

# 2021–22 MainFM Annual Report









Jenny Divers & Leon Stackpole — 'Mixed 'Shake Appeal'















Steve Norwood – 'First Australian Music Hour 'with Tony Peachey – 'Get Your Groove Back'





Kath Coff, who presented the Acknowledgement to Country at the 2021 Rogies with 'Wattle n Dub's Jimmy Naylor



Gold Rogie winner Jakob Schmitt from 'Night Moogs' with Alex Playsted – 'What's Golden'









Sponsorship & Events Manager Sue McLennan with Station Manager Steph Riddel



Technical Coordinator Steve Charman



Luke – 'Luke Warm Cocktail Hour' with some time copresenter Eva & Radiothon 2022 prize winner



Jen Moore – 'Loose 'n' Up', DJing at Revival 2022





Jenny Divers with special guest at Castlemaine Idyll 2022



lan Patrick – 'The Latin Hour' with CoM Treasurer, Jeremy Furze at the Town Folk Festival 20<mark>2</mark>2





Gen Ward – 'Mind Ya Head' & Elizabeth Scanlon – 'A Horse with No Name' with Cam Demarco at the Rogies 2021







CoM Secretary Di Indrans with husband Andy at the Rogies 2021















'Able Radio's' weather reporter extraordinaire, Brayden Courtney



Shane Matts – 'Hour of Power' with Hayley West – 'Dead Air' presenting at Castlemaine Idyll 2022







Bridget Haylock – 'Femme Fortissimo' with Radiothon 2022 guest Briega Young





### Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which MainFM is located and broadcasts. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the contribution of the Dja Dja Wurrung people to our region's living culture. We honour and respect the cultural heritage of all Aborignal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## Introduction

Welcome to MainFM's 2021–22 Annual Report. Within the following pages the story of our little radio station and all it has accomplished over the past financial year will unfold. You will find highlights of the financial year – achievements, reports, photos and figures. It's a celebration of the people who make the best little station in the nation what it is today.

### **About Us**

94.9 MainFM is an award winning community radio station based on Djarra country in Castlemaine, broadcasting music, community news, talks and specialist programs and events throughout a large area of Central Victoria.

MainFM is a not-for-profit organisation which is owned and operated by and for the community and relies on sponsorship and listener subscriptions for its day-to-day broadcasting and administrative costs. The station operates from the Workspace building in Halford Street, Castlemaine with three part-time staff members, whose positions are funded by the Community Broadcasting Foundation, and also operates with over 100 volunteer presenters.

It is governed by an elected Committee of Management and is dedicated to creating an asset that resonates and belongs to the broader community.

MainFM has over 750 subscribers and is committed to broadcasting high quality radio 24 hours a day and streaming online. Our presenters are locals and programs are varied and diverse, with over 70 shows across the program grid, reflecting our community.

Castlemaine District Radio Inc. is registered in Victoria A0047091H — ABN 96 208 316 461 and is a registered charity with tax-deductible DRG status.

Ph: (03) 5472 4376 Email: info@mainfm.net Website: www.mainfm.net

Lifon Henderson – 'The Wave' with Gus Read-Hill calling the MAIN Game 2022 with 'Dead Air's' Hayley West keeping score





### Contents

Thank you to Our Wonderful Volunteers	2
2021–22 Committee of Management & Staff	8
President's Report	9
Secretary's Report	10
Treasurer's Report	11
Station Manager's Report	12
Program Manager's Report	13
Technical Coordinator's Report	15
MainFM Sub-Committees	16
MainFM in Numbers	17
Grants 2021–22	18
Calendar of Events & Community Engagement	19
The Village Square – Frederick Street	19
Rogies 2021	20
Radiothon 2021 – Listen Local	21
Radiothon 2022 – Radio Recharge	21
International Women's Day	22
The MAIN Game	23
Revival 2022	24
Awards	25
Special Programming	26
Outside Broadcasts (OBs)	27
Youth Engagement	28
Community Broadcasting Foundation Content Grants	29
Sponsors	31
Subscriber Discounters	32
Gallery	34
Financials	37



### 2021–22 Committee of Management & Staff

Committee of Management President: Richard McLeish Vice President: Hannah Cook Secretary: Di Indrans Treasurer: Jeremy Furze General Committee: Andrew Stewart, Ian Patrick, Meg Butler

Staff Station Manager: Steph Riddel Sponsorship and Events Manager: Sue McLennan Volunteers and Training Coordinator: Alex Playsted

Coordinators Programming: Rich Moffat Tech: Steve Charman Music: Jimmy Naylor





### President's Report – Richard McLeish

And the pandemic shackles came off – and we were free!

I've been so curious to see what MainFM is really capable of and we finally got a taste of that over the last 12 months. A string of hit events, community engagement off the charts, programming prowess – where to begin? Perhaps at the start?

From the depths of winter came a July Radiothon, under the theme of Listen Local, which gave us all something to cheer about. And then the clouds lifted, and we jumped headfirst into a giddying series of outside broadcasts. We've never been more visible at events such as Town Folk Festival, International Women's Day, Castlemaine Idyll, Pride Festival, among others. Our Revival shindig finally came to fruition in April, and it was worth the wait. The community turned out in droves. That rolled into The MAIN Game, which was a huge success after years of planning and postponements. Props to the Rockatoos for their win. Then it was Radiothon (again) under the theme Radio Recharge. And the numbers don't lie.

But plenty goes on behind the scenes to make the difficult seem easy and effortless (it's not). Our spirited staff continue to go well beyond their job descriptions to set it all in motion.

At the helm, Station Manager Steph Riddel continues to volley everything thrown at her with panache. Sponsorship and Events Manager Sue McLennan continues to engage with our wonderful sponsors and deliver excellent events. And the triumvirate is now complete with Alex Playstead, the Training and Volunteers Coordinator, who will upskill us all for a stronger future.

From a governance perspective, we've been tinkering away behind the scenes, as per, tweaking the reporting process, operational and strategic planning, and other policies and processes. A Constitution sub-committee gave the document a needed spruce. And our digital roll-out is taking shape nicely – stay tuned.

We sadly waved off Meg Butler, whose contribution to the station will be felt for years to come. But it's a revolving door, and in the same motion we welcome Mihaela Kovacic. Thanks to CoM for all their efforts during the year. It can be thankless at times, but the strong health of the station is our motivation to stay on point, and we will.

Other less-sung heroes of the station are the coordinators. Props to Programming Coordinator Rich Moffat for helping us well-represent our kaleidoscopic community. Tech Coordinator Steve continues to make sure the signal never dies. And Music Coordinator Jimmy (and Colin) keep the music flowing 24/7.

But it's a collaborative effort, and everyone does their little bit to help make MainFM what it is – the greatest little station in the constellation. Upwards and on.

