

Alpine Air Waves

Official newsletter of Alpine Radio 92.5 FM



Volume 3 Issue 4 Winter 2007

Alpine Air Waves is published twice per year (*winter and summer*) to communicate station news to its members, presenters, volunteers, sponsors and others interested in community broadcasting in the Upper Kiewa Valley.

We are a community radio station that is independent, not-for-profit, community owned and operated and is run by volunteers and a part-time station manager.

We rely on the active support of our listeners, members, volunteers and sponsors for the day to day operation of the station.

The station is located in the Alpine Discovery Centre Precinct in Mount Beauty in north-east Victoria.

Membership

We stand for Diversity, Innovation, Access and Independence. Your support is vital for this unique service to continue. Family/Couple \$20, Single \$15, Pensioner/Student \$10, Business \$30 & Community Organisation \$30.

Sponsorships

The station has developed a number of attractive sponsorship packages (i.e. paid advertising) suitable for all types of businesses. The packages can be viewed on our website at www.alpineradio.com.au or a copy downloaded. All production is done in-house. We are fully equipped for digital production using the latest audio editing software and backing music.

Broadcast Training

New presenters are always welcome and training is offered. In 2007 four modules in the TAFE Certificate III in Broadcasting course are being conducted. We pride ourselves on delivering practical training on a one to one basis. Training is also offered for school students.

“Community Broadcasting – Ordinary People Engaged In An Extraordinary Enterprise”.



Yvonne Sutton – acting station manager

The things you do! Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that I would be a presenter on a community radio station. But it creeps up on you. From cataloguing and general helping out at our old studio in Hollonds Street – I seemed to be suddenly on air – and loving it! And still loving it!

Our community radio has its 4th birthday in August, and is looking forward to renovating our downstairs area and moving in. A huge challenge, but we are ready and willing.

At present, I have two on air programs, *High Country Music* of a Friday morning, and *Thursday Jukebox* from 2.30 to 5.00 pm. I love country music, and favour songs from the 60s to the 80s for the Jukebox hours.

As with all volunteer organisations, there’s always plenty to do. Keeping listeners up to date with community information, cataloguing records and CDs, writing and producing scripts, and more, it’s never ending. And very enjoyable.

Just to keep me busy at the moment, I have taken on the position of acting Station Manager, while our little leprechaun, Mary, is on vacation. And, of course, a couple of her breakfast programs during the week come with the job. For some strange reason most people don’t relish the thought of getting out of their warm beds to start at 6.00 am. Just as well I’m an early riser – most of the time, anyway.

Volunteering is a wonderful thing to do, and we have a great group of people here at 92.5 FM. Always on the lookout for more though, so keep Alpine Radio in mind.

**Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 15th August
‘07, 7:30 pm in the Alpine Discovery Centre Meeting**

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— Published in summer & winter —

Publisher

Alpine Radio 92.5 FM
PO Box 331
Mount Beauty 3699 Victoria
Tel: (03) 5754 4554 Fax: (03) 5754 4514
Email: info@alpinerradio.com.au
Website: www.alpinerradio.com.au
Editor: Paul L'Huillier

Committee of Management

— 2006-07 —

President	• Mary C. Smith , mcs1@aapt.net.au
Vice-President	• George Gierak 0419 536 389, 03 5755 1161 georgegierak@bigpond.com
Secretary	• Paul L'Huillier , 03 5754 4606, 0400 056 247 lhuillier.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
Treasurer	• Wendy Hutton , 03 5754 4631, 0418 641 236 huttondw@albury.net.au
Media & PR	• Derek Hutton , 03 5754 4631 huttondw@albury.net.au
Committee	• Margaret Randall , 03 5754 1454 snowdragon@iprimus.com.au • David O'Rourke , 03 5754 1907, 0428 485 687 dave.orourke@yahoo.com.au • Ian Erbacher , 03 5754 4190, ianerbacher@gmail.com
Volunteer Positions	
Technical Officer	• Rob O'Connor , 03 5754 4369, 0423 848 819 rjssa@bigpond.net.au
Music Library Co-ordinators	• Ian Erbacher , 03 5754 4190 ianerbacher@gmail.com • Yvonne Sutton , 03 5754 4128, 0438 575 441 dearest@bigpond.net.au
Training Co-ordinator	• Brian Price , 03 5754 5235, 0419 262 310 webportals@bigpond.com
Maintenance Co-ordinator	• Eric Harvey , 03 5754 1964, ericharvey7@hotmail.com
Paid Position (part-time)	
Station Manager	• Mary C. Smith

Presidents Annual Report

2006-07

Mary C. Smith

Fellow committee members, friends and supporters of Alpine Radio, it hardly seems twelve months since we gathered for an AGM... yet time once again brings us together to recount the past year of Alpine Radio. The past twelve months have been most exciting, exhilarating, challenging, frustrating at times, but most of all a very rewarding year here at 92.5 FM.

