

THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

Club Grants Committee Report 2011

Introduction

The 2010 Grant Committee established by the Board was Bob Tait VK3XP (Chair), Wally Howse VK6KZ and Peter Lowe VK3KCD.

Wally Howse withdrew from the Committee and did not take any part in the writing of this report.

Club Grants Commentary

The majority of applications addressed training and membership development projects many with an emergency services application included. A significant number were recurring expenses which rendered them unsuitable for a grant. There were no applications directed primarily at technological development. We also noted the use of scouts as a recruitment vehicle, perhaps in the future this could be broadened to include the wider community.

We also noted from the guidelines for the grants are divided into two categories which may be summarized as 1. Development and 2. Technological. It is not reasonable to expect applications to fall into these two categories by chance and so, to thus limit the total available because of the skew in the direction of the applications, seems unreasonable. We would suggest that the board, wishing to support technological development might consider offering these as a separate grant process and not necessarily limit grants to clubs, but encourage individuals to apply. We suspect that this type of activity is generally an individual one and this is exemplified with forums such as the Gipstec event.

We question the wisdom of extending the deadline, generally the applications from the second group are hastily put together and lacking in some way.

1 Oxley

We felt that the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has presented a very comprehensive application with very detailed costing. This is a very small club with only 34 members of which 17 are WIA members. This is borderline in regard to the membership requirement. The addition of a mobile shack as a promotional tool to attract new members has some merit, in addition to Field days and emergency communications within their local area. It is pleasing to note that there exists a variety of skills within the club to ensure the project is successful

We suggest support for this club to the tune of \$1500.

2 Brisbane Amateur Radio Club

The focus of this application is to attract younger members to replace the aging membership and make some effort to arrest the membership decline.

Assisting them in improving the quality of their meeting presentations using digital projection equipment is a positive step. In order to attract good presenters most of which use Powerpoint and the like, clubs need to have good reliable means of presenting to current and prospective members.

On the negative side we are not sure about a loan scheme.
We do however suggest support the projector and screen to \$600.00

3 St George Amateur Radio Society Inc

In some ways this project is very similar to the Oxley project however not as detailed. We noted that there is a reasonable amount of participation and internal donations to bring together this project, this is encouraging and shows a willingness to expand their activities. The provision of the basic trailer to be converted into a mobile display and field operations will give the club some flexibility it needs.

We would like to see involvement of the local schools as well as the scouting movement.

It would be nice if the group could secure a good long place to hold meeting and store their equipment.

We suggest a grant of \$600 00

4 Sunraysia Radio Group

We have some reservations about this application in that all the focus is on Scouts and Foundation Courses. We would be happier if it had a broader focus from which to gain younger membership. We do concede that they do have a ready source of new members but would encourage them to focus on the broader community and their existing members. It would appear that the club does not have an existing club station and therefore needs assistance in this area.

For this reason we will support their application but are uncertain of the amount to suggest. We did indicate previously \$1000 but note there are monies supplied by the Scouts Australia for an additional station. Not sure how this works.

5 Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society

This application proposes to build on to the established training room as a result of previous efforts by the addition of training aids and a number of kits to be purchased.

This group has the highest WIA membership per centum of all the applications.

Again the club has limited their target for new members to the Scouts and guide movement; we would encourage them to look further a field and not limit their prospects. It is pleasing to note they intend to embrace new technology to elevate their students to AOCP one would hope this does not scare off those wishing to complete a Foundation course.

We support this activity and suggest \$600.00

6 Scout Radio Electronics Unit

This project is related to Linking of the Scout repeater network. It did not contain much detail apart from meeting the cost of Internet rental and a phone line.

We do not support this project as it failed to meet some of the basic criteria. Paying for annual ADSL rentals etc is not attracting new members or providing training.

7 Darwin Amateur Radio Club Inc

This application is to improve the repeater network in the Darwin area which is difficult to cover owing to the terrain (No Hills) Unfortunately the application is lacking in detail with no costing of the required items apart from the amount sort by the club.

At this stage we do not support this application but do realise that they have a number of difficulties in raising funds and resources.

Should the Board wish to treat this application as a special case suggest a grant of \$500.

8 Amateur Radio Club Southern Tasmania

This application requests funds to be given away as scholarships including WIA membership.

We do not support this application as it fails to meet the grant criteria, it is lacking in detail of how the money will be spent and in the long term, it will only benefit a small group not the members at large. It is in our view short term. We do not recommend this request.

9 Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

This request was extremely well presented with very detailed costing. This club has a wide range of activities and solid plans to runs sessions that will appeal to the younger generation and to embrace the newer technologies. The request is to provide a projector and basic transceiver and antenna to supplement existing training aids for classes.

We support this request and suggest \$900.00.

10 Scout Radio Activities Group

This project is to purchase kits and equipment for practical assembly of CW kits, Crystal sets and CB radio's including soldering equipment.

This appears to be a project to allow member to achieve badges. We do not see AR activity in this project.

Therefore we do not support it.

11 Ballarat Amateur Radio Club

This application is to fund handouts at an Amateur Radio Hamfest

We do not support this request as it does not meet the criteria nor does it have any long term benefits for new and current members.