Long live MainFM.

Richard McLeish President



### Secretary's Report – Di Indrans

At the November 2021 AGM I was very pleased to be elected for another two-year term as Secretary. Thank you for your support.

As Secretary I compile all reports and relevant documents for the Committee of Management (CoM) meetings, set the agenda, compile and publish meeting minutes and ensure follow-through on CoM decisions. I am advised on membership applications, which are presented to the CoM at monthly meetings for approval. Additionally, I review and report on the alignment of policies and procedures to the CoM. Where necessary, I propose updates to policies and procedures and often facilitate required changes.

From a governance perspective, this year has seen the development of a work plan detailing a program of reviews and potential updates for all Policies and Procedures.

The Policies to be reviewed in 2022 are as follows:

- Inclusion Policy reviewed and CoM agreed the current policy is comprehensive.
- The Constitution reviewed and many changes were approved by CoM. Members' approval will be sought on 25 October 2022.
- Membership Policy this requires updating to align with the Constitution. This will be done once the current proposed changes to the Constitution are approved by members. Aiming for completion prior to year end.

The largest task undertaken was facilitating the review of the Constitution. A Constitution Review Committee was established. The Committee completed their review in January 2022 and submitted proposed changes to the CoM at a special meeting on 14 February. During the year further changes were proposed by CoM members and approved by CoM. All proposed changes are to be presented to members. A Special General Meeting is to be held before the AGM on 25 October 2022, where members will be requested to approve the changes. Details on the proposed changes and reasons for these changes will be sent to members at least 21 days before this meeting.

Looking forward to a COVID-reduced 2023 which will allow for a full year of MainFM events and interaction.

#### Di Indrans Secretary





### Treasurer's Report – Jeremy Furze

MainFM has remained financially strong throughout the 2022 Financial Year, posting a net profit of \$36,133.

It was a year of two Radiothons (July 2021 and June 2022) so, as expected, subscriber revenue is very high compared to previous years. However, it is worth noting that both Radiothons were resounding successes in their own right.

The station also enjoyed growth in sponsorship income and achieved its strongest year to date in this department. Sue McLennan has continued to do a wonderful job of building and maintaining great relationships with local businesses and other sponsors.

Grant funding again proved to be an important source of revenue for the station. This year's funding included new opportunities through Mount Alexander Shire and Community Broadcasting Foundation for a variety of outcomes including the Volunteers & Training Coordinator role and the very successful REVIVAL event.

A big thanks also to Steph Riddel for her efforts in maintaining and developing the financial systems at the station throughout the year. There is great transparency and understanding of the day-to-day financial operations of the station as a result.

Looking ahead to 2023, the station will continue to work towards financial sustainability, as outlined in the Strategic Plan, by continuing to develop non-grant streams of revenue and managing operational costs with care and vigilance.

#### Jeremy Furze Treasurer





### Station Manager's Report – Steph Riddel

Through challenging times, the station continues to perform with such a stellar array of quality, engaging shows. I'm consistently impressed by the passion and dedication our volunteers bring each week to the station in service of the community. Castlemaine, MainFM is doing you proud.

Despite the various impacts and interruptions we've all experienced, our sponsorship base has grown and our Radiothons have continued to be successful. I believe this support reflects the value we provide the community in connecting people at a time of heighted isolation and social disconnection. From the dark depths of winter spent in lockdown in 2021 we had one of our best Radiothons ever. MainFM was one of the only places our staff and volunteers could hang out that wasn't the supermarket, so it was like one big party at the station, for our presenters and listeners alike.

Throughout 2021 we persevered through ongoing lockdowns, mandates and COVID waves that hit our town, to finally emerge from restrictions. And we made the most of it with a run of standout, engaging community events, outside broadcasts and special programming. The Village Square was a cracking initiative of Mount Alexander Shire Council, delivered much needed connection when we all needed it, and MainFM was thrilled to be a part of it. International Women's Day at The Village Square was a definite highlight, with so many community members gathering to show solidarity at an event that showcased our impressive young people and local artists. REVIVAL was a blast, and the dancefloor was pumping. The hallowed return of the MAIN Game was a glorious sight to behold, and action packed, both on and off the field.

These days the station is high-vibing with an abundance of presenters and guests coming through; it's pure joy and in stark contrast to recent times spent operating behind locked doors. Our dedicated Committee of Management works quietly in the background laying the groundwork for onward success and I thank them for that. I feel very supported by what I feel is a dream team – it's a pleasure working alongside the fabulous Sue McLennan, who continues to build our strategic partnerships, keeps our sponsorship portfolio strong and has a natural knack for pulling together events (and making it look easy). After a thorough recruitment drive, Alex Playsted landed in the role of Volunteers and Training Coordinator, at probably the busiest time of the year, and is kicking goals on the training front and paving the way for best-practice volunteers engagement. Like a champ, Steve Charman consistently goes above and beyond to keep the place sounding great and Rich Moffat is doing a fantastic job of inspiring people to join – and is forever working towards a full grid of shows (we're close!)

Finally, thank you to all our MainFM volunteers who make this place sing. I'm incredibly proud to lead an organisation stacked with so many talented souls. The positivity emanates across the airwaves and is a reflection and extension of this strong, resilient, rocking community we all call home. Huzzah!

Steph Riddel Station Manager



### Program Coordinator's Report – Rich Moffat

When COVID came for us all in March 2020, my partner and I quickly got tired of our Melbourne lockdown home and started looking for the 'tree change'. We found a home in Castlemaine that ended up taking a year longer to build than expected (we finally moved in Dec 2021).

I spent most of those first few lockdowns with my computer tuned to MainFM's website radio and knew we'd made a great decision almost immediately. We felt like MainFM's 100+ announcer army gave us a virtual tour of the town, alongside all the amazing businesses who sponsor the station and the individual shows. What stood out for me was the diversity of shows, the variety of views and opinions represented, and the sense of community that's transmitted on a daily and hourly basis.

I spent 15 years as an announcer on Melbourne community radio station 3RRR, and this no doubt helped me have the good fortune to take over from the amazing Suzanne Donisthorpe, who was Programming Coordinator for six years and built up an incredible grid of shows. The diversity of MainFM doesn't happen by accident. Listeners will know Suzanne from the formidable authority of her informative Tuesday morning show *Hear Say* and *OK Boomer* of course, but her work at MainFM has also been a massive achievement behind the scenes. I hope we have continued to honour the template of diversity and informative content that she established over her time.

Our Programming Committee are an amazing group of people who deserve some recognition – Ada Levis, Bradley Dawson, Sue Vaughan, Kate McDonald, Colin Lemon, Elizabeth Scanlon, Melissa Scott, Alex Bennett – many thanks for all your input, ideas, feedback and enthusiasm.

