



Unlike many trees in the West Gippsland region, our transmitter remained upright to broadcast another day - silver lining.

## The Perfect Storm hits West Gippsland and 3BBR-FM

August 24th was a perfect day, and so was Sunday, the 25th, until about 3 or 4 o'clock. Storms blew in from the west, damaging trees, flooding streets, and cutting power throughout the state, but West Gippsland was hit particularly hard. Power and internet went down, and the radio was off the air.

Between late Sunday and Friday lunchtime, power returned intermittently, as did internet services - but not enough that we could broadcast, making it a guessing game for live presenters as to when—and if—they might get to air. The internet loss had two implications: we could not receive pre-recorded programs or CRN Network programs, and we could not access the studio via the remote access system. When Drouin was “back,” the tower

was still “out,” and vice versa. Internet services flickered on and off like a faulty light bulb.

Many programs did not go to air, some only broadcast via the internet. Day by day, we had no estimated time of resumption for either power or internet. This issue was resolved when Garry attended the studio in person each day, often several times a day. However, even this was fraught; when the power eventually went off again, all the work done to set the computers up was lost. And around and around we went.

Luckily, our “once in a hundred year” storm is behind us—at least until maybe December or January at the latest.

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# 2024 Annual General Meeting

On October 9th, we gathered in Drouin for the 3BBR-FM General Meeting, and what a vibrant evening it was! The turnout was fantastic, with many dedicated station members in attendance, all eager to connect and discuss the future of our beloved community radio station.

Paul Strickland led the 2024 AGM, talking us through the happenings of the year past, then passed the baton to Richard Rejmer to preside over the appointment of new board members. However, it's worth noting that the position of Vice President remains vacant, and we encourage anyone interested to step up and help steer our station forward.



A full house at the 3BBR 2024 AGM.

One of the highlights of the evening was the insightful presentation from our special guest Keith Prestidge, who shared his insights into the exciting future of radio. He discussed the innovative technologies currently shaping our industry, sparking enthusiasm and curiosity among members. It was a reminder of how far we've come and the endless possibilities that lie ahead for 3BBR-FM.

As the meeting wrapped up, we enjoyed a delightful light supper, courtesy of our generous hosts. It was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow members, share ideas, and strengthen our community ties. The atmosphere was filled with camaraderie and optimism, reflecting the passion we all have for radio and our station.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the evening a success. Let's keep the momentum going as we continue to grow and adapt in this ever-evolving landscape of broadcasting!

## AGM Board Report summary

The 2023-24 Board Report highlights significant developments and challenges faced by 3BBR FM, particularly following the refurbishment of "The Hub." This led to plumbing issues that caused flooding in studio 2, but effective communication with Baw Baw Shire resulted in swift repairs and a strengthened relationship with the shire's facilities management. The station actively participated in the Drouin arts day, broadcasting live and fostering connections with community groups.

## 3BBR-FM Nominated for Three National Awards



Community Radio 3BBR-FM has been nominated for three National Awards, and its programs and recordings have been recognised through national syndication.

[Gippsland Live](#) and [3BBR-FM Concert Hall](#) have been jointly nominated for Excellence in Australian Music for the broadcasting of local live performance, and 3BBR live fine music recordings have been accepted for national broadcast in [Fine Music Live](#).

[West Gippsland Week](#) has been nominated for Best News / Current Affairs, and

[Continental Drift](#) has been nominated for Best Music Program, also being distributed nationally through the Community Radio Network.

*"To gain this recognition against well funded metro stations reflects the effort and quality that our local presenters are able to deliver," said station President Paul Strickland. "While local community radio is run entirely by unpaid volunteers, does not mean that it is 'amateur' in the sense of poor performance."*

[Continental Drift](#) presented by Garry Havrilay features cross-cultural music of the world, and can be heard on Sundays from noon and Tuesday nights at 10pm. [Gippsland Live](#) is our weekly showcase of local live performance, heard twice a week on Wednesday evenings from 8pm and Friday afternoons at 2pm. [3BBR-FM Concert Hall](#) presented by Joseph Barake can be heard on Sundays from 2pm and [West Gippsland Week](#) is heard on Friday's at 6pm and Saturdays at 8 am.

The winners of these awards will be announced in mid-October at the annual conference of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia.

A list of all nominees is now available on the [CBA website](#).



To enhance its profile, 3BBR FM produced flyers and ran advertisements in the Warragul Gazette, with plans to experiment further with local newsletters. The station conducted its first live outside broadcast during Drouin's Australia Day event, gaining valuable technical experience. Grants enabled the production of high-quality recordings, and improvements to the broadcasting schedule were implemented, resulting in increased interest in program presentations.

Recognition came as 3BBR FM was nominated for multiple National Awards, showcasing its quality programming and community reach. Despite a small increase in sponsors, the station faces challenges with workload distribution among members, leading to burnout. Garry Havrillay's resignation from the Board highlights these issues.

