

## Trax FM 2023 AGM

### Chairpersons Report

I write my report for presentation at this AGM with thanks to all who are involved with the Station for their continued work and commitment and to our loyal listeners and supporters for still being there with us for another year, particularly this special year for the Station.

It is a special year for the Station, being our 30<sup>th</sup> year of broadcasting. So many things have happened over that time. We have had numerous homes from railway carriages to caravans, welcomed and said goodbye to many friends and programs but in the end, we are still here. So many wonderful people have contributed so much time and effort to making the Station work, so in this 30<sup>th</sup> year of operations I just want to say thank you to absolutely everyone who has been involved with Trax FM.

Considering how many things have happened over the years, the year just gone has been relatively quiet.

We have broadcast away from our studios on a number of occasions this year with the most recent being at the Smelters Picnic. Thank you to those presenters who were involved in the day, I am sure our local listeners enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with the people they love to listen too.

Graham also set up a number of times at the Sporting Precinct this year to broadcast local soccer games with the Savoy Soccer club involved and I know our sporting audience enjoyed listening in to these over the year.

It has also been a sad year and we had to say goodbye to a long term, well liked and respected radio presenter Wayne Castle. Wayne had an incredible knowledge of music and this was present in the quality of his broadcasts. He had many years along his wife Mel and their banter on air was enjoyed by many of our listeners. He is missed.

We now move into a new year of Station operations and I am concerned for our long-term future. I know, as I am sure you are feeling very tired. Many of us have been involved with the Station for a long time and I am wondering where our next jolt of energy and ideas is going to come from. What is required is planning and a commitment from all of us if this Station is going to be here for another 30 years. Let's see what we can all do to move forward.

Thank you all for your attendance.

## Trax FM AGM 2023 Technical Report

This year our lease at the Bluff for our transmitter is changing to a national park. During the changeover (which will take about twelve months) the Department of Environment and Water are our temporary landlords. When the transfer is complete I expect that we will have to negotiate a new lease with Parks and Wildlife. The new park is called Wapma Thura – Southern Flinders Ranges National Park.

I have had discussions with SA Power Networks about their access to our transmitter site and this has not currently been resolved, but there is a solution if we work together.

Due to our extremely tight financial situation technical activities are restricted to care and maintenance with any additions restricted to what I can afford to pay for myself. I have in progress a small remote switch under construction to enable us to switch between studios and outside broadcast which will make operations smoother. This will also be able to work with remote control from outside the station in an emergency.

Our equipment is getting older (approaching 20 years in many cases) and I read some disturbing news this week that the manufacturer of our studio desks has apparently closed his website. This means that supply of spare parts has dried up. Our desks could continue to function for many years yet, but a failure will mean that we will need to use the production studio for spares. Ultimately we would need to consider upgrading but this will need to wait until our finances are in better shape.

This year we have changed email, internet and telephone providers as our previous providers (Telstra, iiNET and Internode) have gradually withdrawn their services. We now use Aussie Broadband for internet and telephone and Ventra IP for email and domain name management. The changeover was made smooth by their excellent telephone help lines which are all in Australia.

I have been considering what we need to do if we should have to close down and what sort of costs are involved for us to do that. There are many options but I am hoping that we can avoid this by working hard to recover our position to where we were four or five years ago. Then we can plan progressive replacement of essential equipment.

On a brighter note yesterday I replaced the audio interface from the computer to the desk in our studio with a spare I had at home. This will eliminate the loss of audio problems we have experienced in the last few weeks due to Windows 10 not behaving after upgrading. I am currently working on the second computer in the studio to improve performance.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Open Day and 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations including our visitors from Pt Augusta and Whyalla. You made the day very worthwhile and I hope you went away knowing a little more about our operations. We have a Garage Sale on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you also to everyone who helps to keep our premises clean and tidy throughout the year. Harness Racing Port Pirie have been beautifying our surroundings and they have more in the pipeline.

Graham Johnston

Secretary