

Board Report 2024/5

The Production crew are doing amazing things that we would never have thought of a year or two ago. Garry has been front and centre steering our live broadcasts and live recordings and keeping the technical quality of our sound high and keeping our internet presence working. This is an important way for the station to be involved with the community. Our ability to do live broadcasts is starting to take hold and we even have requests asking if 3BBR could do a live broadcast from their premises. That's a good thing as it not only helps that business but the exposure gets us out there in our community.

Our Treasurer is kept busy keeping everything within budget throughout the year so thanks, Graeme.

Being on the Board is a way of working out issues that arise but it also gives us experience in doing things we never really thought we could actually do. Some monthly meetings go for an hour and others go a little longer but meetings are kept sharp and on point most of the time, thanks to President Paul.

To those who write grants, we say thank you. This is a massive task which has great outcomes at times. This includes Garry Havrillay who recently had success obtaining a grant from the Community Broadcasting Foundation to purchase a new transmitter and supporting facilities which will mean we are able to keep our broadcast up to quality and provide us with the assurance of a back-up should there be a failure. We need to replace the studio mixer, which is literally on it's last legs, and again Garry has been able to source a replacement for no cost second hand from another community station. To secure continuing broadcasting when the increasingly frequent power outages occur we need to revamp our power set up including back-up generation at both our Oak Street studios and our Mt Worth transmitter site. This will need in the order of \$9000.

Grants are important but are usually very tied to particular activities so don't help with day to day expences, such as power, licences, internet, and so on. These costs are continuing to rise.

Our membership base is growing slowly but our Corporate members are growing all the time following a campaign led by Secretary Jose Meyer, which helps their organisation grow and get the word out about what they do as well assists our funding and important connections to our community. May this continue.

It is important that as a community station we continue and indeed increase the role we play in informing the community of the organisations and activities in our region, and it would be good to have more local groups presenting themselves by making programs. Two organisations that have taken steps in that direction are the Baw Baw Arts Alliance and the Warragul Garden Club who both engage in segments regularly and then make them available on their web-sites.

Our continuing and widening engagement with the music community across a wide range of genres is another important and natural relationship. This includes regular recordings of the

West Gippsland Chorale performances which has recently led to their joining as a member, and similarly the recent membership of the Warragul Municipal Band and engagement with their 140th anniversary. It has also been expanded this year with the commencement of "The Last Friday Music Club" which has provided local singer – songwriters and emerging talent an opportunity to present to an audience that is listening as distinct from playing to audiences who are focussed on the bar and their chat. This has been universally praised by both performers and audiences. Regular recordings of both the Gippsland Symphony and Yarragon Studios included in Joseph Barake's 3BBR Concert Hall program is another example that provides support to this valuable arts community as well as unique content that listeners cannot get on any other station.

Important thanks must go to our very dedicated Sponsors as the income they provide is also vital for us to cover costs that enable us to do what we do. The income from sponsors has declined in recent times so the Board is proposing the return of a commission payment for those who obtain new sponsors. Please contact if you are interested. In the meantime, all members can assist by supporting our Sponsors when you can and mentioning when you shop with them that you appreciate their contribution.

Our current sponsors are Baw Baw Shire Council, Baw Baw Arts Alliance, Bendigo Bank, Drouin Rotary, The Footloose Bootscooters, Herb and Chilli Festival, Indigo Rose Boutique, Larkman Nurseries, Latrobe Community Health Service, Myli, Phillip Island Jazz Festival, Select Office Supplies, SJD Law, Smith McCarthy Wilson, Speedy Locksmiths, Warragul Computer Repair, Warragul Home Brew Warehouse, Warragul Lighting, Yarra Valley Plant Fair and Yarragon Lions Club.

One of our other main sources of fundraising are the regular Bunnings Sausage sizzles, which Graeme Marriot coordinates, and is supported by a team of regular volunteers. This provides an important income which is untied so can cover the day to day expenses.

To everyone who helps us in any way they can, we say thank you. We would appreciate having a few more people on board with us to share some of the load we carry so please feel free to ask one of the Board members if you think you could help in one way or another, even without coming onto the Board. It is also important to acknowledge the work of the small number of silent little bees that keep Oak Street Studios practically operational and pleasant by regularly cleaning the office, kitchen and bathroom and also tidying the outside area, without fuss. Thank you to those few who do what is required and you know who you are.