So, what has changed over the last 12 months?

- We welcomed in some amazing new talent.
- Elvis's Dog Rocks Radio show on Thursday evenings is a joy of musical discovery.
- Martin has debuted *Still Life with Pansy*, our weekly Monday guide to queer art.
- Elizabeth's A Horse with No Name is an adventurous, mostly instrumental beats journey on a Monday.
- Saturday nights are now with local electronic music collective the 'Castlemaine Electronic Workshop'.
- Joel's beat heavy Thursday show Virtual State takes you deep into the electronic underground.
- Local DJ Jen Moore starts your week off in style with *Loose 'N' Up* on a Monday morning.
- Sam has a cult hit on his hands with his *All Songs Lead to Tom* Wednesday breakfast show.
- Sam has also done some great work on the Lowdown community announcements through the year.
- Mik's To Bring You My Love, follows Shake Appeal for all your Wednesday evening rock 'n' roll needs.
- Polly has joined Peta (Catch-up Class and Star Spangled Bangers) for Dance This Mess Around.
- Former station manager Tina Helm has finally jumped behind the mic on Monday afternoons.
- Hayley's fascinating show *Dead Air* explores all things death and dying and is essential listening.

MainFM also continues to welcome in local high school students – this year's new recruits have been Billy and Harper on a Tuesday morning with *Messin' with Mics*. (*Our Corduroy Cabana* and *Jazz, the Universe and Everything* shows are now considered veterans!)

Some great past announcers returned to the airwaves.

- *Love Storm* by Gus is the only dedicated love song destination in town. Listen with someone you love.
- Deep House Chewton by Sam is also a welcome return to your Friday evening.
- *Breaking the Mould* by Steve and Matt made some cameos during the year too.



Some established MainFM shows moved into new slots.

- *Jump Out Jamaica* with Edd Selecta and ReRe Dub; perfect dub and reggae for a lazy Saturday afternoon.
- Trust Fund by Adrian is a glorious musical education now in the Friday drivetime slot.
- Able Radio with Poppy, Brayden and the team is now your Friday lunchtime soundtrack.
- The Upshot with Kya and Lucy, has taken their essential 10 questions to Sunday mornings.
- Someplace Somewhere with Crag and his rotation of intriguing guests is now Wednesday mornings.
- Queer and Now with Sherene and Amalie has landed into the Tuesday drivetime slot.
- The Bigger Picture with Bruce is now back on Thursday mornings.
- The Quiet Carriage with Paul continues, all the way from WA, now on a Thursday.
- The First Australian Music Hour with Steve is now Tuesdays at 3pm.

Some other shows came and went within the year.

- Mr Brown's Funk Solution by Bradley livened up our Wednesday evenings.
- *It's a Vibe* by Jarrod was here for a hot minute before he flew the coup for Italy.
- *Nocturnal Transmissions* by Kirsty eased us into a Sunday afternoon we're hoping she'll be back soon.

Sadly, some classic MainFM shows had to come to an end. Life occasionally gets in the way!

- Ninja Tuna by Ada brought us some seriously cool hip hop on a Saturday.
- Yowie Central by Sarah became a cult hit show, and can now be found online as a podcast.
- Go Well with Kate Mercer will be missed.
- *Catch Up Class* with Eamon is sadly finished, but we hope to hear more from Eamon soon.
- *Too Slow Disco* with Sach finished up, but he's already back with Castlemaine Electronic Workshop.
- Food For Thought with Mary has wound up, but stay tuned for a new instalment.

It's been an incredible effort from everyone at the station to have continued to train up new announcers, despite the endless lockdowns and COVID-related challenges. Thank you to everyone who has helped out. We now have Alex Playsted in a new formal role overseeing training, so expect to see many new voices on air soon, including shows from Castlemaine locals such as Jen Rae, Darren Tinker, Heidi Eager and more.

MainFM now features live shows throughout the grid all through the week, but you can still hear some repeats of some of our favourite shows if you happen to be awake after midnight. Don't forget that Mixcloud often features shows you may have missed. Our 2022 Radiothon helped raise funds for us to build the technology to host an 'on demand' catalogue of shows via the MainFM website, so stay tuned for timing of when that will happen.

Many thanks to everyone that has made me feel so welcome in the role, especially Suzanne, Rich, Steph, Scott, Sue and Steve. To have had such a welcoming introduction to the community in town has been very special.

MainFM aims to represent all in the community, so if you have an idea for a show, or know someone who we need to hear from, please reach out via programming@mainfm.net

So many radio shows, so little time – I haven't mentioned my favourite MainFM shows here – next time, I guess! – but just in case you need some more MainFM in your life, here's my favourite hour of mayhem from 2022:

https://www.mixcloud.com/lifon-henderson/freestyle-show-accidental-edition/

Rich Moffat Programming Coordinator



### Technical Coordinator's Report – Steve Charman

Apart from the recent break-in and theft of valuable equipment from our production studio, the year has seen a case of steady technical improvement at MainFM.

On the positive side, we've had a good year in terms of the quality of our broadcasts with very few outages, no doubt due to the recent upgrading and overhaul of key equipment. The Chrome Remote Desktop system of remote loading of shows continues to work well, with many of our presenters now having mastered the process.

A major improvement has been made to the quality of our Outside Broadcasts with the purchase of a Netgear Nighthawk 5G modem and a powerful directional antenna. In addition, we now have a completely separate and fully functioning portable outside broadcast unit (both of which we used in the successful MAIN Game OB). And finally, we got around to overhauling the Studio 1 broadcast mixer. The worn-out faders, which had proved such a bugbear for presenters for quite some time, have now been replaced.

Some other achievements this year were the installation of a new studio virtual 3CX phone system, the creation of a new large tech cupboard (near the kitchen), the replacement of the Uninterruptible Power Supply batteries (how annoying was that loud warning low voltage beeping!?), installation of new auxiliary and phone hubs in both our on-air studios, and improved lighting in Studio 1.

The volunteers that make up our Tech Team continue to do important technical work at the station. They include Colin Lemon, Mike Reeves, Richard McLeish, Andrew Stewart, Jimmy Naylor and Scott Sanders. Frank Veldze and Steve Norwood have been instrumental in managing our outside broadcast transitions. We also continue to rely on outside contractors for specialised work. The two Simons, Simon Glozier in Bendigo and Simon from SRK Electronics, Melbourne, have both repaired equipment needed for us to stay on air. In addition, Melbourne broadcast engineer Brian King gave us some valuable advice this year.

