

2018 AGM - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of your Committee of Management It's with great pleasure that I present a summary of our performance over the past 12 months. Through this period your Committee of Management have been myself, Bernie Jovaras, Denis Ginnivan, Andrea Leonard, Ian Gracie, Norm Gay, Greg Clydesdale and Karen Keegan who joined in April 2018. From March - September we actually had one member of our Executive overseas - first Greg, then Bernie and then myself. Good communication and hand-over around these plans meant that progress continued on key projects. With technology these days, keeping up with Indigo FM happenings from abroad is quite easy and often train trips provide an opportunity to contribute to emails.

In relation to my own plans, I did say a year back that this would be my last year as President, having been in the role since 2014. I am open to taking on a different role and allowing a new President to have a crack at leading Indigo FM and usher in some fresh energy and ideas. At this point in time there doesn't appear to be anyone with that particular desire. That being the case I am happy to discuss this at our AGM. I do think it is in Indigo FM's best interests to transition to a new leadership at some point in the forthcoming year.

It's been a very busy and very challenging 12 months and once again I remain humbled by the sheer volunteer hours of effort that have gone into the various projects we have undertaken. I will admit to a degree of frustration over delays to some big projects however I do understand that the path toward progress can not always easily be foreseen and sometimes has to be negotiated as options unfold. And we are all volunteers, so life gets in the way - often.

On that note I will summarise our **Strategic** projects.

In early 2018 Indigo FM for the first time, became a member of our peak body ANRA - the Australian Narrowcast Radio Association. ANRA provide advice on a range of industry related matters and have thus far proven an invaluable resource. Through this connection we became aware of an opportunity to nominate a desired new site at Tangambalanga and accompany it with a bid for a new licence. And as often happens when running in a field of one, we won!!!! The interest in setting up a site in this eastern end of Indigo Shire dates back to 2014 from keen locals Aaron and Mandy Wallace - Aaron is here tonight. Tangam Lions Club and the local CFA have been very active too in supporting us and we already have a site to go which we will set up soon with the help of a recent community grant of \$1,100 from Indigo Shire.

After a year of being super patient as we navigated the Shire's planning approvals process and heritage guidelines, we received approval in July to set up our Beechworth site at the Bunya Centre and physically made the move last Saturday 15 September. Fantastic tribute to the patience of all concerned led by Bernie Jovaras and Sandy Geddes.

Progress this year has been steady but slow at Chiltern. We have a site at the Telegraph Hotel but have been awaiting some surplus equipment items from our Beechworth site that were tied up in their relocation. With Beechworth now relocated, we can focus on getting Chiltern set up.

In March we negotiated with the Rayner family in Myrtleford to buy a lot of the items that were formerly used by Myrtleford FM - an LPON run by local identity Tiff Rayner who died in Aug 2015. This equipment is primarily going to our Chiltern site with the odd item also going to Tangam and Beechworth.

Scott Landells, President

We have had interest from Yackandandah Community Centre in helping us to stream Indigo FM from their site. Due to other priorities we haven't as yet taken up this offer. The incoming CoM will determine where they see this project in terms of relative priority on balance with setting up sites at Kiewa-Tangambalanga and Chiltern as well as other projects. We also met up with Adrian Clark from 107.3 REM-FM in Albury to look over some Broadcast Software "Play it Live" which integrates well with streaming.

In March we took a quantum leap forward at the Yackandandah Folk Festival, when we put live to air all performances from the Clarence Room at Java Cafe. This came about as the result of a suggestion from Kevin Poyner from Arts Yack with the support of the Folk Festival Committee and Java Cafe.

Members

Indigo FM has 74 members, down a bit on this time last year, where we had 93 members. We have:

- 11 businesses (14 - 2017),
- 7 community groups (4),
- 14 couples (10),
- 25 individuals (39) and
- 17 concession Members (26).

Operations

Financially Indigo FM recorded a loss of \$1,470 for 2017-18, however, that was anticipated as toward the end of the 2016-17 year we conducted some successful fundraising that was always earmarked to upgrade equipment in the 2017-18 financial year. Our budgeted loss was \$2,423, so our loss was approximately 60% of that anticipated.

Two significant items of ongoing expenditure have emerged in 2018 and these are Rent (at some locations) and Equipment Insurance.

We currently pay \$40 per month at Chiltern and anticipate paying similar amounts at Tangambalanga and Yackandandah. Whilst this could be considered a potential cost burden ongoing, I view it as coming into the real world following years of protection of overheads from organisations like Yackandandah Community Centre and Beechworth Secondary College and we are extremely grateful to each for their past support. Paying a small rent to cover our overheads I think is prudent and respectful to our landlords and it also allows us to continue to maintain our independence. The rental amount does always need to be balanced against the realities of our revenue generating capacity and the goodwill that we invest back into communities via offering free training for presenters from our team of volunteers.

