

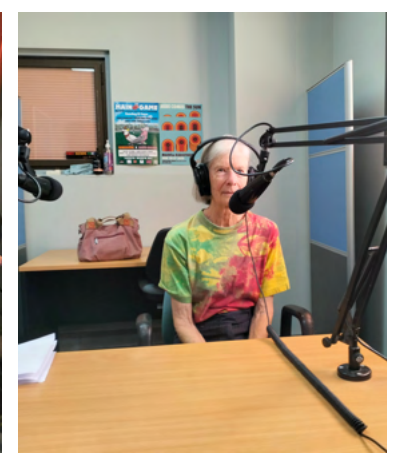
main ///FM 94.9



94.9 MAINFM ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers







Thank you to our wonderful volunteers



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that MainFM broadcasts on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. We would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that we are standing on today. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

Introduction

Welcome to MainFM's 2023-24 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



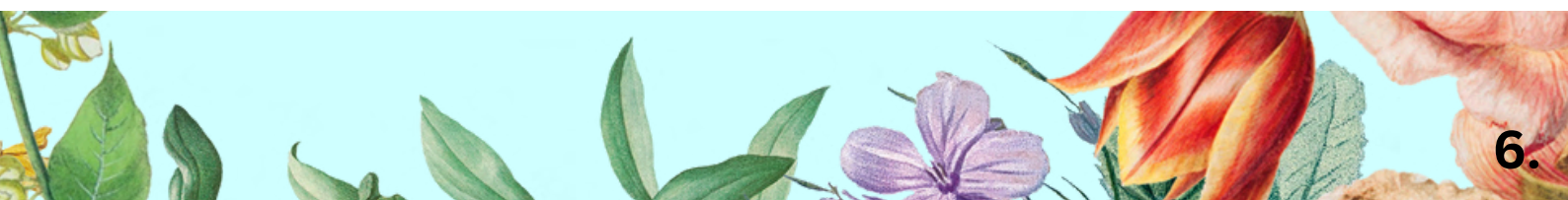
Harvey - MainFM Pet Subscriber

Contents

- Pg 7. 2022 -23 Committee of Management
- Pg 8. President's Report
- Pg 9. Secretary's Report
- Pg 10. Treasurer's Report
- Pg 11. Station Manager's Report
- Pg 13. Programming Coordinator's Report
- Pg 14. Technical Coordinator's Report
- Pg 15. MainFM Sub-Committees
- Pg 16. MainFM in Numbers
- Pg 17. Grants
- Pg 18. Calendar of Events & Community Engagement
- Pg 19. Awards
- Pg 20. Community Engagement + Partnerships
- Pg 21. MAIN Game
- Pg 23. Outside Broadcasts
- Pg 24. CBF Content Grants
- Pg 27. Sponsors
- Pg 29. Financial Reports



Missy - MainFM Pet Subscriber
with Station Manager Steph



Committee of Management

President: Richard McLeish

Vice President: Hayley West

Secretary: Suze Hogan

Treasurer: Rachael Cilauró

General Committee: Ian Patrick, Mihaela Kovacic, Billy Lister

Staff

Station Manager: Steph Riddel

Sponsorship and Events Manager: Sue McLennan

Volunteers and Training Coordinator: Alex Playsted

Volunteer Coordinators

Programming - Rich Moffat

Tech - Martin Clifton

Music - Joel Pearson



Special thank you to Jean Doucet

In 2023, we lost a friend - Jean Doucet. Jean was a huge supporter of MainFM. He would come to all our events and regularly texted in to our presenters with kind words of encouragement. Jean also left messages on the phone expressing his love and appreciation for whatever show had captured him that day.



He gave so much love to MainFM. One of his dying wishes was to give more. Friends organised an art auction of his works on 4 August 2023 - 'Last Chance', a retrospective exhibition by the late Jean Doucet and presented by CASPA, with the proceeds donated to MainFM. 'Last Chance' captured Jean's final 12 years of work since he became a much loved member of the Castlemaine art community. Works featured his sculptures and paintings after previously exhibiting throughout Canberra and Melbourne, displaying his influences from his love for language, quantum mechanics and his circle series. The evening featured live music from Good Moon and projections by Frank Veldze. The night raised over \$3000 for MainFM. It was a fantastic opportunity to remember and celebrate Jean's life and talent, and we are forever grateful for his patronage.



President's Report

Somehow another year has whizzed by, but we've plenty to show for it. The mood at the station seems as good as ever, and the future bright, despite the economic headwinds.

Love me an outside broadcast, and showings at Castlemaine Idyll, Town Folk Festival and International Women's Day among others got us out in the community. The award-winning Main Game and Radiothon brought in record hauls of precious fundraiser dollars.

Fuelling much of this is our dedicated staff, rolling with the punches and delivering well beyond their duties. Sue 'Striker' McLennan's sponsorship roster is brimming with partnerships from right across the shire. And the onboarding has never been smoother thanks to Al 'Big Al' Playsted. In an ideal world we'd have enough money to hire everyone to their capacity.

So much great content is being broadcast under the watchful third eye of Rich 'Middle Path' Moffat, who we're blessed to have as programming coordinator. Tech prowess from Martin 'Mainframe' Clifton, Steve 'The Shaman' Charman and the technorati sub-committee have shored up our broadcasting stability through network outages and equipment failures.