Steve Charman Technical Coordinator

'Hour of Power's' Shane Matts and 'Dead Air's' Hayley West anchoring the Castlema<mark>ine Idyll 20</mark>22 broadcast with Steve Charman looking on

EPIC FAIL



### **MainFM Sub-Committees**

#### FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Members: Sue McLennan (Chair), Suzanne Donisthorpe, Richard McLeish, Steph Riddel, Bradley Dawson Activities:

- Event planning
- Media communications print, social, radio, gig guide
- Website content management
- Merchandise sales and promotion

#### **PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE**

Members: Rich Moffat (Chair), Alex Bennett, Melissa Scott, Sue Vaughan, Elizabeth Scanlon, Colin Lemon, Bradley Dawson, Ada Levis, Kate McDonald

Activities:

- Developing new programs throughout the year
- Scheduling the grid and updating the program guide for publication
- Engaging during Radiothon
- Active engagement on the auto playlist to ensure we meet our music policy of 30% Australian Music and 50% female music
- Providing ongoing feedback to presenters

#### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Members: Steve Charman (Chair), Adrian Hodda, Colin Lemon, Jimmy Naylor, Mike Reeves, Scott Sanders, Andrew Stewart

Activities:

- Maintaining and monitoring the station's technical needs
- Presenter training and technical support
- Being reactive and proactive in terms of equipment failure and updates
- Improving on-air and off-air systems
- Building remote access and supporting presenters to adapt through COVID-19 and more

#### PANDEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members: Richard McLeish (Chair), Steve Charman, Steph Riddel, Leon Stackpole Activities:

- Maintaining a COVID-19 pandemic plan with primary aims to protect the wellbeing of MainFM staff, committee, volunteers and visitors, and ensure ongoing broadcast
- Meeting when required as a group, and communicating with members as necessary
- Monitoring implementation of the plan and response measures

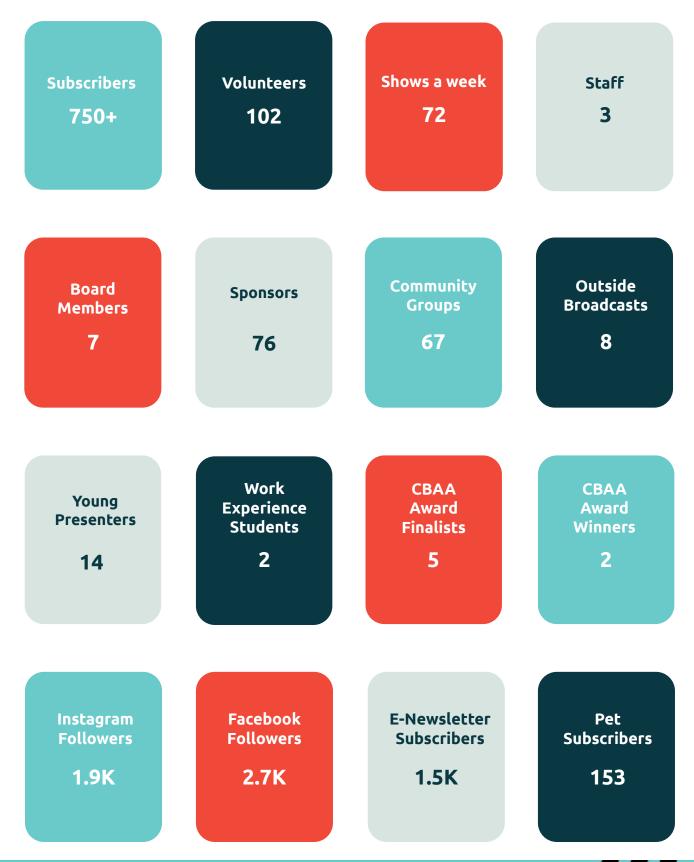
#### HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members: Hannah Cook, Suzanne Hogan Activities:

- Providing first and main point of contact for paid staff
- Keeping CoM appraised of any staffing issues
- Developing plans for future staffing requirements
- Overseeing recruitment of staff to the station



### MainFM in numbers





### Grants 2021-22

Sourcing grants continues to be a funding stream the station relies on to help pay the bills, update equipment, deliver special projects and make great radio. We acknowledge and are so thankful to our funding bodies below. In this reporting period MainFM was fortunate to receive the following grants.

#### **Community Broadcasting Foundation Grants**

Development and Operational Grant \$40, 768 – Employ Station Manager to support strategic planning & community engagement \$23, 100 – Employ a Volunteers & Training Coordinator, Increase Skills Training Content Grants \$20,000 – Able Radio \$20,000 – Saltgrass

Australian Music Radio Airplay Project/Creative Victoria

\$17,000 – On the Road Again/REVIVAL

#### **Mount Alexander Shire Council – The Village Square Consortium** \$5000 – To activate The Village Square with Outside Broadcasts, events and promotion

**Mount Alexander Shire Council Events Grant** \$2000 – The MAIN Game (funding rolled over from 2020)

#### Federal Volunteers Grants Program

\$3000 – LGBTIQA+ training program

#### Midsumma Festival – Pride 2021: Regional Activation Grants – MainFM Auspiced

\$9000 – Pride Across the Ages Podcast produced by Queer and Now, in collaboration with Mount Alexander Shire Council, Castlemaine Pride and Mount Alexander LGBTIQA+ Steering Group

**Federal Stronger Communities Program** \$4000 – 94.9MainFM Outside Broadcast Equipment

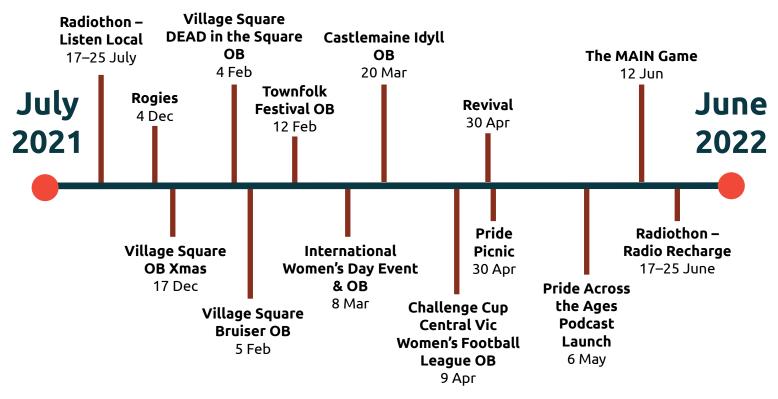
#### Community Media Training Organisation

Funding for MainFM volunteers to undertake 'Station Tech for the non-technical' training





### Calendar of Events & Community Engagement



#### The Village Square - Frederick St

MainFM was invited to join a consortium of local creative organisations to activate the Village Square, an initiative of Mount Alexander Shire Council, to bring live music and community gatherings back for the people in a fun, outdoor setting with a stage, shade and picnic tables. Over the summer months, a series of events occurred: gigs, workshops and films. MainFM presented multiple Outside Broadcasts, presented International Women's Day in collaboration with Music Victoria, and supported all events and happenings with on-air and web promotion.

