

Jade Retamat (Able Radio) with her Radio Galahs painting she gifted



Shane Clarke (Able Radio)



Dan Ring (Missing Links)



Tony Peachey (Get Your Broove Back) and Scott Sanders (My 12 INch Disc)



Bridget Haylock (Femme Fortissimo) in studio with special guest



Mr Moog & Wildman (Night Moogs)



Harper Kate-Just & Billy Lister (Messin with Mics)



Pete Dawson (In Didj'N'Us with Uncle Rick Nelson)



Doug Falconer & Tim Rogers in studio with Crag Carrick (Someplace Somewhere)



Mike Symth (Just Classics / IMT) in double demin with Tina Rae (High Frequency)



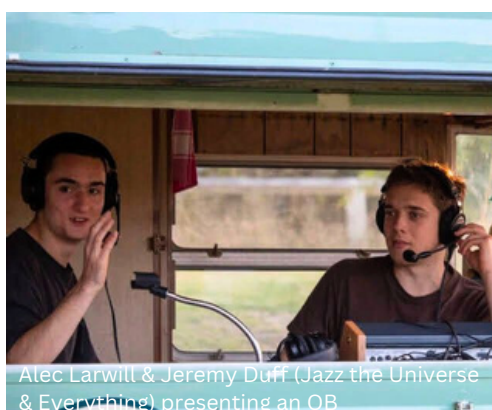
Alex Playsted with Alan Fitzgerald (On your Radio)



Hannah Cook (CoM VP) with the Fam



Girls on Air with Alec Larwill



Alec Larwill & Jeremy Duff (Jazz the Universe & Everything) presenting an OB



A huddle at the Presenters Forum



Kirby & Mitch Nivalis (On the Wing)

interviewing guests at the Radio Picnic OB



Ian Patrick (The Latin Hour) with studio guests



Lou Lorback & Claire Reynolds (Dig It)



Amalie O'Hara & Sherene Clow (Queer & Now)



Zeb Olsen (No Agenda) in studio with DJ Mossy Rocks



Luke Jacques (Lukewarm Cocktail Lounge)



Scott Sanders (My 12 Inch Disc)



Brega Yong modelling our Galah's Merch



Sue Vaughn (Pirate Radio) hangin out with Nicki Winmar



Jimmy Naylor (Wattle n Dub)



Kate McDonald & Adam Perrett (Adz & Macca in the Morning)



Carol from Clunes & Dazza (Get Outta Town)



Mik Weir (To Bring you My Love)



Sarah Bignell with Glenn Williams (Around the Wireless & Dark Moments)



Suzanne Donisthorpe (Retronauts) with special guest



Claire Mitchell (Something About Nothing) with special guest



Rockatoo Tim Johnson presenting official team songs



Claire Reynolds (Dig It) @ Fringe Festival fundraiser Barbie

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Dja Dja Warrung 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 Warrung people to our region's living culture. We honour and respect the cultural heritage of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Introduction

Welcome to MainFM's 2022-23 Annual Report. It's a celebration of our community, and the people that make this place great.

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 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 .

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



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2022-23 Committee of Management & Staff

Committee of Management

President: Richard McLeish
Vice President: Hannah Cook
Secretary: Di Indrans
Treasurer: Jeremy Furze
General Committee:
Suzanne Hogan
Andrew Stewart
Ian Patrick
Mihaella Kovacic

Staff

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

Volunteer Coordinators

Programming -Rich Moffat
Tech - Steve Charman
Music - Jimmy Naylor



Staff & Committee members Sue McLennan, Steph Riddel, Rich Moffat, Rich McLeish & Alex Playsted

President's Report

There's never a dull moment at MainFM. If we're not rocketing through a dizzying schedule of events and special broadcasts then it's on with wall-to-wall programming goodness. With so much potential on offer it's hard to know where to draw the line. But we're getting better at it. Our nifty Station Manager Steph Riddel continues to kick ass in many ways.

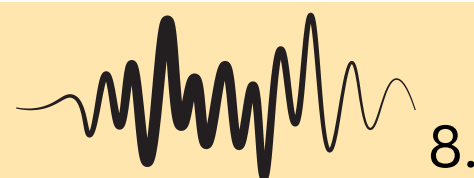
Radiothon bucked the global downturn and MAIN Game hauled a record profit. Sue has wrangled sponsorship from all corners of town, as per, keeping us afloat. And Alex has opened the pipeline for new presenters to join the station smoothly and given us a new digital portal of all things MainFM in The Hub. Also, the grid hit capacity for the first time in the station's history. Amazing work from our nimble programming co-ordinator, Rich Moffat, and his sub-committee. And then there is all the on-air goodness from presenters. Tune in at any time of the day and you'll be greeted with something considered, compelling and uniquely MainFM. Love that.

We have come through the economic spin cycle of the past few years in good standing. A new bookkeeper has put our books into shape and help us gain new clarity. Behind the scenes, we've tinkered with policies and processes to keep things running as smoothly as possible. Thanks to all on the committee for their valuable input. Our vice-president, Hannah Cook, finally relinquishes to her multitude of life commitments, including her new young family - future MainFMers, no doubt. We're also sad to see our secretary, Di Indrans, move on after four dedicated years in the role that included many policy overhauls and a constitutional revamp. And Andrew Stewart has selflessly stepped aside after a solid tech-heavy term.

Also, Steve "the charmer" Charman hangs up the cables after 8 years as tech coordinator. But he's still fixing everything at the station from broken jacks to software meltdowns - thank the community radio gods for people like Steve.