The grant funding landscape has shifted considerably post-covid, and we were thrown a curveball in June about staff funding. It's testament to Steph, Sue and Al that we were able to absorb the hit and continue on without ado.

The story of the year is really the economic turnaround. We've moved from a position of uncertainty to stability. This is largely thanks to our station manager Steph 'Superlative' Riddel, Suze 'Spreadsheet' Hogan for her eagle eye and tireless tying up of loose ends, and Rachael 'Ratbag' Cilauro who has taken up the treasurer reins with gusto.

Big thanks also goes out to Billy 'The Kid' Lister for his 12 months of service on the Committee of Management, injecting a youth voice in the mix. Also to Mihaela 'Kudos' Kovacic, who returned to study after being with us for 8 months. And to CoM members Ian 'Mano' Patrick and Hayley 'Elvira' West, for their continuing governance - it's not glamorous work, but we get plenty done behind the scenes.

I'm excited about the year ahead as we eye the possibilities of the digital universe. Stay tuned and long live MainFM.

President

Rich 'El Presidente' McLeish



As Secretary I support MainFM's President in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Committee of Management (CoM) which includes drafting agendas, tracking actions and compiling and publishing meeting minutes. I am advised on membership applications, which are presented to the CoM at monthly meetings for approval. I am also a contributor to the review of policies and procedures to the station.

From a Governance perspective, the Policies reviewed and approved in the last 12 months are as follows:

- **Privacy Policy** - developed to ensure our use of Profiler (our subscriber management system) guides us protecting the information we hold in our systems.
- **Governance Policy** - reviewed and aligned to the 2024 Australian Institute Company Directors Governance Principles.

To support our grant applications, our Station Manager and CoM have also been working to finalise;

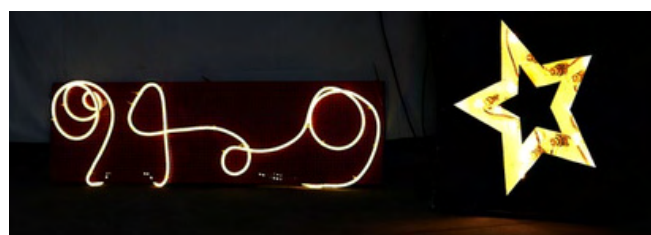
- **Child Safety Policy** and Process, an important policy to reflect our commitment to working with children and establish clear responsibilities regarding the safety and wellbeing of children who connect and interact with MainFM.

1. Code of Conduct

In other exciting news this year, we have taken advantage of moving to a shared storage space for all CoM papers and documents, improving our document management and providing CoM with historical access to information in a one stop shop.

Changes to tax rules have prompted us to seek charity and DGR status requiring changes to our Constitution. The preparatory work to achieve this is involved and we acknowledge the support of the CBAA in providing resources and tools to guide our journey. The force is with us.

I have enjoyed my first year as Secretary on the Committee of Management and look forward to continuing the journey alongside an engaged and committed bunch of CoM members supporting the best station in the nation.



Secretary
Suze Hogan

The last financial year saw us continue to understand and feel the long term economic and social impact of the pandemic. Looking back to look forward we see the growth period of Covid for the station now moves slowly into a period of consistency and financial sustainability with a broader economic landscape of tight grant funding and cost of living crisis.

Our core CBF funding has reflected the sector with a reduction in grant funding, MainFM has shown its agility and ability to move with change by boosting volunteer input alongside a reduction in staff salaries and operating budget whilst still maintaining excellent operations within a smaller budget.

We report a profit of \$21,177.88, a significant increase from last financial year. The increase in profit is a result of a combination of factors. Last years report did not include our Radiothon income for the period, where as this years did. But impressively, an increase in income and a reduction in expenses for the period from proactive financial management and regular reviews of income and expenditures performed by station management and the board.

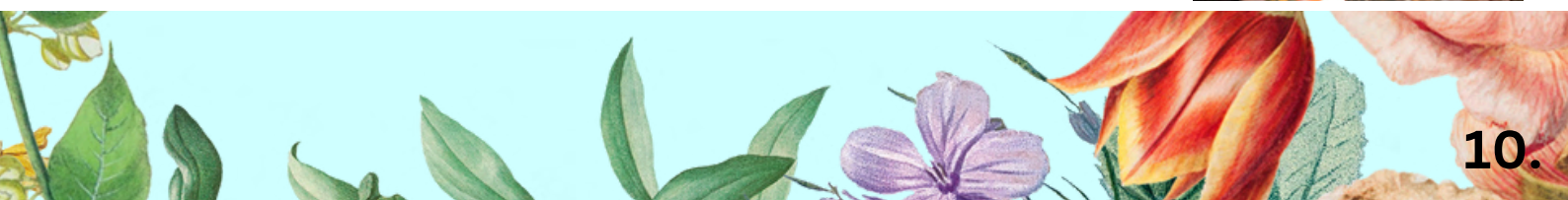
We have delivered on our goal to increase our income despite the grant streams, with an excellent financial outcome for our two flagship fundraising events, MAIN Game and Radiothon. These not only provide income but a boost for the promotion and community ownership over the station.

Total income for the 12-month period is reported to be \$218,575.47. This is a 38% increase when compared to the same period for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The last few years have allowed for equity of just over \$100,000 for the station and 2025 will be a process of internal reflection to define the strategic direction which will inform our financial forecasting in early 2025.