No radio station can operate without the "voices behind the microphone". Alpine Radio is indeed most fortunate in having a solid band of eclectic voices ... the "heavenly choir". Much of this success over the past twelve months must go to *Brian Price* (Training Co-ordinator). Many of the "heavenly choir"- from youth to senior, is certainly one of the success stories emanating from the Studios of 92.5 FM. With patience and a cool calm

resolve, Brian, you have transformed many a shy, bashful "*Oh No I Could Not Do That*" voice into a confident well adjusted Alpine Radio personality. Apart from the constant encouragement and training, you continue to impart, you are also a very worthy "on-air" voice yourself. From your permanent programs you are always there to fill-in where and when required. Many appreciative thoughts and thanks to you Brian.

No organisation can function without its "behind the scenes" dedicated staff and Alpine Radio is no exception to this premise... Wendy Hutton, Jill Heberle, Olive Clark, Thora Carroll, all with cheery smiles, warm greetings as well as your devotion and loyalty to "your radio station" is certainly appreciated by all. Many thanks to you all.

A special note of gratitude must go to Yvonne Sutton, Office Co-ordinator, who daily oversees the running and co-ordination of the office as well as presenting a variety of "on-air" programs. Yvonne, under your organised skills, cheery manner and willingness to help in whatever capacity you are called upon to fulfill, the daily smooth running of the Office as well as organising inputs for the computers must be applauded. Yvonne, your guidance and friendship are paramount with me.

Our forever loyal renewing as well as new and former sponsors are, and always will continue to be, vital to 92.5 FM. You have continued to display an appreciation for your community radio station and it is with your continued support that Alpine Radio will grow and prosper. Our commitment to you is to always support and help further grow your businesses over our airwaves, for without your financial support Alpine Radio would not be in a position to equip studios, formulate programs as well as broadcast 24 hours each day.

Eric Harvey (*Maintenance Co-ordinator*) is not forgotten tonight. Sometimes, Eric, it must seem that you are called upon when you just want to have a rest! You are looked upon as the *Fly-Half* of the station because, as in Rugby, the fly-half sets the moves and is the length between the Forwards and the Backs. No scrums, just a willingness always to take us over that *Try Line* when called upon. Many thanks Eric.

All things Technical here at 92.5 FM are under the domain of the back-bone of the Radio... Rob O'Connor who with his wizardry and calm co-ordination, keeps us "on air". Rob, without your direction and technical expertise the station would not be operating today. What a challenge you faced almost six years ago when we first met, as then, a radio station was just a mere twinkle in our eyes. Since then, and under your guidance, Alpine Radio has grown, blossomed and flourished. At times, Rob, when you have not been available, your colleagues Brendan Davies and Dick Puttyfoot swing into action on matters technical day or night, for which a very sincere thanks to them must be recorded. Rob, a huge debt of gratitude just does not seem adequate for all the hours you unselfishly devote to Alpine Radio with the calm cheerful disposition you so peacefully render, but Rob presently that is all we can afford!! But fear not Rob, tomorrow is another day and as the song says "*From Little Things Big Things Grow*".

And now to "The Heavenly Choir" – Our presenters who are an integral part of 92.5FM, for without presenters who would broadcast the daily programs that you have grown to know and appreciate? The individuality of each presenter truly makes for a diversified interesting and spontaneous radio station ... the envy of many other stations. The standard bar set now is high and will continue to flourish as each of you grows and develops with your active involvement in the station.

My personal and deepest appreciation must go to my fellow committee members, George Gierak (Vice President), Paul L’Huillier (Secretary), Wendy Hutton (Treasurer) & Derek Hutton, Ian Erbacher, David O’Rourke and Margaret Randall who, over the past 12 months, have shared daily with me the dream of Alpine Radio and to know that its future is firmly established. Not only as committee members have you been there for me, but personally and sincerely, all of you are very very dear and wonderful friends.

Well, what does the future hold for me? My leprechaun Crystal Ball does not give me any answers, only to reveal it is time for me to step down and invite new fresh and exciting persons to take on the mantle of being your President. From the first glimmer of establishing a radio station here in the Upper Kiewa Valley six years ago, what a wonderful journey I’ve experienced and strong friendships made... something I’ll always treasure no matter where I am. To you all I wish only the best where I sincerely hope every day is filled with all things good, bright, beautiful and continuous enjoyment from your favourite radio station.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, it has been an enormous honour to have served you as President over the past year. All the rewarding days far outweigh the few harrowing ones experienced. I truly can say that I am the tallest of leprechauns and most fulfilled in the knowledge that your support of my dream is firmly established. And if you will just indulge with me for few moments longer to quote you from one of my life’s mentors – Nelson Mandela - *“We have not taken the final step of our journey.....I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal the view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended”*.

