

# **WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA**

## **2008 GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Revision 3

### **SECTION 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The amateur radio community has welcomed the decision of the WIA Board to institute a scheme of grants to provide an additional support to amateur radio in Australia. This is evidenced by the enthusiasm of the clubs submitting some 15 proposals for the consideration of the WIA Board and the 2008 Grants Assessment Committee.

The 2008 Grant Assessment Committee established by the Board is, Don Wilschefski VK4BY (Chair), Deane Blackman VK3TX, and Rob Fincher VK3BRF. The Committee has completed its assessment and submits the following recommendations and comments for the consideration of the Board.

The Board has requested that \$3000- be allocated to three 'useful' projects including repeaters, and \$3000- for three 'innovative' projects. The committee developed a recommendation based on 3 clear 'innovative' projects, and five 'useful' projects. The committee felt that to reduce the number of 'useful' projects to three would result in a significant concentration of the allocation of funds. They felt that a larger number of allocations would be more suitable. This is considered more relevant in view of some applications that requested less than \$1000-. For the above reasons, it was suggested to the Board that the policy of only providing grants to three applications be relaxed, and that grants be made to five applications, in this instance. The Board has considered and accepted this proposal.

It is encouraging to see many clubs with different initiatives. Unfortunately some good projects did not receive a grant recommendation. Nevertheless there are still many very good initiatives and failure to receive a grant, does not indicate that it is not a good proposal.

The committee felt that Education and Publicity were areas where the WIA could take a greater role in setting policies and procedures. These are detailed below.

#### Education

The WIA has authority from ACMA to administer the qualification of amateurs. As such it could be reasonably expected that the WIA should design and implement a structure to supervise this process, whatever the means required to achieve this. The club grants committee saw many applications for assistance for clubs that were a result of their interpretation of what they believed would be correct procedures, for achieving the educational outcome. The committee felt that clubs may need more guidance and possibly financial support for the education process. Once a system is developed, clubs could apply to the WIA for assistance to achieve the outcomes in line with the WIA education policy.

#### Publicity

Some applications were for means to promote amateur radio to the public. Most of these were initiatives by clubs based on their understanding on what might be required, to publicise amateur radio. The committee felt that the WIA should take a lead role in publicity, with programs to assist clubs with promotional materials (posters, videos etc) and strategies developed by people skilled in

marketing, to promote amateur radio to the general public. The ARRL has some models in this area that could be adapted to Australian conditions. Once established, these strategies can be implemented by individual clubs, with support by the WIA, under a grants scheme.

The committee felt that they were placed in a difficult position to judge some of the education and publicity applications, when there are not clear WIA policies and procedures in these areas. It is hoped that additional resources may be applied to these areas in future.

In evaluating applications, there are some areas that the committee feels applications are less likely to be successful. These are:

- Costs of training club members
- Building works associated with club facilities
- Equipment for use by a club for meetings club presentations etc
- Equipment to assist with club administration

Finally, when submitting an application, the Project Summary section of the application form should indicate the items that the club wants to spend the funds on. On a number of applications it was difficult to determine what the application was for.

## SECTION 2 RECOMMENDATIONS.

The committee recommends that grants be allocated as follows:

### **Innovative Projects**

Northern Corridor Radio Club Inc. - VK-ZS Beacon Project	\$1000-
Amateur Radio Victoria - Digitisation of ATV Repeater VK3RTV	\$1000-
Sunshine Coast Amateur Radio Club Inc. – The Dish	\$1000-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3000-</b>

### **Useful Projects (Based on five projects)**

Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club – Emergency Preparedness & Education	\$600-
Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club – Portable Wireless Education	\$800-
Sunraysia Radio Group – Refurbishment of Swan Hill Repeater	\$500-
Rockhampton & District Amateur Radio Club Inc. – 23cm Repeater	\$500-
Redcliffe & District Radio Club – Mobile Emergency Communication Centre	\$600-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3000-</b>

## **SECTION 3 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED, ASSESSMENTS AND GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS.**

The number allocated to each proposal has no significance beyond being an administrative aid and merely represents the order in which they were placed in the bundles of papers forwarded to the Committee.

### **001 NORTHERN CORRIDOR RADIO CLUB INC.**

(WIA Membership 27/45)

#### **Project Description: VK-ZS Beacon Project.**

High power Beacon operating on 2m beaming to ZS/FR from VK6.

**Assessment:** The committee agreed that this is an innovative project, and will stimulate interest in VHF DX.

**Recommendation:** \$1000- Innovative

### **002 BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

(WIA Membership 19/61)

#### **Project Description: Education for Amateur Radio**

Data Projector for club presentations.