Continuing into 2025, we will build on our commitment to CBF principles and align our strategic frameworks to attract further core funding, alongside this build our capacity for volunteers and ready ourselves financially for the next few years.

Treasurer
Rachael Cilauro



Compiling the annual report brings joy – it's a chance to reflect on all the amazing things we have achieved over the year and I love seeing all the smiling faces in the photos of our amazing little radio community.

It's tough out there - with limited funding we rely on our amazing volunteers. In a country that has enabled increasing media ownership concentration, regional and rural communities are being neglected - newspapers are folding and commercial radio is produced in the capital cities. Community radio presents the best chance for regional and rural townships to hear and engage with issues and stories that are local and relevant to them. Here in Mount Alexander Shire, we are uniquely placed and fortunate to have an independent newspaper operating (for over 170 years!) - The Castlemaine Mail - alongside MainFM, a thriving small radio station with over 100 local voices representing our community. We are so grateful to have the support of our listeners, sponsors and partners. It's a beautiful, valuable thing that we can't take for granted. So, we celebrate it.

And we have so much to celebrate! Under the skillful guidance of our Programming Coordinator Rich Moffat and programming committee, our impressive grid boasts over 70 diverse shows covering the full gamut of talk and music. Our youngest presenters are just 12 years old – all the way through to our respected elders. It was a big year of Special Programming with shows dedicated to young voices through the Campbells Creek Primary School special and MAK radio, featuring the little ones aged 4 – 6. We had several specials featuring the voices and stories of women via the 'Extraordinary / Ordinary; Commemorating and celebrating women in Central Victoria' series as well as our mega International Women's Day broadcast. We produced a 6-part series on the lived experience of people with disability in Mount Alexander Shire, as part of Able Radio. We celebrated Aus Music Week featuring home grown artists, as well as NAIDOC and 16 Days of Activism for violence against women.

We grew our partnerships and celebrated Pride with Castlemaine Community House, and were out and about in the community with our Outside Broadcast Van at as many events as we could get to including Idyll, Castlemaine Billy Cart Challenge, Rotary Carols in the park and more.

We managed to deliver two presenters' forums throughout the year, and continued to refine our training and on boarding systems, welcoming new presenters whilst maintaining our commitment to diverse programming. And we won awards! We picked up a swag of nominations and two wins at the 2023 CBAA Awards.

We welcomed Martin Clifton into the MainFM family as our new Technical Coordinator. Martin has settled into the role and is busy trouble shooting glitches and devising improved systems of management for our tech requirements, building the tech team up as he goes. Martin's passion for the station is so appreciated and indicative of the special type of people we seem to attract.



General station morale is high and this, I think can be largely contributed to the passion and dedication displayed by our stellar staff. Both Sue McLennan and Alex Playsted are absolute super stars who consistently show a level of care to each and every volunteer. We aim to be inclusive and accessible, which takes time and attention. We are so lucky to have them.

Strategically, the station is looking at ways we can align ourselves with the CBAA Roadmap, which is a bold plan to reposition the sector and better accurately capture the value it serves to communities in a landscape of increasing media ownership concentration. I was invited to attend the CBAA Congress in 2023, part of the planning process for the Roadmap, which would see rural and regional stations playing a bigger role in crisis as emergency broadcasters. None of this can happen without a commitment to increased funding from the federal government, which the CBAA is lobbying for. At a micro level, plans are underway for MainFM to undertake emergency broadcasting training, and is working with Mount Alexander Shire emergency management team around co-designed community response strategies that would see MainFM play a role in communicating important messaging to community in times of disaster. It's important work that will result in our communities being better served in times of need. We've secured a grant through FRRR that will help us work towards this, which includes investing in back up power for our transmitter to shield us in times of power outages.

Together our dedicated CoM and staff have been working hard to balance our books, and have managed to increase our fundraising income whilst shaving our spends. Special shout out to our secretary Suze Hogan who has also served as an interim treasurer at times in the past year, and we've welcomed Rachael Cilaurio as our new Treasurer, who together have helped us get back in the black. We held a garage sale, put on a trivia night and partnered with our local venues Taproom and Love Shack to host community keg nights. And we've seen our signature fundraising events the MAIN Game and Radiothon grow in strength and popularity. We are so grateful for the community's support in these endeavours. We've had a lean year of spending. We've asked more of our volunteers who have stepped up to help out with administrative tasks, training and production. In this time of saving, we've been evaluating our tech landscape with plans to invest in improvements and upgrades of our networking and IT systems, which is exciting.

We are nothing without our people, without our community.
Long live MainFM!



Steph Riddel
Station Manager



Programming Coordinator's Report

It's been another fun year of diverse radio on MainFM in 2024. We've welcomed many new announcers and shows including;

Bonny & Maddie ('Art's folk & Make Believe' Sun 3pm)
Sophie & Emmaline ('Play Nice Sun 4pm)
Heidi ('Sci Curious' Tues 10am)
Anne Marie ('Over the Hump' Wed 6pm)
Tim ('Streets of your Town' Tues breakfast)
Sam & Kynan ('Inner Space' Sat 11am)
Ash ('These Boots and Made for Talkin' Monday breakfast)
Luqman ('For Electronic Music Lovers' - Tues 10pm)
Manny & Lee ('2006' Sat 10pm)
Gerry ('Tracks of Whack' Sun 8pm)
Justin ('Hot Buttered Soul' Sun 10am)
Ned ('Songs in the Key of Glee' Sat breakfast)
Julia ('Pachelbel's Caravan' Tues 9am)
Mungo ('Jungo's Hifi Sat 8pm)

We've also farewelled some of our faves...Jen, Alan, Billy & Harper, Adrian, Matine, Adz & Macca, Dan, Sach, The Castlemaine Electronic workshop crew.

