



2019 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, Greg Clydesdale, Karen Keegan, Phil Fraser, Bernie Jovaras and Andrea Leonard. We met on 6 occasions - twice at Yackandandah and Tangambalanga and once at Beechworth and Chiltern.

It's been a very active 12 months and I am grateful for the volunteer hours that have gone into the various projects and activities we have undertaken.

I will begin by summarising our **Strategic** projects.

In late November 2018 our new site at Tangambalanga hit the airwaves which was the result of several months of hard work from community member Aaron Wallace and myself as we worked with furniture and equipment donations from the local community as well as a community grant from Indigo Shire. We're incredibly grateful to the Tangam Lions Club who have provided our studio space and thank Peter Croucher for his encouragement. January 2019 was spent trying to work through a frustrating technical issue which saw transmitters suffer minor damage on 4 occasions. We eventually identified this as a faulty antenna and once replaced we've been transmitting smoothly since. Feb-May we focused on training up new presenters and in July we appointed Lannelle Bailey to the Site Co-ordinator role and whilst it's early days, we have been impressed with Lannelle's keen contribution.

In April we received advice that we were successful with our application for a \$3,000 AusNet grant to stream Indigo FM and provide links between our (soon to be) 4 sites. A working party under the leadership of Bernie Jovaras has been meeting since May to progress this project. We are grateful for the input of Albury-based IT professional, musician and community radio announcer Adrian Clark for his assistance on this project. We are trialing Broadcast Software called "Play it Live" which integrates well with streaming and expect each site will switch across to this software, rather than iTunes, in the first half of 2020.

Progress this year has been steady if somewhat slow at Chiltern. We had a site at the Telegraph Hotel, which due to a change in ownership we were forced to vacate in January. Chiltern Neighbourhood House (operating from the former Bush Nursing Hospital) offered an opportunity to relocate and following renovations in the first half of 2019, we signed an agreement with Indigo North Health in August to occupy a 14sqm space which we are now in the process of setting up. A big thanks goes out to our Chiltern Working Party - Ian Charlton and Jason Panlook for their support and perseverance.

Our Yackandandah site has recently signed up new presenters and we look forward to the return of Chris McGorlick and Lauren Salathiel to our airwaves. Bron Howlett has resigned from the role as Site Co-ordinator to focus on doing a regular show. We're eager to hear her show when it hits the airwaves in October. We thank Bron for her efforts and active promotion of Indigo FM these past 2 years. Karen Keegan will take on an Acting Co-ordinator role until February 2020 where we will advertise the role.

We've been in our new Beechworth site at Bunya House for around a year now. In January, Doug Wallen took on the role of Site Co-ordinator. This site is working well as a meeting and storage hub for Indigo FM in general. We do have some transmission limitations that seem to have been caused by the new location being in a lower, more congested part of town. Streaming will help overcome this issue.

We enjoy a harmonious working relationship with Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability (aka BULS) in the running of Bunya House. A Committee of Management is set up, which acts like a sub-committee for each organisation. There are 4 committee members - Greg and I from Indigo FM and Helen Robinson and John Hawker from BULS. Financially we do keep a separate set of books. We contributed \$600 in 2017 at start up and to date we've made a small profit with our share worth around \$750. We intend to offer Bunya House to community groups for casual hire during down-times. The aim of doing this is to generate further income to cover overheads and ensure that the operations of Bunya House add an income stream to both BULS and ourselves. I would like to hand over my role on the Bunya House Committee of Management in the next 12 months to an interested member who lives in Beechworth. We are planning to officially launch Bunya House to the public in early 2020. We have recently received an Indigo Shire community grant to paint the interior and purchase a 10 litre urn. So we'll put out a call for helpers on that one in a few months time.

Operations

Financially Indigo FM recorded a loss of \$701 for 2018-19. I think that really reflects a few things:

- challenges with renewing memberships and selling new;
- additional insurance charges in 2018-19 of around \$1200;
- the \$900 in site transmitter relocation costs (3 sites x \$300); and
- being in new site set-up mode (lots of additional charges that will settle down)

When I look back to 2016-17, before we entered this new site set-up phase we made a \$3,000 profit and had expenses just under \$6,000. It should be remembered that 2 years ago a lot of our equipment was a bit crap and in need of upgrade. This past year those expenses were \$9,300. Combined losses of \$1,100 in the two subsequent years under the circumstances have been manageable, largely due to that \$3,000 profit from 2016-17.

Scott Landells, President

In the next 12 months we will have to factor in rent at both Yackandandah and Chiltern as well as paying fees to APRA / AMCOS. As a consequence the outgoing Committee of Management have recommended in their budget for 2019-20 to charge an annual \$25 Presenter Levy. This is to help cover the increased overheads associated with providing rented premises with equipment in good condition, internet access, podcasting opportunities and performing artist rights.