As we look into the future, a new home for MainFM is on the horizon, both digital and real. There's always something to be excited about. Stay tuned, and long live MainFM.

President
Rich McLeish



Secretary's Report

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. The Policies reviewed and approved in the last 12 months are as follows:

- The Constitution - reviewed and many changes were made which were firstly approved by CoM. A Special Members Meeting was held prior to the 2022 AGM and members approved the changes.
- Membership Policy - the policy was renamed to Membership and Subscription Policy and was updated to align with the Constitution. CoM approved the changes.
- CoM members Role Descriptions - were reviewed and updated and changes were approved by CoM.

I have enjoyed four years as Secretary on the Committee of Management. I now wish to spend more time on home duties, charity work and travel so won't be standing for re-election at the 2023 AGM. Thanks to the many people associated with MainFM who have helped to make my time with the station such an enjoyable experience.

Secretary
Di Indrans



Treasurer's Report

There is no doubt the economic and social impact of COVID has been far reaching with enormous changes to the way we live our lives. The way we work, the services we use, the use of technology, the way we connect and our personal choices in life.

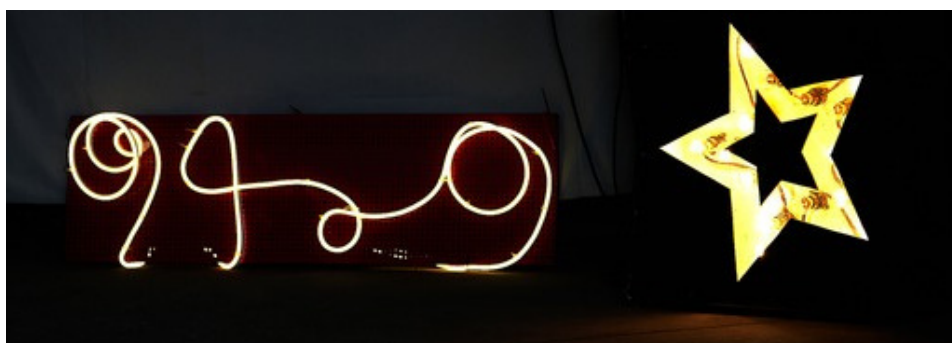
In our community, we are all aware of businesses that flourished, and those that struggled. Many organisations, including MainFM, were supported by government grants and importantly for MainFM supported by our community – along with a lot of hard work from all involved with the station.

The explosive growth of MainFM over the past few years provides a great basis for us to review our strategic priorities and align our financial outlooks. Much effort has gone into investing and strengthening our relationships with stakeholders, community partners and listeners. Our reputation is strong, our diligence and accountability is acknowledged and we hope this will reap return in the coming year.

As we navigate the new normal, predictions for the health of the economy are mixed. Times are uncertain with costs of living increasing placing pressure on households and governments alike.

The challenge presented to the Committee of Management is to work towards financial sustainability based on a robust and realistic budget along with monthly expenditure reviews. Our focus for the next 12 months is to balance our profit and loss by increasing revenue streams, reinvigorating fundraising efforts and focussing on projects that reap financial reward for the station.

Acting Treasurer
Suzanne Hogan



Station Manager's Report

In the past 12 months, long time plans in the making have come to fruition, with a focus on systems overhaul, improving efficiency and operations, whilst building our grid and further developing our community engagement. And what a big year it's been!

We've successfully made the transition to accounting software XERO and appointed new book keepers Bridge and Tunnel. Their support has enabled a better ability to compare, forecast and manage our finances. We've implemented Profiler database for better management of our subscribers. Under the guidance of Rich Moffat, the Programming Committee meet regularly to discuss and shape our grid. Alex Playsted, our Training and Volunteers Coordinator, has implemented streamlined pathways for new presenters and developed The Hub, a digital platform that has revolutionised how we communicate with our volunteers. Sue McLennan's adept navigation of our Sponsorship landscape has seen an increase in collaboration with local organisations and strengthened our community partnerships. We've enjoyed the ongoing support of our wonderful sponsors - the bonanza of prizes on offer during radiothon is clear testament to that -we simply couldn't operate without them! Our engagement with young people continues through partnerships with Castlemaine FREEZA and the Passions and Pathways team. Under the skilled guidance of our dedicated CoM we continue to develop more robust policies and procedures. Investment in our Outside Broadcast caravan has allowed for our OBs to flourish, enabling us to deliver high quality broadcasts and increase our community engagement.

After eight years in the role Steve Charman has made the decision to step down as Technical Coordinator at MainFM. But don't worry! Steve is still a part of the tech committee and responds to faults, as well as hosting his long running show Open Tuning (Wed 3-5pm). We wish to acknowledge and thank Steve for his pivotal contribution to the station.

We continue to face challenges. Whilst the pandemic was taxing on us all, the station attracted covid recovery funding that helped buoy the organisation. The challenge we now face is remaining financially strong during difficult economic times we as a community all face. Our focus moving forward is on creating new revenue streams and building on our fundraising efforts.

The collaborative culture at the station is strong, it feels like a place where people can belong and be part of a supportive community. It really is a great place to be - you can hear it in the sound and see it in the photos of all the smiling faces.

Steph Riddel
Station Manager



Staff Alex Playsted, Sue McLennan & Steph Riddel

Programming Coordinator's Report

It's been a fascinating year on the MainFM airwaves – thanks for tuning in! Since mid 2023 we've had a full grid, and most announcers are now back to doing their shows live-in-studio.