Also a big shout out to Glenn's legendary Saturday horror soundtrack "Dark Moments" for a much loved nine year stint, and Paula's MAK radio show featuring pre-school and primary kids from our region - we're aiming to repeat episodes over summer, so stay tuned. A big thank you to all these MainFM voices - we hope to hear you back on air before too long.

Thanks also to the amazing announcers who did fills throughout the year, especially Suzanne and Shankar for their fascinating interview episodes and Marty for doing extra duty through Radiothon.

A big shout out to the programming committee - Rosie, Bridget, Melissa, Colin, Elizabeth and Sue - for all their time through the year. Finding space on the grid can be a complex task, so all your input, energy and love for radio is very much appreciated.

In 2025 we hope to maintain and expand MainFM's charter to represent all the community in our region.

We're always open to all new shows, ideas and announcers - please reach out via programming@mainfm.net

Rich Moffat
Programming Coordinator



I joined the MainFM Tech Team as the Technical Coordinator in November 2023. I had never worked in a radio station before, having spent most of my working life around computers and computer networks. However, I did have some knowledge of radio transmission systems and, to a lesser extent, audio systems.

Lots of help from current Tech Team and Staff members have gone a long way to filling in the gaps. My predecessor, Steve Charman, is a mine of information and still providing an indispensable service to the station. One of my challenges is to spread his load to the other, and newer, volunteers.

So, what's happened this year ?

- All computers at the station have been upgraded to a minimum standard (in terms of processor, cores, memory). All replacement PCs are SFF (small form factor) varieties which save space and power. Some have been sourced at no cost (thanks Adrian Hodda) while we have also purchased a couple to compliment the inventory.
- The main file server in the network started to fail during September. The long-held ambition to move the files to a newer server was finally realised. Thanks Colin Lemon and Steve.
- A second, backup internet connection has been implemented. This works over the cellular network (Telstra or Optus) and involved installing an antenna on the hospital roof. This perilous work was handled with aplomb by Jimmy Naylor.
- Most of the network components in the office have been replaced by newer devices. This is largely transparent to users but provides many technical benefits, including the ability to monitor and segment the network.
- OBs have proceeded normally, with no significant technical issues.

And what's on the horizon ?

- Implementation of Google Workspace. This will largely mean a move to the 'cloud' - giving everyone access to their files, wherever they are.
- Development of Asset Register and Helpdesk systems. These will move from the current spreadsheet/handwritten records to more formal database applications.
- Possible upgrade of Tower Cabinet to provide longer runtime during power outages.
- Documentation and troubleshooting guide to cover all technical aspects of the station.
- Review of the Zara studio system. This is an unsupported application.
- Scoping requirements for use of OB Van during a station power outage.
- And, of course, having a think about how things will change, and what we want, in the event we have to move out of the hospital to a new site.

Martin Clifton
Technical Coordinator



MainFM's Sub-Committees

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Members: Rich Moffat (Chair) Melissa Scott, Sue Vaughan, Elizabeth Scanlon, Colin Lemon, Bridget Haylock, Rosie Collins

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: Martin Clifton (Chair) Steve Charman, 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 with tech
-

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members: 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






126
Volunteers



72
Shows a week



3
Staff



7
Board Members




11
Outside Broadcasts



500
Subscribers



75
Sponsors



6.3K
Social Media Followers



6K
Website Hits Per Month



120
Pet Subscribers



700+
Mix Cloud Followers



2K
Transmissions E-newsletter Subscribers

MainFM in Words

MainFM helps me feel connected to the community, and part of that community.

MainFM feels like a hug on a hard day and an absolute all access party pass on the good days to the most dynamic, colourful, warm hearted, giggle inducing, thigh slapping, dance floor inducing, journey to a million realms radio.

It's relevant and buzzing.

Always out & about, involved in so much around town!

Proud to live in the Maine and have the best station in the nation putting it out there everyday.

Love the energy and effort of MainFM.

MainFM Listener Survey 2023



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

\$51,714 – Employ Station Manager- strategic planning & community engagement

\$23,900 – Employ a Volunteers & Training Coordinator, increase Skills Training

Content Grants - MainFM auspiced a series of grants for MainFM presenters & projects

