

WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA 2009 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 17 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 \$6000- be allocated to support projects in two specific areas:

- projects and activities (to be conducted before 1 April 2010) to attract new amateurs
- projects supporting emergency communications and preparedness there for

This report recommends grants for ten of the seventeen applications considered. The total amount of the grants is \$5450-. The allocations were based on the assessment by the committee.

Two applications are recommended for grants where the WIA membership percentage is less than 50%. The committee felt that these applications were exceptional and the benefit to amateur radio should be significant.

The decision of the Board to specify the areas to be supported has led to better directed applications. It has also simplified the evaluation process. The committee felt that a return to more innovative and technical projects in future, would be welcomed.

SECTION 2 RECOMMENDATIONS.

The committee recommends that grants be allocated as follows:

Projects and activities to attract new amateurs

FISHERS GHOST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB- Australian Jamboree 2010	\$500-
REDCLIFFE & DISTRICTS RADIO CLUB INC – Attract New Amateurs	\$500-
PORT STEPHENS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. – Loan Library	\$500-
WAVERLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY – Emergency Trailer Project	\$750-
ST GEORGE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY – Attract New Amateurs	\$600-
SHERBROOKE COMMUNITY RADIO CLUB – Advancement of AR	\$700-
SUNSHINE COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – GlobalSET Comm.	\$500-

Total **\$4050-**

Projects supporting emergency communications and preparedness there for

YARRA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO GROUP – Repeater & Trailer	\$250-
ST GEORGE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY – Refurbish 2m repeater	\$650-
TWIN CITIES RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB – Emergency Comm.	\$500-

Total **\$1400-**

Total Grant **\$5450-**

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 documentation forwarded to the Committee.

001 MIDLAND AMATUER RADIO CLUB INC.

(WIA Membership 65%)

Project Description: Presentations, Promotions & Training with Multi Media.

Laptop computer and data projector.

Assessment: The committee agreed that this project is essentially hardware and the reasons submitted did not justify a grant.

Recommendation: No allocation

002 GLADSTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

(WIA Membership 73%)

Project Description: VK4RGA Upgrade Six Metre Repeater

Cables and antennas for the existing 6m repeater.

Assessment: While this project is a real radio project, it does not appear to comply with the criteria nominated by the Board.

Recommendation: No allocation.

003 FISHERS GHOST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

(WIA Membership 37%)

Project Description: AJ2010 AR

Promotion of amateur radio during the upcoming Australian Jamboree in January 2010.

Assessment: This project is to provide amateur radio demonstration and participation in the Jamboree. The committee felt that this will attract new amateurs. The WIA membership percentage is 37%. However the committee believes this is an exceptional application, and every effort should be used to promote amateur radio during the 2010 Australian Jamboree. Under those circumstances a grant is recommended.

Recommendation: \$500- (Attract new amateurs)

004 WESLAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

(WIA Membership 45%)

Project Description: Purchase of Video Projector to Complete Classroom Upgrade.

Assessment: WIA membership does not exceed 50% and the application does not appear to be exceptional.

Recommendation: No allocation.

005 MID SOUTH COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

(WIA Membership 46%)

Project Description: Computer Projector

Assessment: WIA membership does not exceed 50% and the application does not appear to be exceptional.

Recommendation: No allocation.

006 REDCLIFFE & DISTRICTS RADIO CLUB INC.

(WIA Membership 51%)

Project Description: Emcomm Antenna and JOTA Support.

Assessment: To purchase a broadband antenna for portable Emcomm, and to provide fox sniffers and kits for JOTA activities. JOTA activities have the potential to attract new amateurs, and the activities appear well thought out.

Recommendation: \$500- . (Attract new amateurs)

007 YARRA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC

(WIA Membership 44%)

Project Description: Repeater Upgrade and Replacement Trailer and Associated Equipment.

. To upgrade existing 2m repeater

. To replace trailer and equipment destroyed in 2009 bushfires

Assessment: Technically, the 44% WIA membership ratio makes this application ineligible. The community in which this club finds itself needs on-going support. The repeater project provides an opportunity for member and non-member involvement in a real radio project which could fulfill some of the club's membership drive objectives. Although WIA membership is not compliant the committee views this application as exceptional, and recommends a grant.