**Assessment:** WIA membership in this club is well below the 50% for acceptance for this scheme. The committee felt that the objectives of this group are good and should be promoted.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.

### **003 EASTERN & MOUNTAIN DISTRICT RADIO CLUB**

(WIA Membership 140/195)

#### **Project Description: Emergency Preparedness & Education**

Portable Trailer Based Emergency Communications Centre. This unit could be used for emergency communications as well as for publicity at schools and public gatherings.

**Assessment:** This project has the potential to promote amateur radio and provide emergency communications. EMDRC has a large membership and high percentage of WIA members.

**Recommendation:** \$600- Useful

### **004 EASTERN & MOUNTAIN DISTRICT RADIO CLUB**

(WIA Membership 140/195)

#### **Project Description: Portable Wireless Education Centre.**

A 'Teachers Aide' is proposed consisting of a laptop computer, portable shelter, and a VHF/UHF radio, to be used at schools to promote and demonstrate amateur radio.

**Assessment:** This proposal will provide good teaching aides and has will assist with promotion to non-amateurs.

**Recommendation:** \$800- Useful.

## **005 RIVERLAND RADIO CLUB INC.**

**(WIA Membership 6/15)**

**Project Description: Foundation Training & Advancement.**

A Data Projector to assist with clubroom training.

**Assessment:** This application is for a data projector. While it is somewhat similar to proposal 4, the committee did not feel it justified a grant.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.

## **006 WESTLAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.**

**(WIA Membership ??)**

**Project Description: Classroom Renovation.**

**Assessment:** This application is for building works. The committee did not think that this type of project is within the scope of the grants.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.

## **007 PORT STEPHENS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC**

**(WIA Membership 3/10)**

**Project Description: Laptop Computer.**

The laptop computer is proposed to be used for contests, club administration, and for teaching in the community.

**Assessment:** This proposal is for a laptop computer to display amateur radio related programs in various situations. The committee did not feel this application justified a grant.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.

## **008 AMATEUR RADIO VICTORIA**

**(WIA Membership ??)**

**Project Description: Digitisation of ATV Repeater VK3ATV.**

This project will result in a digital television signal in the Melbourne area, which can be received by anyone with a simple set top box.

**Assessment:** The committee felt that this was an excellent project to promote amateur radio to a large population group including non-amateurs..

**Recommendation:** \$1000- Innovative

### **009 SUNSHINE COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc**

**(WIA Membership 31/65)**

**Project Description: Foundation License Practical Examination Equipment.**

Power Supply, SWR meter, wattmeter, ATU to assist with Foundation license Examinations.

**Assessment:** The committee felt that while this equipment would be useful, the WIA should not be financing individual club training, under this grants Scheme.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.

### **010 SUNSHINE COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc**

**(WIA Membership 31/65)**

**Project Description: The Dish (4.5m dish antenna for EME station use.)**

**Assessment:** The committee felt that this was an excellent innovative project for promoting EME and space communications at a club level.

**Recommendation:** \$1000- Innovative

### **011 SUNRAYSIA RADIO GROUP Inc**

**(WIA Membership ??/?)**

**Project Description: Refurbishment of Swan Hill Repeater.**

This application is to complete the refurbishment of a repeater. It includes solar panels, power regulator, cables and connectors.

**Assessment:** This is considered a useful project for assisting communications in this area, for members and others travelling in the area.

**Recommendation:** \$500- Useful

### **012 DARWIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**(WIA Membership 14/28)**

**Project Description: Assessor Training.**

This application is to cover the costs of assessor training for four people.

**Assessment:** This project is considered outside the scope of the grants scheme.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.

### **014 ROCKHAMPTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc**

**(WIA Membership 23/44)**

**Project Description: Installation of 23cm Repeater on Mt Archer.**

This project is to install a 23cm repeater serving the Rockhampton area in Central Queensland.

**Assessment:** The committee felt that this is a useful project, although the coverage of such a repeater will be limited to local access. Nevertheless it will promote activity on 23cm in this area, and may encourage similar activity in adjacent areas.

**Recommendation:** \$500- Useful.

#### **014 REDCLIFFE & DISTRICTS RADIO CLUB Inc**

**(WIA Membership 36/75)**

**Project Description: Mobile Emergency Communications Centre.**

**Assessment:** This project is to fit out a caravan for promotion of amateur radio to public events, JOTA, schools, field days etc. The committee thought it is a useful project.

**Recommendation:** \$600- Useful.

#### **015 REDCLIFFE & DISTRICTS RADIO CLUB Inc**

**(WIA Membership 36/75)**

**Project Description: Emergency Operations Centre.**

**Assessment:** This project is to complete a fixed radio room for the club. The committee felt that this project did not justify a grant.

**Recommendation:** No allocation.