

PIRIE COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS INC (TRAX FM)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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

This year in June we celebrated our fifth year at Phoenix Park and 26 years of broadcasting.

Outside broadcasting of the Association Soccer throughout the winter season and the SGL Football Finals 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. These visits into the "sports world" further establish our public profile as people learn about the ideas and ideals of Community Radio. It also assists us with 'feedback' and suggestions for programming.

In January last year, Jimmy Johnston asked the board to place his program "Yee-ha, It's 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. Jim eventually became well enough to resume a full program. The Thursday afternoon time slot has shifted slightly from 4 to 7pm to now between 3 and 6pm to enable Jim to avoid the cold night air during winter months.

Thanks to Graham Johnston, a major program inclusion this year was the "Reading for Print Handicapped (RPH)" where the local Recorder Newspaper is recorded by a local group "Paper Talk" who were approached with the intention of their people doing the reading and recording and then broadcast by TRAX on Sunday evenings. This has been a popular move and well received by the target audience.

"Moonlighting" by Merv and Val was resurrected and slotted in on Monday afternoons and an additional program was added to Wednesday night with the "heavy and hard rock" presented by Daniel Pearse. This program genre was included to appeal to a younger audience and to display the cross section of community catered for by TRAX.

The programs provided by Filipino Radio have a large following in the community and outlying districts 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. Planning for celebrations for twenty five years of Filipino Radio broadcasting and association with TRAX FM is well advanced and will take place in February next year. I am looking forward to that celebration.

There were some technical improvements made at the station during this year that will assist in reducing our costs, particularly the installation of the 5kW PV solar array which should see the daytime running of equipment become power neutral in the future (once the metering issues are resolved). The National Broadband Network, when it was connected was a boost to the Networking and Telephone systems at the station. We are continuing to look at what we need compared with what we have in the way of equipment and services.

Technical improvements have also been made with upgrades to the office and programming computers, additional and replacement monitor screens, boom arms for microphones and "on air" indicating lights in and outside of studios.

The fund raising committee have been busy arranging and organising projects throughout the year and have successfully raised much needed funds. Thanks go to music groups "Jimmy and the Boys", "The Jukebox Boys" and "Billy Goat Hill Band", Cactus Martens and Sal and Ali for donating their time and talent.

Future concerns are:

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.

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 must sincerely thank the members of the Board and the program presenters. Without their participation, Trax would not be able to operate. Special thanks to Graham for the Secretarial work and Peter and Graham for the technical input. Also to Treasurer Christine (who nearly always says "no you can't spend any money", with a semi-serious smile) and to Phil for his persistence in sales and follow up. Remember that we are all volunteers.

Let's all give ourselves a big pat on the back for the work done so far and we can now all work towards making our Radio home even better inside and out. Let's all be proud of Trax FM.

Thank you all.

Raymond Walters (Chairman)