

BRC Monthly Meeting Minutes – October 10th 2015

Meeting

The October 2015 monthly meeting of the Bunbury Radio Club (BRC) was held at 21 Halsey Street, Bunbury on the 10th of October 2015.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, there was an informal conversation about the use of the Club's Google Group. Several members commented on the recent Google Group discussion about the way meetings are run, including the level of formality. Those present asked the Secretary to record a summary of this discussion (but not as part of the minutes), so that it could be shared with all members. The Secretary's record of this conversation is attached to the back of this set of the minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 14:12, when there were 9 financial members present. Peter Ferguson (BR471) later joined the meeting also.

Murray Lang (BR674) asked if there was a quorum of Members present. On the 10th of October 2015, the Club had 30 financial members. The constitution requires 15% of the financial members to be present for there to be a quorum. Thus, since only 5 members were required for a quorum, the 9 members present constituted a quorum.

The Secretary, Nick Evans (BR671) was not able to attend the meeting due to work commitments. As previously arranged and agreed at the AGM, Brian Andrews (BR652) acted as Secretary for the meeting.

Member Roll Call

<i>Present in Person:</i>	Neil Simmonds (BR653)	Alek Petkovic (BR655)
	Brian Andrews (BR652)	Richard Oxley (BR619)
	Robert Randall (BR557)	Allan Browne (BR663)
	Norman Gomm (BR658)	Murray Lang (BR674)
	Neville Green (BR559)	Peter Ferguson (BR471)

Present via Skype: None

<i>Apologies:</i>	Ian Bailey (BR669)	Jonathan Clayman (BR672)
	Brian Sayer (BR649)	Shawn Palmer (BR659)
	Nick Evans (BR671)	

Visitors: Turk

Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were read by Brian Andrews (BR652).

A motion that the minutes be accepted was proposed by Brian Andrews (BR652) and seconded by Norman Gomm (BR658). There being no dissenting voice, the minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

70 cm Repeater

Neil Simmonds (BR653) reported that Ian Bailey (BR669) had asked if the access tone had been added to the VK6RBY 70 cm Repeater. Neil confirmed that it had not yet been done, but that the repeater had been quiet recently. Neil undertook to continue monitoring the the repeater to determine if the interference is still present.

Treasure's Report

Robert Randall (BR557) presented the Treasure's report for October 2015.

Cheque Account

Cheque Account Balance (10 Oct 2015)	\$2586.67
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Investment Accounts

Investment #1 – Matures 10 January 2016. Rate 0.5%	\$3,579.47
Investment #2 - Matures 30 March 2016. Rate 2. 5%	\$6,824.88
Current Investment Total	\$10,404.35

Expenditure (Cheques Used)

Date	Cheque	Amount	Description
16 Sep 2015	300465	\$260.00	VK6AP Antenna and Prizes
Total		\$260.00	

Income (Deposits)

Date	Amount	Description
09 Sep 2015	\$25.00	Subs VK6FBVB
09 Sep 2015	\$25.00	Subs VK6SI
09 Sep 2015	\$50.00	Donation Dicko

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09 Sep 2015	\$97.00	Raffle Money VK6AP
21 Sep 2015	\$25.00	Subs VK6MMB
28 Sep 2015	\$25.00	Subs Darren Vail
30 Sep 2015	\$0.61	Interest
02 Oct 2015	\$25.00	Subs VK6AR

Total	<hr/>	\$272.61
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Licences Held By the Club

VK6RBY Licence expires 21/05/2016

VK6BRC Licence expires 20/07/2017

VK6RKB Licence expires 30/01/2019

A motion that the Treasure's Report be accepted was proposed by Robert Randall (BR557) and seconded by Allan Browne (BR663). There being no dissenting voice, the Treasure's Report was accepted.

Correspondence In

- Term Deposit Rollover Details from Bank
- Completed Membership Application Form from VK6SI

Correspondence Out

- Nil

General Business

License Training and Assessment Update

Norman Gomm (BR658) provided an update on License Training and Assessment.

On the 28th of September, 4 candidates attended the Assessment session held at the Peppermint Grove Beach Community Centre.

- Congratulations to Club member Darren Vial (BR668), who passed his Foundation Assessment
- Also congratulations to Simon and Mike who passed their Foundation and Advanced Assessments respectively
- Thanks to Neil Simmonds (BR653) for arranging and paying for the venue and providing snacks and drinks

The next Assessment session is likely to be held in February 2016.

