

President's Report – AGM 2020

It was a big year for Alpine Radio in many respects and I have a lot of people to thank, especially our presenters, volunteers, Michael as Station Manager, Viv as Sponsorship Manager, Rebecca as the former Sponsorship Manager and Secretary for the first part of the year... (until Bec decided to take on a big nursing course... I hope that went well and all the best Bec for the future).

Emergency Broadcasting

The bushfire season 2020 has come and gone, with a huge impact (not physically, but economically, on our listening area) and it's appropriate to say thank you to all presenters who were available and pitched in on those days when we had emergency messages to broadcast... there were a couple of overnight broadcasts and we appreciate those who took their turn to come in overnight and keep those messages going. Also a big thank you to Kenny G and Izzy for a long stint on a Friday night in January.

Then along came Covid-19 and, while not urgent emergency broadcasting, we have continued to broadcast advice messages from the Department of Health and Human Services over a long period, reminding listeners of how to stay safe during this pandemic.

A huge thank you to all, especially Linda, Helen, Ken and Michael, the Covid-19 safety sub-committee, devising procedures and keeping stocks up to date of sanitiser, alcohol spray and wipes during this time, and continuing to oversee our protocols and procedures in an ever-changing situation. Thanks to Linda for writing and updating our Covid-safe Plan, vitally important that we kept up to date with safety procedures so we could stay on air as an essential service (emergency broadcaster).

Income and Grants

Our main income usually is sponsorship, and even though the valleys had a downturn in economic activity, many of our sponsors stayed with us, or only suspended payments for a short period. So we thank all our sponsors for their generous response through the last ten months. We were successful in obtaining several grants which have helped us considerably and I'd like to thank Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) for three substantial grants, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and NewsCorp for funding our Sponsorship Manager salary, the office of Dr Helen Haines, member for Indi, for a volunteer grant, and the Uniting Church Op Shop in Mount Beauty for a donation assisting with purchases of sanitiser and alcohol spray. As you will hear from our Treasurer, Keith, our financial position is currently very good, and I want to thank Keith for assisting in not only keeping our finances in good order, but updating the asset register and keeping the membership database up to date.

Training

Alpine Radio committee and some presenters underwent Governance and Volunteer Management training in February, run by Denise Kuchmar, a trainer from the Community Media Training Organisation (CMTO). This was funded by the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF), so it was free to those who participated. We also completed on-line skills training (also provided by CMTO) in June, courses such as "presenting an on-air program", "interviewing techniques" "news and current affairs" and "audio editing". I hope we've seen some improvement in delivery of programs as a result of this training.

Alpine Radio is a dynamic and forward-thinking organisation. We have several new presenters, with new music, a great diverse range of music and some program ideas that will come into effect over the next 12 months. "Spotlight on..." is proving to be very popular and I love listening to it. And if you miss a program, we are starting to put "specials" on the website so you can listen whenever you wish. Technology – we're moving with it, thanks to Michael, Rob, Linda and Ken. A big welcome to new presenters James Eggleston (and his sidekick Lisa Weldon) and Edwina Clark (aka Wink).

Outside Broadcasts (OBs)

In December we tried an OB at the UKV Lions Club's Carols by Candlelight show, and thanks to Darren Hunt for giving us access to his mixer, we had a most successful evening, capturing the Mount Beauty & District Band's Christmas Carols, plus two items from the local schools and the Mount Beauty Singers. The two Helens were co-hosting this event, and had to be on their toes to chat in between acts and keep a lively commentary going when necessary. (I think they can talk under water, so they had no problems 😊).

We also covered the News Year's Eve Party from the Mount Beauty Cricket Club ground, and another successful evening with several presenters keeping the wheels turning. And the Gather Festival in February at Mount Beauty saw us once again presenting "live" music from a variety of musicians and some great bands. We've certainly been out there in the community, where we should be.

Covid-19 put the kybosh on OBs over autumn and winter, but we plan to resume getting out there as soon as possible.

Strategic Planning

Our main efforts in the past 10 months have been managing the station through Covid-19, and so we have had to put strategic planning on the back-burner, just for the time being.

Absent Friends

On a sad note, we have lost three presenters over the last year – three people dear to our hearts, three people who, at various stages, overcame their fears of public speaking, took the bit between their teeth, and strove to learn about presenting and the intricacies of computers, to bring their favourite music to our local communities... I am referring of course to Traudy Homolka, Rolf Proft and one of the early volunteers at the station, over 17 years, life member Ian Erbacher (Mr P).

I have three photo-framed tributes to these wonderful people – as a permanent reminder of our absent friends.

There are four people leaving the committee – and I want to thank each and every one...

- the late Ian Erbacher, the prankster, not often he spoke up, but when he did, it was considered and thoughtful.
- Ken Halse, who will continue to stay on as a presenter and technician, thanks Ken for your input and updating us on all things technical.
- Scottie Graham, our music guru, who will continue to present and concentrate his efforts on bringing us great programs on Alpine Radio and teaching us about many genres of music, and
- Vice-President Hugh Paton, resigning from this position because he lives remotely and is finding it increasingly difficult to do the travel – thank you Hugh for your 'keeping the bastards honest' approach and your technical expertise; an enabler of technologies like

remote broadcasting and a huge fan of community radio being outside the studio, out in the community.

Stayin on:

- Helen McDougall – taking on a demanding Volunteer Coordinator role and creating urgency around people processes and community engagement.
- Treasurer Keith Pike – as mentioned, has done a mighty job looking after our finances, asset register and membership database.
- Linda Parkinson – looking after policies and procedures (including the Covid-19 plan), updating the website, and assisting as Minutes Secretary – and has nominated for the main Secretary role.

Special mention to Mary Pike for updating our rogues' gallery in the foyer – a terrific job and a difficult one keeping up with everyone and delving back into the past, and also filling in many times on various programs over the last 12 months.

There are many others I should thank, including Michael Ahearn our Station Manager, and Viv Rochford, Sponsorship Manager – both spending many more hours than they are paid, passionate about the station and its ongoing production of quality programs. And the many presenters who have volunteered to assist at working bees, help at outside broadcasts, or fill-in for absent presenters. A big thank you too, to Caitlin Frawley, our volunteer administrative assistant. Wow, Caitlin, so many "Spotlight on...." programs you have run now, in spite of Covid restrictions, and you have many more in the pipeline. Who is next? (That's an in joke – it's Johnny Cash, not "The Who").

Keep up the good work, all our volunteers and presenters. And keep listening, all you listeners out there in radio-land.

Nick Brown
President