

Alpine Air Waves

Official newsletter of Alpine Radio 92.5 FM



Volume 2 Issue 4 Summer 2006

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 \$15, Single \$10, Pensioner/Student \$6, Business \$25 & Community Organisation \$25.

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.mtbeauty.com/alpineradio 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 welcomed and training is offered. In 2006 four modules in the TAFE Certificate IV in Broadcasting Course are being conducted. We pride ourselves on delivering practical training on a one to one basis.

"Community Broadcasting – Ordinary People Engaged In An Extraordinary Enterprise".



Youth Presenter – Heather Jones

Two years ago around Christmas I visited Santa on the roof in Valley Avenue and asked to be a radio presenter for Christmas. Two days later my Christmas wish came early! I was taken on by Alpine Radio and "Whiskers" (Bill Sutton) trained me and took me through all the regulations and how to use the equipment here at Alpine Radio. In what seemed like a few weeks my training wheels were off and I was on-air by myself and enjoying every minute! I was presenting during the day through Christmas and the new year and even on my 16th birthday I was on air.

Two years on and I am still loving every minute of my three hour show on Tuesday evenings called *'Bopping to the Beat'*. Even though I have been taking on my VCE and exams the last two years the radio was still my main place of time out from learning about chemical reactions and mathematical formulas!

Now that I've finished year twelve and am moving on into the world I am taking a bit of my love for radio with me. All through high school I had a goal to be a teacher or a child care worker, I even took a job as a child care assistant to broaden my experience and skills, but since volunteering here at Alpine Radio my goals have changed. I am hoping to gain entry to Diploma of Radio Broadcasting at either Wodonga TAFE or Charles Sturt University in 2007.

I would like to thank Alpine Radio for the opportunity to be on air and help me realize my love for the medium of radio. I would recommend it to anyone thinking of volunteering, it's great fun!

Memberships Due!

We value your support. If a membership form is enclosed with this newsletter your membership is overdue. Please renew your membership by filling in the membership form and sending the appropriate fee.

Publisher

Alpine Radio 92.5 FM
PO Box 331
Mount Beauty 3699 Victoria
Tel: (03) 5754 4554 Fax: (03) 5754 4514
Email: alpineradio@netc.net.au
Website: www.mtbeauty.com/alpineradio

Editor: Paul L'Huillier

Committee of Management

- President** • **Mary C. Smith**,
03 5754 4142, 0427 544 142,
jams@southernphone.com.au
- Vice-President** • **George Gierak**
0419 536 389, 03 5755 1161
georgegierak@bigpond.com
- Secretary** • **Paul L'Huillier**, 03 5754 4606, 0408 515 434
luhuillier.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, 0407 102 251
rob.oconnor@transfieldservices-et.com
- 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**
- Station Manager** • **Mary C. Smith**

Community Broadcasting Snapshot '06

- 25% of Australians aged 15+ (4.034 million) listen to community radio in a *typical week*.
- An estimated *monthly* national radio audience reach of more than 7.5 million (45% of Australians aged 15+)
- There are 359 *permanently licenced* community stations and 37 aspirant stations broadcasting on a *temporary licence*.
- Over 20,000 *volunteer broadcasters*. 21% are under 26 years of age.
- Over 7,800 people receive *training* each year. On average 2,127 hours of training is conducted each week.
- Over 70% of long-term licensed stations are located in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Almost 155,000 Australians financially *support* free-to-air community radio services as subscribers, members or donors.

Presidents Report

Dear Members

Christmas and New Year greetings to you all.

Through your continued membership support Alpine Radio has grown and flourished. Your membership is an extremely important part towards the growth and development of 92.5FM. On behalf of the Committee of Management I wish to express our appreciation for your ongoing support. Some of you may be at a loss as to what Christmas Gift to give a loved one – a membership of your favourite radio station will make the perfect enjoyable gift for the next year bringing twenty-four hours of wondrous diverse programmes every day to your recipient. Membership details are readily available from the station and our website at www.mtbeauty.com/alpineradio.

It is great to welcome the return of “Whiskers” Bill Sutton back “on-air” after his recent illness. Bill, we all wish you a continued long lasting recovery. Our thoughts and best wishes also go to Yvonne, whom we know played a most important part in your recuperation. It is great having you too, Yvonne, back again over the “airwaves”.

As you will all realise, our community radio station has been run entirely by willing volunteers. Alpine Radio’s growth and development has been such that the Committee of Management last September appointed a remunerated part-time station manager. I have the distinction and privilege of being the station’s first part time station manager, a role I take sincerely and humbly. My deepest appreciation goes to all the remarkable presenters, volunteers and sponsors who have encouraged me in this role. Without your support the daily duties entrusted upon me would be most difficult.