A highlight this year has been expanding our breakfast show offerings to be every day of the week – We love our two high school duos, Billy & Harper and Claire & Moby, alongside Jen's eclectic Monday morning beats, the madness of Scott's deep vault of discarded vinyl on Wednesdays, and Adz & Maccas wrap up of local happenings on Fridays. Our new kids show "MAK radio" (3-8yo) will now be your Saturday morning breakfast soundtrack. We've welcomed some great new shows in 2023, including the environmental discussions of Darren and Monique's "Wild conversations", Emily's new music show "Fresh produce", Rosie's "Ramjet radio", Matine's "Deep fried Tuesdays", Ketchup & Mustard's "the Ketchup and Mustard show" and of course our joyous rap up of everything happening in local sport "On the Wing".

We'd also like to acknowledge the amazing contributions of Ann and Ken with "Jazz Life", Isla Elvis for the "Blue Moon Lounge radio hour", Alec & Jeremy's "Jazz, the universe and everything", Luca Royle's "Artswank", Zeb's "No Agenda", Jaxon's "Saturdaze" and Kestral's "The Abyss". We hope to hear you all back on the air soon.

A big shout out to the programming committee – Bridget, Melissa, Colin, Alex, Elizabeth and Sue – for all their energy, enthusiasm, ideas and input. The growth of The MainFM Community Whatsapp group has broadened the net of support, resulting in more live shows on the grid and less repeats

It's our intention for MainFM to represent as many corners of the local community as we can, so we are constantly on the search for new show ideas and announcers – please reach out via programming@mainfm.net – we would love to hear from you

Rich Moffat
Programming Coordinator



Rich Moffat & Rich McLeish



Technical Coordinator's Report

We have experienced only minor tech issues in the past year with no major new equipment needed or acquired. However, this hasn't prevented the usual assortment of minor tech problems occurring. Primarily the intermittent quality of the internet at our office and studios. Given the age of the wiring in the old hospital (our NBN line comes in via the original telephone network cabling) there's little hope that 2024 will see much improvement. The PCs in the three studios still give problems from time to time and when they do we swap them out for refurbished PCs sourced from Top End Technology, Castlemaine. Interference caused by mobile phones in our on air studios is an issue - the crackling buzz has marred more than a few phone interviews but no solution has yet been found. On the positive side we've had a good year in terms of the quality of our broadcasts with very few unforeseen outages, no doubt due to the steady upgrading and overhaul of key equipment. The Chrome Remote Desktop system of remote loading of shows continues to work well, many of our presenters now having mastered the process.

This year I stepped down as Technical Coordinator. Having done the job for about 7 years it's time someone else took the reins. Importantly though, I'm still around and remain part of the MainFM tech team. I've seen a lot of technical improvements at the station in that time but, generally, MainFM is still an old-fashioned analogue station with minimal equipment. I've no doubt that one day the station will go digital, for the simple reason that our old technology is overdue for upgrades.

It's been a case of the usual suspects helping out with the tech work this year. They include Colin Lemon, Alex Playstead, Mike Reeves, Richard McLeish, Jimmy Naylor, and Scott Sanders. The volunteers who help with the transitions from and to the studios at our outside broadcasts must also be thanked.

We continue to rely on outside contractors for specialized work. The two Simons, Simon Glozier in Bendigo and Simon from SRK Electronics, Melbourne continue to help keep us on the air with their advice and technical skills.

Steve Charman
Technical Coordinator

MainFM's Sub-Committees

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Members: Rich Moffat (Chair), Alex Bennett, Melissa Scott, Sue Vaughan, Elizabeth Scanlon, Colin Lemon, Melissa Scott, Sue Vaughan.

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 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

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members: Hannah Cook, Suzanne Hogan

Activities:

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



MainFM in Numbers



126
Volunteers



72
Shows a week



3
Staff



7
Board Members



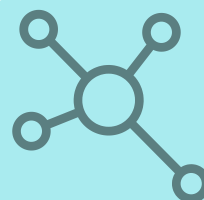
14
Outside Broadcasts



500
Subscribers



71
Sponsors



5.5K
Social Media
Followers



6K
Website Hits
Per Month



160
Pet Subscribers



600
Mix Cloud Followers



1.8K
Transmissions
E-newsletter
Subscribers

MainFM in Words

The music, the people,
the community!

Excellent musical offerings
and interesting talk programs.

It's so lovely and
warm and inclusive.

The staggering range of
sounds and programs,
that it's local for locals.

I love all that you do for
community.

Passionate,
community driven.

MainFM Listener Survey 2022

Grants

Sourcing grants continues to be a funding stream the station relies on to help pay the bills, update equipment, deliver 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

Development and Operational Grant

\$40,768 – Employ Station Manager- strategic planning & community engagement

\$23,100 – Employ a Volunteers & Training Coordinator, Increase Skills Training

Content Grants

\$20,000 – Saltgrass

Mount Alexander Shire Council Events Grant

\$3000 – The MAIN Game

Community Bank Maldon & District

\$1000 – The MAIN Game

Mount Alexander Shire Council Funding Pledge

\$5000 – to assist with core operational costs

Mount Alexander Shire Council Quick Response Grant

\$500 – MainFM & Castlemaine Celebrates International Day of People with Disabilities

\$500 – MainFM Rogies Awards 2022

\$500 – MainFM celebrates National Volunteers Week

Midsumma Festival – Pride 2022: Regional Activation Grants

\$14,000 – Pride Across the Ages Podcast Season 2 – produced by MainFM's Queer & Now



Gold Sounds OR with Mitch Tambo, Alex Parsons and Alex Playsted (What's Golden) with Dallas Woods



