

**NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019**



Happy New Year to all our valued listeners, presenters, members and our community of West Gippsland.

We've had an exciting time of it over the past few months, here in Listening Land. After twenty-five years of loyal service, Lynn Wells and Les Matkovich have retired. That's right, they've hung up their hats and jackets and are settling in to lives of leisure!

Les has pledged to finally have that tidy up at home and Lynn is looking forward to doing some travelling. Lynn is still on air at the moment and is also finishing up some Production work. We wish them both the very best for the future.

Lots of our community have been away over the Festive Season and we hope they enjoyed their respective holidays. A huge shout out to the presenters who have been filling in for the gallivanterers.



We have a new Board with some previous members and some new. Our new line up is as follows-

Ingrid Perri – President

Robert Stewart – Vice President

Graeme Marriott – Treasurer

José Meyer – Interim Secretary

David Piggin – Board Member

John Beauchamp – Board Member

Geoff Clynes – Corporate Member (U3A)

Other Volunteer Positions include-

Programming- Angela Lia

Technical - Greg Lia

Technical Advisor - Gordon Shaw

Training-Tom McGhee, John Beauchamp

Website-John Beauchamp

Facebook/Membership/Newsletter-Ingrid Perri

Sponsorship-José Meyer, Glenys Marriott, David Piggin, Peter Kessels

Fund Raising/Sausage Sizzles – Graeme Marriott, David Piggin

Handyman – Robert Stewart

Production Assistant-Russ Ford

Maintenance-Russ Hughes

Housekeeping- Gwen Baker, Susan Burton

Keys, biscuits – Ted Coad

Now you may have noticed that we have an “Interim” Secretary. With the retirement of Lynn Wells, we’ve been unable to fill this important role and José Meyer is kindly helping us out at the moment with Tom McGhee taking the minutes.

If you have been a member for a year or more and have the relevant skills that you’d like to offer, we’d love to hear from you.



With the end of an era comes inevitable change. This is not something to be afraid of but rather something to be embraced and enjoyed. We face a few challenges in the coming year but we have an energetic, enthusiastic and very experienced team on board.



To our regular listeners, you may have noticed that there has been some inconsistency in our programming. We apologise for this and are making every effort to restore continuity so that you can tune in to your favourite presenters at the times you can rely upon.



Bev Pascoe has retired from 3BBR FM after a long career behind the microphone.



Have you been harbouring a secret dream to be a Presenter? Come on, admit it! You'd love to be on air at your favourite community radio station, you know it and we know it. We're very keen to hear from you if you fancy yourself as a Presenter. Training is affordable (\$55) and is great fun when you master all the different facets of the on-air studio. You get to share your favourite music with our listeners and you can do this using a variety of digital media as well as CD's.



We have several Presenters-in-Training right now and also some of our previous Presenters have shown interest in returning to us. Tom McGhee, John Beauchamp and Angela Lia will be working with our newbies, making the necessary arrangements and adjustments to our Programming, as these people become ready to go live. Stay tuned...



## **WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?**

As you know, West Gippsland Community Radio (3BBR FM) is staffed and run entirely by volunteers. What exactly does it mean to be a volunteer at a Community Radio Station?

Volunteer Presenters spend many hours preparing their programs before you even get to hear them on the radio waves. They carefully choose the music they'll be playing and they also find interesting information to share with you. This can be in the form of jokes, trivia, or spoken content for an informative program. All of this takes time, which they give for free.

Presenting is not the only area that requires volunteers. We have a dedicated and experienced team of volunteer technicians, handymen, housekeepers, producers, interviewers, sponsorship specialists, salesmen, admin staff, PR people, Board Members and more. Everyone at 3BBR FM is giving, literally, hours of their time to Listening Land every week, for free...or is it?

As a presenter myself, I can say that the station has given me at least as much as I have given it, if not more. It's given me an opportunity to share the music I love, to be on radio, to talk about health and wellbeing and, above all, a sense of purpose and usefulness. If you're retired, you'll understand how important this is.

I'm sure all the volunteers at 3BBR will agree that they have received a great deal more back from their volunteering experience than they have put in.