Mount Alexander Shire Council Village Square Consortium: Castlemaine FREEZA, The Village Festival, 3451 Culture, Castlemaine Electronic Workshop & MainFM





### Rogies 2021

Our annual awards night, which took place at Boomtown, celebrated the achievements of our 100+ volunteer presenters with awards across a number of categories. DJ Vibemaster brought the tunes and the dance floor vibes as we celebrated into the night. Gold and Silver awards were voted for by the public, whilst all remaining categories were peer voted. We made special acknowledgement to presenters who have broadcast 300+ shows, and inducted volunteers who have gone above and beyond into our Hall of Fame.

#### GOLD

Winner: Night Moogs

SILVER Winner: Beats without Borders

**CHATTERATI (BEST TALKS SHOW)** Winner: *Mind Ya Head* Runners-up: *Girls on Air* and *The Upshot* 

**REX WATTS MUSIC AWARD (BEST MUSIC SHOW)** Winner: *What's Golden* 

Runners-up: Wattle n Dub and Shake Appeal

**FRESH AWARD (BEST YOUTH PROGRAM)** Winner: *Jazz, the Universe & Everything* Runners-up: *Ninja Tuna* and *Saturdaze* 

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK (BEST NEW SHOW)** Winner: *Jump out Jamaica* Runners-up: *Someplace, Somewhere* and *Dead Air* 

#### OLD HAND (BEST ESTABLISHED SHOW)

Winner: *Down the Rabbit Hole* Runners-up: *Open Tuning* and *Able Radio* 



Clockwise from top left: Crag Carrick – 'Someplace Somewhere' with Hayley West – 'Dead Air'; 'What's Golden's' Alex Playsted presents Poppy Cullen from 'Beats Without Borders' with the Silver Rogie; Jakob Schmitt – 'Night Moogs' with 'Jump Out Jamaica's' Edd Selectah & ReRe Dub; 'Girls on Air's' Jan Palethorpe & Melissa Scott in full flight

#### 300 CLUB

A new category this year recognising those presenters who have clocked up 300 shows or more!

Melissa Scott, Suzanne Donisthorpe, Steve Charman, Stephen McMahon, Josh Meadows, Glenn Williams, Tony Peachey, Tim Ratcliffe, In Maldon Today, Colin Lemon, Julian Williams, Bruce Carruthers, Anne Bolton, Ken Turnbull, Scott Sanders, Frank Veldze, Anne McCue, Ada Levis.





# Radiothon 2021 – Listen Local

By some strange twist of fate, Radiothon landed in the middle of a statewide lockdown in July 2021. As a recognised essential services provider, MainFM presenters were able to broadcast their shows live from the studios and we're guessing a good number of our subscribers were at home listening to the radio during this time! Our theme was Listen Local, which came off the back of a surge in community support of local businesses and operators during challenging times. This support extended to us during Radiothon and was reflected in our subscriber growth for that year.

#### Radiothon 2022 – Radio Recharge 17–25 June

Our 2022 Radiothon theme of Radio Recharge was very fitting given our presenters were 100% charged as they delivered back-to-back live shows for the entire nine days of Radiothon. This kind of energy from our presenters emits through the airwaves and ultimately is reflected in the number of subscribers. Over \$10K in prizes was on offer throughout Radiothon as an incentive to listeners, highlighting the generous support from our local business community and beyond.





#### International Woman's Day The Village Square, 8 March 2022

We collaborated with Music Victoria and Mount Alexander Shire Council to celebrate International Women's Day at the Village Square. The free community gathering featured live music from talented locally based female artists including Hannah Blackburn, Jess Parker and K5. Our live broadcast was anchored by stalwart young presenters Chloe, Saskia and Rita from *Corduroy Cabana*, followed by Bridget Haylock (*Femme Fortisimo*) and Allie Hanly (*Saltgrass*). Young Yorta Yorta woman Grace Coff delivered a powerful Acknowledgement to Country, and Councillor Rosie Annear's heartfelt speech was delivered to a huge cross section of the community.













#### The MAIN Game Camp Reserve, 12 June 2022

After a two-year forced hiatus, MainFM's much loved community footy fundraiser returned to the Camp Reserve on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June to a record crowd of adoring footy fans and nonfooty fans alike. The Rockatoos went head-to-head with the Radio Galahs and after a hard-fought game, the Rockatoos held on to win by 10 points. The game was preceded by a stirring performance from the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band and at half time K5 rocked out on stage. Gus and Lifon brought the game to life on-air through our outside broadcast with colourful, light-hearted, and entertaining commentary.

Since its inception in 2018, the MAIN Game has gone from strength to strength, appealing to a huge cross section of our community and garnering support from local business and organisations alike. The energy from the 400+ crowd was palpable and is testament to our spirited community.















#### Revival Campbell's Creek Community Centre, 30 April 2022

In mid 2021, the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) partnered with Creative Victoria for their On The Road Again initiative to bring live music back to regional Victoria following the pandemic. MainFM was one of five regional radio stations awarded funding through AMRAP (Australian Music Radio Airplay Project) to curate and produce a live music event. It was an exciting opportunity and the first of its kind for the station. Revival was months in the making.

As part of the brief, we landed on artists whom we felt best represented the diversity of talent in our region whilst also selecting headlining artists from further afield. Six acts were invited to perform at our all-ages Revival gig and our programming included MainFM DJs. We invited Castlemaine Fringe Festival to cater for the event which gave them the opportunity for some fundraising of their own. Over 200 people including young children and families spilled into the Campbells Creek Community Centre over the course of the evening to dance and celebrate the revival of live music to our town.





### Awards

#### Community Broadcasting Association of Australia 2021 Awards

We'd like to take a moment to acknowledge our presenters who were finalists in this year's CBAA Awards. The community Broadcasting Association of Australia is the peak industry body for our sector and each year recognises talent and achievement.

Finalists Best Talks – *Able Radio* Excellence in Music Presenting – Poppy Cullen – *Beats without Borders* Excellence in News and Current Affairs Radio – *Able Radio* Excellence in Journalism - Elizabeth Scanlon for CHIRP series of interviews Best New Show – Anne-Marie Middlemast – *Meet Me at the Library* 

Winners

Excellence in Journalism - Elizabeth Scanlon for CHIRP series of interviews Best New Show – *Meet Me at the Library* – Anne-Marie Middlemast

#### International Jackson Wild Media Awards

*Saltgrass Podcast* produced by Allie Hanly was announced as a finalist in the International Jackson Wild Media Awards. The Awards celebrate excellence and innovation in nature, science and conservation storytelling. This year's finalists include environmental luminaries such as Jane Goodall and David Attenborough! 2021 *Saltgrass* was also listed as one of the top environmental podcasts in *The New York Times*. Congratulations Allie.



