

BUNYA MTS & DISTRICT AMCOM INC.

Meeting Minutes
General Meeting 2nd August 2014
Commenced at 10:05 hrs.

Welcome to members and visitors
Welcome to Jim Dudgeon from Warra.

Present.

Margaret Schwerin VK4AOE. Peter Griffiths VK4POP. Reg Kerslake VK4AQU. Beth Kerslake. Russell Hellyer VK4FRLH. Pat Hellyer.
Ian Binns VK4NVF. Ricky Lammas VK4NRL. Kerry Black VK4FKDB. Sharon Black VK4FSRB. Andreas Kellner VK4TH.
Rick Lloyd Joins VK4FRLJ. Jim Lee VK4AJO. Loraine Lee.

Visitors. Jim Dudgeon.

Apologies.

Albert Shelley. Rhys Shelley. Neil & Judy Holmes. George Sturgess. Trevor Clement.
Neil and Sandra Ruthenberg. Morris Vickery. Andrew Chapman.

A call for General Business items to be added to list, jotted down under general business.

Tabling and adoption of minutes of previous meeting 3 May 2014.

Moved by Russell Hellyer and seconded by Kerry

Black. Carried.

Business Arising

Foundation Licence Course: There is currently, possibly, three candidates for October 2014.

John Kirk (VK4TJ) is investigating the feasibility of doing the Foundation Course over SKYPE.

80m Nett: Volunteers called for the next three months – Rick Lammas: August; Andy: September; Ian: October.

Kirkleigh Camp 2015 – 28/29 March (last weekend in March): Rick Lammas advised he will conduct and manage the 2015 Kirkleigh Camp. Bookings as a group so discount can be taken advantage of; BBQ dinner; attendees pay their own fees and advise confirmation to Rick; trivia questions for the trophy; no pets are allowed at Kirkleigh; no large amounts of gear will be taken. School holiday periods are avoided because the camp area is heavily populated during these times.

10th Anniversary coffee mug - \$20: Cost is considered too high. No funds from the sale of the mug go to this Club.

Another camp closer to this area: Peter Griffiths nominated Kerry Black, seconded by Sharon, to source details for holding our camp at Jondaryan Woolshed. The woolshed caters for powered and un-powered sites; full amenities are available including washing machines and a dryer; a large expanse of both levelled and unlevelled ground on the non-

powered area is catered for with wheelie bins and fire burning drums; under-cover gathering area is available and provision of catered food is available. This site would also be suitable for a John Moyle weekend.

Fundraising: Sausage sizzle is set down for Saturday the 23 August outside Home Hardware. This date is close to the time the Fathers' Day catalogue is released. The suggestion of using kebab sticks for sausages for people that do not want bread, was accepted by all members.

Raffle ticket books are ready for all members to take away and sell. \$1.00 per ticket, books of 20, with two books already sold. The draw will be conducted at the next General Meeting held in November 2014. Tickets can be sold at the sausage sizzle.

First prize: \$100.00 voucher; Second prize: \$50.00 voucher; Third prize: \$25.00 voucher. Vouchers are redeemable at Woolworths, BCF and Bunnings. It is anticipated income from the ticket sales will assist with the repeater fund (as \$600.00 has been paid to Andrew Chapman for the solar panels for the repeater, with an all up amount of \$1100.00 to paid to Andrew. A letter has been sent to Andrew for his return to the Club, acknowledging that he has received the payment and confirming his actual donation to this Club.)

Andy suggested that a one-off special donation for fund raising happen today. All in agreement. The hat was passed around latter with a good result.

Lighthouse Activation: The Sunshine Coast Radio Club activated the lighthouse on a yearly basis in the past but will not this year. There were 54 countries involved last year. This Club will participate in the 2014 International Lighthouse Activation weekend event, at the signal station (new lighthouse). There is power in the office, tea and coffee making facilities which we can use. There is active equipment in this room which is not to be touched at all. Participants are to meet at the Caloundra Lighthouse (close to Kings Beach) at 9:00 am on Saturday 16 August 2014 to gain entry. Throughout the weekend there will be tourists and at 11:00 am on Saturday a bus load of people is expected to arrive to go through the lighthouse and view the active working amateur radio station. Currently the participants to meet will be: Andy; Kerry and Sharon; Reg and Beth; Rod (from Maryborough if his health is improved); Neil and Judy (currently visiting at Caloundra). If more members are intending to come and help and be involved please let Andy know so a shift rotation can be organised because the lighthouse space will only take up to four people at a time. The call sign will be VK4BAD/LH. Raffle tickets and pamphlets can be taken along and Andy is doing a QSL card for the event.

Member communication: To keep possible candidates interested to follow on with doing the course and becoming Club members some options are:

- a) Provide the website addresses and links to useful information
- b) Continue to follow them up rather than wait for them to be in touch with us
- c) Conduct some 'open nights' – questions and answers
- d) Members to become facilitators to encourage Club 'in-house' provision of teaching
- e) Snippets of interest submitted to local newspapers on a regular basis
- f) Brochures left at nominated places, eg council offices, newsagencies, coffee shops
Peter nominated Ian, seconded by Reg, to actively assist promoting the Club along with a younger Club member for participation in succession planning for the future of the Club.