Brian Andrews (BR652) reported that he had begun the process of becoming a WIA approved Assessor.

News Items for AR Magazine

Norman Gomm (BR658) asked for news items to submit to AR Magazine. Members provided the following suggestions:-

- The Lighthouse Weekend
- Report on the recent Assessment Session

BRC Experimenters' Net

Brian Andrews (BR652) gave an update on the BRC Experimenters' Net.

As discussed at the previous meeting, Brian is writing up some technical notes on how to build an interface cable to connect the Baofeng VHF / UHF Handheld transceiver to a computer sound card. Having such an interface cable opens up a wide range of 'digital' modes, as they all require the same connections to the computer.

Brian is also investigating the way in which Android phones (instead of a computer) can be connected to a transceiver.

At the previous meeting, it was agreed that the Experimenters' Net would commence SSTV operations on HF. Norman Gomm (BR658) expressed his interest in working this mode.

BRC Training Courses

Following on from the discussion at the previous meeting, Brian Andrews (BR652) reported back to the meeting that he had found out that the club could use the RES training material, at a reduced cost to those undertaking the training.

Brian also explained that after a discussion with Ron at RES, he felt that running a full standard Course over two weekends was probably too ambitious. There needs to be an element of participants undertaking self study, and getting together for sessions to go over specific material, and as a form of motivation.

Murray Lang (BR674) observed that people who don't have the motivation to self study are probably a lost cause.

Norman Gomm (BR658) asked Brian if he could prepare a plan for the next meeting, which Brian agreed to do.

Bunbury Dunnies on the Air

On behalf of Ian Bailey (BR669), Brian Andrews (BR652) reminded members that the Club would be holding the first Bunbury Dunnies on the Air completion on the morning of the 14th of November 2015 – just before the November Monthly meeting.

Brian asked for a show of hands from those who planned on participating. Brian said that he intended to be an activator. Norman Gomm (BR658) said that he would be a Chaser, operating via the repeater from Busselton. Richard Oxley (BR619) said that he may be able to activate some of the sites along the Beach.

Brian also reported that he thought Ian would be publishing the rules in the near future.

Raffle of Radio from the Estate of the late Rex Wiggins VK6ARW SK

Neville Green (BR559) explained to the meeting that Rex had purchased one of the radios that Alek Petkovic (BR655) had ordered from China, approximately 18 months ago.

As it looked increasingly likely that the radios would in fact be delivered, this radio would need to be sold. Neville suggested that the Club could purchase the radio, and raffle it to members – either by allocating one free ticket to each financial member; or by selling tickets. Neville also confirmed that Rex's wife was happy for the Club to raffle the radio.

During the subsequent discussion, members offered a variety of views on the Club's involvement, and the way in which the raffle should operate. Some members questioned the involvement of the Club in the transaction. Other members agreed that the raffle was a good idea, but questioned the allocation of free raffle tickets, suggesting that members should pay for the tickets.

The rationale behind the suggestion of the Club purchasing the Radio and then allocating free raffle tickets to members was for the Club to give something back to members at Christmas time.

Robert Randall (BR557) reminded members that the raffle is one of the Club's best money making activities.

No clear consensus appeared to form during the discussion.

However, the issue was resolved, when Robert Randall (BR557) offered to buy the Radio himself, and Neville agreed to the sale. As this is a private transaction, the Club is no longer involved.

Christmas Function

Alek Petkovic (BR655) asked members if they wanted to hold a Club Christmas Function, and if so, what form it should take and when it should be held.

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After some discussion, it was generally agreed that an evening meal was the preferred option. A similar event held several years ago had gone very well. It was also agreed that after Christmas was the better option, as places are less busy then. The evening of the 2nd of January was agreed.

Neil Simmonds (BR653) suggested that, as the Lighthouse Hotel had proved to be a good venue during the Light House Weekend, we should consider going there. As it provided accommodation, there would be no need for people to drive home afterwards. Neil undertook to obtain prices for a meal and accommodation, based on 40 people.

Neville Green (BR559) noted that the previous Christmas function had been held at Nicholas Vitalone's (BR640) restaurant in Harvey. Neville undertook to obtain prices from Nicholas.

Richard Oxley (BR619) is to coordinate the planning of the Christmas Function.