*“Community Broadcasting Ordinary People Engaged
In An Extraordinary Enterprise”*.

December ‘06 Bushfires

David O’Rourke

Just after mid-day on Sunday, 10th December 2006, I was working in the front yard of our house in Tawonga South. It was a very hot day, even for that time of year. The Valley had been shrouded in smoke from the Whitfield – Mt. Buffalo fires for a week or more. Some premonition made me look up - between the trees - towards Tawonga Gap. In spite of the heat, my blood ran cold. What I saw was a thin column of smoke – just like a newly-lit campfire. As I watched, the smoke column became thicker and higher with a red tinge. I immediately knew that I was watching a potential disaster.

That was the beginning of a period of constant worry and sleepless nights for the residents of the Upper Kiewa Valley. A period which lasted right throughout the Christmas season that residents refused to compromise. And a period which saw the rampage of a fire which burned 33,000 hectares of forest and almost, but for the CFA volunteers, roared on into the wilderness of the Kosciusko National Park.

And *Alpine Radio* was there spearheading the communications network by constantly informing local residents about the proximity, speed and intensity of the fire.

Led by inexhaustible Station Manager, Mary Smith, radio staff rallied to the cause. A roster was immediately drawn up to ensure that station announcers were available for 24 hour on-air duty. They became the Owls and Owlettes because they only slept in brief snatches through the day. Contact was made with local CFA staff, and DSE officials at Regional Headquarters in Benalla. This allowed frequent updating of the situation, which was immediately put to air – often in the form of a live interview with the on-duty DSE official. Community announcements relating to the fire could also be broadcast within seconds of being received.

“We had a lot of calls from elderly listeners who were worried about the current situation,” Mary said. “Many said they went to sleep with us and woke up with us, which was very comforting for them. That is the true benefit of local community radio.”

So, Alpine Radio was there for the community when it was most needed, and it fulfilled its aim. We can all be proud.

Sponsors

— *The Team Behind the Team* —

Alpine Radio survives and prospers thanks to the support of its listeners, presenters, volunteers and the following current sponsors.

- Mt Beauty Property Sales
- North Eastern Home Improvements – *Mt Beauty*
- Baker Motors – *Albury*
- Peter White Furniture – *Wodonga*
- LC’s Quality Meats – *Tawonga South*
- Mt Beauty Service Centre
- Warehouse Sales – *Wodonga/Albury*
- Boulevard Motors – *Wodonga*
- Ceccanti-Kiewa Valley Wines
- Active8me (*Broadband provider*)
- Kiewa Valley Spring Water
- Mt Beauty Pharmacy
- All Joy Chinese Restaurant – *Mt Beauty*
- ANZ Bank
- Tate Funeral Services – *Wangaratta*
- Mt Beauty Country Club
- Bogong Estate Winery
- Mt Beauty Post Office
- Pyles Falls Creek Coaches
- The Lighting Shop – *Wodonga*

In acknowledging our sponsors we would also ask our members and listeners to support them by purchasing their products and services whenever possible and please make yourself known as member of Alpine Radio.

Training Report

Brian Price – Training Co-ordinator

Training commenced in the TAFE Certificate III in Radio Broadcasting on May 26. The trainer, Rachel Maher, ran a one day workshop for our first unit called *Planning and Preparing Programs*. There were eight participants in all.

The workshop went really well. Rachel took us through the formal points to look out for in program production. Some of these things we have been doing for a while, however it was good to get clarification and reinforcement from someone with an Australia-wide perspective on broadcast training.