President's Report:

Rick Lloyd-Jones provided his verbal report on the last year.

From our meetings at Kingaroy Winery – great day and good luncheon, back to Dalby for the balloon launch; Jandowae Scout Hall – windy and cool day and Dalby again today. The Club has come a long way over the last twelve months and thanks to everyone. ‘Work in progress’ as Andrew Chapman comes on line to help with the repeater will / should enable Russell into the repeater from his Wondai QTH.

The behind-the-scenes activity was a lot harder than expected and all the help provided is appreciated, thanks to everyone.

Rick Lloyd-Jones moved and Peter Griffiths seconded the President’s report and accepted unanimously by all members by a show of hands.

Treasurer’s Report for 1 May to 30 June 2014 tabled by Rick Lammas. (proxy for Neil). Moved by Peter Griffith, seconded by Ian Binns and accepted unanimously by all members by a show of hands.

Repeater Report: Rick Lammas provided his verbal report.

The ten year agreement to have the repeater gear on the mountain is due for renewal in March 2016. Evidence is required for a new agreement that the Club owns the gear to re-submit an application on behalf of the Club.

Old Parks and Wildlife own the site where the repeater is. Included in the agreement is that the Club maintains the equipment and keeps the area clean and free from debris.

Ergon Energy want to put an antenna on the site and use our batteries, solar panels and regulator. The ACMA site shows which frequencies Ergon Energy want for VHF.

Collaboration between the Club and Ergon Energy would be ideal to ensure our equipment remains owned by the Club.

Strong desire to have the Bunya Mountains Amateur Radio Club known as a premium site in Australia for amateur radio operators.

Rick Lammas moved the repeater report seconded by Peter Griffiths and accepted unanimously by all members by a show of hands.

Peter expressed appreciation to Rick’s dedication and involvement for all the behind the scenes work. Members acknowledged the appreciation by acclamation.

Provision of training for looking after the repeaters: Rick Lammas advised that training has been on hold because nothing is working properly yet to be able to conduct useful training. It is anticipated that Andrew Chapman will go with Rick this weekend 8/9 August to disconnect and re-connect the repeater to the batteries. All members agreed it would be in the Club’s interests for other members to go along as well. Rick Lammas would like to provide a dummy run with a static display of what is on the mountain and how it is all set up and how it all works.

The Karingal Hill repeater is working well, VK4RED. Hans ?????? is currently working on one of the repeaters.

Kingaroy is at a stand still until the Bunya repeater is fully functional. Rick and Andrew had planned to put up the 70 cm on the mountain last weekend but will now have to do it at another time.

Kerry moved, seconded by Peter the known problems with the repeater be advised to Andy to place details on the website. This will alleviate uncertainty when operators are trying to connect in.

GENERAL BUSINESS

QGC Grants: Qld Gas Company grants are currently available. Andy volunteered to apply for the grant on behalf of the Club and Jim will email the link through to Andy.
Anzac Day 2015 – RSL grant: The closing date for this grant is believed to be Wednesday 6 August so time is running out. Andy also volunteered to apply for this grant which involved the Club to set up and run a working amateur radio station at an RSL club on Anzac Day.

Discussions held regarding the difficulties with the repeater. Club members are finding access to the repeater is extremely unreliable, with some unable to gain access at all over the last twelve months. Solar panels and regulator have been installed at the repeater site. This coming weekend (9 – 10 August 2014) Rick Lammas is anticipating going up to the repeater site with Andrew to disconnect and re-connect the repeater to the batteries. Peter and Kerry will also go so the Club can begin to gather and document information to allow any club member to maintain the repeater.

All members agreed on the importance of the Club not to be in a position to rely solely on any one person and it is in the Club's best interests to be able to have all members knowledgeable and trained in all aspects of maintaining club assets and the further development of the Club.

All members also agreed the assets of the Club should be documented on an asset register to consolidate ownership evidence by the Club. New assets purchased would have the added value of a period of warranty.

A resolution was passed, moved by Peter and seconded by Reg, for the club to purchase an FM Digital Repeater (current approximate cost is \$1800.00) following the next General Meeting, if there is no positive lasting outcome achieved with the current repeater.

Members unanimously, by a show of hands, agreed.

A resolution was passed, moved by Reg and seconded by Kerry, the Club accept, with thanks, two 80 Watt solar panels, approximate value \$250 each, generously donated by Jim Dudgeon (new member to the Club at this meeting). Members unanimously, by a show of hands, agreed.

Peter advised members that he and Neil, along with Hans are to meet, on behalf of the Club, with the IT and Communications Co-ordinator for the Council. A report on the outcome will be provided at the next general meeting.

The general meeting was declared closed at 12 noon.