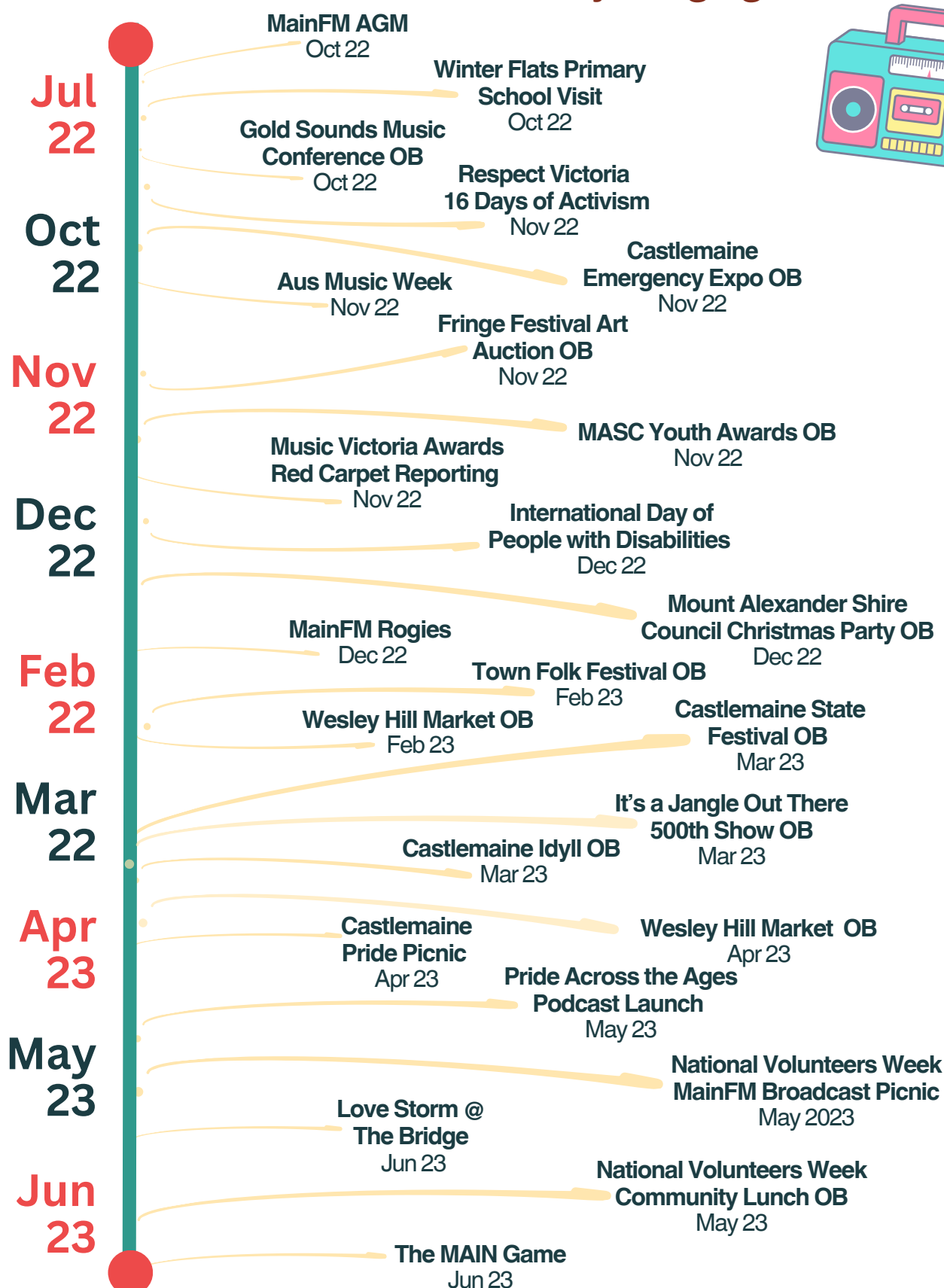
Pride Podcast Launch – participant and presenter Mitch Nivalis (On The Wing) and Kate Freston



midsumma



Calendar of Events & Community Engagement



Rogies

Boomtown, Castlemaine Saturday, 11th June.

Our annual glittering awards night, which took place at Boomtown, celebrated the achievements of our 100+ volunteer presenters with awards across a number of categories. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards were peer voted whilst all other remaining categories were publicly voted. We acknowledged those presenters who have broadcast 300+ shows, inducted volunteers into our Hall of Fame, made special mention of milestone achievements, including CBAA award nominees and winners and bid farewell to Alec & Jeremy from Jazz the Universe and Everything.

Gold - Night Moogs

Silver - Lukewarm Cocktail Lounge

Bronze - Girls on Air

Chatterati (Best Talks)

Runner-Up: Dead Air

Winner: Someplace Somewhere

Fresh Award (Best Youth Show)

Runner Up: Messin' With Mics

Winner: Jazz the Universe & Everything

New Kid on the Block (Best New Show)

Runners Up:

Loose 'n' Up

In Didj'n'Us

To Bring You My Love

A Horse With No Name

Winners:

Love Storm

Dance This Mess Around

Virtual State

Old Hand (Best Established Show)

Runners Up:

It's A Jangle Out There

The Upshot

Queer & Now

Winner: Hour of Power

Rex Watts Music Award (Best Music Show)

Runner Up: What's Golden

Winner: Someplace Somewhere



MAIN Game

Camp Reserve, Castlemaine. Sunday 11th June

The MAIN Game was awarded Best Community Event in 2022 at the Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day Awards ceremony. In 2023, we delivered our most successful MAIN Game yet with record player registrations and event attendances. 700 people descended on the Camp Reserve to witness the Rockatoos defend their title against the Radio Galahs, with the Radio Galahs taking out the coveted trophy by just eight points.