Continued on page 4

Off-Air

- **Memberships Due!** — We appreciate your on-going support of the station. We urge you to renew for '07/'08 by returning the enclosed membership form and appropriate fee as soon as possible (*the fees indicated show a fee increase that will be recommended to members at the AGM*).
- **Temporary station manager appointed** — Yvonne Stutton has been appointed as the temporary station manager while Mary Smith is on holidays. We are very fortunate to have such an experienced administrator overseeing the office operations. She is also a very competent presenter currently filling in for Mary's breakfast programs and doing her own including 'Valley Sports', 'Thursday Jukebox' and 'High Country Music'. A versatile lady our Yvonne!
- **Licence area extension project** — A current station project is to expand our coverage further into the Alpine Shire. To do this we need to broadcast from Bill Hill. Last year's test broadcasts from this location were successful. We now wait on the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) to consider our application.
- **Station Relocation** — The Shire has allocated us space downstairs to expand. The first stage of the project is to install a toilet. Eric Harvey has done much preliminary work in getting the designated area ready for the plumber. Rob O'Connor is the project manager for this venture.
- **Community Radio Network Programs via Satellite** — Our Digital Delivery Network computer is now able to record programs from the Satellite feed for later playback. Namely: 'The Wire', 'HomePage', 'UK Top 40', 'Pet Talk Radio', 'Wellbeing', 'Earth Matters' and the 'Daily Interview'.
- **Street Broadcasts** — Two have been held recently. In May, a promotion with the ANZ Bank (one of our sponsors), in the main street of Mt Beauty and in June in Bright to sow the seed for possible expansion of broadcasting into the Ovens Valley. A special thanks to Mary Smith and to all her helpers. Rob O'Connor again looked after all the technical matters.
- **Raffle prize winner** — Alpine Radio was one of 18 stations to win a set of headphones and a microphone to the value of \$1,200.00 in a draw conducted by the Australian Community Broadcasting Association.
- **Welcome to new Presenters** — Wendy Blake, Michelle Casey, Ursula Dumser, Angie Keogh and Tim Clarke.
- **SCMA** — Alpine Radio belongs to the *Southern Community Media Association (SCMA)*, which is made up of community radio stations from as far as Griffith NSW and Yarra Valley near Melbourne. Belonging to this association has been very beneficial providing us with a great network of information and guidance. In May SCMA held the National Regional & Rural Broadcasters Conference in Albury. Five members attended: Mary Smith, Wendy & Derek Hutton, Margaret Randall and Brian Price. Last year SCMA instigated their "X" Awards for excellence in community broadcasting. Alpine Radio was awarded two finalist certificates for the "*Best In-House Production Of A Sponsorship Announcement*" category. The sponsorship announcements were: North East Home Improvement and The Cock and Bull Irish Bar Falls Creek. Both were scripted by Owen Stickels. We were very proud of the fact that the expertise of our production team was recognized.

The Ron White Studio

Cathy Gunn — Teacher

Mount Beauty Secondary College is on air!! After many years of planning the Jesse Hollonds building is up and running and so is the *Ron White Studio* (named after local Ron White former Hydro Engineer/Manager with the SEC), a purpose designed "mini-me" version of the broadcast studio at our local community station – Alpine Radio 92.5 FM.

The students will be able to develop their skills in working the panel and increase their confidence in front of the microphone before hitting the community airwaves. The school has been able to purchase a computer, MJM computer software program (a special on-air presentation package), mixing panel and microphones to give the students real life experience in broadcasting. This equipment mirrors what is in the studio at Alpine Radio. Although it is only really a speaker system at the moment and students will be limiting their live to air programs to lunchtime presentations, students will be able to use the recording and editing equipment to produce programs suitable for broadcasting on Alpine Radio.

Four students and a teacher are currently undertaking the TAFE accredited course Certificate III in Broadcasting, through Alpine Radio. Vince Dumser, Michael Burke and Matthew Batt all in Year 10 and teacher Cathy Gunn, are able to apply all that Rachel Maher teaches them in the school environment. This is a great practical application of the training.

In semester two, there is also an elective running called '*Radio Daze*' where Cathy Gunn is going to establish a broadcasting team. It is hoped that this team will become student-run, since part of its code of conduct will be for older students to train younger students, and so keep a steady supply of presenters coming through the years. Cathy and the school are extremely grateful for the assistance of Brian Price (Alpine Radio's training co-ordinator) and presenters Wendy Blake, Jess Brew and Eric Harvey for the training received every Thursday during the Secondary College hour. With the new studio at school now up and running, stay tuned for a bigger and brighter show and listen to our fantastic kids.

Training Report – continued from page 3

The next workshop was held on the 23rd June. Rachel took us through two more units of the course: *Conducting an Interview on Radio* as well as *Writing Copy* where we wrote and produced a short sponsorship or community service announcement.

Ben Talbot and Jackie Gardam, both primary school students, are two recent trainees working with me on the Friday morning breakfast show. They have completed learning the studio panel and the computer and have had some live on-air experience. They will now move to a special youth training session to be held on Thursdays 5-6pm commencing on 19th July.

Mt Beauty Secondary College have opened their arts facility which has a fully equipped radio broadcast studio named after local, *Ron White*. This will be used for training students who will then present their programs on Alpine Radio. The main goal is to assist students to learn how to use all the resources available and to organize their own activities. Cathy Gunn is liaising between the school and Alpine Radio and is a marvelous help in making it all happen.

Also a special thanks to Wendy Blake and Jess Brew who are now training and supervising the MBSC show from 1.30 to 2.30 on Thursdays.