

WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

2007 GRANTS COMMITTEE

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 9 proposals for the consideration of the WIA Board and the 2007 Grants Assessment Committee.

The 2007 Grant Assessment Committee established by the Board is Don Wilschefski VK4BY (Chair), Deane Blackman VK3TX and Walter Howse VK6KZ. The Committee has completed its assessment and submits the following recommendations and comments for the consideration of the Board.

SECTION 2 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. Where a Club submitted applications for grants for more than one project they have been designated A, B etc and treated as individual applications.

1 FISHERS GHOST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (WIA Membership 6/12)

Project Description: Assistance is sought for extensions to the Amateur Radio Building at the Cataract Scout Park situated halfway between Appin and Wollongong. Nominal costs of the proposal were \$48 000 were recognised as outside of the level of the Grants Scheme but the Club was hopeful of some suggestions or some assistance.

Assessment: No funds are recommended for this application. However the committee thought that the club will need support in a few years time when a scout jamboree is held in the area. This could be in the form of a communications facility including tents, equipment, advice on setting up to allow scouts to communicate with other scouts.

2 IPSWICH & DISTRICT RADIO CLUB (WIA Membership 7/27)

Project Description: Replacement of the ageing and intermittently faulty 2 metre WICEN repeater VK4RWM. A grant of \$2 180.75 was sought.

Assessment: WIA membership in this club is well below the 50% for acceptance for this scheme.

Recommendation: The Committee did not consider the project as having particular merit to warrant a grant under Rule 6 (b) regarding eligibility.

3A TWIN CITY RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB (Inc)

(WIA Membership 30/49)

Project Description: Refurbishment of VK2RAY 6 metre repeater in the Albury-Wodonga area. \$700 had already been spent with a total project cost of \$2135. A grant of \$700 was sought.

Recommendation \$700.

3B TWIN CITY RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB (Inc)

(WIA Membership 30/49)

Project Description: Purchase of a computer to replace one loaned by a member for training. A grant of \$700 was sought.

Recommendation \$700.

4 SUNSHINE COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc

(WIA Membership 44/99)

Project Description: Purchase of a commercial two metre diplexer to improve coverage of its 146.850 MHz repeater for emergency and general communications. A grant of \$2 000 was sought with the club contributing the balance of between \$1 750 and \$2 000 to complete the project.

Assessment This is a well presented application from a club that has gained considerable community support.

Recommendation \$1 000 available when the Club notifies the WIA that it has raised the remaining funds required.

5 GOLD COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Inc

(WIA Membership 40/82)

Project Description: Purchase and installation of three repeaters, cavity filters for two sites and controller equipment and antennas. A grant of \$4 000 was sought with the club contributing the balance of \$10 000 to complete the project.

Assessment Cavities will allow the commissioning of a third repeater to produce a network with wide coverage of the region.

Recommendation \$700 available when the Club notifies the WIA that it has raised the remaining funds required.

6 EASTERN & MOUNTAIN DISTRICT RADIO CLUB

(WIA Membership 151/223)

Project Description: A disaster and education preparedness kit, including a generator. A grant of \$1 000 was sought to assist this with the club contributing \$1 000 to the project.

Assessment This application was somewhat unclear but the equipment sought will assist with emergency and community work and promotion.

Recommendation \$1000 available when the Club notifies the WIA that it has raised the remaining funds required.

7 SUNRAYSIA RADIO GROUP Inc

(WIA Membership 14/28)

Project Description: Re-establish the Ouyen repeater. A grant of \$1 500 was sought to purchase antenna, coax and connectors and diplexer with the club contributing the remaining \$3 843 to complete the project.

Assessment The Sunraysia Radio Group is a small group in a relatively remote location. High levels of transit traffic will make good use of a repeater.

Recommendation \$900 available when the Club notifies the WIA that it has raised the remaining funds required.

8 REDCLIFFE & DISTRICTS RADIO CLUB Inc

(WIA Membership 34/63)

Project Description: Disabled Toilet and Wash Facility in the Club Building. The total cost of this project is \$15,600-. The Redcliffe City Council is sponsoring half of this cost. \$2,000- is sought to assist with the remaining costs for the project. The application is supported by quotations for trade work.

Assessment The Club is clearly active with many activities associated with the facility. However, the proposal is not attractive from the point of view of advancing the interests of amateur radio or the WIA.

Recommendation: The Committee did not rank this project highly enough to recommend a 2007 Grant. It considered there were more desirable and advantageous proposals. Not recommended

23 August 2007

SECTION 3 ALLOCATION SUMMARY

Proposals recommended for a WIA 2007 Grant

3A	TWIN CITY RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB (Inc) – 6m Repeater	\$700
3B	TWIN CITY RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB (Inc) – Computer	\$700
4	SUNSHINE COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc - Repeater duplexer	\$1000
5	GOLD COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Inc - Repeater upgrade	\$700
6	EASTERN & MOUNTAIN DISTRICT RADIO CLUB – Generator	\$1000
7	SUNRAYSIA RADIO GROUP Inc – Re-establish repeater	\$900

Total **\$5000**

Proposals NOT Recommended for a 2007 WIA Grant

- 1 FISHERS GHOST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
- 2 IPSWICH & DISTRICT RADIO CLUB
- 3 REDCLIFFE & DISTRICT RADIO CLUB

SECTION 4 COMMENTS

The committee felt that the scheme is not working very well. Innovation is not being stimulated. No applications were received for digital communications, APRS or any other newer technology or innovative projects. This is somewhat disappointing. It is suggested that the WIA promote innovation in special interest areas to direct clubs to focus on new areas.

Many clubs have an overwhelming focus on operating and maintaining a repeater communications system, often involving repeaters in multiple bands. Many grants request funds to maintain, repair, or re-establish repeaters. Most of the technology involved is well established.

Few grants focussed on promotion of amateur radio or the WIA. Most promotion was incidental to the project being applied for.

In particular, incentives to develop on-going training programs, or to plan to exploit forthcoming publicity opportunities, are not delivered best through annual competitive grants but as expression of a policy developed by the Board with funding set aside for these areas..

The grants scheme requires a reporting mechanism. It is suggested that the procedures similar to government grants include the following requirements:

- ◆ Detailed estimate for the project including quotes for larger items.
- ◆ Following the grant, feedback on progress and notification when the project is complete.
- ◆ Notification of funds spent on the project.
- ◆ Confirmation of the achievement of the objectives.

Each of the above takes time to manage, and we should not expect a fully professional project proposal.