The outgoing Committee took on paying Equipment Insurance this past 12 months which was a big cost - around \$1200pa in addition to a similar amount for Public Liability. In the current financial year we are planning on dropping the Equipment Insurance but setting up a fund to cover replacement. Having 4 separate sites spreads our risk and we plan to replace damaged equipment from a reserve fund of our funds rather than rely on Insurance.

Marketing

Our Marketing Sub-Committee has the aim of ***“building our community of music enthusiasts”***. We address this through various events and a weekly gig guide. Our Music Trivia Nights were held at Yackandandah Public Hall and George Kerferd Hotel Beechworth. Combined these events raised \$1600. We are looking at working Tangam and Chiltern into the Music Trivia Night mix for 2019-20.

We continue to explore supporting live music under the ***Indigo FM Presents*** banner and we have been compiling weekly Gig Guides for Beechworth and Yackandandah since mid-2018 which we then distribute via social media. These have been receiving great interest from the live music venues and communities of these towns.

In May 2019, we hosted another showcase concert at Yack Public Hall featuring renowned guitarist Daniel Champagne. Daniel and his team were again easy to work with, keen to perform and we made a healthy profit of just over \$700. On this same day we hosted a Record Fair at Yack Public Hall and then last month had a stall at a similar Event at SS&A in Albury. These events raised over \$300.

Our 2019 Radiothon is almost here and we are proud to announce sponsors in Lochwood Cottage B&B Beechworth and Beechworth Spring Music Festival run by From Little Things - the brainchild of Beechworth local Jack Nelson. We are also jointly promoting a concert at Osbornes Flat Hall on Sunday 13 October featuring This Way North and Rosie Burgess' other ukulele duo Tuck Shop Ladies. There will be other announcements in the next fortnight. We continue our partnership with Beechworth Music Festival and support them in their endeavours to relocate their annual Festival to a new site.

We now own a Square! This small device integrates with a smartphone and will allow tap and go payments which will help us adapt to the cashless society.

Scott Landells, President

We have just taken delivery of a range of new T-shirts in both men's and women's styles in black and charcoal colours. And we are also picking up a new smaller Indigo FM Presents banner to display at small events like pub gigs etc.

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 few years, stepping in to provide professional artwork for suppliers of our merch and promotional banners.

Our Podcast site continues to record impressive numbers. In 2018-19 our shows were either played or downloaded on average 335 times per month - around 80 times per week - an increase of 30% on the previous year. A big thumbs-up to presenters of Eclectic Avenue, Monthly Music, The Crossover, Kaylene's Country, Waste The Alphabet, Not Quite Tuesday, Everyone Deserves Music, The Friday Sesh and others for making the effort to record and podcast their shows on a regular basis. Our podcasts spent 11 weeks in the Podomatic top 500 - up from 7 for the previous 12 month period.

Members

Indigo FM currently has 79 members, slightly higher than this time last year. We have:

- 10 businesses (11 - 2018),
- 8 community groups (7),
- 11 couples (14),
- 34 individuals (25),
- 13 concession (17) and
- 3 complimentary members (3).

Volunteers

This past year I would estimate volunteers have contributed around 1500-2000 hours off air and a similar number on air. That's 70 hours per week. We have received valuable contributions from officials on Sub-Committees and Working Parties:

- Tech Programming - Sandy Geddes, Phil Fraser and Laurie Horder
- Marketing - Phil Fraser, Doug Wallen and Felicity Rule
- Streaming - Bernie Jovaras, Adrian Clark and Aaron Wallace.

I'd like to single out Doug Wallen for his tireless everyday contribution to Indigo FM. Often happy to stay "behind the scenes" Doug compiles our weekly gig guide, does most of our social media posts, is Site Co-ordinator at Beechworth, hosts a weekly show Waste The Alphabet and is a key member of our Marketing and Events team. Thanks Doug from everyone here. 3 years ago you were living in Ballarat. Your moving to the north-east has been a wonderful bonus for many people, music lovers certainly and Indigo FM absolutely.

Our CoM have been discussing Succession Planning of late and it's focused us on the strengths and risks within our current structure. We'd recommend that the incoming CoM

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keep looking at our long-term sustainability in relation to our effective utilisation of our volunteers.

I'd like to acknowledge the quiet achiever contribution of retiring CoM member Andrea Leonard who is relocating to be closer to her family in the Geelong area. Andrea has been our Treasurer since 2016 and we enter the next 3 years in a healthy financial position which Andrea along with the rest of our Committee can take credit for. In addition Andrea has provided great stability in the governance of our organisation. We look forward to Andrea (and others who may live outside our transmission zone) being able to tune in when we are streaming.

There is a lot to be excited about for the incoming Committee of Management. Headed up by our 10 year birthday in 2020! Yep, mid-2020 marks our 10 year birthday - for which we are in the process of planning an exciting range of events through the early part of the year.

I'd like to thank each of our members, our volunteer presenters and our partners on a successful 2018-19. Indigo FM achieves what we do on a shoestring budget with a 100% volunteer workforce which is a wonder in itself.

We can be proud of our many achievements.

Scott Landells, President