

## E-Bulletin #5 July 2020

Dear members, here's the July E-Bulletin for your information. It includes updated information on how the good ship 3BBRFM is sailing notwithstanding we have been travelling in uncharted waters for the last 3 months. And judging from the most recent reports coming out of the Department of Health we are still in dangerous waters with double digit new cases of Covid 19 occurring in areas not so far from Baw Baw.

### Staying Safe while Entertaining our Listeners

The station's initial response to government measures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic was to minimise the risk to presenters and volunteers by closing down live broadcasting from 23/03/2020.

Since then we have continued broadcasting by moving to remote control of automated computer playlists, community service announcements, sponsors messages and news bulletins. In addition, ten or more presenters are now pre-recording their programs and sending them into the programming and production team (Andrew Clinkaberry, John Beauchamp and Tom McGhee) for insertion in the computerised playlist.

Although a few hiccups have occurred along the way, the positive feedback from listeners about the programming, the music and still being able to hear some of their favourite presenters has been most welcome.

### Staged Return to Live Broadcasting

Early in June, after signs from the government that the Covid-19 restrictions were starting to take effect, we developed a plan for a staged return to live broadcasting. The station's plan was to strictly maintain social distancing, cleaning and other risk minimising measures while gradually allowing interested presenters who agreed to observe these conditions to return. As a first step, presenters were sent survey and application forms.

We received responses from around 25 presenters and the most common responses were "happy to return under the stated conditions" and "when the risk is minimised and restrictions are lifted". Fifteen presenters also put in an Application (Expression of Interest) form, 5 of whom reported that they were pre-recording their programs.

John, Andrew and Tom are progressively scheduling briefings for those presenters who expressed interest in returning to ensure that they can integrate their live broadcasts with the automated play lists and maintain the required cleaning procedures.

The Board has **not** decided on a "return to normal" broadcasting date. When it is safe to do so, the Board will announce a date for presenters to resume broadcasting, other than those presenters who have expressed interest and have been briefed as part of our staged return plan.

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

Recent “spikes” in Covid-19 infections in hotspot local government areas such as Cardinia just west of Baw Baw, include towns where both listeners and presenters of 3BBRFM live. This underlines how important it is for 3BBRFM to maintain a strongly risk averse approach.

## Other news from the Board

One of our valued Board members has decided that it is time to resign. Geoff Clynes was on the Board under the category of Corporate Member. Nominated by the U3A Baw Baw which has been a corporate member of the station and a sponsor, the Board benefitted from his expertise in areas of policy development and strategic planning and he often brought to bear a refreshingly different perspective in Board discussions. The Board thanks Geoff for his contribution and wishes him well for the future.

Best wishes, Rod

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