Spectators were treated to a competitive yet friendly game of footy played in the true spirit of the MAIN Game. The Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band played to a captive audience before the first bounce, local outfit The Presbyterians gave a rocking performance at half time, whilst the MAIN Cheer Squad made a colourful debut. Our Outside Broadcast team brought the game to life with the type of entertaining and informative commentary we've all come to know and love. Making history, this year also saw the debut of official Rockatoos and Galahs team songs written, composed and recorded by local music producer and Rockatoo Tim Johnson, with voices provided by a rag tag choir of players and presenters. The MAIN Game has cemented itself on the Mount Alexander Shire events calendar as a community event the whole family can enjoy and we look forward to building on its success as a major fundraising initiative for the station in the years to come.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity from businesses local and afar for their continued support.

Community Bank Maldon & District
Hope Assistance Local Tradies (HALT)
Shedshaker Brewing
Castlemaine Football Netball Club
Harcourt Valley Vineyards
Gung Hoe Growers

Health Actions Castlemaine
Jellis Craig
Super Hero Banh Mi
Macedon Ranges Signs
Wham Bam Caravan
Sound Recordings



MAIN Game jersey presentation @ The Taproom





Outside Broadcasts

We have invested in our infrastructure and our people, enabling the quality and quantity of our OBs to flourish. This year MainFM delivered a whopping 14 OBs, increasing our engagement and broadening our reach across the community. And we had so much fun doing it! If you would like a MainFM OB at your next event, factor us into your budget and get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

- **Gold Sounds Music Conference** Oct 2022
- **MASC Youth Awards** Nov 2022
- **Fringe Festival Art Auction** Nov 2022
- **Castlemaine Emergency Expo** Nov 2022
- **Mount Alexander Shire Council Christmas Party** Dec 2022
- **Town Folk Festival** Feb 2023
- **Wesley Hill Markets** Feb 2023
- **Josh Meadows celebrates It's a Jangle Out There 500th Show** Mar 2023
- **Castlemaine Idyll** Mar 2023
- **Castlemaine State Festival presents Eliza Hull** Mar 2023
- **Wesley Hill Market** Apr 2023
- **National Volunteers Week Community House Lunch** May 2023
- **National Volunteers Week MainFM Broadcast Picnic** May 2023
- **The MAIN Game** Jun 2023



Idyll OB



Lucy Armstrong handing out donuts at MainFM OB @ Wesley Hill



Presenters Suzanne Donisthorpe and Bridget Haylock interviewing Fringe Festival Artistic Director Azzy J at the Fringe Art Auction OB @ the Taproom

Youth Engagement

MainFM believes in investing in our young people, supporting them to amplify their voice and finding ways to create pathways and training.

After four years on the program grid, young presenters Jeremy and Alec (Jazz, The Universe and Everything) and Saskia (Corduroy Cabana) bid us farewell as they finished up school and took flight out into the wider world, but we have welcomed several new teenage radio stars into the fold. Billy and Harper have been leading the charge with Messin' with Mics and just celebrated one year on the radio. Claire and Moby are settling into their Thursday morning slot with Something About Nothing. Ketchup and Mustard just scored a Saturday afternoon slot, with an assortment of their favourite condiments (Side of Aioli, Fish Sauce, Sour Cream). Chloe and Rita of Unlucky Dip: Live Rats have been rocking a Tuesday night. And Brayden has become the star of Able Radio. A delightful micro trend is one of presenters bringing their mini-humans into the studio. Odetta (Beyond the Mirage) a staple during school holidays and traditionally our youngest co-presenter, was recently usurped by Violet (aged 7, Deep Fried Tuesdays). Ellen (One Crowded Hour) is no stranger to the mic, and Nova (Jump Out Jamaica) knows how to rock the air horn. And in a reverse twist, Claire (Something About Nothing) recently brought her dad into co-host.

MainFM has been working with local primary schools to introduce children to the world of radio. We've hosted multiple visits from Campbells Creek Primary School, and the results have been an absolute joy. We hope to work with more schools in the future. Know a young person who you think would like to learn some radio skills and get on the mic? Get them to drop us a line, we'd love to hear from them.



Young presenters Billy Lister, Harper Kate-Just, Moby Wilson, Indi Blaise, Georgie Newton & Claire Wilson

Community Engagement & Partnerships

Strategic Partnerships

We expanded our strategic partnerships in 2022/23 with local arts organisations, including announcing our official media partnership with Castlemaine Fringe Festival and Castlemaine Documentary Festival. In addition, we entered into a sponsorship agreement with Gold Sounds Music Conference, Castlemaine State Festival and Lot 19 (representing Castlemaine Idyll),

International Day of People with Disabilities

To celebrate the day MainFM and Able Radio organised a gathering for everyone with morning tea provided, with help from Mount Alexander Shire Council and Windarring. Held at the Tea Rooms in the Botanical Gardens around 70 people came together to enjoy live music from Joe Smith and Benz, tunes by our Able Radio DJ's, artwork from Windarring, speeches, stories and poems. The sun was shining and there was laughter and joy.

Vic Music Awards

MainFM represented at the Vic Music Awards! It was very exciting with our volunteers interviewing artists and musicians on the red carpet, producing content for Music Victoria's social media channels.

MainFM DJs

MainFM DJs have enjoyed a boost in profile, representing at numerous local events around town, including Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine Fringe Festival, C-DOC, Theatre Royal, The Bridge, Hot Moves No Pressure and more. If you are on the hunt for a DJ at your next event - get in touch!