\$20,000 – Saltgrass

\$20,000 - Able Radio

\$9,000 - Extraordinary/Ordinary

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renew

\$20,000 - MainFM Community Resilience Project

Mount Alexander Shire Council Events Grant

\$3000 – The MAIN Game

Mount Alexander Shire Council Funding Pledge

\$5000 - to assist with core operational costs

Midsumma Festival – Pride 2023: Regional Activation Grants

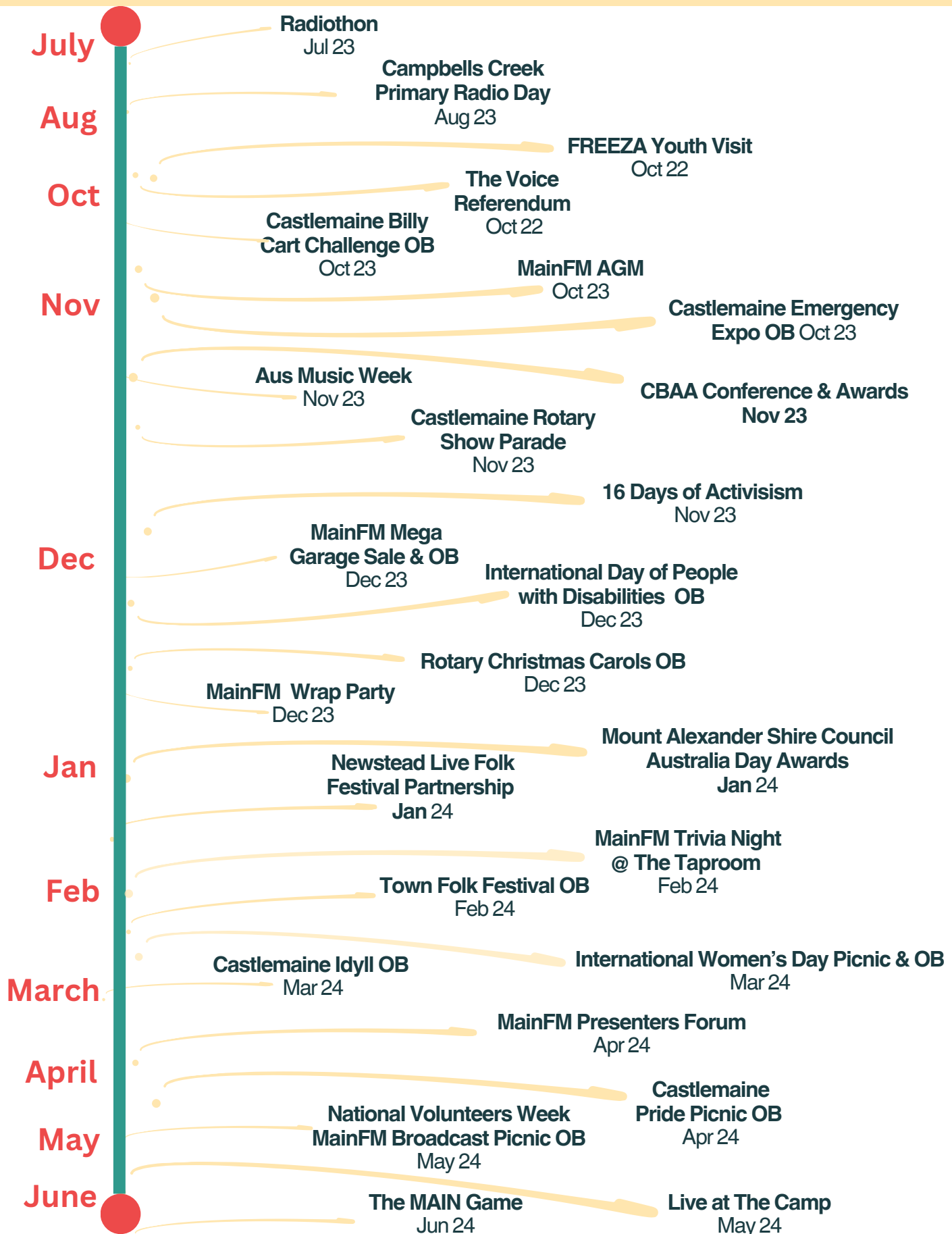
\$1,600 - In partnership with Castlemaine Pride, providing promotion across the event

Mount Alexander Shire Council Community Grant

\$3000 - MainFM auspiced a grant for the Solomon Islanders Community Choir



Calendar of Events & Community Engagement



We are thrilled to have picked up a swag of awards in the past year! We are so proud of our amazing volunteers, and relish our role in being able to facilitate the recognition they deserve.

CBAA Award Finalists

Excellence in Innovative Programming and Content

Dead Air presented by Hayley West

Excellence in Creative Audio

What's Golden "Dead Fest" by Alex Parsons and Alex Playsted

Excellence in Community Engagement

Able Radio & International Day of People with Disabilities

Best Radio Program Music

Virtual State presented by Joel Pearson

Excellence in Station Leadership Award

Station Manager Steph Riddel

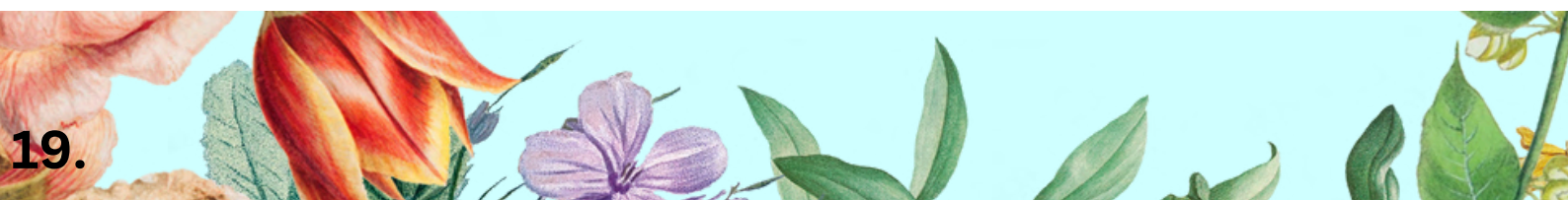
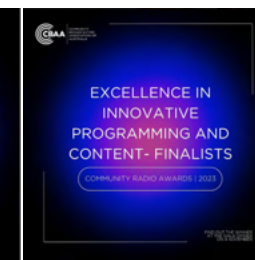
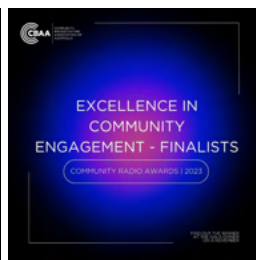
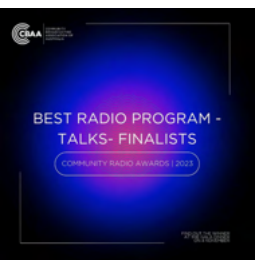
CBAA Award Winners

