



Mansfield Community Radio Inc. (A0031594J)

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Presidents Report November 2020

Welcome to the 24th AGM of Mansfield Community Radio Inc.

I would like to start this report by paying tribute to former presenter Colin Rochford who passed away this year. Colin was enthusiastic about everything, especially live gigs and radio plays and leaves a lasting legacy in our community. He was the inspiration behind the Radio Plays the station broadcasts every Sunday afternoon.

Radio Mansfield is really quite an amazing volunteer community organisation. Our 30 presenters broadcast 81.5 hours per week of live programs, 8.5 of them also on relay to our sister station UGFM. When you consider the time preparing and broadcasting shows, that's a lot of volunteer hours per week, every week. That is well over 4000 volunteer hours per year!

This year we welcomed several new presenters: Michael Craddock, Gilli Bruce, Kelli Gotje, Liam Wilson and Jack Arrowsmith and it is great to see more young presenters joining us.

Many do not realise that there are always many things also happen behind the scenes on a day to day basis to keep us on air and improve our station.

This is due to our talented Technical team so special thanks must go to them. These include:

Rob Voice, our IT Officer, whose knowledge and skills have been exceptional in creating the fantastic operational systems that we use every day whilst broadcasting. Ray Sheldrick our technical officer who is an expert in transmission systems with years of experience. It is fantastic to have a person like Ray involved in our station. His knowledge and his assistance with our transmission upgrades has been greatly appreciated.

Keith Rogers is our other technical wizard. Keith who has kept the station operational since it first started.

Thanks must also go to Ian Mallyon for his wonderful work recording our sponsorships, CSA's and his work editing our radio plays. His skills are amazing. This year Radio Mansfield 99.7FM were finalists in the Southern Community Media Associations X Awards and two entries made the finals: The 'Vicki & John show' in the best music show category and the promotion for MMUDS 'Blackadder play' in the Community Service Announcement category. Blackadder won this category.

Congratulations and thanks must go to Roger Nolan the writer & producer and Ian Mallyon for recording and editing of this promotion. This is the second X Award the station has won thanks to Ian's talent.

I should also thank Amanda Marshall for her great work as both Treasurer and administrative assistant. Having Amanda at the station has taken a lot of the work load off me and she has been a pleasure to work with.

As always a big extra special thank you must also go to all of our great presenters who regularly volunteer their time to keep our community entertained. Presenting is a big commitment and we know listeners appreciate the work we all put into providing a variety of entertaining and informative programs for our community.

I really appreciate the great work all our volunteers have done this year and the assistance they have provided to help grow the station into the successful organisation it now is. I would love to be able to give them all Cartier watches but our budget does not allow for this!

I also would like to acknowledge the support of our sponsors, members, the Shire and the CBF whose support keeps us on air and has enabled the improvements to our infrastructure.

Once again this year our sponsor and presenter numbers have increased and the station remains in a good financial position.

During both the bushfire and Covid states of emergency that have occurred in 2020 we have been able to provide an important role in keeping our community informed by broadcasting both community and Shire meetings on a regular basis. As emergency broadcasters we continued to be involved with the Shire's Emergency Management Committee, Emergency Management Victoria and local emergency services. These organisations finally realised the important role community radio can play in times of emergency.

There have been many important infrastructure projects completed this year. These will be detailed in the technical report. Our new website was launched last week and is a big improvement on our previous one. Thanks must go to Gabrielle Rose and her IT graduates for the work they have done on this as a community project.

I have indicated that I will be stepping down as President and any role on the committee after this AGM, but not from broadcasting which I love.

Vicki and I started with the station 16 years ago. During this time I have held many roles on the committee often as Treasurer, Vice President or President. I have now been President continuously for the last 6 years. That is, since the fire disabled our building in September 2014. Ironically both Keith Rogers and I had already planned how to proceed from this disaster before the fire had been put out!

But now it is time for a change of management.

During my time as President and committee member I have been able to use my construction, operational and management skills to progress the station into a fully operational and successful community organisation. My last project on this scale was the development of Mt Stirling. My role there was to manage the impact of increased visitation and I developed all the infrastructure on the mountain converting it from a place where a few people skied into a fully functional and popular cross-country ski resort.