Passions and Pathways

MainFM has been working with Passions and Pathways to engage with local primary school children to produce and present radio. In October of 2022 MainFM welcomed students from Campbells Creek Primary School into the studios. The students had a great time and presented an engaging two hour show featuring special segments such as Inspiring Women and more.

Castlemaine Community House

MainFM has enjoyed a close working relationship with Castlemaine Community House, representing at Community Lunch Mini Expo for Seniors Festival 2022, an Outside Broadcast at Community Lunch for National Volunteers Week, and providing the soundtrack for the Castlemaine Pride Picnic, powered by our OB Van.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

Pride Across the Ages Podcast

A powerful new podcast series presents engaging stories that strikes to the heart of what it means to live as someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+ in regional Australia. Produced by the team behind 94.9MainFM's Queer and Now radio show Sherene Clow and Amalie O'Hara, the podcast is the second in the successful series and captures intimate, heartfelt generational stories of Pride over the years of LGBTQIA+ people residing in the shire of Mount Alexander in central Victoria.

A launch event took place in Castlemaine on May 4th at the Phee Broadway Theatre as part of Castlemaine Pride and included a reception with refreshments, the opportunity to listen to highlights with the stars of the podcast sharing their stories and experience of participating in the production.

The podcast forms a permanent record of LGBTQIA+ history serving to increase understanding of the hardships and coping strategies employed to face challenges endured. The series bridges gaps across the broader community as well as creating a time capsule and lasting archive.

Made possible through Victoria's Pride Regional Activation Program and Midsumma Festival, the podcast has been produced by MainFM94.9 and Queer and Now with collaboration between Dhelkaya Health and the Mount Alexander Shire Council LGBTQIA+ Steering Group. Available for stream now on Spotify, Amazon Music and iHeart Radio.



Training

If we're a small station, we're a bulldog ant. Our apparently small stature belies our ability to achieve great feats of strength.

One of those strengths is welcoming people to our community. New processes mean we're open and responsive. New folks are invited in as soon as they've expressed interest, riding in on their waves of enthusiasm and inspiration, and when they do, they receive encouragement and a warm and attentive welcome. You can't underestimate the power of a great welcome. Another strength is setting up new presenters with access to useful resources and experiences that nurture their learning and confidence. New people, new equipment, new language means building new skills. Our dynamic approach to training allows for friendly, timely and patient support, time to adjust whilst providing as many opportunities to check-in for extra help along the way.

The experienced ants in the colony have opportunities, too. This year, six presenters completed their Cert III in Screen & Media through the Community Media Training Organisation. A good handful undertook Music Interviewing training at Gold Sounds Music Conference. Others trained in Disability Awareness, Mental Health First Aid and Outside Broadcasting. New and upcoming opportunities and announcements are also now shared on The Hub, a dedicated volunteer website offering easy access to anyone with an internet connection. 70 of us opted to buy the Night Moogs designed 2023 Volunteer t-shirt, and 25 presenters contributed to our epic 8-hour 'Volunteer Picnic' OB from the Castlemaine Artists Market, celebrating our many efforts for National Volunteers Week. We're reaching out to young people too, allowing for opportunities and pathways to learning.

And there's still much more goodness in store. Ain't so small after all!



CBF 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, is shared with sister station 3MDR, and is released as a podcast.

In the last year Saltgrass passed 100 episodes!! All are available to listen to on your podcast app. Recent episodes have featured how our community is thinking creatively about 'waste' - with conversations with the Good Op Shop, the Salvage Yard, YIMBY, the founder of Plastic Free July and more. There has been coverage of how Djaara are working with councils to help care for Country together. Also, several episodes this season have explored our local food systems - talking to local small scale organic farmers and the people and businesses who support them.

In August and September this year Saltgrass had eight episodes air on CRN (Community Broadcasting Network) which means that community radio stations around Australia could pick up the show and air those episodes, sharing stories from our small town with the rest of the country!

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 2024. The upcoming season will feature interviews and stories from the road as Allie Hanly, the show's creator, shares the story of a trip she took last year into the remote deserts of Western Australia. She was travelling with ecologists who will share information across the episodes about the unique natural systems, animals and plants that survive in some of the driest and harshest environments in the world.



CBF Content Grants - Able Radio

Able Radio is presented by people with disabilities and is for everyone. Now in its fourth year, Able Radio has built fantastic momentum and flourished, with over 30 regular producers and presenters. Able Radio continues to bring heightened community awareness and understanding of disability.

Under the guidance of Producer Jakob Schmitt, regular contributors have graduated to become segment producers and co-presenters. Brayden Courtney now co-presents and produces. His weather reports have grown to encompass emergency warnings, seasonal changes, events on the calendar and community announcements. Jasper Peach continues to contribute in-depth interviews and discussion on a broad range of topics. Ned Middleton's Film Review segment has become a staple. Fridays at the station are always a party with the Windarring Crew! Representing Windarring we have - Jayden Euler, James Morrison Blunk, Liam Muir, David Simmons, Todd Briggs, Shane Clarke, Fin Connolly, Alex Butterworth, Josh Dixon, Christine Spicer, Lee Hunter, Jade Retamal, Frankie Bush, Pete Sainsbury with Disability Support Workers Sophie Every, Amanda Every, Erin Kvalheim, Kim Pike, James Mackie and Kat.

We now have: Footy Tipping by James and Jade, Karaoke Corner with Frankie Smooth, Christine's poems are always beautiful - and funny! Shane is not shy about busting a move. Jayden always enjoys a good tune and Pete is a bonafide rockstar. Alex is a total sweet heart and James and Fin always have a great time. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch the Windarring Crew grow to love radio as much as we do, to gain confidence in presenting and have such a good time doing it.

