Campbell Island is Europe. Europe lies near the antipodes from Campbell,

which means signals are weak. European DXers' best bet to work ZL9CI is on 20 meters during a brief period of mutual darkness just after sunset in Europe, and before sunrise in Campbell, around 14–1600Z. There may be a short opening on 40 or 80 meters around 1600Z. The long path may well be as useful as the short path. Look for ZL9CI on 20 or 30 meters around 0800Z and on 17 meters around 1000Z. Auckland and Campbell Islands rank 8th Most Wanted in Europe, and higher still in some individual countries. This means that stateside DXers should stand by as requested by the ZL9CI operator when they attempt to work the difficult openings to Europe.

The DXCC entity of Auckland and Campbell Islands is one of several dozen

such entities that would not qualify for separate entity status under current DXCC rules. In fact, the island group marks an important turning point in the evolution of the DXCC "country" criteria.

In the late 1950s, as DXpedition fever began to spread rapidly, the DXCC Countries (as then known) list was growing, especially island groups sufficiently far from the parent country. There was considerable discussion among DXers and the Awards Committee at ARRL Headquarters about the minimum distance necessary between the parent country and an off-shore island group before the latter counts as a new country. For years, this decision had been based on a seat-of-the-pants approach. This island group was too close to count as a separate country, while

that group was indeed far enough away to count. As DXers searched for possible new countries, they asked for more specific distance requirements. In April 1960 the Awards Committee published the results of its research, stating that any new country must be a minimum of 225 miles from the parent country. This distance has since evolved into the current 350 kilometer separation requirement.

At the same time that the Awards Committee (there was no DX Advisory Committee in those days) was reviewing previous decisions to refine the mileage requirement, they were also considering an application for separate DXCC country status for Auckland and Campbell islands. At first glance, the island groups meet both the "feels right" and the new fixed mileage requirements. Auckland and its associated islands lie about 260 miles from the southern tip of the South Island of New Zealand. Campbell lies another 150 miles farther away to the south.

There are several islands belonging to New Zealand that lie between the South Island and Auckland. Steward Island is south of the mainland of New Zealand. Fortunately, Auckland is 235 miles from the southern tip of Steward. This still meets the 225 mile limit. However, there is a group of small islands called the Snares between Steward and Auckland. Auckland is only about 160 miles from the Snares. Since the Snares are definitely part of New Zealand, Auckland is too close to New Zealand territory to count as a separate DXCC country. And Campbell is too close to Auckland to count as a separate country. If some DXer submitted an application for this DXCC entity today, it wouldn't qualify. Or would it? It certainly didn't meet the DXCC country criteria prior to the recent rewrite. However, under the new rules, the Snares would have to meet the new definition of an "island" to be considered as New Zealand territory. If the Snares were composed of rocks that didn't meet the new 100 meter size rule, then they wouldn't be considered under the 350 kilometer separate rule. The determining distance would be that between Auckland and Steward Island. This exceeds the new 350 kilometer distance requirement. Thus, if the Snares were small enough, they would "disappear" under the new DXCC entity rules, and Auckland and Campbell *would* be added to the list.

In any case, the Snares *do* meet the size rule, and thus Auckland and Campbell do not meet current DXCC entity criteria. They, and dozens of other entities, have been "grandfathered" onto the DXCC list and will remain so. The new DXCC rules specifically discuss grandfathered countries and state that they will not be removed from the current entity list because of changes in the entity criteria. Auckland and Campbell do retain a small

footnote in the history of the DXCC program as being the last entity added to the list before specific mileage requirements were adopted.

This apparently subtle difference in the way intervening islands are considered in DXCC entity deliberations became a key argument in another potential New One for DXCC. In the early 1980s the Alaska DX Association (ADXA) petitioned to add the Pribilof Islands to the DXCC list. Part of their detailed analysis of other island groups on the DXCC list led them to believe that the then-225-mile separation rule should be measured from the "mainland" of the parent country, not from any offshore islands. Under this interpretation, the Aleutian islands would not bar the Pribilofs from the distance to the mainland of Alaska. The ADXA specifically mentions the case of Auckland and Campbell Islands, pointing out that the Snares were ignored or discounted in adding Auckland and Campbell to the list. To be consistent, the ADXA argued, the Pribilofs should also be added to the list. While this argument convinced a bare majority of the DX Advisory Committee, the decision to add the Pribilofs to the DXCC countries list was unanimously voted down by the Awards Committee comprised of ARRL headquarters employees. In what turned into one of the most divisive DXCC battles ever, the controversy concerning the Pribilofs raged for years. Ultimately, the Awards Committee decision prevailed, and the Pribilofs are not on the DXCC entity list.