Award recipients Anne-Marie Middlemast & Elizabeth Scanlon





### **Special Programming**

Throughout the year, MainFM collaborated with various community groups promoting local happenings, as well as recognising social action initiatives on the national and global calendar, with a series of special programming events.

#### The Village Fire Garden – 30 July 2021

This was conceived by the Village Festival and intended as an outdoor amphitheatre show, but lockdownforced postponement led to a reduced performance in the form of a very special audio broadcast. Renowned indigenous educator, musician and storyteller, Wamba Wamba man Uncle Ron Murray shared a Creation Story with us. Centred around a First Nations Creation story from the river country in southern NSW, the 30-minute produced program featured original sound design by local artist Justin Marshall. Uncle Ron was live in the studio to present the story, providing colour and animation to the project's creation and development.

#### The Tempest: An Audio Project by Castlemaine Theatre Company – September 2021

Created during the COVID year of 2021, this innovative project saw Castlemaine Theatre Company adapt and perform Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, producing a four-part podcast, broadcast on MainFM's *Around the Wirelesss* with Glenn Williams. Directed by Kate Stones, with original score by David Thrussell and Sound Design by Simeon Roberts. Playing character parts were numerous MainFM presenters: Stephen McMahon, Toby Heyden, Tim Ratcliffe and Elizabeth Scanlon.

#### Kids Lockdown Special – September 2021

During periods of lockdown and remote schooling in Victoria during Term 3, MainFM presenter Fionna Allan produced a series called 'The Kids Lockdown Special'. Students were encouraged to text in their song requests, shout outs to their friends, take part in competitions and storytelling. The shows were hugely successful, with over 100+ young people engaging either through the MainFM text line or social media. The response from local parents and teachers was overwhelmingly positive with messages of applause and appreciation.

#### Aus Music Week – 15–21 November 2021

MainFM celebrated Aus Music Week with a jam-packed grid of Australian music, peppered with engaging interviews with Australian artists including Good Morning, Hachiku, Mindy Meng Wang, Cable Ties, Jen Cloher, Sweet Whirl, Sarah Elise Thompson and more.

#### Respect Victoria 16 Days of Activisism – 24 November–10 December 2021

Aligning with Primary Care Partnership, Goldfields Library, Mt Alexander Shire Council and Women's Health Loddon Mallee, MainFM supported this important initiative with special programming across the grid, celebrating the good work that is being done in our community and reflecting on what still needs to be happen.

#### WOMAD Festival – March 2022

MainFM Radio all-stars Poppy Cullen and Jimmy Naylor gained media accreditation to WOMAD International Arts Festival and brought back a treasure trove of interviews and recorded sets for your listening pleasure, presented across two special programming events.

#### Reconcilliation Week & Sorry Day – 26 May–3 June 2022

MainFM celebrated Reconciliation Week with active promotion of events happening across the shire in support and a series of special programs throughout the week, plus music featuring First Nations artists.



### Outside Broadcasts (OBs)

This past year saw the return of gatherings enabling us to reconnect and engage with our community once again through Outside Broadcasts, bringing live coverage of music, sporting and community events. Steve Charman manages the technical aspects of all our OBs, providing our volunteers with training opportunities in production, technical and presentation skills. Gosh, it was nice to be back and able to celebrate our local artists and events.

#### The Village Square – Late Night Christmas Shopping – 17 December 2021

Business Mount Alexander and Castlemaine Fringe Festival brought the Village Square alive with entertainment, a licensed bar and food trucks over two nights of late night Christmas shopping, kicking off MainFM's summer/autumn series of OBs presented by Claire Reynolds (*Dig It*) and Steve Charman.

#### The Village Square – Dead in the Square – 4 February 2022

MainFm presenters Zeb Olsen (*No Agenda*) and Shane Matts (*Hour of Power*) anchored this broadcast of a special live performance by local act DEAD.

#### The Village Square – Bruiser – 5 February 2022

MainFM presenter Eamon Orchard (*Catch Up Class*) brought the live set of local band Bruiser to the airwaves and your ears.

#### Town Folk Festival – 12 February 2022

A single day music festival held across multiple venues. Presenters Fionna Allan (*One Crowded Hour*) and Josh Meadows (*It's a Jangle Out There*) – led by OB producer Ian Patrick (*The Latin Hour*) – broadcast two hours of live performances from the main stage at the Bridge Hotel.

#### International Women's Day – 8 March 2022

In collaboration with Music Victoria, MainFM presented International Women's Day at the Village Square. Our live broadcast was anchored by long-serving young presenters Chloe, Saskia and Rita (*Corduroy Cabana*) followed by Bridget Haylock (*Femme Fortissimo*) and Allie Hanly (*Saltgrass*). Young Yorta Yorta woman Grace Coff delivered a powerful Acknowledgement to Country, and Councillor Rosie Annear delivered a heartfelt speech to a huge cross section of the community.

#### Castlemaine Idyll – 20 March 2022

Castlemaine turned out in droves to see the return of Castlemaine Idyll in 2022 with Adz & Macca kicking off our six-hour live broadcast at Lot 19 of aspiring stars performing to the theme of Chutzpah. We broadcast all the performances live to air plus interviews with key players throughout the day.

#### Castlemaine Pride Picnic – 30 April 2022

Wet weather forced the event to move from the Botanical Gardens to the Town Hall; however, presenters Amalie & Sherene (*Queer & Now*) with special guest Max (*Shimmer*) presented a special two-hour broadcast live from the studios at MainFM in recognition and celebration of our LGBTIQA+ community.

#### Central Victorian Women's Football League Round 1 – Castlemaine Vs Kyenton – 9 April 2022

At a seminal start to a historic season win for the Castlemaine Magpies, MainFM's Adz, Macca and Tadpole broadcast all the action from Camp Reserve.

#### The MAIN Game – 12 June 2022

A crack team of presenters and producers brought you our live coverage of the MAIN Game. Lifon (*The Wave*) and Gus (*Love Storm*) anchored play with a blow-by-blow account. Sam Loy (*All Songs Lead to Tom*) presented pre-game commentary, Sue Vaughan (*Pirate Radio*) offered a fitting acknowledgement to country, while Kya Moore (*The Upshot*) provided tech support to Steve Charman. Halftime entertainment K5 was suitably blasted over the airwaves.



