

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
Pirie Community Radio Broadcasters Inc (Trax FM)
Held on Wednesday 17th November 2021
at the Savoy Soccer Clubrooms**

Present: Rose Marschall , Tony Adriaanse, Delmar Allen, Peter Allen, Vicki Walters, Ray Walters, Christine Kent, Rhonda Johnston, Marlene Gill, Teresita Chivell, Llewelly James, Maxine Dienhoff and Graham Johnston.

Apologies: John Rohde, Wayne and Mel Castle, Greg Kerr, Kirk Deken.

Minutes: of the last Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2020 were read and confirmed on a motion put by Christine Kent and seconded by Tony Adriaanse. – carried

Business Arising: from the previous AGM:

- Graham Johnston referred to the minutes and said that the air conditioning at the Bluff has been installed and is currently on standby.
- Station imaging was launched at the beginning of February in an effort to boost sponsorship.

Reports:

- Ray Walters gave the Annual Station Report (attached)
- Christine Kent gave the Treasurers Report (attached) We have received \$5000 in sponsorship during each of the last two years mainly due to COVID 19 and we have consumed most of our cash reserves during that time. We urgently need a Sponsorship person to help boost our finances. Moved Vicki Walters and seconded Rose Marschall that the report be received. – Carried
- Technical Report was presented by Graham Johnston (attached) Air conditioning costs have dropped to 1/10th of the previous year due to changes in how the air conditioning is controlled.

Election of Officers:

- We have received nominations from Christine Kent, John Rohde, Rose Marschall and Greg Kerr. As there were fewer nominations than the maximum of 10 positions on the Board they were declared elected. The position of Chairman is vacant. The board can select a Chairman at it's first meeting after the AGM. Christine Kent thanked Ray Walters for his service to the station in the past few years.

Business;

- Scoring Up our new harness racing programme has commenced on Thursdays at 6:30pm for one half an hour each week. It is produced by Gary Newton in Adelaide for Trax FM. All content relates to the local club, drivers, officials and the local public
- Peter Allen talked about his research on emergency power for the Bluff transmitter and the various options that we could pursue, including funding (grants, fundraising).
- A local transmitter at our studio for keeping the station on air (with reduced coverage) was discussed and licencing will be investigated. We have a suitable transmitter already (it is our old spare for the Bluff)
- Graham Johnston showed those present the new Stationplaylist upgrade which will be installed in about two weeks time.

Meeting closed at 7:54pm

PIRIE COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS INC (TRAX FM)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021

This past year has been difficult to say the least and Trax has endured some not so good times.

The first sad event was the loss of long time presenter, friend and music guru, Graham Bell. Graham unfortunately lost his battle with cancer. He is greatly and sadly missed at the station.

And, as I read this report to you, our very popular and long time presenter, member and friend Jan Stockdale is in the Pirie hospital. Jan is in our thoughts daily and we send our love and best wishes.

On a positive note, Kyah Deinhoff blossomed under the guidance of Rose Marschall in her German program. Kyah can now speak the German language fluently and when home from Uni joins Rose on her program. Kyah meanwhile has proposed and started her own program on Monday afternoons and repeated on Saturday afternoon "Millennium Music" featuring music and artists from year 2000 to the present and has attracted an audience of younger people. She does this successfully from Adelaide by way of our "voice tracking" electronic media.

We were also fortunate to have an experienced presenter and Port Pirie expat now returned home, Denise Pettman, join our station and has brought with her a wealth of experience in community radio having been a presenter at a station in Victor Harbour for many years. Denise has been able to fill vacant spots on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning AM on FM. Denise follows Christine Kent's ever popular mix of music and interviews program, AM on FM on Monday mornings.

John Rhode's early morning program "Blast From The Past Brekky" has proven to be popular and Tony Adriaans has been able to take on the Thursday and Friday morning AM on FM timeslots with good mix of music and information.

At present Vicki Walters has temporarily stepped into Jan's Sunday morning program "Golden Oldies" while Jan is unavailable. Vicki's "Country Jukebox" is popular with country music followers and she also assists Jimmy Johnston with his "Yee Ha Its Country" program.

"Back in Black" with Mark Pigott on Thursday night caters for the rock and blues enthusiasts. Mark's presentation is always entertaining.

Wayne and Mel with their entertaining banter, music and information on Wednesdays AM on FM and Saturday night "Turn Up Your Radio" programs are always popular with our listeners.

Hadyn Madigan continues to present his Vietnam Veterans program on Monday evenings with interesting anecdotes from war history.

During the latter part of last year and into this year, member Tom Rohde and assisted by Dad, John Rhode, set to work in "music library" sorting genres, double ups and setting up folders for the various sections and took on the task of updating station ID's and promo's. Early in this year we lost Tom to a Commercial radio station interstate. However his ties with Trax were not totally lost as he was able to continue to have input into a Saturday afternoon program from afar using the "voice tracking" electronic media.

Filipino radio has ceased its live to air program on Thursday afternoon due to lack of available presenters because of work commitments, but continues to do live broadcast on Sunday afternoon.

Graham Johnston, ably assisted by Christine Kent, managed to squeeze in some football broadcasts during this footy season but the non cooperation from the SGL hierarchy meant no broadcasts from Port Pirie Memorial Oval. However, broadcasts for soccer were encouraged by their management and commentators and were done from the west side media room and proved very popular.

Station and Program details and information are listed on the website and other information and updates are posted on the facebook page.