As well as all these benefits, we know from surveys and feedback, that Community Radio is a lifeline for many people. Those who are housebound, unwell, elderly, alone and isolated, all report that their Community Radio station is like a close friend who provides company throughout the day and night. They feel as though they know the presenters and regard them as friends.

If you are one of our fabulous volunteers, please know that this is worthwhile work, this matters in our community and you are making a difference.



**VALE- IAN WILKINS (LEVENE)**

**1952-2018**



We recently lost one of our valued presenters, Ian Wilkins (Levene). Ian was born in Birmingham, U.K. in 1952 and emigrated to Perth WA in 1982. He met his wife Yvonne in 1993 and they relocated to Melbourne to be closer to her family. They married in 2001.

They built a home in Drouin and Ian decided to become involved as a Presenter, with the local Community Radio Station (3BBR FM).

Ian was passionate about music and spent many happy hours preparing his playlists before his programs every week. His favourites were hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's and he loved Motown and Soul music.

Ian and Yvonne moved to Willow Grove and barely a year later, in August 2018, Ian was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He came to accept the outcome of his illness and died peacefully with his wife and family around him, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

We will miss his 'Lost & Found' program and the other great shows he presented. His music knowledge was amazing and his memory lives on in every one of his music tracks that various presenters are playing.

The 3BBR FM Community sends sincere condolences to Ian's wife, Yvonne, family and friends.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year One and All.

Since the AGM I've been out and about, visiting other Community Radio Stations to see what they do, why and how they do it and also to see which ideas we could adopt to make our station even better. As a part of this exercise, I also noted the things that other stations do that may not be right for 3BBR FM.



I'd like to share with you what I observed at the other stations. Please note, it is ***what I observed***, not necessarily what will be adopted at 3BBR FM.

**Visit to 3MDR-Upwey**-Minimum of 12hrs volunteering required aside from presenting, per year;

Regular presenter meetings-must turn up to at least 50% of them to stay on air;

Involved with wide section of community, schools, ethnic groups, etc;

Use work experience children for various jobs;

Livestream the archives so people can catch up;

Sell merchandise from their online store on their website;

Record local musicians and offer the CD's for sale

Presenters choose own music;

CSA's and sponsor announcements are on the computer.

**Visit to 3MFM-Inverloch**- Offered to do our CSA's and sponsor announcements for free, via their professional voice-over business;

Very automated;

Presenters do not choose their own music, music is chosen by one man;

Music from 70's is featured as golden oldies, nothing older played during the week between 7am and 6pm;

Different news service which is cheaper and sounds better than ours;

They talk about personalities, not programmes;

CSA's and sponsor announcements are on the computer.

**Visit to Gippsland FM- Morwell** – Multiple presenters for breakfast programs;  
Interaction/banter between presenters finishing and those coming in for the next show;  
Read excerpts from local paper;  
Lots of phone calls on the brekky show;  
Presenters choose their own music;  
CSA's and sponsor announcements are on the computer.



Our first Meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at our new venue in the Meeting Room at the Drouin Library. In air-conditioned comfort, we had a good turnout of twenty people. Thank you to all of those who took the time to attend.

Many issues were raised and discussed. Our financial position is not as good as we'd like it to be and our Sponsorships have been sorely neglected for a long time.

Our fabulous team of Graeme Marriott (Treasurer) and José Meyer and Glenys Marriott have been working tirelessly to connect with our sponsors and follow up on their accounts. Hopefully, all their efforts will start to pay off soon.

Graeme and Glenys Marriott have run several successful Sausage Sizzles for us over the past few months and we truly appreciate all the time and organisation as well as the results. Unfortunately, due to the forecast for January 25<sup>th</sup> (41 degrees), Graeme, wisely, decided to cancel our scheduled Sizzle at Bunnings for that day.

We'd also like to thank Peter McAvady, who has worked tirelessly in our library for many years and who has now retired. We wish him well in his retirement. If you get too bored Peter, you can always come back!

We're still looking for a Secretary, experienced in Grant application writing. If you've been looking for something worthwhile to do that will keep that grey matter working and think this may be for you, please let us know. The only restriction on this, is that you must have been a financial member for a minimum of one year.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe 2019. If you have any concerns, questions or issues, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. That way, you can get the correct information 'from the horse's mouth'.

Kind Regards – Ingrid Perri - President