Power outages at both the transmitter and studio exposed gaps in the station's business continuity planning, necessitating upgrades, including a possible generator installation. Technical difficulties arose with the transmitter's power amplifier, requiring significant financial investment for repairs or replacement.

The station re-established its newsletter to foster community connections and increased corporate membership through outreach efforts. Strong partnerships with local arts organizations were cultivated, leading to successful fundraising initiatives, including raffles and sausage sizzles.

A recent ATO mandate for additional compliance from not-for-profits has introduced further administrative burdens, requiring adjustments to the Rules of Association and registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.

As competition for audience attention intensifies, 3BBR FM acknowledges the need for enhanced community support and member involvement. The commitment of board members and volunteers is critical, with many contributing extensive hours each week. The station extends gratitude to its sponsors and patrons for their essential support, encouraging members to engage with their services. The report concludes with thanks to various organizations that have supported 3BBR FM, emphasizing the need for a united effort to ensure the station's sustainability and future success.

## Treasurers Report

Graeme Marriott reported that 3BBR FM opened the financial year with cash funds of \$41,362, increasing slightly to \$42,334 by June 30, 2024. Despite this rise, income decreased by \$13,389, primarily due to a drop in sponsorship and grants. Expenditures remained within expected limits, though timing of receipts affected year-end results.

The station's fundraising efforts proved successful, with Bunnings sausage sizzles generating \$3,598 and a raffle of local artwork raising \$1,644. The board has focused on enhancing promotional strategies and actively pursuing grants. The fixed asset register was updated, reflecting new acquisitions and fair valuations.

Special thanks were extended to Jose Meyer for her contributions to sponsorship and administration, as well as to all members and supporters who helped maintain the station's financial health and operational stability.

## Board Elections

The association's rules stipulate a rotation of elections, ensuring that approximately half of the Board is elected each year.

This year, in addition to the regular rotations, we faced a resignation as well as ongoing vacancies. Positions filled were unopposed, with only one candidate standing for each role:

**President:** Paul Strickland (two-year term)

**Treasurer:** Graeme Marriott

**Ordinary Board Members:** Joseph Barake and Ian Hill (two-year terms)

**Corporate Member:** Jeff Thege (Baw Baw Arts Alliance)

José Meyer will continue as Secretary, with one year remaining on her term, and Richard Rejmer remains an ordinary member for another year, both elected at the last AGM. Glenys Marriott remains the Minute secretary.

However, there are still several vacancies to address: the position of Vice President (one-year term) and one Ordinary Board Member position (continuing vacancy).

To ensure the station's success, it is crucial that these roles are filled. The Board can appoint individuals to these positions before the next AGM, and we encourage all members to consider stepping forward to help.

## 2024 Awards

At the recent 3BBR-FM AGM, a remarkable group of individuals was recognised for their outstanding contributions to the station.

Award recipients were Russ Hughes, Robin Blackman, Jill Boyce, Rod and Stephanie Wellard, Angela Lia, Nancye Greenway, Wayne Pemberton, Keith Pretty, Ric Nicholson, Ian Hill, Jenny Pearce, Michael Hennessy, Tilly Leunig, Alan Woollard, Paul Strickland, Patricia Zimmer and Simon and Marilyn May. Congratulations to you all!

## GRN Team Updates



New readers Joseph Barake and Richard Rejmer.

We've added three new readers to the team —Joseph Barake, Graeme Hart, and Richard Rejmer—bringing our roster to eight! Commitments are now lighter, but we still need more female voices. The GRN team will gather for morning tea and an update soon. Any presenters interested in joining the newsreading team are welcome to join us!



For more information, email the Gippsland Regional News co-ordinator via [our web page](#).

## Show profile: Jokes, Jives and Jottings



Russ plays a mix of gentle rock, country, and folk from the '60s and '70s, along with some contemporary tunes. Occasionally, Russ includes musicals, marching bands, and bagpipes, along with humorous letters and short pieces. Russ loves the community atmosphere of radio, the camaraderie with fellow presenters, and the opportunity to volunteer and contribute wherever he can.



**Jokes, Jives and Jottings** can be heard Fridays from 12 noon or via [listen again](#) on the 3BBR website.

## Show profile: Smooth & Cool, Rare & Spicy



Richard Rejmer presents Smooth & Cool, Rare & Spicy primarily featuring smooth modern jazz, jazz-fusion, funk, soul, and R&B, representing the "Smooth & Cool" vibe. For a unique twist, the "Rare & Spicy" segment includes quirky and exotic tracks, like Indian jazz fusion, Japanese acid jazz, or funky Icelandic slap-bass. Richard also highlights rare overseas releases from well-known artists, adding an unexpected flair to the mix.



**Smooth & Cool, Rare & Spicy** can be heard Mondays from 4pm, replayed Wednesdays from 9pm or via [listen again](#) on the 3BBR website.



## Spreading the News

Without community support it is very difficult for radio stations to use the word "community" in their promotion.

Our Station's president, Paul Strickland, recently had the opportunity to "spread the community radio news" at a meeting of Warragul Rotary, the long-established local service club with the organisational motto of "doing good in the world".