A note of appreciation is here extended to the station’s IT Development Officer – Paul L’Huillier. Many of you will have noticed some changes to our programming scheduling and format. Paul has been instrumental in introducing a broad range of programmes from the Community Radio Network via the Satellite Service which I sincerely hope you are enjoying. Many thanks Paul.

Our most generous sponsors are greatly appreciated, for without your support, our growth, development and future expansion plans would not be viable. I urge each and everyone of you whenever possible to support them. A current list of our sponsors is named in this edition of *Alpine Air Waves* and listed on our website.

Your comments, suggestion and input into Alpine Radio are always most welcome and valued. So please if there are any ideas or suggestions please do address them to the Secretary.

This is the time of the year to offer unfailing thanks and appreciation to many people. Firstly I wish to express to my fellow committee members my deepest appreciation for your friendship, loyalty and encouragement in what has been a most difficult year for me.

To you members, supporters, sponsors and listening public of Alpine Radio, I wish you heartfelt thanks for making 92.5 FM your favourite Radio Station and the knowledge that by your continued support Alpine Radio will grow and flourish further. Thank you all so much.

In closing, I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones every good wish for Christmas and the coming year.

Mary C. Smith

Off-Air

- **Memberships Due!** — We appreciate your on-going support of the station. *If a membership form is enclosed with this newsletter your membership is overdue.* We urge you to renew your membership for '06/'07 by returning the enclosed form and appropriate fee as soon as possible.
- **Part-time station manager appointed** — Mary Smith has been appointed as the station's first part-time station manager. Mary started her duties on 1 September '06 working for 10 hours per week not including broadcasting time. She is paid a retainer and earns commissions on sponsorships sourced.
- **Test broadcast from Big Hill** — A current station project is to expand our coverage further into the Alpine Shire so on Sunday 17 September Rob O'Connor did a test broadcast from Big Hill to see what sort of coverage was possible. It was successful. Wait for the next instalment.
- **New Mixer is operational** — Earlier this year we received a grant from the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) to purchase a professional mixing console. This has made a huge difference to our on-air sound and the professionalism of our volunteer presenters. They feel very confident using the new equipment. Thank you CBF!
- **Station Relocation** — Alpine Radio is located in an Alpine Shire building. We have quickly outgrown our upstairs accommodation. The Shire has allocated us space downstairs to expand. Plans have been drawn up by Eric Harvey and, with the help of Cliff Morrison, will be professionally re-drawn for submission to the Shire for approval. The first stage of the project is to install a toilet. Rob O'Connor is the project manager for this venture.
- **New station 'T' Shirts with Logo** — As a means of improving the station's image, many presenters have taken the opportunity to purchase T shirts with the station logo. Presenters were very visible in them at the December market mock street broadcast outside Hearty Eats.
- **Southern Community Media Association** — Alpine Radio is a very active member of this group of country community stations. We had three representatives at the AGM in Wangaratta in October, namely Mary Smith, Derek Hutton with Paul L'Huillier being elected to the committee.
- **Broadcast logging** (required by law) — Since the station started three years ago all broadcasts have been logged to VCR tapes and kept for six weeks then the rotation starts again. We recently purchased software called NovaLog that allows us to record directly to a computer hard drive. This allows presenters to listen to their program later as a method of improving on-air skills. A copy of the program or parts of it can also be made and saved to a CD, an iPod, memory stick or other portable hard drive.
- **Community Radio Network Programs via Satellite** — Our Digital Delivery Network computer is now able to record programs from the Satellite feed for later playback to fit into our schedule. We are using a number of programs in established time slots, as fill-ins and to add to existing programs.
- **Mock Street Broadcast** — This was held on market day 2nd December '06 outside Hearty Eats. Music, requests,

give-aways, raffles and a membership drive made for a very successful promotion for the station. A special thanks to Mary Smith for organising and to all her helpers. Plans are being made to conduct a similar promotion in Bright in early January '07.

- **Bill and Yvonne Sutton** — It is terrific to see Bill back on-air in his Saturday time slot 8–10am with the Valley Sports program. Yvonne is getting back into it as well with her *High Country Music* on Friday mornings 9am–12 noon and *Thursday Jukebox* 2–5pm.
- **McNair Ingenuity Audience Research Survey** — The results of this audience radio listener survey conducted in March/April '06 found that “Nearly half of Australians (aged 15+) listen to community radio” (*see included article for more details*).
- **Welcome to new committee members** — We welcome George Gierak as Vice President, David O'Rourke and Ian Erbacher as ordinary members.