Recommendation: \$250- (Emergency communications and preparedness)

008 PORT STEPHENS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

(WIA Membership 53%)

Project Description: Entry into Amateur Radio Hobby Loan Library.

Top establish a loan library of Foundation Books & reference material to encourage people into the Amateur Radio Hobby.

Assessment: The committee felt that this was an excellent project to promote amateur radio at a club level, where books can be loaned to prospective amateurs.

Recommendation: \$500- (Attract new amateurs)

009 WAVERLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

(WIA Membership 60%)

Project Description: Emergency Trailer Project.

A trailer is proposed fitted out with an antenna and radio equipment.

Assessment: This project is proposed to promote amateur radio to the community at public events, and to be available for emergency use.

Recommendation: \$750- (Attract new amateurs)

010 RIVERLAND RADIO CLUB Inc

(WIA Membership 77%)

Project Description: Membership Drive

Purchase of a data projector.

Assessment: There is an existing commitment to training – own computer, training room, accredited assessors as members. Need for a video projector is questionable when other options are considered and this could be a situation where multiple monitors connected to the laptop computer would provide satisfactory displays.

Recommendation: No allocation

011 GYMPIE COMMUNICATION AND ELECTRONICS GROUP Inc

(WIA Membership 56%)

Project Description: Top Set Up and Operate a 70cm Repeater.

Antenna and cables for use with existing assets (radio and cavities).

Assessment: While a repeater will attract new amateurs, the committee did not think that it justified a grant.

Recommendation: No allocation

012 ST GEORGE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Inc

(WIA Membership 57%)

Project Description: Attract New Amateurs.

Data projector as part of an extensive promotional campaign to diverse community groups.

Assessment: Although this application is for a data projector, the aims, if implemented, will attract new radio amateurs.

Recommendation: \$600- (Attract new amateurs)

013 ST GEORGE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Inc

(WIA Membership 57%)

Project Description: Supporting & Preparedness for Emergency Communications.

Refurbish 2m repeater.

Assessment: The objective of the application is to improve repeater operation in emergencies, building on past involvement in WICEN exercises.

Recommendation: \$650-. (Emergency communications and preparedness)

014 WICEN SA

(WIA Membership 53%)

Project Description: Radio Communications Self- Study Project.

Purchase of eight copies of "Radio Theory handbook 4th Edition"

Assessment: Purchase of the nominated books for members of WICEN SA, does not appear to be a project to attract new amateurs. The aim appears to be to advance amateurs to higher grades of license.

Recommendation: No allocation.

015 SHERBROOKE COMMUNITY RADIO CLUB

(WIA Membership 82%)

Project Description: Advancement of Amateur Radio in the Education System and Community.

Purchase of radio equipment and promotional literature to further an existing amateur radio training involvement with Sherbrooke Community School.

Assessment: This is an existing involvement that has already shown some success. It has a high probability of attracting new amateurs.

Recommendation: \$700- (Attract new amateurs)

016 TWIN CITIES RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB INC

(WIA Membership 55%)

Project Description: Emergency Communications

- . To acquire a battery powered 70cm radio repeater and portable antenna
- . To provide a mobile communications centre for safety duty at sporting activities in region

Assessment: Stage 1 of a well thought out plan to build an emergency radio station on a trailer. Club have already invested in some equipment, and this request is to advance the overall scheme. Club plans to attract new members, get them licensed and have them assist in operation of mobile

centre. Could be integrated with State/National emergency comms. WIA acknowledgement by plaque on trailer.

Recommendation: \$500- (Emergency communications and preparedness)

017 SUNSHINE COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC

(WIA Membership 52%)

Project Description: GlobalSET Communications

To be capable of emergency communications with international AR organizations on all HF bands including 60 metres, and including ALE.

Assessment: This application states that press releases will be issued before and after the international communications exercise. This has the potential to raise the profile of amateur radio, which will attract new members. It is considered hard to visualize how international radio communications will be of practical use in emergencies.

Recommendation: \$500- (Attract new amateurs)