After introductions Paul gave a brief outline of radio in Australia and the development of the community radio network over the last five decades.

He stated that, in Gippsland, the local region was poorly serviced for radio and television coverage with mostly "spillover" programs from Melbourne sources as there were only three radio stations servicing the eastern part of Victoria (one ABC and two commercials).

"So, a movement started in Australia with two major strands," Paul explained. "One was from people who wanted a high-quality sound experience, largely driven by classical music aficionados."

"The other was a motley group of people who wanted to hear a wider range of views than was available in what they felt was a monolithic cultural dominance," he added.

Paul went on to explain the Whitlam Government set in place a process of opening up the airwaves, and the Music Broadcasting Societies of Melbourne and Sydney were granted licences in 1974, followed quite soon by a further dozen stations in 1975 which included 3GCR (now commonly known as Gippsland FM as it was the first FM station in Gippsland!).

Our local community radio station, which started when the system was already opened up and community licensing was well established, has its own unique history.

"West Gippsland Community Radio (with the call sign of 3BBR-FM) went to air for the first time on Saturday, May 13, 1995," Paul continuing his explanation to the gathered Rotarians and guests.

"Broadcasts were held monthly in the first year; and in the second year it became every weekend. In August, 1997, a new temporary licensing system came into effect, under which 3BBR-FM would be able to go to air full time, as the sole aspirant for the area. In January, 1998, 3BBR-FM commenced broadcasting seven days a week," Paul added.

On June 1, 2000, broadcasting was extended to 24 hours a day, and 3BBR-FM commenced transmission as a fully licenced community radio station on September 1, 2003.

Paul's presentation was very detailed and enlightening and the history of 3BBR in the last quarter century mirrors the development of the Baw Baw Shire and surrounding regions.

The address was followed by a comprehensive question and answer session and Rotarians and guests were well informed as to the importance of radio within our community.

Rotarian Greg King, also a presenter at 3BBR, thanked Paul for his time and, in keeping with Rotary's sustainability ethos, presented Paul with a certificate that indicated two trees had been planted and are being cared for in Paul's name under the "Adopt-a-Tree" program.

Pictured are Paul Strickland and Greg King with the certificate.

# 3BBR FM Receives Letter of Appreciation from West Gippsland Chorale

In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, the West Gippsland Chorale has sent a letter of appreciation to Joseph Baraké and the team at 3BBR FM, recognizing their invaluable support for the recent Brahms Requiem and St. Cecilia's Day Concert.

The West Gippsland Chorale's message concludes with a heartfelt thank you for 3BBR's unwavering support, underscoring the vital role community radio plays in promoting local talent and events.

As part of the Feast of St Cecilia celebration, you can hear the Loughlin St Cecilia's Day piece again in the upcoming broadcast of [Concert Hall](#) on Sunday November 24. If you just can't wait that long you can [listen to the original broadcast again](#) via the 3BBR-FM website.



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Nathan Byrne 0412 672 670

To Joseph Baraké

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

The West Gippsland Chorale wishes to express its thanks for the support given by yourself and 3BBR, both before and after our recent *Brahms Requiem/Loughlin St Cecilia's Day Concert*.

We particularly appreciated the promotion of our concert during your program Joseph, and also by other volunteer broadcasters during their programs over the few months prior to the performance. We feel that such advertisements contributed greatly to the concert's success. Furthermore, your recent broadcasting of the recording of the concert made by Garry Havrillay has helped to promote the Chorale's profile throughout the Gippsland community.

Our performance with the Heidelberg Choral Society and 120-piece orchestra at the Warragul Arts Centre on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of August was extremely well attended and a huge success. We thought you might be interested in reading some of the positive feedback we received from various audience members:

*Congratulations to our own West Gippsland Chorale along with the Heidelberg Choral Society and Orchestra on presenting a wonderful feast of music at the West Gippsland Arts Centre on Sunday. The premiere performance of St. Cecilia's Day along with a grand presentation of Brahms Requiem was appreciated by the capacity audience. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to enjoy many performances of our very talented choir over the years and their quality has never wavered.*

*Magnificent Performance – I've got goosebumps!!! Singers, soloists and orchestra all wonderful and congratulations to you on your part in organising the whole event – well done to everyone involved*

*The performances were very dramatic, and the hairpin accents were beautifully sung; so emotional. At times it brought me to tears.*

Thank you again for your wonderful support.

Kind regards,  
Kay Stephenson (Secretary)  
On behalf of the WGC Committee

President: Kathie O'Connell

## Our Sponsors

We love our sponsors. They are our life blood! Please use our sponsors' services, and let them know how much you appreciate their support of 3BBR FM. This kind of response lets them know their message is being heard!



If you are, or know of a business which may be interested in sponsorship, start at our Sponsoring 3BBR page. The next step is to contact our sponsorship coordinator José. We can then discuss your requirements, organise your on-air announcement and complete the required legal documentation.



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