

Special E-Bulletin #3 May 2020

The main purpose of this E-Bulletin is to report on the Board's decision following a review of the station shutdown policy.

The Board met on the 13th May following Government announcements of some easing the Covid-19 restrictions. The Board reviewed the shut-down policy of the station including the options to either:

- a) re-affirm the existing station shut-down policy, or
- b) introduce some variations to the policy

The Board gave no consideration to re-opening the station at this stage.

After assessing the situation fully, the Board decided to re-affirm its previous station shut down policy:

In light of the growing risks to the health of station presenters and volunteers and government advice in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Board decided that live presenter broadcasting should cease indefinitely from midnight 23/03/20 and that broadcasting be continued through the automated computer playlists, incorporating pre-recorded programs, CSAs and Sponsors messages.

In making this decision the Board considered the following factors:

- The current level of restrictions (Stage 3) have resulted in only minor tweaks to ease some of the social distancing rules.
- Current restrictions heavily emphasise a risk-averse approach to minimise the rate of infection through transmission of the virus
- The government has announced that if rates of infection continue to improve from early June there will be further easing of restrictions
- The broadcasting arrangements we have in place are working effectively (we've had some terrific listener feedback)
- Attempting to implement a partial return to live presenting would be difficult to manage from a health and cleanliness perspective and technically complex

The Board will continue to actively monitor the advice/directions from Government and authorities the community radio networks. The next scheduled Board meeting is to be held on the 27th May and will be done by ZOOM video-conferencing. ZOOMING will continue to be needed while we don't have access to the meeting room at the Drouin Library which remains closed.

The Board is mindful that presenters are keen to get back on air and perhaps feeling a bit impatient. You can be assured that it is the Board's fervent wish that as soon as it is safe to do so and it complies with government directives, the Board will re-open 3BBRFM for back to normal broadcasting.

I've inserted a link to an article here on social distancing and virus transmission which is well worth reading, particularly if you're inclined to be a bit sceptical about the risks of becoming infected.

<https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them>

Ohh – I almost forgot. A Couple of Other Thing

Money Matters

We recently applied for funds to cover costs in coping with Covid-19 restrictions under a Community Broadcasting Foundation Grant Scheme specifically targeting Community Radio Stations with no paid staff. **AND WE WERE SUCCESSFUL!** Thanks to Kaye Knight for writing the application. We received near enough to \$2000 to purchase some equipment/software which have been needed to operate remotely including microphone/headsets for the Gippsland Regional News presenter broadcasting from home.

We've also submitted an application for funds from the CBF Crisis Grant scheme to cover loss of revenue. So here's hoping this might be successful too.

One of our Star Presenters Calls it a Day

This is pretty much breaking news. Coralie Knight has regretfully called time out from her long standing role as Presenter of "Jazz on Oak Street". She has been an absolute stalwart on the program for over 10 years and will be sorely missed. A wonderful knowledge and commitment to jazz and swing music who has kept all her dedicated listeners thoroughly entertained, engaged and informed.

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