Excellence in Digital Media

Pride Across the Ages podcast by Queer & Now, produced & presented by Sherene Clow & Amalie O'Hara

Best Radio Program - Talks

Saltgrass presented by Allie Hanly



Community Engagement & Partnerships

We've grown our network of partnerships and value the relationships we've fostered with local groups and organisations. We love popping up at events, being involved in activities with different cross sections of the community, and relish the opportunity to help promote and elevate valuable initiatives that bring people together. Through on-air promotion, Outside Broadcasts, workshops and outreach we've been closely involved with the following organisations over the past 12 months.

- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Castlemaine Community House
- Castlemaine Pride
- Castlemaine Fringe Festival
- Castlemaine SES Emergency Expo
- Castlemaine Billy Cart Challenge
- Castlemaine Documentary Festival
- Castlemaine Mail
- Shedshaker Brewing
- HALT (Hope Assistance Local Tradies)
- Windarrang Castlemaine
- International Day of People with Disability
- Newstead Live
- Lot 19
- International Women's Day
- Passions and Pathways
- Cambells Creek Primary School



The MAIN Game is our most successful fundraiser outside of Radiothon and continues to go from strength to strength. With another strong showing this year, the annual event held on the King’s Birthday long weekend has cemented itself as a firm fixture on the Castlemaine creative arts calendar and continues to attract a diverse section of our community in both players and spectators.

The Radio Galahs notched another win against old rivals the Rockatoos in front of a hundreds-strong crowd with the reigning champions backing up last year’s success with a 24 point win. The Thompson’s Foundry Band made their MAIN Game debut kicking off our live entertainment, with local sisters of shred Paddock Bomb wowing the crowd at half-time, which was further enhanced by our live broadcast with Gus and Macca calling all the action from the ground.

We would like to acknowledge and give special thanks to our event partner HALT (Hope Assistance Local Tradies) and Jeremy Forbes who contributes his time and energy to this event year in year out. We are grateful for the support from businesses local and afar for their continued support.

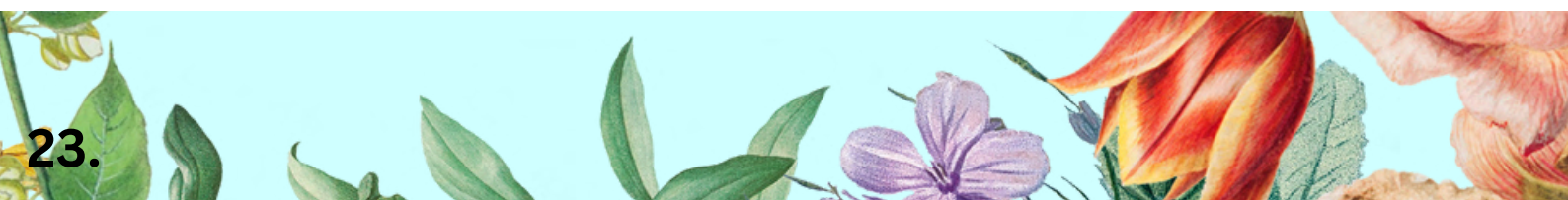
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
- Castlemaine Fitness Centre
- Shedshaker Brewing
- Health Actions
- Penny Ryan Photography
- Castlemaine Football Netball Club
- Love Shack Brewing
- Salvage Yard
- Harcourt Valley Vineyards
- Bridge Hotel
- Ice Cream Republic
- Sac o Suds Laundrette
- SuperHero Banh Mi
- Jellis Craig
- Wham Bam Caravan
- Castlemaine Vintage Bazaar
- Subway
- Macedon Ranges Signs
- Coffee Basics
- Harvest





We have invested in our infrastructure and our people, enabling the quality and quantity of our OBs to flourish. This year MainFM delivered 11 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.

- **Castlemaine Billy Cart Challenge** October '23
- **Castlemaine Emergency Expo** October '23
- **MainFM Mega Garage Sale** December '23
- **International Day of People with Disabilities** December '23
- **Rotary Christmas Carols** December '23
- **Townfolk Festival** February '24
- **International Women's Day Radio Picnic** March '24
- **Castlemaine Idyll** March '24
- **Castlemaine Pride Picnic** April '24
- **MainFM Radio Picnic** May '24
- **MAIN Game** June '24



CBF Content Grants - Saltgrass

Saltgrass is a show about how our community is grappling with the climate crisis. Hosted by Allie Hanly, the show deep dives into the minds, hearts and activities of everyday people here in Castlemaine and surrounds. The goal is always to inspire, educate and help people feel connected to a vital and important movement.