Sponsors

(The Team Behind the Team)

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

- Mt Beauty Property Sales
- North Eastern Home Improvements
- Baker Motors – *Albury*
- Peter White Furniture – *Wodonga*
- LC's Quality Meats
- Warehouse Sales – *Wodonga/Albury*
- Boulevard Motors – *Wodonga*
- Ceccanti-Kiewa Valley Wines
- Hair Bizz On Hollonds
- Kiewa Valley Spring Water
- Mt Beauty Pharmacy
- ANZ Bank
- Tate Funeral Services – *Wangaratta*
- Mt Beauty Foodworks
- Bogong Estate Winery
- Mt Beauty Post Office
- Mt Beauty Bakery
- Pyles Coaches
- Carrol Judd & Co Accountants – *Albury*
- Country Care – *Benalla*
- Vegetation

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.

Station Xmas Party

Saturday 16th December '06 at the station starting at 6pm. Please bring a plate of food & drinks to share.

Broadcast Training

Brian Price – Training Co-ordinator

Training at Alpine Radio currently covers over 45 volunteers. These people are collectively working to help run the station. It is great to see everyone utilising very high skill levels. It has been marvelous how on-the-job training and peer tutoring as well as the numerous work instructions and 'beware' type signs have engaged the cooperation of everyone involved.

Training is ongoing with all presenters as new technologies are introduced. For example how to put pre-recorded Satellite programs to-air and saving pre-prepared programs to computer for later playback are just two.

In addition to this type of training, Alpine Radio is also funded to run a TAFE accredited Certificate III in Radio Broadcasting Course. Currently there are 12 Alpine Radio presenters enrolled. The course is being run in a self-directed manner with a core group attending a fortnightly workshop to get practice in specialized skills and help organize course materials.

Also, plans are afoot to enable participants to access training materials on Alpine Radio's website. The main idea behind this is to create a centralized body of knowledge which can be easily updated as legislation and other requirements change.

In the next fortnight or so, we will be submitting applications for funds to develop some pilot projects for the community that can be run via the radio. People have mentioned to me some areas of interest which include plays for radio, local garage band segments and podcasting.

New presenters are always welcome and in the last month, 3 people have taken up the challenge. These are Ursula Dumser, Tim Clarke and Cathryn Gunn. They are all progressing very well.

Last but not least, the local schools' training programming has seen students from Mt Beauty High School in training at the station. You can hear them from 12 noon to 2pm on most Thursdays except school holidays.

Mt Beauty SC – Radio Station

Cathy Gunn – Teacher & Co-ordinator

Mount Beauty Secondary College has incorporated a Radio station & Studio as part of the new Jessie Hollonds Centre for Performance and Multimedia.



One of the studios is purpose built to enable students to learn how to broadcast and record their own programs. Radio broadcasting will become part of the schools curriculum and the plan is to have students running their own programs at lunchtimes and during special school events such as Sports Days as well as continuing the commitment to the Alpine Radio timeslot on Thursdays 12 noon until 2pm.

The school and the community have access to this wonderful facility because of the College's successful application to the Leading Schools Fund three years ago. The Country Education Project Enterprise Learning program has funded the purchase of the radio equipment.

As the teacher who thought it would be a good idea to get the kids involved in the community through the Radio Station, it became necessary for me to become more familiar with nuts and bolts of working a mixer and putting a program to air.

I have been granted Teacher Professional Leave from the Education department in order to develop not only my on-air skills in spinning the fantastic black plastic (and perhaps updating the knowledge to CD playing and computers as well as records and turntables!!).

This will involve being released for a few days from my regular duties to develop a teaching program suitable for the students as well as upgrading my own technical skills.

I have taught English and drama for many happy years at Mount Beauty Secondary College and I am keen to expand into a new area and be able to take the kids into this new (for us!!) and exciting medium. As they say, everything old is new again. We are looking forward to greeting you all over the airwaves.

Brian Price Profile



Currently I am the *interim training co-ordinator* for the station. I am semi-retired and have had several career paths in media, education, computers, financial markets and business administration. At the moment I do part-time consulting, rescuing small firms and projects from IT and business disasters. Anne

and I have a farm in the Redbank area which we are slowly restoring to productivity and revegetating some areas with local provenance.

Having been a long-time listener and enjoyer of radio, my curiosity was piqued when the opportunity arose to see what life was like on the other side of the radio air waves. And also to see if I liked presenting. My previous media experience was as a station coordinator and master controller for metropolitan television many years ago and I enjoyed that immensely.

And now after about six months at Alpine Radio I wasn't disappointed! I have two morning shows a week (*Friday Breakfast & Saturday Soundtrack*) and this provides a really good creative focus for my interests in music, current affairs and pet projects which I hope to get off the drawing board over the coming year.

Overall, presenting on radio has its own inbuilt excitement and with a great team of volunteers at the Alpine Radio, what more could one ask for!

Check out the stations website
www.mtbeauty.com/alpineradio