

Auckland's Band**Caustic Press Comment**

THE Auckland "Pictorial News," which takes a keen interest in culture matters, has the following comment to make upon the attitude of the City Council to the radio broadcasting of band recitals:—

"The Auckland City Council has had showered upon it probably more abuse and caustic criticism than any other local body in the Dominion during its present tenure of office. It certainly has earned a generous share of the kicks that have come its way as an admonition for ineptitude, extravagance and lack of administrative ability; but surely one of its most futile efforts to serve the citizens of Auckland has been the attitude adopted in dealing with municipal music.

"Squander-mania.—The Auckland City Council has squandered money most recklessly in this connection, and has decided to perpetuate the ridiculous anomaly of paying extravagantly for something the public manifestly does not want. The council has, for instance, acquiesced in continuing to pay a city organist £600 per annum, in addition to £200 a year for a tuner. These certainly are useful little "perks" for the individuals receiving them, but unfortunately those fees do not represent nearly the cost the ratepayers are paying for municipal music. The expenditure on lighting, advertising, rent, and engaging artists to assist at concerts (to mention but a few outlays) brings the annual cost of this musical farce up to about £1400, or nearly £70 for each concert. The gross receipts, we are informed, amount only to £4 8s. 6d. per performance!

"Organ Grinding Unpopular.—Auckland may, or may not, be a music-loving community, and its people may deserve being reproached for not possessing an artistic soul or an appetite for organ recitals. One thing, however, citizens have most certainly shown that they do not want municipal concerts, such as have been provided for them during recent years. We are told several of the once-thriving musical and choral societies in the city are having a particularly lean time, and find difficulty in keeping together, although Aucklanders have shown a disposition to enjoy the class of music these organisations used to provide. Now, unfortunately, they are unable to finance concerts, because of the high cost of producing them, despite the fact that most performers offered their talents gratuitously and gave their services generously.

"Better Use for Money.—It would certainly seem that the Auckland City Council would have been better advised to subsidise our languishing choral societies than continue to individuals when citizens have, in no uncertain way, demonstrated they do not appreciate their fare. Perhaps 'organ music' is above the musical understanding of the average citizen, but as ratepayers are paying the piper there should be some effort on the part of councillors to give the public what they want, rather than try and force upon them something they do not want."

Aunt Jean at 1YA

QUITE a little gift for versifying is possessed by Aunt Jean of 1YA, and every opportunity is taken to incorporate the news of the day in a topical verse which is sung to the children to a melodious air. The finding of the Southern Cross was one such occasion and produced the following verses from "Aunt Jean." In response to several requests from listeners we republish them here.

Good evening, Radio Family,
We've got good news to tell;
The "Southern Cross" is really found,
The flyers safe and well.
Now, isn't it just wonderful
The search was not in vain?
I'm sure we wish them better luck
Whenever they try again.
Well, listen in, listen in,
Yes, listen night and day;
You'll hear the best of everything
From Station 1YA.

Wellington Amateur Radio Society.

THE annual general meeting of this society will be held on May 27, not as announced previously. Remember, keep this date free, and make the meeting a real success. Announcement of details will be published later. Watch for them.

Talk to Africa

WHAT is probably a record achievement in wireless (Morse) transmission was accomplished by Mr. Roy Clarke, Lyall Bay, who is a well-known amateur using the call sign 2AW. Thursday, April 18, between 5.30 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. Mr. Clarke established two-way communication (on 40 metres) with three African stations as follows:—

ZSA4L (Johannesburg).
ZSA3E (Durban).
ZSA9W (Bloemfontein).

Difficulty was experienced in the past receiving African signals, and similarly Africans were unable to hear New Zealand signals, owing, it was thought, to the supposed "heavy-side-layer" theory. This is the first occasion Mr. Clarke has succeeded in connecting with Africa; and Mr. Clarke believes Mr. Frank Bell on one occasion was able to establish communication with an African amateur transmitter.

Australian Figures

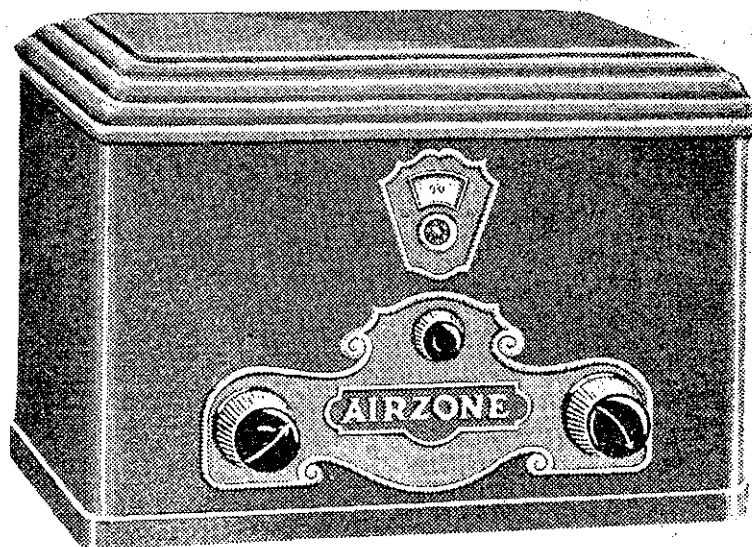
Following is the latest table of Australian listeners:—

	Receiving licenses in force at 31/3/29.	Ratio to 100 of population.
New South Wales	95,487	3.92
Victoria	141,932	8.09
Queensland	24,642	2.67
South Australia	22,942	3.97
Western Australia	3,790	.94
Tasmania	4,327	2.05
Commonwealth	293,120	4.64

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