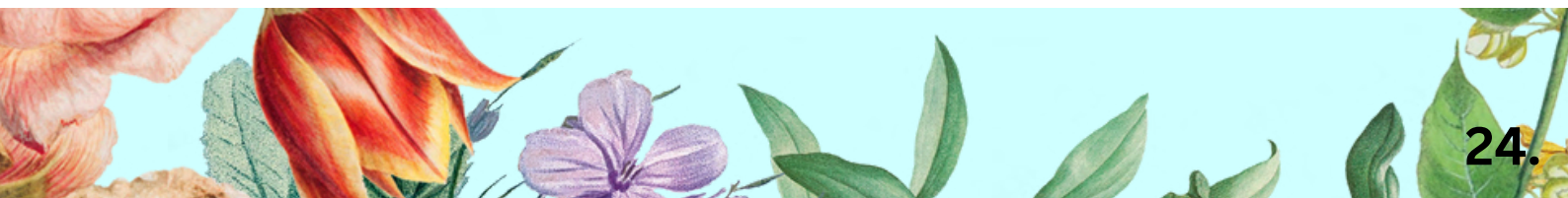
Saltgrass is now in its fifth year of production, with over 100 episodes to enjoy. They are all available as a podcast. New shows and repeat episodes air 9am every Monday morning on MainFM.

In the last year, Saltgrass has released episodes about local farming, community composting, Connecting Country and local activists. There was also a three episode collaboration with researchers from RMIT to look at the housing crisis in our region – what the problems are, what people are proposing to do about it and some examples of creative solutions.

Saltgrass had a winning year! After several years of being a finalist in various awards, Saltgrass brought home two awards, 'Best Talks' in the 2023 Community Broadcasting Awards and 'Community Champion' in the TMRRW awards – which celebrates change makers leading the way to a better future.

Allie is still in editing and production mode for season 6 of Saltgrass which will take you on a journey across the Nullarbor and into the desert of WA with a group called Desert Discovery. They are citizen scientists and nature enthusiasts who drove deep into the outback to count lizards, birds and flowering bushes. All data is given to universities and public organisations to help build a knowledge base about what ecosystems look like in remote Australia. This season is due to launch in early 2025.

Saltgrass is supported by grants from the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

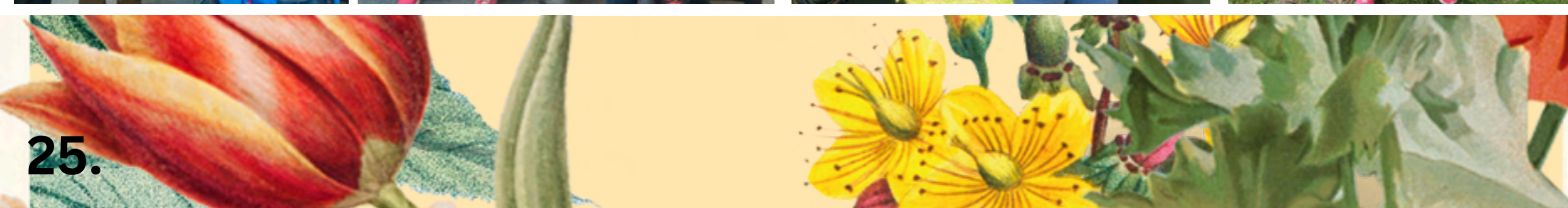


It's been a terrific year for Able Radio. As lead producer, Jakob Schmitt loves nothing more than seeing members of the team flourish – which they have! Alongside Jakob is co-host Brayden Courtney. Brayden has a passion for all things weather related and fans text in weekly their love and support for his report. Brayden panels and hosts the first part of the program and his confidence in this role continues to grow each week. Ned Middleton delivers a weekly segment, dedicated to a film and TV. Ned has also recently branched out and is now producing and presenting his very own show which airs on Saturday mornings on MainFM – Songs in the Key of Glee. This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of Ned.

The Windarring crew are a much-loved part of Able Radio who bring so much joy to the air waves. We have witnessed real growth in their confidence and presenting skills, not to mention their wonderful collective sense of humour, which quite often means sporadic fits of laughter. The crew includes James Morrison Blunk, best known for his weekly footy tips, Jade Retamal who enjoys nothing more than a good old sing along. Shane Clarke loves to bring the hip hop, Kate Nolan loves her weekly ABBA sing along and can dance up a storm. Alex Budworth is still the sweetest voice on Able Radio and has impeccable taste in music. As does David Simmons, who quite often has very deep and interesting reasons behind playing certain tracks. Liam Muir loves to rock out, Jayden Euler will come in full dress up, sometimes as his favourite superhero. Todd Briggs has a smile to light up any room and new contributor Brook Conn has a deep love for Cher. We also recently welcomed Chris Palamountain from Kyneton Windarring. Chris is a terrific storyteller and has brilliant voice for radio, so we're very excited to see Chris continue his radio journey.

Jasper Peach continues to produce magnificent content for Able Radio, each interview gives the listener a deep insight into the lives of persons living with a disability. Jasper's compassion always shines through. Elizabeth Scanlan came onboard as a producer and a terrific communicator and deep thinker. This year Jasper also produced a special six part series on Living with Disability in the Mount Alexander Shire, supported by a Mount Alexander Shire Council community grant. Her interviews are always so well considered. What an asset both Jasper and Elizabeth are to Able Radio.

Able Radio is supported by a content grant through the Community Broadcasting Foundation, which provides a weekly wage to four people living with disability. It's a joy and privilege for MainFM to be able to offer this type of engagement that is flexible, maximising accessibility to the airwaves and meaningful employment for people with disability.