Indigo FM first started in June 2010 however whilst we have maintained our public liability and professional indemnity insurances somehow we overlooked paying Equipment Insurance until recently. This anomaly has now been rectified and we are now fully covered in the event of theft or damage to equipment either on-site or in transit however, our Insurance payments have doubled as a result - we now pay \$238 per month (up from \$121 per month).

Due primarily to rental and insurance increases the outgoing CoM feel that despite some successful event fundraising initiatives, these significant costs can no longer be easily absorbed. Hence we are recommending a 12% increase in Membership Fees for 2018-19.

Scott Landells, President

A big partnership project we have undertaken this past year, which has strained our human resources somewhat, is to run the Bunya Centre as an independent facility open to use by the community. Initially we entered into this arrangement as a 3 way partnership with Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability (BULS) and Beechworth Women's Shed (BWS). After a difficult first half of 2018, BWS withdrew from our partnership and we now proceed with BULS as our partner - both parties are very happy with this arrangement thus far. We should be in a position shortly to offer the venue to community groups for casual hire during down-times. The aim of doing this is to generate sufficient income to cover overheads and ensure that the operations of the Centre are not a drain on finances of either of the partnering groups.

In October 2017 we did have to attend a VCAT hearing in Wodonga following an unresolved claim for reimbursement of \$1,173 from a former Official associated with the Yackandandah site upgrade in 2014. We were represented at this hearing by 3 CoM members (Ian, Andrea and Greg) and were satisfied with the outcome which saw the matter dismissed.

Marketing

Our Music Trivia Nights have continued to roll out with successful events at Yackandandah Public Hall in October 2017 and George Kerferd Hotel Beechworth in May 2018. Combined these events raised \$1600. The Beechworth event saw an attendance of around 80 which was well down on 2017's enormous 150. We're not sure why the large drop in numbers however, understand that 150 for our 2017 event was quite likely a bit of a one-off irregularity that was never going to be matched in 2017. Our next Music Trivia night is in Yack on 20 October.

This year we branched out into supporting live music under the **Indigo FM Presents** banner and we have been compiling weekly Gig Guides for Beechworth and Yackandandah since mid-year which we then distribute via social media. These have been receiving great interest from the live music venues and communities of these towns.

In June 2018, we hosted a showcase concert at Yackandandah Public Hall featuring internationally renowned guitarist singer-songwriter Daniel Champagne in his first concert in Yackandandah since 2013. Daniel and his team were easy to work with, keen to perform and negotiated a 50/50 profit share with us which saw us make a healthy profit of around \$840.

We continue our strong partnership with Lex and Rikki at Beechworth Music Festival. Together we have worked to upgrade and equip their van to be capable of being a mobile radio site which has been a tremendous achievement considering our humble level of technical proficiency. They will once again come on board as a sponsor of our upcoming Radiothon for the 5th year in succession. We have recently partnered with them on their Rock School Pick Your Project Application. Votes are now closed and we await a successful outcome.

Our Podcast site continues to record impressive numbers. In 2017-18 our shows were either played or downloaded on average 259 times per month - around 60 times per week. Our previous best was in 2014-15 where we averaged 172 per month. A big thumbs-up to the presenters of Eclectic Avenue, Waste The Alphabet, Not Quite Tuesday, Everyone Deserves Music and The Friday Sesh for making the effort to record and podcast their shows on a regular basis. Our podcasts spent 7 weeks in the Podomatic top 500, including a highest ever weekly ranking of 230 on March 16-22 of this year.

Scott Landells, President

Our website was upgraded in late 2017 to now accept online payments via our Membership module which we expect will greatly assist with future Membership recruitment and renewal.

Volunteers

We have received valuable contributions from officials on Sub-Committees and Working Parties:

- Tech Programming - Sandy Geddes and Greg Round
- Marketing - Doug Wallen and Felicity Rule.

I'd like to also acknowledge the assistance of 'Ado' Adrian Osborne from Splatoons who has been a fabulous support to our Marketing Sub-Committee these past two years. Ado has frequently stepped in at short notice to provide professional; artwork for suppliers of our merch and promotional banners and we are very fortunate to have his support. A big thanks goes out to our Chiltern Working Party - Ian Charlton, Angele James, Jo Le Mura and Kevin Mayhew who after a long search helped us locate a suitable studio site at the Telegraph Hotel.

Our Yackandandah Working Party members - Chris McGorlick, Bron Howlett, Lauren Salathiel and Nik Hazeleger were joined by Geoff Simmons, James Lacey and Kirsten Coates and as a group they have provided good support to the CoM and also to Bron who stepped up in late 2017 to co-ordinate activity at this site. At Beechworth Dan Goonan has contributed well in his role as Local Site Co-ordinator with strong support from a team of members to ensure the smooth running of this site.

I'd like to thank each of our members, our volunteer presenters and our valued partners on a successful 2017-18. Indigo FM achieves what we do on a shoestring budget with a 100% volunteer workforce. We are quite unique. I think that we can be extra proud of our many achievements. This past year I would estimate volunteers have contributed around 1500 hours off air and a similar number on air. That's 60 hours per week. A truly super effort!

Scott Landells
President