

WIA Club Grant Scheme Committee Report September 2012

Introduction

The Committee established by the Boards consisted of Reg Emmett VK7KK (Chair), Peter Lowe VK3KCD and Bill Main VK4ZD. This report is compiled with input from the whole committee.

Committee Operation

The committee confirmed via email; a project summary was circulated and comments added, it was recirculated as required. Extra information was collected from two applicants and Mal Brooks approached a third for membership numbers. A copy of this document is tendered as a record to act as meeting minutes.

The applications were ranked individually and a consensus list established.

General

The scheme's purpose is stated to be to promote and advance amateur radio, the WIA and its Affiliated Clubs by supporting useful projects undertaken by Affiliated Clubs.

For a project to receive a Grant under these Rules it must be considered by the Grant Committee and the Board to be sufficiently useful for any one or more of amateur radio, the Affiliated Club or the WIA to justify the making of a Grant.

The idea of a "project" seems to be loosely interpreted as Clubs have made claims for purchasing materials as diverse as presentation equipment, building materials and publicity materials. Some clubs have attempted to frame more considered projects.

In general clubs should present applications that appear to have been well thought out and documented and not just a request for what seems to be, in some cases, a hastily decided amount of money with no real justification. It is suggested that a well structured financial costing is essential; this was missing from many applications.

It is noted that participation is ordinarily limited to Affiliated Clubs having a WIA membership percentage of not less than 50%. All but one application satisfied this requirement.

Specific recommendations for Board's consideration

1 Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club 45 Members Stated to be a "low number" of WIA members (via personal communication).

Money was requested to make improvements to Club Station and hall to enable them to conduct training and education courses.

There was little specific detail about what they planned and nothing on the hall ownership. The Club were contacted and the spokesman indicated they had at least 3 years tenure on a scout building that had been unused for 10 years. They have already relined and re-painted the building and there still seemed uncertainty about how their grant money would be used. It was eventually suggested that wiring and conduit for their radio room would be suitable.

The committee still felt the application was lacking in detail but any assistance would be sufficiently useful to the Club and WIA support would be an encouragement.

Support suggested \$600

2 Brisbane Amateur Radio Club WIA Members 14/24

They required a laptop computer to run AOCP classes. They gave detailed costing of equipment purchased for the ongoing development within their new clubrooms but no specific details or cost justification for the item requested in the grant application. Their application is supported as the equipment could be widely used but it was felt that no justification was given for spending this amount of money on a computer. The committee felt that one at less cost would suffice.

Support suggested \$600

3 Central Goldfields ARC Maryborough Vic Members 14/34

Well presented application for a data projector for a new meeting room. The committee was satisfied that there will be benefits to the affiliated club and to amateur radio.

Support suggested \$500

4 Eastern and Mountain Districts R C Members 150/241

Their project to install a Digital TV system for both fixed and portable use in classrooms and public displays will benefit Club, WIA and Amateur Radio through good publicity. Costs were well documented.

It was felt that support at a slightly lower level than that requested would be appropriate.

Support suggested \$1000

5 Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club

18/36

A well documented request to provide screen doors for a building shared with a scout group. The committee had doubts about the building's occupancy and tenure and whether others should share cost. . The group were contacted and it was ascertained that the Club has sole use of the building and have a large infrastructure on the site which is used for National Scout Jamborees. Recommended

Support suggested \$573

6 Gympie Communications and Electronics Group Inc

Members 8 /15

A request for a replacement 70 cm repeater antenna.

The application was sparse with no detailed costing supplied and while it was conceded that the project would be of value to the Club it was not supported.

7 Ham Radio Events Club

Members 6/ 10

The committee weren't convinced that the group was one which fits the concept. There were no contributions mentioned from elsewhere, and it is unclear as to the location of the equipment once purchased. It is also unclear as to the geographical coverage of this group and it seems to spread its activities over a very wide area.

Not supported.

8 Scout Members Amateur Radio Team WA

Members 10/13

The concept of providing publicity materials such as posters, website and exhibition pull up banners to be used to promote amateur radio training and assessment appears beneficial and costs were well documented. The scouts are a good point of contact for prospective Foundation Licence candidates and this project will support that well.

Support suggested \$600

9 Sherbrooke Community RC

Members 5/9

They requested funds to purchase a 4 kW generator and marquee to better participate in public events, radio contests and JOTA.

The committee felt it was a worthy project but it was a major investment for a small group. No costing was supplied. Funding at a level which would support one of the two items requested was suggested.

Support suggested \$800

10 Tamworth Radio Club

Members 7 /19

(14 adults)

They requested help for an on-going project installing digipeters in NW NSW, to support Scouts training and Amateur Radio generally.

Committee were not satisfied that the project was cost effective despite it satisfying criteria to build Amateur Radio activity.

Agreed to support supply of one unit

Support suggested \$520

Summary

It was suggested that money be distributed as listed against each project. The amount allocated was \$5193 from the \$6000 maximum allowed.