COVID19 has continued to affect our station operations in various ways, mostly because of rules set up by Government/s that affected how we interacted in the community and at the station. We had to change totally our day to day operations, with extra cleaning, sanitising, social distancing, meetings and "signing in". Although a huge inconvenience, most of our members and presenters took all this on board and accepted the cleaning and sanitising regime. I am disappointed with the attitude of those who did not (and you know who you are), which meant an extra burden of attention to detail for others.

As continuation of restrictions took place, access to the station and studios was very restricted such that Graham had some extra work in setting up voice tracking for presenters to work from home. There were some minor teething problems but this was, and continues to be, a successful alternative for those that took it on, alleviating the need to go into the studio.

The restrictions also have continued to influence our proposed fund raising events for this year which made them non-events and meant we were heavily reliant on Government grants and our sponsors. Sponsors continued to gradually drop away as Covid affected their businesses. This has in turn caused a reduction in our finances which will be evidenced in the financial statements. John Rhode tried to keep up the calls on sponsors but work commitments have curtailed his involvement in that effort. Trax needs a dedicated person to take on the sales role to canvas for sponsors and if anyone here is at all interested, or knows of someone who could be, please advise any of the board members.

At this stage some easing of Government restrictions have allowed us to be able to hold board meetings and training in house allowing up to 14 persons in the area with COVID rules observed.

Briefly, on the technical side, the solar panel installation is helping alleviate the electrical cost of running the studio and equipment, but the transmitter at the Bluff is still a major cost. Recently, there was a problem with the transmitter, caused by an electrical storm which meant the purchase and fitting of a new transmitter. The cost was fortunately covered by insurance and enabled an upgrade as the original type was no longer available. Thanks go to Graham and Peter Allan for their efforts and tech knowledge.

I thank all members and presenters for their understanding and basic adherence to the rules and instructions through this difficult time. In the popular vernacular "we are all in this together".

I have extracted some of the points from the list of requirements that need to be addressed by the membership. 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 to the public.
- How to increase membership,
- How to increase participation,
- How to encourage volunteers.
- How to look for new presenters to train
- How to attract ideas on programs
- How to encourage sponsorship

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 year licence period could be the last for TRAX. We really are doing good things, but we just need to work at growing our numbers, filling more program space and getting new and younger people into the station. This is the challenge for the future for TRAX.

I wish to sincerely thank the board members for their ongoing support this year in trying times, and for the loyalty of members and friends renewing and to the presenters for their dedication to their programs and support of Trax.

Also huge thanks to the sponsors who continued and still continue to support Trax for their faith in Community radio.

Lastly, I will not be continuing as Chairman or board member as I have some challenges of my own to attend to. However, I will remain a member and staunch supporter of Trax.

Thank you all for your attention.

Ray Walters

Chairman, 2021

Pirie Community Radio Broadcasters Inc (Trax FM) Nov 17 2021

Technical Report

1. Necessities such as Covid9 and availability of presenters has required some novel changes to our programming in this last year and in turn our use of technology. Programmes such as Radio Reading, Blast from the Past Brekkie, New Millenium, 2 Hours to Midnight, Scoring Up, Night Tunes, Rock on Saturdays and Smooth Saturdays have required us to use the internet and technology in different ways to get the programme into the station and on air and I commend the various presenters in adapting to these challenges. We can do things differently if need be.
2. This year has also seen challenges at our transmitter site. Peter and I have had to do an emergency transplant in July and a 30 year old transmitter was pressed into service to restore our transmission facilities when a Saturday power failure in July caused irreparable damage to our transmitter exciter and we were off air for more than a day. A lack of cash reserves meant that we had to claim the damage on insurance and make a quick decision on a replacement sourced from a supplier in Sydney, to restore full service about four weeks later.
3. We have made big inroads into reducing our transmitter site power consumption since the last AGM. Average power consumed per day for air conditioning has dropped to 1/10 of what it originally was and we now also reduce transmitter output power to ½ power between the hours of 11pm and 8am daily.
 - a. 5 Mar 2020 to 28 Dec 2020 (298 days) average consumption 8.53 kWh/ day
 - b. 3 Mar 2021 to 15 Nov 2021 (259 days) average consumption 0.86 kWh/day
 - c. This is for air conditioning at the Bluff. We still have some further work to do in this area, but we are unlikely to improve much on these figures without installing solar on site.
4. There are further efficiency improvements that could be made in the equipment room but these are unlikely to be advanced with our finances in the current situation, so we will be just concentrating on keeping the station on air with what we have for the foreseeable future.
5. We will be investigating installing some equipment at Phoenix Park as a backup facility for when the Bluff transmitter is off air. This should not involve much financially and will enable us to maintain a Pirie only service for Bluff outages.
6. A planned equipment replacement document has been generated for the Board to forward plan replacement of electronics that is nearing the end of life. Some of our equipment is nearly 20 years old. Thank you to Peter and Delmar who provided some old photos of the Bluff equipment and assistance with some detective work with our financial records for recovering purchase dates.
7. A new version of Stationplaylist should be available shortly. This will look different to the current version in some respects. We will load it on our OB laptop initially and have an information session for presenters to see the changes before it is installed in the Studio. This will probably involve all remote voicetrack users upgrading when we changeover so that they can continue with their programmes. More to come on this.
8. Our licence renewal application hopefully can be completed before Christmas. The deadline is early in the new year, so we will be concentrating in this in the next few weeks.

Graham Johnston