Here at Radio Mansfield I have aimed for, and achieved, the completion of many major infrastructure projects for the station over many years. These projects have included building these new studios, renovating our old and new outside broadcasting vans, upgrading our transmission infrastructure at the Paps and installing new repeaters at both Tolmie and Frenchman's Gap so our signal can reach both ends of the Shire. I have also spent a lot of time and energy setting up our financial and administration systems so the station functions smoothly and efficiently.

Also during my time on the committee I have been successful in obtaining over \$200,000 of grants and funding to assist with these and many other projects. It is often said what a great job I have done to get the station to the stage that it is now in, but I could not have done this without the assistance of our great team of volunteers. I must thank all of them for their assistance as I could not have done all of this by myself.

We now have a dedicated group of volunteers which makes Radio Mansfield a popular radio station with our community and an important community organisation.

Thanks to all of you again.
John Coffey President

**FINANCE REPORT FOR MANSFIELD COMMUNITY RADIO AGM ON 26/11/2020.
FINANCIAL YEAR 1/7/19- 30/6/20**

INCOME.

Despite a difficult year our income increased \$29,440.84. This increase was largely due to grants obtained during the financial year from the Community Broadcasting Fund and from the Mansfield Shire Matching Fund. Memberships were slightly down as some chose not to renew and donations were also down on the previous year. Donations were down because in 2019 Rotary donated \$3000 for the outside broadcasting van and the Mansfield Community Fund also donated \$1000. Bank interest was basically non-existent; another reflection of the current financial times. Community support in the form of sponsorship has steadily improved with an increase of \$1,743.45.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure increased this year by \$26,898.32. Completion of major projects at Woods Point and the Paps site accounted for \$28,525.14 much of which was funded from grants. Broadcasting costs were slightly higher due to a one off \$749 licence variation cost for the Paps site. Power costs also increased because the Shire omitted to bill us for power and we paid for 3 years rather than for 1 year at \$1650. Conferences and meetings were higher this year as 4 presenters attended the CBF conference in Melbourne and another 4 attended the SCMA conference in Wagga. Promotion costs were much reduced this year because in 2019 the merchandise for sale including shirts, caps, pens and jackets was restocked.

Prudent financial management has enabled the station to complete major projects during this year and has improved our broadcast coverage and community engagement. Financially we are in a sound position as we look forward to further improvements in the year ahead.

MCR Treasurer – Amanda Marshall

Technical Report for Mansfield Community Radio 2020 AGM

Much of our recent activity has been limited due to the restrictions applicable to the Covid 19 isolation.

Prior to the restrictions we managed to complete the installation of a new transmitter and antenna at the Paps. This enabled Mansfield Community Radio to comply with the licence requirement of 1 kW effective radiated power. The station had been operating at 500 watts since the original installation at the Paps many years ago due to 5th harmonic interference with the Mansfield Council communications system. This is a rare occurrence but is possible when various communications transmitters and systems are operating from the one location. Reducing the transmitted power minimised the interference to an acceptable level in the Council communications system.

The Mansfield Council purchased a new communications system operating on another frequency which allowed MCR FM transmitter to operate at full power. Improvements have been noticed in the quality of reception in the listening area.

During the installation at the Paps one of the old antenna dipoles was rigged on the small tower adjacent to the transmitter building. This has been connected to the original FM transmitter which still operates well, to enable emergency transmitting in the event of damage or failure of the main transmitter tower.

There has been some delay in finalising the installation of Studio 1 due to organising the remote switching of the studio 1 and 2 to air. The system will allow the presenters in each studio to talk to each other especially during a changeover in an on air shift.

We are now organising the equipment and installation materials for the FM repeater site at Frenchman's Gap to broadcast into Woods Point. The refurbished tower as been installed and is ready for the rigging of the antennas and installing the rebroadcast receiver and FM transmitter on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of this month. The equipment is being installed in the CFA hut which we are refurbishing. The emergency generator will also be installed and fencing has already been erected.

We are planning and considering the installation of a digital audio mixing console in studio 1. This will provide flexible and remote operation which is essential for an emergency radio facility. Installation is expected in the first quarter of 2021 and full training in operation will be organised following installation by the local agent.

Ray Sheldrick
Technical Coordinator