



2019-20 AGM - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Indigo FM Committee of Management, it is my pleasure to bring you our report on the organisation's performance for 2019-20.

Our Committee of Management for this period was elected in September 2019 and began with myself as President, Phil Fraser (Vice-President), Bernie Jovaras (Treasurer), Greg Clydesdale (Secretary) and General Committee Members Peter Watkins, Lannelle Bailey and Karen Keegan. Lannelle resigned in December 2019, Karen resigned in February 2020 and Peter Watkins stopped attending meetings from December 2019 onwards. In April 2020, Jocelyn Ceccanti was approached and agreed to join the Committee to help fill our vacancies.

This report covers the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. There were plenty of exciting highs as well as unanticipated lows brought on by Covid-19 that set us many challenges.

Let's start with the Highlights.

Yack Chat hit the airwaves in Yackandandah. A program that was the first of its kind for Indigo FM. Yack Chat was the brainchild of Yackandandah Community Centre in response to the lockdown caused by Covid-19. A daily 1 hour phone-in talkback program, made possible by a device that connects to a spare mixer channel donated by Ben Quick from ReConnect Communications. Staffed by the YCC Committee members we congratulate David, Bill, Karen and Phil for their excellent initiative.

The pandemic taught many of us many things. One of which was how to create radio programs remotely. Our organisation definitely fast tracked our technology options and that has created a lasting legacy that we can leverage off for our long-term benefit.

We celebrated our 10 Year Birthday, specifically in June 2020, and in general throughout the year via a series of on-air content promotions and social media posts, including an in-depth interview with Indigo FM founder Paul Fitzgerald. As a part of this we took steps to set up an archive of content dating back to 2012 and this will prove a valuable resource to continue to add to throughout our lifetime.

After a few years searching for the right venue, we were excited to sign an agreement in August 2019 to base our Chiltern operations at the new Neighbourhood House venture, managed by Indigo North Health. We were optimistic with this arrangement and it travelled quite smoothly for a few months. Disappointingly we found that when the pandemic hit, our tenancy related dealings with the CEO at Indigo North Health unexpectedly adversarial. We were taken aback at what we experienced as a lack of empathy for a volunteer-run community group. I do want to

stress that the staff at the Neighbourhood House led by Co-ordinator Maree Murphy were brilliant and very easy to work with (this later in October 2020 led to us taking the tough decision to exercise our right to terminate the agreement and vacate with 30 days notice).

We could take up a few pages discussing the setbacks posed by Covid-19. In summary they included - studio shut downs, an income loss in the order of \$3,000 caused by the cancellation of several FundRaising events, a minor concession only from our Insurance provider, cancellation of Yackandandah Folk Festival and the severe impact to many volunteers incl support groups such as Yack Community Centre, Kiewa-Tangam Lions etc.

In May 2020 a freak flood incident at Yackandandah Community Centre saw our studio forced to be dismantled, while damage was repaired. This unavoidably took us off the airwaves in Yackandandah for 3 months - a decent whack in the midst of the pandemic. We do acknowledge that YCC Manager and Indigo FM member David Thorpe was left with an unpleasant clean-up and recovery task that he didn't need either. We'd like to thank David for his efforts and also his co-operation in managing the Centre through a mini-disaster and assisting Indigo FM to return to the airwaves in August 2020. The flood did literally "freshen up" our studio with us now sporting new carpet and less clutter. We even discovered an equipment item hidden in a corner between a wall and a CD shelf that we didn't know we owned.

One of the intangible benefits of the pandemic, in my opinion, has seen the strengthening of key relationships within our organisation and also with our external partners. To also see that occurring in the wider community and at all levels of government was heartening. Most importantly Indigo Shire within days of the lockdown sent emails informing tenants of Shire owned buildings that rents would be waived during the 3 month lockdown. Whilst this didn't make a great deal of difference to us financially, the symbolism of the gesture was welcome.

In closing this 2019-20 President's Report I would like to thank every member for their generosity and understanding during what was easily the most challenging year of the 6 that I have served as President.

I must also thank each of my fellow Committee of Management members Phil Fraser, Jos Ceccanti, Bernie Jovaras and Greg Clydesdale for their wonderful work during 2019-20. I think we managed to remain reasonably calm and positive during such a turbulent year and kept looking for opportunities - the silver linings of Covid's storm clouds.

Yours in radio



Scott Landells
President