Able Radio's general listenership has swelled, as evidenced by the growing number of text messages, socials engagement 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.

Funding from the Community Broadcasting Foundation now supports the employment of three Able Radio producers. We are grateful to the CBF for their ongoing support, and to Windarring Castlemaine for sponsorship of Able Radio.



Jade Retamal showing off her new Run DMC T-Shirt

Able Radio Crew in the studio



Frankie Smooth in the house

Able Radio Crew DJing at The Theatre Royal Summer series



Segment producer Brayden Courtney

Able Radio crew DJing in the studio



MainFM Financials



Balance Sheet

Castlemaine District Radio Inc.

As at 30 June 2023

	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Assets		
Bank		
AUD PayPal	2,885.92	23,140.93
Castlemaine & District Radio Inc	82,309.61	140,758.42
Term Deposit	10,518.94	10,395.90
Visa Card Account	23.60	26.42
Total Bank	95,738.07	174,321.67
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	533.20	5,033.30
Bendigo Bank 155719610	5,064.56	1,983.36
Prepayments	500.00	-
Total Current Assets	6,097.76	7,016.66
Total Assets	101,835.83	181,338.33
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	4,034.41	26,980.00
Grant Funds Payable	1,815.69	-
Grant Funds Payable - Pride Across The Ages	-	5.17
PAYG Withholdings Payable	5,446.00	9,724.00
Rounding	1.30	0.16
Superannuation Payable	3,214.86	5,540.60
Total Current Liabilities	14,512.26	42,249.93
Total Liabilities	14,512.26	42,249.93
Net Assets	87,323.57	139,088.40
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(51,900.81)	27,206.99
Retained Earnings	139,224.38	111,881.41
Total Equity	87,323.57	139,088.40



Profit and Loss

Castlemaine District Radio Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
Donations	1,781.62	3,724.30
Fundraising	11,379.36	27,791.58
Sponsorship	37,046.00	39,857.60
Grants		
Grant - Federal Govt Vollies	-	800.00
Grants - CMTO Training	-	300.00
Grants - Content	1,800.00	1,200.00
Grants - Fed Govt	-	6,483.00
Grants - SM Salary	61,902.00	37,856.00
Grants - Station grants	6,500.00	5,000.00
Grants - Training Co-Ordinator	23,100.00	33,537.00
Total Grants	93,302.00	85,176.00
Memberships		
Memberships	3,965.00	2,520.00
Subscriber Income	2,225.00	53,466.95
Total Memberships	6,190.00	55,986.95
Merchandise Sales	4,158.91	4,444.10
Outside Broadcast	3,200.00	900.00
Production Studio Hire	750.00	-
Total Trading Income	157,807.89	217,880.53
Gross Profit	157,807.89	217,880.53
Other Income		
Interest Income	245.51	176.40
Total Other Income	245.51	176.40
Operating Expenses		
Accounting Fees	3,710.57	3,336.93
Advertising & Promotion	2,290.57	-
Bank Fees	164.68	2,054.05
Events & Marketing	1,858.05	10,367.40
Grant Expenses	-	291.30
Insurance	4,857.21	5,412.56
Licenses & Permits	7,969.63	7,273.24
Merchandise Costs	4,981.65	-
Office Supplies	2,789.34	3,894.31
Postage	210.75	862.47
Printing	5.00	860.69
Realised Currency Gains	(4.42)	-
Rent	21,317.00	12,722.00

Profit and Loss



	2023	2022
Repairs and Maintenance	554.72	624.15
Sponsorship Production	7,200.00	4,200.00
Studio Equipment	3,178.47	3,654.74
Subscriptions	2,073.31	822.70
Superannuation	13,195.97	10,552.10
Telephone & Internet	2,138.00	1,841.80
Training	3,761.75	14,798.50
Wages	127,063.96	106,951.00
Website Hosting & Maintenance	638.00	330.00
Total Operating Expenses	209,954.21	190,849.94
Net Profit	(51,900.81)	27,206.99



BRIDGE AND TUNNEL ACCOUNTS

0401 868 387

sarah@bridgeandtunnelaccounts.com

2/11 Lydiard St South
Ballarat Central,
Vic 3350



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT RADIO INC.

Bridge and Tunnel accounts were engaged in April 2023, taking over the bookkeeping function. Since we started, we have worked closely with station management making many changes & improvements to the to the use of the accounting system so that reported results can be relied on, and that they are meaningful and helpful in managing the funds entrusted to the Castlemaine District Radio Inc. While we can't change the financial results of the past, there are now more robust reporting systems to manage funds into coming years.

Bridge and Tunnel Accounts inherited an accounting file that was not completely transitioned over to the new accounting software system. The balance sheet was reporting historical balancing or unidentified figures. The balance sheet is now reinstated correctly so that as at 30 June 2023, it is a verifiable list of assets and liabilities.

Note the following on the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023:

Cash assets total \$100,802.63

Total assets \$101,835.83

Total liabilities \$14,512.26

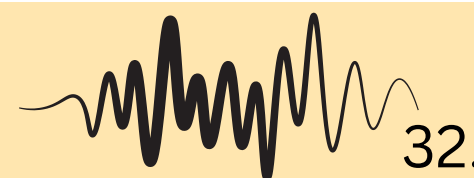
Net assets \$87,323.57

The profit and loss reports a loss of \$51,900.81 for the 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 financial year. Drilling into this result, we note the following:

Total income received = \$157,807.89

There were notable decreases in fundraising income and subscriber income when comparing 2023 and 2022 financial year. The decrease in fundraising income can be explained by a Covid grant boost for REVIVAL & Village Square for \$17,410 included in 2022. Without that Covid boost, fundraising income would be comparable. Looking into subscriber income, shifting the Radiothon to July meant no Radiothon income was collected in the 2023 financial year reducing the income in 2023 by approximately \$27,000. There were increases to income collected in total grants income & outside broadcasts.

