



2024 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 2023-24.

Our Committee of Management for this period comprised myself as President, Greg Clydesdale as VP, Greg Bourke as Treasurer, Phil Fraser and Nigel Jones as General Committee. Tiff Ellis started off as Secretary then moved to General Committee and Bernie Jovaras returned to the Committee taking on the Secretary's role from Tiff in Feb 2024.

There were plenty of exciting highs and a few lows and challenges. Let's start with a few highlights.

The Yackandandah Primary School programs entered their 12th year in 2024 and once again we have an enthusiastic crew on board. Our Rodecaster has been in regular use in 2024 as we have commenced regular podcasts with Chiltern Primary School and also produced a number of themed podcasts for Indigo Shire's Youth Resilience Team under the banner "Future Proof". And for the second year running we had a strong presence at the Kiewa Valley PS Annual Fete.

We renewed our Sponsorship Agreement with First National Real Estate Bonnici and Associates for a 3 year term at a similar rate to previous.

Our 2023 Radiothon was our 10th event of this nature. We tried something quite different in staging a live music event in Beechworth in November which included a Free Annual Membership as part of the Entry Fee. We were successful in receiving a \$5,000 grant from Regional Arts Victoria toward the event. We also had a very enthusiastic group of volunteers work on this event led by Tiff Ellis. Numbers ended up a fair way down on expectations and costs were moderately high which, in part, was caused by a desire to pay performers and sound tech crew generously. As a result this event ran at a loss. If we include left over stock of wine donated by Brown Brothers (retail value around \$900), then the loss was close to break-even. It was an event with a relatively high profile and that always creates benefits on some level.

We successfully took a huge long overdue step in late 2023 in transitioning across to PlayIt Live from iTunes as our Broadcasting Software. Congratulations to all presenters for being patient and giving this their best effort.

We completed our first full year of paying our APRA / AMCOS fees and this is a great thing for Indigo FM as a responsible ethical organisation in supporting Australian musicians and original songwriters. However, going forward, generating the revenue consistently to meet these payments will be a big challenge as they are in the order of \$1800-\$2000pa.

Financially we recorded a loss of around \$1,000. However this includes 2 one-off transactions totalling \$900. One was \$450 transferred to our Bendigo Bank account and the other \$450 to our subsidiary Bunya House where we have a 75% stake. Viewed in a pure operational sense, that loss comes back to around \$100. Thanks to Greg Bourke for his professional input in this key role.

This was my 10th year as President and while I think I have many things down to a fine art, it's fair to say that we ran for several months on "light duties" as I explored a few other interests. In some respects this is probably reflective of reality as many volunteer organisations cover the basics while volunteers juggle a number of obligations and commitments and in 2024 we resembled that model.

In mid 2024 we looked into Strategic Planning. The Committee held a range of views about its value and different facilitators and we couldn't quite resolve these to chart a way forward. This matter will be important for the incoming Committee to consider.

Our Marketing Sub-Committee was inactive in 2024 due to a lack of interest from key organisers. This Sub-Committee has made a major contribution to our organisation over the past 7 years. Again its future will be a matter for the incoming Committee to consider.

Perhaps reflective of this Sub-Committee taking a break, Indigo FM Committee decided to skip a Radiothon in 2024. This was primarily due to a sense that this style of event had become a little tired and that some fresh energy and ideas were required. We've done 10 years of Radiothons and it's been a huge collective effort. Take a year off, recharge the batteries and we'll see what opportunities await in 2025.

In early September 2024, we received a jolt to our Beechworth operations when damage to the electric cabling led to us being off air for 10 days. Power has now been restored, however, Shire have advised us that we will be required to find a new home from early 2025 onwards. This led to a small team of key officials inspecting a few potential local sites. Again the final decision here will rest with the incoming Committee.

I'd like to close by thanking all of our volunteers for their exceptional efforts and enthusiasm in 2023-4. Our future has its share of challenges as well as some wonderful opportunities for the incoming Committee of Indigo FM to explore.

Yours in radio



Scott Landells
President