Upgrade of Harvey Repeater IRLP Hardware

Neil Simmonds (BR653) explained that the existing IRLP Hardware and Centos Operating System is out of date, and suggested upgrading to an IRLP system based on a RaspberryPi computer.

The meeting discussed the possibility of purchasing a complete RaspberryPi IRLP system. However, the Club also has the Kellerberrin RaspberryPi IRLP. This system is currently not being used, although the plan is to install it in Collie; when the repeater is installed.

It was agreed that Neil should swap out the existing hardware, and install the RaspberryPi IRLP system.

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BRC Website

Brian Andrews (BR652) informed the meeting that Jonathan Clayman (BR672) had kindly agreed to work on updating the BRC website. Jonathan is well qualified, and current supports a number of web sites, including Amateur Radio sites in Australia and the USA.

The new website is located here: <https://bunburyradioclub.wordpress.com/>

Brian explained that through experience he had learnt that providing new content to a web site was time consuming. However, without new content, the web site soon becomes out of date, and does attract new visitors. Rather than expect an individual to maintain the web site by themselves, Club members should consider providing news and information content to Jonathan, so that he could post it on the site.

To start the ball rolling, Jonathan will be uploading a selection of historic Club photos, and Brian informed the meeting that he would organise a small competition, in order to encourage Members to write about the photos. The content generated by the competition would then be uploaded to go with the photos.

Morse Keys Donated by the Estate of

Neville Green (BR559) presented the Club with a Morse Key collection, which had previously belonged to the late Rex Wiggins VK6ARW SK and previously a member of the Club (BR656). Neville explained that the Morse Keys should be displayed at the Club Rooms. We will need a small lighted cabinet to display them in.

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Next Meeting

Date and Time : Saturday the 14th of November 2015 @ 14:00
Location : 21 Halsey Street, Bunbury
Technical Talk : Peter Ferguson and Richard Oxley VK6VRO will present a short talk on the history of the Bunbury Radio Club.

Meeting Close

There being no more General Business, the meeting closed at 15:25.

Raffle Draw

The Raffle was not held at this meeting.

Technical Talk

Alek Petkovic (BR655) showed members is QRO HF amplifier; and talked about the design, construction and operational aspects of the amplifier.

Richard Oxley (BR619)
President, Bunbury Radio Club Inc.

Brian Andrews (BR652) on behalf of
Nick Evans (BR671)
Secretary, Bunbury Radio Club Inc.

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Record of Informal Conversation, held prior to the October 2015 Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, there was an informal conversation about the use of the Club's Google Group. Several members commented on the recent Google Group discussion about the way meetings are run, including the level of formality. Those present asked the Secretary to record a summary of this discussion (but not as part of the minutes), so that it could be shared with all members.

Those present agreed that while the overall formality was about right, Doug had raised some valid points in the Google group discussion, and there were a couple of areas that could be improved.

It is important that all members feel that they have the opportunity to speak, and to be heard. The suggestion was made; that before the meeting moved onto the next agenda item, the Chairman should always ask "Does anyone have anything else to say?", before asking the Secretary what the next item on the Agenda is. Those present agreed that this would be a good practice to introduce to meetings.

Another suggestion made was that agenda items which are sensitive, or involve expenditure should be subject to a Notice of Motion. In addition, it would be good practice if the Treasurers' report contained a list of payments that needed to be authorised by Members at the meeting. After further discussion, it was agreed that a list of payments to be authorised would be included in the Agenda and circulated prior to each meeting. This means that members with expense claims will need to get the details to the Treasurer, in good time before, the meeting.

It was also noted that the acoustics of the new club rooms made it difficult to hear if more than one person spoke at a time. In the past, the selling of raffle tickets had sometimes commenced before the formal business of the meeting had been concluded. The resulting multiple conversations make it difficult for the Secretary to accurately capture notes for the minutes. It was agreed that the selling of Raffle tickets would only commence after the formal business part of the meeting had been closed by the Chairman.

There was agreement that the Club Officers do a good job, despite taking on unfamiliar roles and responsibilities. For a small Club, it is important that all members support the Club's Officers, as they grow into the positions that they have agreed to fill.

The members noted that the participants involved in the Google Group incident were all valuable and contributing members of the Club. It was unfortunate that some ill-will had arisen. It was the unanimous wish of those present at the meeting; that all members of the Club put this incident behind them ("kiss and make up" as one member suggested), so that the Club can focus on promoting Amateur Radio, and benefiting members.

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