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BRIDGE AND TUNNEL ACCOUNTS

Total expenses paid = \$209,954.21

Notable increases when comparing result between the 2023 and 2022 financial years: The most significant increases are in rent and wages (plus super) and can be explained as follows:

The increase in rent is due to an additional room hire.

The increase in wages is due mostly to the Volunteer & Training Coordinator joining the team.

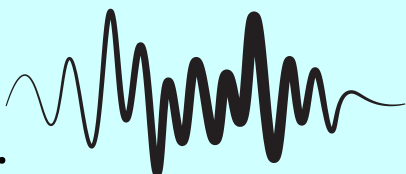
Additionally, there is a new line item included in 2023 for Advertising. Also, Events and Marketing costs that relate to specific fundraising are now allocated to Fundraising to show the true amount raised from fundraising activities.

It is also noted that 2023 financial year contains expenses for events that happened in the 2022 financial year.

While a loss of \$51,900.81 has been reported, it is a result of many factors, as has been explained. Costs have increased. Income is less. There were changes to the timing of income collection. Covid funding has most certainly helped with cashflows over the past few years, perhaps creating a false economy. Producing a realistic budget and identifying and securing funding & looking at all revenue streams to cover costs in the next 12 months is work that is already underway. Also, we recommend a regular a review of income collected and costs in comparison to the budget to assist in identifying issues, giving the opportunity to actively manage the finances.

Best Regards,

Sarah Currie
Managing Director



Sponsors

Sponsorship for the year 2022/23 remained strong with over 60 station sponsors. Over the past 12 months we have come very close to full capacity in terms of filling our available sponsor on-air spots, which has initiated a review of our Sponsorship Packages with a view to increasing our rates. The packages we offer are very reasonably priced and have not increased in 5+ years. Show sponsor packages are increasingly popular. Overall, our sponsors have proven to be very loyal supporters who value the cultural contribution that MainFM brings to the community. We are extremely grateful to the following business/organisations for their support and financial contribution in 2022/23. We couldn't do it without you!

Aborea Tree Management
 Animus Distillery
 Awakenings With Anwyn
 Backyard Fest
 Bendigo Pride Festival
 Bendigo TAFE
 Boomtown Wine
 Bridge Hotel
 Cascade Art
 Castlemaine Community House
 Castlemaine Documentary Festival
 Castlemaine Electronic Workshop
 Castlemaine Farmers Market
 Castlemaine Football Netball Club
 Castlemaine Fringe Festival
 Castlemaine Mail
 Castlemaine Permaculture Hub
 Castlemaine Pride
 Castlemaine Safe Space
 Castlemaine State Festival
 Castlemaine Vintage Bazaar
 Central Spark Victoria
 Cresfest
 Dhelkaya Health
 Dr Marty's Crumpets
 Emporium Creative Hub
 EnviroShop Newstead
 Firetail Environments
 Five Flags Merchants
 Fermentus
 The Good Op Shop
 Grainger Legal
 Green Goes the Grocer
 Harvest Fruit & Veg
 House of Andersen

Johnny Baker
 Lifehouse Design
 Lisa Chesters Office
 Lot 19 Creations (Spring Sculpture Prize)
 Maine Secondhand
 Maldon & District Community Bank
 Merchants of Mostyn
 Mount Alexander Shire Council
 Mount Alexander Shire Council Youth Awards Festival
 Mount Alexander Shire Council Business Support Team
 Mulberry's Delicatessen
 Office of Maree Edwards
 Old Slang Brewing
 Print Together
 Red Canvas Productions (Circus Mania)
 Rich Not-Doing Practice
 Sac 'o' Suds Laundrette
 Saffs Café
 Saint Florian Cafe
 Salvage Yard
 Smith & Brown
 Sound Recordings
 Sprout Bakery
 Stoneman's Bookroom
 Stress Less Moves
 Taproom/Shedshaker Brewing
 Taradale Mineral Springs Festival
 Togs Cafe
 Theatre Royal Castlemaine
 Thompson Family Funerals
 Town Folk Festival
 Trash Cult Bendigo
 Wesley Hill Market
 Windarring Castlemaine
 Wordosaurus
 YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard)





Thank you to our wonderful volunteers





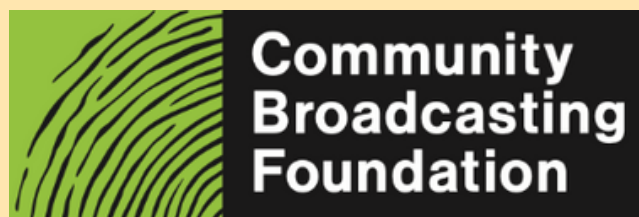








**MainFM is supported by the
Community Broadcasting Foundation**



Sincere thanks to our photographers who contributed many photos captured during the reporting period.

Rogies 2022 and MainGAME photos courtesy of Craig Gaston

Pride Across the Ages Podcast Launch photos courtesy of Leonie Van Eyk

Castlemaine Idyll photos courtesy of Fred Farquhar & Diana Domonkos

And to our staff and volunteers for all the happy snaps - in the studio, at our Outside Broadcasts, out and about and wherever our MainFM peeps are at.