### Youth Engagement

Multiple attempts to hold school holiday radio training were thwarted by COVID but amongst the pandemic madness we did our best to connect with young people in the community. We currently have 14 young presenters, with our newest teenage radio stars Billy and Harper settling in to their Tuesday morning timeslot. We hosted multiple work experience students who had fun producing *The Lowdown* and guesting on shows. Mossy Rocks DJ'd at REVIVAL while for International Women's Day *Corduroy Cabana* presented the Outside Broadcast, Tom Barker designed the poster and Chloe MC'd the whole event. We also worked closely with Castlemaine Freeza as part of the The Village Square Consortium, and met with the Castlemaine Youth Advisory Group to ask them how best to engage with young people. Would you like to learn some radio production skills and get on the mic? Drop us an email, we'd love to hear from you!

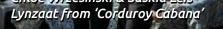
- New Young Presenters Billy and Harper Messin' with Mics Tues at 7.30am
- Young People Training Sessions (November 2021)
- Work Experience Students Lucy Armstrong (December 2021) & Silus Knighton-Weire (June 2022)
- Kids Lockdown Special (September 2021)
- International Women's Day: Chloe, Rita and Saskia presented the OB, Chloe MC'd the event, Tom designed the poster and Grace gave the Acknowledgment to Country.
- VCAL Bendigo TAFE Visit (March 2022)
- Castlemaine FREEZA The Village Square collaboration (Summer/Autumn 2022)
- Castlemaine Youth Advisory Group Consultation Session (November 2021)



Harper Kate-Just & Billy Lister from 'Messin' With Mics'













Things Young People want to hear more of on the radio

#### Тор 5

- 1. The environment and climate change
- 2. Films & TV
- 3. Community events & activities
- 4. LBGTIQA+
- 5. Mental Health

MainFM Youth Engagement Report 2021



# Community Broadcasting Foundation Content Grants

#### Able Radio

*Able Radio* is presented by people with disabilities and is for everyone. Now in its third year, *Able Radio* continues to present a diverse and fun radio show with people with disabilities at the heart and centre of all programming. Show producer Ali Troupe stepped down in late 2021, making way for Poppy Cullen to take on the role. We thank Ali for all her hard work and dedication in establishing Able Radio and securing its funding. Poppy has done a great job steering the Able Radio team of content creators and continuing the community engagement.

Jasper Peach creates weekly new and engaging content of a very high calibre on diverse topics; we are so lucky to have Jasper's skill, experience and passion. Brayden Courtney joined the team and we are so pleased he did! Brayden's weekly weather report has grown to encompass emergency warnings, seasonal changes, events on the calendar and community announcements, and has proven to become a popular addition. It's been a joy to watch Brayden go from strength to strength and grow in confidence as a producer and presenter. Greater engagement with ongoing show sponsor Windarring has resulted in closer working ties and more regular participation. Windarring participants have become better acquainted with the style of the show, familiar with the staff and studios and – most importantly – gained confidence as radio presenters.

Pandemic-related issues have delayed delivery of our Disability Support Workers training pilot program, but it is on track for delivery in the 2022–23 financial year. *Able Radio's* general listenership has swelled, as evidenced by the growing number of text messages, positive feedback via our socials and increase in AR subscribers. We believe *Able Radio* continues to have a positive impact on the community by bringing the voices of people with a lived experience of disability to the forefront.

*Able Radio* would like to acknowledge and thank Windarring and the Community Broadcasting Foundation for their ongoing support.





'Able Radio's' Windarring guest presenters Frank <mark>and Shan</mark>e







and presenter Brayden Courtney



#### **Community Broadcasting Foundation Content Grants**

#### Saltgrass

Saltgrass is a show about our community and how local people are acting on the climate crisis and working for change. Since the start of 2020 it has aired on MainFM at 4pm on Tuesday afternoons. It also airs on 3MDR and is released as a podcast. In the last year Saltgrass has featured episodes about big themes like community building, indigenous worldviews, nature and ecosystems, justice and civic responsibilities. Some specific topics have been soil, water, a seed library, youth protests, democracy for dinner, creative visioning of the future, and local debates over renewable energy.

Saltgrass also shared the airwaves with local artist Zoe Scoglio for four weeks to help share a Castlemaine Commons Collective series about community, resilience and connection. Late last year Allie participated in an international conference called NonfictioNow and spoke with other climate podcasters about what they talk about on their shows and why. Saltgrass is very fortunate to be a finalist in this year's CBAA category for Best Talks and also to be awarded another grant by the CBF to continue the show into 2023.



Allie with Sass Allardice – 'Mixed Tapes'





### Sponsors

In the words of adopted local legend John Flaus, 'MainFM loves our sponsors. They are wonderful local businesses who not only know the value being heard on-air but they know how important it is to support local radio.' We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

We are extremely grateful for our sponsors' unwavering support and for their love of community radio and MainFM.

Aborea Tree Management **Animus Distillery** Applejack Music (representing Be Forgot Festival) **Backyard Fest Bliss Physics Boomtown Wine** Bracken Legal **Bridge Hotel Business Mount Alexander** Cascade Art **Castlemaine Artists Market Castlemaine Central Wine Store Castlemaine Community House Castlemaine** Coworking **Castlemaine Farmers Market** Castlemaine Idvll 2022 **Castlemaine Mail Castlemaine Media School Castlemaine Region Independent Support** Services (CRISS) **Central Spark Victoria Castlemaine Support Services** Castlemaine Vintage Bazaar **Cream Town** Dr Marty's Crumpets **Empyre Hotel EnviroShop Newstead** Fat Fruit (representing Legend of Queen Kong) **Five Flags Merchants** Fermentus Foggy Notion Band (Goin Up Country tour) French Tete-a-Tete Grainger Legal **Gravy Stain Pants** Green Goes the Grocer **Green Graphics** Harcourt Valley Vineyards Harvest Castlemaine

Health Actions Castlemaine House of Andersen Interactive Theatre International Johnny Baker Lifehouse Design **Lisa Chesters Office** Lot19 Art Maine Secondhand Maldon & District Community Bank Maldon Neighbourhood Centre Media Republic (representing Arcare) Merchants of Mostyn Mount Alexander Shire Council Mulberry's Delicatessen Nat Vazer Office of Maree Edwards Old Slang Brewing Penney & Logan (representing CresFest 2022) Possum Stomp Brewery Tour Print Together **Rising Melbourne** Rocket Roast Saffs Café Saint Florian Cafe Salvage Yard Smith & Brown Sound Recordings Spacey Gray Sprout Bakery Star Cinema Stoneman's Book Room **Stress Less Moves** Taproom/Shedshaker Brewing Tog's Café Theatre Royal Castlemaine **Thompson Family Funerals** Trash Cult Bendigo Union Studio Windarring Castlemaine



### Subscriber Discounts

Our MainFM Subscriber Discounters offer discounts to our subscribers when they present their Subscriber Card. We offer our thanks for their continued support.