Of the two island groups that comprise the DXCC entity of Auckland and Campbell Islands, Auckland is far larger, closer to New Zealand, and more frequently visited. Scientists and tourist boats regularly visit the main island in the Auckland group. Early visitors to the area attempted to found a permanent settlement on Auckland around 1850, but the project was abandoned after only a couple of years. During WW II, coast watchers kept tabs on enemy ships from Auckland, but the island group has been uninhabited since then.

Campbell Island, some 150 miles southeast of Auckland, consists of a single, 44-square-mile island. Its southern end is a mountain, with gentle slopes and harbors in the north. The climate is cold and very windy, but there is little snow, especially during the peak of the summer in the southern hemisphere. The permanent population of Campbell consists of seals and penguins, together with the occasional sheep left over from a ranching project that occurred early this century. The Rockhopper Penguin colony on Campbell is one of the largest such colonies in the world.

Campbell was discovered in 1810 by Frederick Hasselburg, captain of the *Perseverance*, which was owned by the Aus-

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB

2259.....SV2CWY	2261.....KC4FW
2260.....SV1AER	2262.....WB4OEE

CW

982.....WC4K	984.....JK1AKX
983.....OK2BNC	

SSB Endorsements

320.....K4MZU/330	320.....W7FP/329
320.....K2TQC/330	320.....IK1GPG/328
320.....K2FL/330	320.....LA7JO/328
320.....EA2IA/330	320.....OE2EGL/327
320.....W6EUF/330	320.....KD8IW/325
320.....K2JLA/330	320.....OE7SEL/324
320.....K6JG/330	300.....KC4FW/304
320.....K6GJ/330	300.....W5OXA/300
320.....N4MM/330	275.....CP2DL/281
320.....N4JF/330	275.....SV2CWY/276
320.....K1UO/329	28 MHz.....WB4OEE
320.....K5TVC/329	

CW Endorsements

320.....K2TQC/330	320.....EA2IA/329
320.....K2FL/330	320.....K2JLA/329
320.....K6JG/330	320.....W1WA/325
320.....K2OWE/330	320.....DL3DX/324
320.....N4JF/330	310.....LA7JO/316
320.....K9BWQ/330	200.....WC4K/210
320.....K3UA/329	200.....JK1AKX/208
320.....N4MM/329	

RTTY Endorsements

275.....W4EEU/280

Total number of active countries is 330. The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$4. For non-subscribers, it is \$10. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are made free when an SASE is enclosed for confirmation of total. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards Program may be obtained by sending a business-size, No. 10 envelope, self-addressed and stamped, to CQ DX Awards Manager, Billy Williams, N4UF, Box 9673, Jacksonville, FL 32208 U.S.A. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply. Please make all checks payable to the awards manager.

tralian firm of Campbell and Company. As with most islands in the area, Campbell's greatest attraction after its discovery was its population of seals. Aggressive hunting quickly reduced the seal numbers below that justifying continued visits. Aside from an occasional whaler, Campbell was largely ignored until 1896, when sheep ranching was attempted. The sheep ranch lasted until 1931, the last time Campbell had a resident human population. Today, New Zealand maintains a weather station on the island. The ZL9CI team will make use of some of the weather-station buildings during their stay.

Most recent operations from Auckland and Campbell Islands have been by DXers piggy-backing on scientific or tourist trips. Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, together with Roly, ZL1BQD, and Wayne, ZL0AFZ, operated ZL9 in February 1988 with a scientific team. In March 1991 a five-person team operated as **ZL9DX**, **ZL9YL**, and **ZL2TPY**. They made about 10,000 contacts in what was the last major DXpedition to the entity. Graham Dawson, ZL4MV, managed about 1000 contacts

from Auckland as **ZL9GD** while working with a film crew.

The ZL9CI promises to be DXers' best shot at a ZL9 contact for some time. New Zealand is cracking down on human visitations to its remote islands to preserve what is left of the ecology after the seal hunters and sheep ranchers finished their business. The New Zealand Department of Conservation is greatly restricting access to Campbell, so don't wait for the next operation.

More info is available at the ZL9CI website: <<http://www.qsl.net/zl9ci/>>. You can even check the weather on Campbell at the website! Good hunting!