

Bunbury Radio Club

Minutes of Monthly Business Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 15 September 2026, 1930 hrs.

Venue: Discord Online meeting

Chairperson: Phil Jubb, VK6DEV, President Bunbury Radio Club

Minutes prepared by: John Stephens, VK6AAG, Secretary

1. Attendance

The following callsign suffixes were recorded as present:

1. Bob Randall, VK6TJ
2. Chris Saxton, VK6BAD
3. Phil Jubb, VK6DEV
4. John Williams, VK6ASK
5. Bob Goode, VK6ZGN
6. John Stephens, VK6GOD.

2. Opening of Meeting

The Chair welcomed members and invited items for discussion. The meeting proceeded without a formal agenda.

3. Assistance to Amateur Radio Operators

John, VK6ASK raised the circumstances of Darryl VK6NSA, who requires assistance establishing an effective HF antenna installation at his residence.

Darryl has limited space available for antennas because of property restrictions and the requirement to maintain a clear emergency access route.

John reported that attempts to adapt an existing trapped dipole into a vertical antenna had produced acceptable SWR readings but disappointing transmitter output.

Members discussed several troubleshooting options, including:

- Testing the Yaesu FT-450D with a dummy load to verify transmitter output.
- Testing the antenna system using a known working transceiver.
- Checking coaxial cable, connections and antenna performance.
- Using an antenna analyser and independent power/SWR measurements.
- Concentrating initially on establishing reliable operation on 40 metres.

Members offered technical equipment and practical assistance.

Agreed: A visit to Darryl's residence would be arranged for Saturday, 19 September 2026, following the club's coffee morning, subject to confirmation.

Action: John to coordinate the visit with members offering assistance.

4. Club Support for Members and Non-Members

Members discussed the club's responsibilities towards amateur radio operators requiring assistance, including those who are not club members.

There was general agreement that:

- Assistance should not be restricted exclusively to financial members.
- Particular consideration should be given to operators experiencing disability, mobility restrictions or other difficulties.
- Members should be encouraged to volunteer their time and expertise.
- Assistance should be balanced against volunteers' availability and other commitments.
- Amateur radio remains a self-education activity, and operators should be encouraged to develop their own knowledge and skills.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of fellowship and community service within amateur radio.

Outcome: General support was expressed for a welcoming, helpful and proactive approach. No formal policy motion was recorded.

5. Member Participation and Club Development

Members discussed ways to encourage greater participation in club activities.

Concern was expressed that a relatively small group of volunteers undertakes much of the club's work.

The meeting acknowledged that members may be willing to assist when approached directly, even if they do not volunteer spontaneously.

Transport assistance for members, including Arthur, was discussed as an example of an area where greater participation would be beneficial.

Members also considered the value of documenting the club's objectives and encouraging a culture of practical assistance.

The club's growing reputation for activity and development among other amateur radio organisations was noted positively.

Outcome: Members supported encouraging broader participation and incorporating these principles into future club planning.

6. Training and Education

Members discussed the possibility of providing practical training sessions beyond formal licensing and assessment activities.

A suggested topic was connecting amateur radio transceivers to computers, particularly configuring the Icom IC-7300 for digital modes such as WSJT-X.

The potential value of practical workshops for both new and experienced operators was recognised.

The meeting also noted that no licensing session was currently planned for the semester, with further information awaited from the WIA regarding relevant arrangements.

Action for consideration: Develop practical technical workshop topics for future club activities.

7. Club Remote HF Station Project

Members reviewed progress towards establishing the club's remote HF station.

It was reported that the radio had been acquired and payment was believed to have been completed.

Bob, VK6ZGN, advised that a computer intended for the station had been partially configured, but further work was required.

The proposed installation location remained Harvey.

Technical discussion included:

- Configuring the computer for remote operation.
- Investigating Tailscale VPN connectivity as an alternative to conventional port forwarding.
- Establishing suitable remote access for maintenance and troubleshooting.
- Selecting and installing an appropriate HF antenna.

A multiband vertical antenna was considered a practical initial installation, while a longer wire antenna remained a possible future option.

Members discussed existing antenna equipment and the possibility of purchasing a suitable multiband vertical.

Previous financial support received by the club was also mentioned in connection with a potential antenna supplier.

Members offered assistance with equipment collection, transportation and physical installation work.

Outcome: The project will continue progressing as equipment, technical preparation and volunteer availability permit.

Actions:

- Bob to continue preparing and reviewing the remote station computer.
- Investigate the required VPN and remote-access configuration.
- Further consider antenna options and installation requirements.
- Coordinate volunteer assistance when installation arrangements are confirmed.

8. Repeater and Network Development

The meeting received an update on planned network improvements.

Installation of a mounting post for the Wi-Fi dish associated with the RBX repeater connection remained outstanding.

Once completed, the proposed network arrangements were expected to improve connectivity between repeaters and provide additional options for participation in Thursday activities.

Members also discussed extending connectivity towards the Collie area.

Potential solutions included a mesh network node near an existing fire tower and, alternatively, the use of passive antenna repeater arrangements where terrain obstructs direct radio paths.

These were discussed as technical possibilities rather than approved installations.

Action: Continue progressing the Wi-Fi infrastructure and investigate practical connectivity options.

9. General Business

Members reiterated their willingness to provide technical, logistical and physical assistance with club projects.

The importance of maintaining momentum on existing projects while recognising members' personal commitments was acknowledged.

No additional formal motions were recorded.

10. Closure

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and contributions.

Meeting adjourned: Approximately 8:15 pm or shortly thereafter.

Next meeting: October 20, 2026 at 1930hrs.

Prepared by:

John Stephens, VK6AAG

Secretary — Bunbury Radio Club