#### Castlemaine Community House Ice Cream Social Johnny Baker Maine Second Hand Maine Shoes & Accessories

Pud for All Seasons

**Rocksteady Records** 

Sound Recordings Stoneman's Bookroom The Taproom Theatre Royal Castlemaine Union Studio Art Design & Framers Wonderpants















Hannah Blackburn performing at International Women's Day



















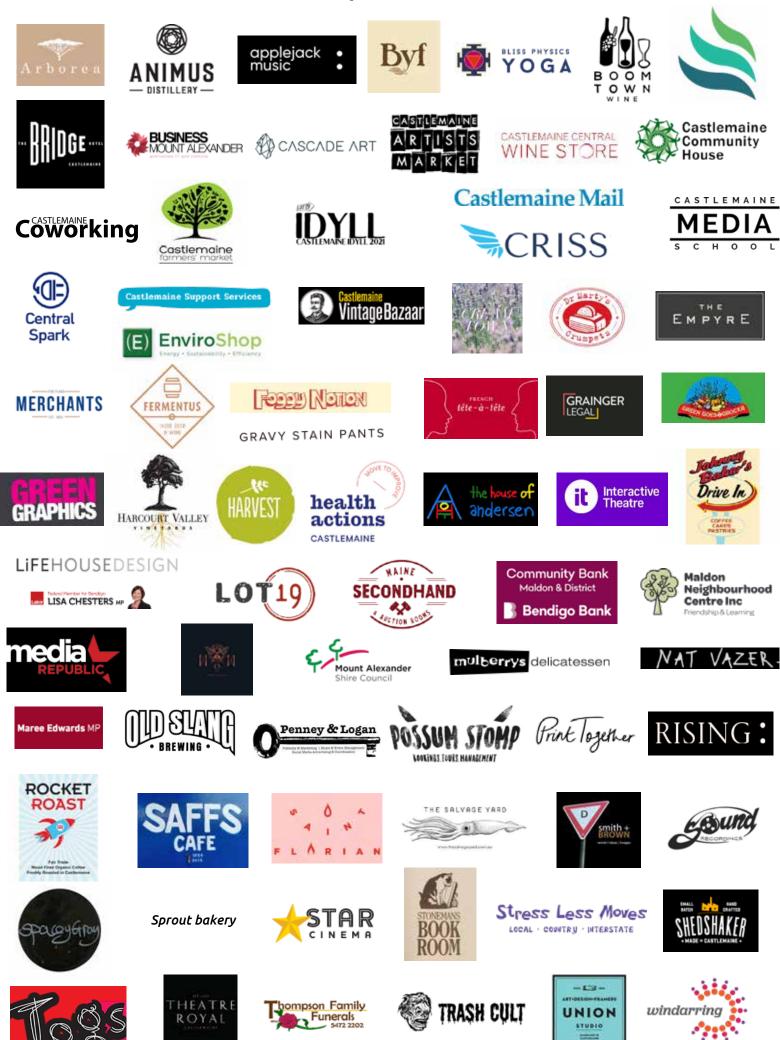








### MainFM Sponsors 2021-22









#### **Balance Sheet**

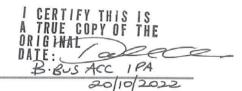
Castlemaine District Radio Inc. As at 30 June 2022 Cash Basis

	30 JUN 2022
Assets	
Bank	
AUD PayPal	23,640.93
Term Deposit	10,395.90
Trading Account	140,841.72
Visa Card Account	26.42
Total Bank	174,904.97
Total Assets	174,904.97
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Grant Funds Payable - Able Radio	(3,269.50)
Grant Funds Payable - C01146 Loddon Prison Radio	14,000.00
Grant Funds Payable - Pride Across The Ages	5.17
Grants - Fed Govt	6,483.00
GST	(7.00)
Historical Adjustment	116,560.29
Income Tax Payable	(3,178.00)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	9,724.00
Rounding	0.16
Superannuation Payable	1,358.36
Wages Payable - Payroll	698.00
Total Current Liabilities	142,374.48
Non-current Liabilities	
Contra	550.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	550.00
Total Liabilities	142,924.48
Net Assets	31,980.49
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	29,745.49
Retained Earnings	2,235.00
Total Equity	31,980.49

Balance Sheet Castlemaine District Radio Inc.



#### Profit and Loss



#### Castlemaine District Radio Inc. For the 12 months ended 30 June 2022 Cash Basis

Grants - Content	2,200	2,000	200-	10 0%
Grants - Content Grants - Mount Alexander Shire Council		2,000		10.0%
	5,000	-	5,000	0.0%
Grants - SM Salary	37,856	37,856		0.0%
Grants - Training Co-Ordinator	33,537	33,537		0.0%
Interest Income	176	60	116	194.0%
Memberships	2,603	3,000	(397)-	-13.2%
Merchandise Sales	4,444	1,800	2,644	146.9%
Outside Broadcast	300	-	300-	0.0%
Production Studio Hire		300	(300)-	-100.0%
Sponsorship	35,924	54,000	(18,076) -	-33.5%
Subscriber Income	53,467	47,500	5,967	12.6%
Total Income	208,754	196,253	12,501	6.4%
Gross Profit	208,754	196,253	12,501	6.0%
ess Operating Expenses				
Accounting Fees	3,337	2,040	1,297	63.6%
Bank Fees	2,054	2,400	(346)	-14.4%
Events & Marketing	10,367	13,250	(2,883)	-21.8%
Grant Expenses	291		291	0.0%
Insurance	5.413	3,000	2,413	80.4%
Licenses & Permits	7,273	5,218	2.055	39.4%
Office Supplies	3.844	900	2,944	327.1%
Postage	862	360	502	139.6%
Printing	933	-	933	0.0%
Rent	14,885	13,740	1.145	8.3%
Repairs and Maintenance	1,174	2,400	(1,226)-	-51.1%
Sponsorship Production	4,000	1,800	2,200	122.2%
Studio Equipment	3,655	4,200	(545)-	-13.0%
Subscriptions	816	780	36▲	4.6%
Superannuation	10,552	10,022	530	5.3%
Telephone & Internet	1,842	1,500	342	22.8%
Training	429	.,	429	0.0%
Wages	106,951	100,230	6,721	6.7%
Website Hosting & Maintenance	330	-	330	0.0%
			000	0.0%
Total Operating Expenses	179,008	161,840	17,168	10.6%

Profit and Loss Castlemaine District Radio Inc. 18 October 2022

Page 1 of 1

#### MainFM is supported by the Community Broadcasting Foundation



Sincere thanks to our photographers who contributed to many photos captured during the reporting period. Rogies 2022 photos courtesy of Rhea Favero, Common Times & Craig Gaston International Women's Day photos courtesy of Leonie Van Eyk Revival 2022 photos courtesy of Leonie Van Eyk & Rich McLeish MAIN Game 2022 photos courtesy of Craig Gaston