

Rodney Branch (71) Picnic

report EYCKE ZINNERMAN

Saturday the 18th of January dawned overcast, with a cool south-easterly blowing. The \$64 question was: "would it rain?" This was to be the day of the Rodney Branch (71) Picnic. Whilst rain would have been welcome by farmers, we did not want it. Some optimistic type told us on the net frequency it would not rain and that the picnic was on. In the event he was proved right.



Arrival at the "promised land". ZL1HG's QTH on Kawau Island.

So at the appointed time of 10.15 nearly 50 people, Branch members and families, as well as members and families of Northland Branch (28) were ready to embark on our chartered launch, at the Kawau landing at Sandspit, loaded with goodies to eat and expectations!

A pleasant hour's run across smooth waters of Kawau Bay brought us to North Harbour and our destination, the "promised land."

We landed at a neighbouring jetty and walked along the foreshore until we reached the secluded oasis of 6 acres of sub-tropical land kindly put at our disposal by Ron, ZL1HG, our host for the day.

It did not take long for the party to reconnoitre this quiet spot and claim for itself an area of lawn as home for the next few hours. Nor did it take long for hampers to be opened! It must have been the bracing sea air, but never did sandwiches taste so good at home.

After lunch some hardy souls went swimming, others exploring the surrounding bush or feeding the wallabies, while the rest just enjoyed eyeball QSOs.

Amongst the notables present were Tom, ZL2AZ, who is the owner of one of the islands in the Gulf (vulgarily known as Rabbit Island (HI)! and the sole representative of North Shore Branch and Council, Jumbo, ZL1HV.



Loaded with Expectations and Food.



Our host, Ron ZL1HG.

WHEN USING A REPEATER
ALWAYS LEAVE A

3 SECOND

PAUSE FOR POSSIBLE
PRIORITY TRAFFIC OR
OTHER USERS