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WELL RECEIVED Fan Mail Arrives for Radio New Zealand

RADIO New Zealand, the new Shortwave Division of the NZBS, which went on the air officially on September 27, received one back-handed compliment in its already substantial overseas mail the other day. It was a complaint from a farmer in South Australia, who lamented that his son found the programmes too interesting. They kept him away from milking the cows in the evenings. But that type of complaint doesn't perturb the station staff.

Once the technical details concerning wavelength, and reception conditions in the areas it is intended to reach have been completed, and test broadcasts made, the staff of a radio station has only one way of learning whether its work is successful. And that is by letters from listeners—a mail which increases as the station becomes better known. Radio New Zealand's files now contain correspondence from Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the United Kingdom, America, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Germany and Spain. The majority of the writers say that they are hearing the station a good deal better now than they did in November last when the first tests were made. Listeners round about the Pacific Coast of America report reception as "fairly good," but one listener in Boston calls it "perfect."

A good many of the letters received lately discuss the balance of the programmes, and comment favourably on the use of more musical entertainment than news and the fact that the sessions are not weighed down too much with spoken material.

Another Pennsylvanian, whose knowledge of New Zealand birds seems to be a bit bleak, wrote that he was "puzzled by the tuning-signal of Radio New Zealand, but a bit of research indicated that it was the note of a kea, an Australian magpie, or a morepork-owl." The correspondent from Pa. will hear, in the station's mailbox section, some information about the tui whose notes provide the tuning-signal.

Several New Zealanders living overseas have written to say how pleased they are to hear their own country on

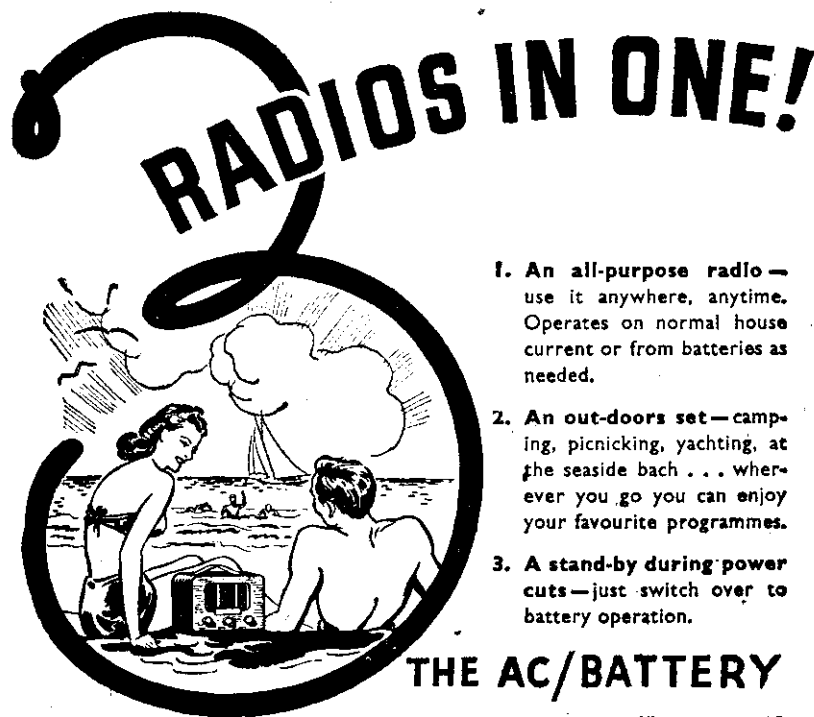


ONE back-handed compliment from South Australia

the air. On the other hand, New Zealanders at home have complained of poor reception, not realising that Radio New Zealand broadcasts are not intended for this country. The station's beam "skips" New Zealand and goes on to the areas at which it is aimed.

Officers on ships at sea have taken the trouble to listen regularly and record their impressions. A report from the radio officer of the ship *Ivybank*, which was then leaving Suva Harbour, said: "We are proceeding from Suva to Tarawa, then to Panama and possibly Curacao and finally Liverpool. We shall be glad to make our daily reports of reception during the voyage. As we draw farther away from New Zealand we may find 'skip distances,' information about which may be of use to you. We are very interested in your programmes and they are more than welcome here, where we look for musical entertainment rather than talk which some stations seem overfond of just now. The variety of music from ZL3 and ZL4 pleases everybody."

Although the writers stress, with apparent appreciation, the preponderance of music in the programmes, the station also gives bulletins of New Zealand news, sessions of travel information and talks on farm topics, arts, hobbies and sports. Radio New Zealand is, of course, always pleased to receive letters from listeners overseas offering programme suggestions.



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SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

THE Armed Forces Radio Service has made a number of changes in its programme schedule and is now featuring commentaries on both collegiate and professional football (American style) in place of a number of their variety shows. These commentaries, however, are for the most part heard on Saturdays and Sundays, and the balance of the week's programmes has not been materially affected.

Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Times of Transmission: KCBA, 15.15 mc/s., 19.81 metres (3.15 p.m.-8.30 p.m.); KCBF, 11.81, 25.40 (3.15 p.m.-8.30 p.m.); KGEI, 15.21, 19.72 (5.30 p.m.-10.30 p.m.); KCBX, 15.25, 19.67 (5.30 p.m.-8.45 p.m.); KWID, 11.90, 25.21 (5.30 p.m.-11.30 p.m.); KGEI, 9.53, 31.48 (10.45 p.m.-2.30 a.m.); KCBF, 9.70, 30.92 (9.0 p.m.-2.30 a.m.).

Headlines in the Programmes: 3.15 p.m.-3.30 p.m.: Club 15 ((Tuesday to Saturday). 3.45 p.m.-4.0 p.m.: Football (Sunday and Monday), Chiquita (Tuesday to Friday), Red Harper (Saturday). 4.15 p.m.-4.30 p.m.: Sports Reel (Wednesday and Thursday), Boxing (Saturday).

4.30 p.m.-5.0 p.m.: Academy of Music (Tuesday), Command Performance (Wednesday), Mail Call (Thursday), Jill's Juke Box (Friday), Boxing (Saturday). 5.15 p.m.-5.30 p.m.: Personal Album (Tuesday to Thursday), Strike Up the Band (Friday). 5.30 p.m.-5.45 p.m.: King Cole (Sunday), G.I. Jive (Monday to Saturday). 6.15 p.m.-6.30 p.m.: Remember (Monday to Thursday), at Ease (Friday). 6.30 p.m.-7.0 p.m.: Bookshelf of the World (Monday), Bill of Rights (Tuesday), Science Magazine (Wednesday), Heard at Home (Thursday), This is the Story (Friday). 8.15 p.m.-8.45 p.m.: Words with Music (Monday to Friday). 8.45 p.m.-9.0 p.m.: Hymns from Home (Sunday), Melody Round Up (Monday to Thursday), Red Harper (Friday and Saturday). 9.45 p.m.-10.0 p.m.: Personal Album (Monday to Thursday), At Ease (Friday and Saturday). 10.15 p.m.-10.30 p.m.: Basic Music Library (Sunday to Saturday). 10.30 p.m.-10.45 p.m.: G.I. Ambassador (Sunday), American Heritage (Monday), Sports Reel (Wednesday and Thursday), Fellowship (Saturday).