

E-Bulletin #6 August 2020

Dear members, here's the August E-Bulletin for your information. Since the last E-Bulletin (#5) the incidence of Covid-19 cases has gone from bad to worse. As part of the greater metropolitan area Cardinia Shire, Baw Baw Shire's neighbour to the west, is in lockdown. This directly affects many of our members and presenters living in towns such as Bunyip, Tynong, Nar Nar Goon, etc. Furthermore the continued rise in the number of cases extending out from Melbourne has led to tighter restrictions including mandatory use of masks, social distancing and limitations on group gathering numbers. The Board feels strongly that the risk-averse cautious policy it has adopted should be maintained.

Our Current Broadcasting Policy

Our policy remains that the station will not be resuming normal live broadcasting until further notice.

When the Covid-19 restrictions appeared to be starting to take effect, we planned for a staged return to live broadcasting. The plan was to strictly maintain social distancing, cleaning and other risk minimising measures while permitting interested presenters to return. Presenters who filled out an application (Expression of Interest) form have been progressively briefed to ensure that they can integrate their live broadcasts with the automated play lists and maintain the required cleaning procedures.

The following presenters have been briefed and are broadcasting live:

Susan Burton
Russ Ford
Sam Horner
Wayne Pemberton
Graeme Marriott
Tom McGhee (Tom has indicated he will be returning to pre-recording)

The commitment and cooperation of these presenters is greatly appreciated.

Initially presenters were strongly encouraged to pre-record their programs and a number have kept doing this which has substantially in maintaining the programming schedule. The following presenters are continuing to pre-record their programs:

Andrew Clinkaberry
Heidi Gifford
José Meyer
John Meyer
Sam Nicita
Richard Rejmer
Gavin Sayers
Harvey Scott
Rod Wellard
Plus

Members of the Gippsland Regional News Team

Trisha Haidar
Mike Hennessy
Ian Hill
Kaye Knight
Tilly Leunig
Ken Milsom
Paul Strickland
Alan Woollard

Their on-going commitment and cooperation is also much appreciated.

Other presenters have taken a cautious approach and exercised their right to not broadcast under the current circumstances. The station fully understands and supports these presenters and appreciates their on-going commitment to the station in getting through this difficult period.

This is Wilson. He is now working from home 😊



As from Wednesday 5th August the Victorian Government has declared the state to be a Disaster area an even stricter restrictions have been announced to control the spread of the virus. The Board held a meeting on the 5th to review its broadcast policy in the light of the maintenance of Stage 3 restrictions for Baw Baw Shire and the general continuation of high rates of infection. Again, we've noted directions and advice from government authorities and the CBAA.

Our decision is to maintain our current policy of a) encouraging presenters to continue pre-recording their programs, b) limit the present roster of live to air broadcasting to those presenters who agreed to the conditions stated in their Expression of Interest, c) continue using Community Radio Network resources to ensure program continuity, d) fully meeting our obligations to sponsors and community service announcements and news bulletins.

The Board has added some additional refinements to the policy which are included in the following list:

Important Broadcast Policy Points

1. People from inside the lockdown area should not attend the station at any time.
2. If at any stage a live presenter feels uncomfortable about their choice, they are more than welcome to change it, and should not feel bad about doing so.
3. We may have to amend our current plan if government directives/restrictions become stricter.

4. The programming schedule will provide for a minimum of 2 hourly breaks between live presenters to ensure that adequate time is available for thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all areas and surfaces and personal hygiene requirements
5. Station hygiene and cleaning procedures are absolutely critical – one slip up is all that it needs and our goose is cooked
6. The Board is investigating a proposal to install security cameras
7. The briefing of presenters, other than those who have submitted an Expression of Interest for a return to live broadcasting is suspended until further notice

A comprehensive [Covid-19 Policy Statement and Safety Plan](#) has been prepared and will be circulated to presenters and placed on the 3BBRFM website. Please look out for it and take note of it for all our sakes.

Programming Matters

Compliments of Andrew Clinkaberry:

We are running programs that are being produced / presented by the Victorian Seniors Festival as part of a “Radio Reimagined” series. These have been scheduled after 6pm on week days with some of them being re-run on the weekend. The Festival is willing to sponsor the station (\$750), to run these items until October (live Seniors Festival events have all been cancelled). Contact José for more information.

We have started to run some of the Community Radio Network (CRN) programs. There are some good shows that add interest to the station.

- 45RPM – currently Monday evenings from 8pm (or 9 when there are Radio Reimagined items available)
- Three Chords & The Truth (Saturday mornings at 6am – Country!)
- Hit Parade of Yesterday (Sundays at 3pm)
- Let the Bands Play (Sundays at 4pm)
- Aussie Music Weekly (Saturdays at 9pm)
- A Jazz Hour (Thursdays at 8.30 – till October then 8pm)
- Jazz Made in Australia (Thursdays at 9.30 – till October)
- New York Jazz (Thursday fortnightly till 27 July, then four weekly at 6pm)

The three jazz programs were chosen for Thursday given that we have had jazz on a Thursday fortnightly over a long period of time. The good news for listeners to “Jazz on Oak Street” presented by Coralie Knight who recently retired from broadcasting, along with Robin Blackman is that it will be replaced with “Just Jazz” in the near future. The program will be run every 4 weeks prepared by Robin Blackman, Director of the Phillip Island Jazz Festival and pre-recorded and voiced by Rod Wellard.

Other Stuff

We are still experiencing the odd glitch or two eg. because of computers rebooting themselves, some dead air and duplicated air, issues with the email and phone. Our **business number** is now back and available: 5625 4995. Currently this is set up so that it does not go to the studio, it goes to message bank and then to info@3bbrfm.org.au and the message can be re-directed from there. The **presenters number** for messages to presenters is 5625 1103.

John Beauchamp, our main production coordinator, is recuperating from a period of time in hospital post-surgery. He's champing at the bit to get back to work at 3BBRFM albeit remotely. On behalf of the Board, other presenters, members and listeners we send our best wishes for a full recovery.

A big thank you also from me to Andrew Clinkaberry and Tom McGhee for all their hard work in managing programming, the pre-recording of programs and briefing of presenters who expressed interest in returning to live broadcasting.

As you may know by now we were successful in obtaining a grant as a result of an application we submitted to the Community Broadcasting Foundation. The CBF made funds available under its COVID-19 Crisis Grants scheme. We applied for \$10680 under this scheme to cover our projected loss of revenue and have been allocated \$8074 (7340 + 734 GST). The grant will assist significantly in maintaining our financial viability during this difficult period by contributing to costs of activities, equipment, and operations which we have incurred due to the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Best wishes, Rod

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Rod Wellard
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