

PIRIE COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS INC (TRAX FM)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

With thanks to Graham Johnston for helping with the information contained in the report.

This year in June we celebrated our fourth year at Phoenix Park and 25 years of broadcasting. Late last year we applied for licence renewal, which I am happy to say was granted, with some conditions.

We were asked by the ACMA to make some alterations to our constitution around quorums for meetings and to create a policy to deal with conflict within our organisation. This was duly carried out at a special general meeting earlier this year.

In January, Jimmy Johnson asked the board to place his program "yee hah, its country" into recess as he was not well and needed some time to recover. As the program is a popular one and Vicki Walters was "panelling" for Jim, the board decided to allow Vicki to fill in for Jim to keep the live component of the program on air, which she successfully did. Jim was able to occasionally then return as his health allowed.

Outside broadcasting of the Spencer Gulf League Football throughout the season was a boost for the Station's public profile, and thanks go to Graham and Rhonda Johnston, Christine Kent and Rose Marschal for their efforts, and the various commentators who made themselves available.

A group associated with the Whyalla station "YYY FM" visited our station in March and were impressed with the layout and technical equipment and components. Much useful information and some "stories" were exchanged and a good time was had by all.

A short time later a group from the local Probus club paid us a visit and once again were suitably impressed by what they saw and learned about Community Radio Broadcasting.

These visits further establish our public profile as people learn, and pass on, the ideas and ideals of Community Radio. It also assists us with 'feedback' and suggestions for programming.

The programs provided by Filipino Radio have a large following in the community and outlying districts and also play a part in keeping us on-air financially and we thank them for their contribution. The ladies involved also provide us with some in-house fun occasionally and participate in other social events.

This year, changes have been made to the licensing rules and codes which affect the way grants are allocated for community radio stations. This directly impacts on Trax. I have extracted some of the points from the list of requirements that need to be addressed by the membership for the application for grants. I cannot stress enough the importance of feedback to the board, so any thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

These points for consideration are

- How to advance the station.
- Increase membership,
- Increase participation,
- Encourage volunteers.
- Look for new presenters to train
- Ideas on programs

I reiterate the observation from last year's report that we, as board members and some presenters, are getting older and we are now in a position where we need to draw in more, and younger, Members/Presenters. If this cannot be achieved then this next five years could be the

last for TRAX. We really are doing good things, but we just need to work at growing our numbers, filling more programme space and getting new blood into the station. This is the challenge for the future for TRAX.

The move to Phoenix Park was the best large thing that has been done in years, so let's all build on it in the future. The addition and placing of signs on the entranceway to Phoenix Park has raised our profile and public awareness. I am constantly hearing positive reports from the listening audience.

There are many technical improvements that can be made at the station in the future. The National Broadband Network will be available for connection in December/January and this will change the way our Networking and Telephone systems work at the station. We are looking at what we need compared with what we have in the way of equipment and services.

Future concerns are

- The Federal Government is considering Digital radio in the regions and this will have a big impact on our operations if it is introduced.
- Electricity costs and reliability are of extreme concern and we are looking at ways to reduce this cost and keep the station on air during power failures. (To this end, we are considering seriously the installation of 5 kilowatts of Solar Panels)
- This coming year will be a busy one for your Board and there will be a lot of work behind the scenes to make us more viable and sustain our operations

We will be relying on the Members to pick up some of the regular work around the station to keep our surroundings attractive to visitors and show us in good light to the public.

In closing, I thank the members of the Board, for, without their participation, Trax would not be able to operate.

Let's all give ourselves a big pat on the back for the way we have settled into Phoenix Park and we can now all work to make our Radio home even better inside and out. Let's all be proud of Trax FM.

Thank you all.

Raymond Walters (Chairman)