

# E - Bulletin

## July 2022.

The Board had a Zoom meeting last week and agreed that a Bulletin to members providing an update about things happening at the station was well overdue. So here it is!

### **Community Broadcasting Foundation Grant**

Great news for the station. We were successful in obtaining a grant of \$9289 for items of broadcast equipment which will ensure we are able to improve the quality and reliability of our broadcast. For the technically minded described as "Transmission Chain Audio Processing"! A very big thankyou to Garry Havrillay for his work in preparing the application. We received feedback from the CBF that the submission rated 96% by the Grant Assessor Team with a commendation - "great work on your application".

### **Broadcast Licence Renewal.**

One of the important matters coming closer to the front of Board members' minds is the need to have our Broadcast Licence renewed by the Australian Communications and Media Agency (ACMA). This happens on a 5 year cycle and we are due for licence renewal in 2023. To achieve this we need to submit a detailed application about how we are performing as a Community Radio station and our plans and fitness for renewal of a Broadcast Licence. We've made a start down this road but it's no small task!

### **Membership Matters!**

It does! Having listeners is vital for any radio station. For a community radio station having members is also vital. Our membership numbers have declined a little probably as a consequence of the Covid 19 restrictions but now appear to have stabilised around 80 members. We need to attract more members, supporters, sponsors and patrons to keep operating effectively and fulfill our role as THE Community Radio Station for West Gippsland. So this is a call to you as a member. Recommend 3BBR to you friends. Perhaps you'd like to try your hand at presenting. Check out our website - it's a mine of information about the station, the people involved and programs on offer.

### **On-line Payment of Membership**

If you haven't been to our website for a while, now's the time. It has a lot of great features for you to explore including program news, methods of listening, types of support, membership and subscription, and many other interesting features. But if you are renewing your membership, or one of your friends would like to become a member, then you can do it through our webpage! We now can accept credit card payments. I've just renewed my membership using the "member support" button and it is very easy to complete.

### **Presenters Forms**

All Presenters at the station are being asked to complete and return two forms:

1. The Presenter Agreement Form, and
2. The Program Renewal Application Form

These forms are intended to be useful in managing programming at the station including a process whereby programs are reviewed on an annual basis.

So far the response from presenters has been positive however there are still a few that have not yet responded (*frank admission: including me which I'll rectify as soon as I get*

the forms). If like me, you have neglected to return the forms could you assist us by doing so when you receive the forms.

## **Backup Power**

Earlier this year we had extreme wet and windy weather conditions and even more so at Mt Worth, the location of our transmitting tower. This resulted in power outages on a few occasions which meant we had to rely on the back up batteries to to maintain power then drive up to Mt Worth with a generator before the batteries gave up. Board member, Ian Hill has been leading a project to review and update our power back-up arrangements. Ian explains:

*At the station's transmitting tower, we have a set of large batteries, with charger, etc, to keep us transmitting should mains power fail. The current batteries, first made in 2004, are, in the kind words of the battery specialist who assessed them, 'at the end of their life". They were designed to keep the station running for 4 hours.*

*Technology has moved fast since 2004 - these new batteries will keep our station transmitting for between 11 and 14 hours. They will be controlled by a multi-purpose Inverter – combined battery charger, un-interrupted power supply, changeover control for when the power fails and when it comes on again, the ability to charge from future solar panels, with settings accessible via a laptop. Two station volunteers will help the electrician with the heavy work of removing and replacing the batteries, they weigh 62 kgs each. The total upgrade will be about \$4,000.*

*We've been negotiating, too. While the electrician is fitting these batteries, he is also adding a socket and changeover switch to our equipment rack so that Swoop, one of the other tenants in the control building, can plug their generator in to power our transmitter whenever there is an extended outage on Mt Worth.*

*This is all neatly timed - we are planning this changeover in the second week of July, just before the usual, roughest winter weather arrives on Mt Worth.*

Once again my apologies for the long delay between editions of the E-Bulletin - we'll try to make them a bit more regular in future.

On behalf of the Board, best wishes and thank you to all our presenters and listeners.

Rod Wellard