CBF Content Grants - Extraordinary / Ordinary

Commemorating and celebrating women in Central Victoria



Extraordinary/Ordinary was fortunate enough to receive a CBF Content Grant as an eight episode series special, aired during Femme Fortissimo in the first half of 2024.

Extraordinary/Ordinary was launched at the wonderful MainFM's International Women's Day Outside Broadcast - and the tone was set! Each episode featured short interviews with a wide variety of women about women from our community who have made an impact on them, and longer interviews with local women writers, historians, and curators who discussed historical women, whom have strong connections to Central Victoria. Overall 30 women - ranging in age from 13 to over 80, shared the stories of another 30 women.

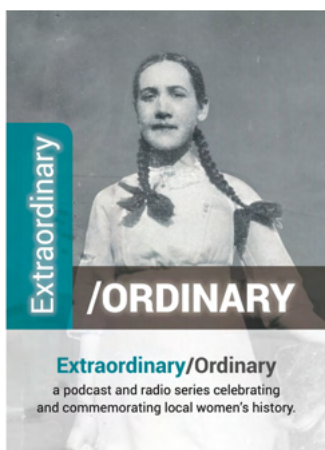
Interviewees included Robyn Annear on lawyer Gladys Hain, Emma Busowsky on artist Christian Waller, Rebecca Rose on renaissance woman Mary Fairburn and Lesley Bowe on Army Matron Jessie Bowe. Sarah Bignell, a former MainFM presenter was also interviewed, and she spoke about how the early encouragement of current presenter Suzanne Donisthorpe helped build her capacity and inspired her to keep going. This exemplified one of the aims of the series - amplifying women's voices keeps our stories alive.

Other intentions were to raise up women's voices and elevate local women's stories and to serve as a taster or guide regarding the extraordinary/ordinary women in our area, by bringing to light 'hidden histories'. Radio proved to be the perfect format for this type of oral history story sharing.

All the episodes are now available to listen to on your podcast app. The show has been downloaded over 700 times - not including the data I lost for one episode whilst still learning the ropes! I am very grateful for the support given by MainFM, which allows new ideas to be developed and produced, in a community of people who are generous with their assistance and guidance.

Lisa D'Onfrio

Extraordinary/Ordinary Producer



Extraordinary/Ordinary
An 8-part podcast and radio series

Listen from Friday March 15th 2024 on MainFM.

Each episode features women talking about other women, living and historical.

Tune in to MainFM on Fridays at 12.30 to listen live, or find us on Podbean, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Produced with the assistance of the Community Broadcasting Foundation - cbf.org.au.



Find out more and tell us what you think on our Facebook page [Extraordinary/Ordinary](#)



Sponsorship is critical to the station's success and contributes significantly to our income. With a rise in operational costs, we initiated a comprehensive review of our Sponsorship Packages in March 2024. The review revealed that our sponsorship pricing had not increased in 5+ years, yet in that time the station has grown in size and reach. Our packages offer short and long term campaigns as well as exclusive show sponsorship and the opportunity to sponsor the MAIN Game. We're fortunate to have such a loyal support base with over 70 businesses and organisations sponsoring us in the last financial year, mostly local businesses who value the connection that MainFM brings to the community. Our Subscriber Discounters are generous and valued supporters, offering exclusive discounts to MainFM subscribers.

Aborea Tree Management
Animus Distillery
Applefest Harcourt
Art Gallery of Ballarat
Awakenings With Anwyn
Barrow Boy Traders (formerly Maine Secondhand)
Bendigo Records (formerly Bendigo Vinyl)
Boomtown Wine
Bridge Hotel
Castlemaine Billycart Challenge
Castlemaine Community House
Castlemaine Documentary Festival
Castlemaine Farmers Market
Castlemaine Fitness Centre
Castlemaine Football Netball Club
Castlemaine Fringe Festival
Castlemaine Mail
Castlemaine Permaculture Hub
Castlemaine Pride
Castlemaine Vintage Bazaar
Central Spark Victoria
Coolroom at Northern Arts Hotel
Comfort Now
Dr Marty's Crumpets
EnviroShop Newstead
Firetail Environements
Five Flags Merchants
Fermentus
Fred's Tiny Houses
Frontier Touring
Harvest Fruit & Veg
Grainger Legal
Green Goes the Grocer
House of Andersen
Johnny Baker
Ice Cream Republic
Lifehouse Design

Like Butter
Lisa Chesters MP
Lightning & Rhinestones Festival
Lot 19
Love Police Touring
Miles Bookkeeping
Mount Alexander Shire Council
Mulberry's Delicatessen
Nat Vazer
Newstead Live
Office of Maree Edwards
Old Slang Brewing
Over the Moon Studio
Penny Ryan Photography
Rad Cycles
Red Canvas Productions (Circus Mania)
Red Hill Hotel
Sac 'o' Suds Laundrette
Saffs Café
Saint Florian Cafe
Salvage Yard
Shedshaker Brewing - Taproom
Smith & Brown
Sound Recordings
Sprout Bakery
Super Hero
Stoneman's Bookroom
Stress Less Moves
Taradale Mineral Springs Festival
Togs Cafe
Theatre Royal Castlemaine
Town Folk Festival
Trash Cult Bendigo
The Undercut Club
Wesley Hill Market
Windarring Castlemaine
Wordosaurus
YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard)

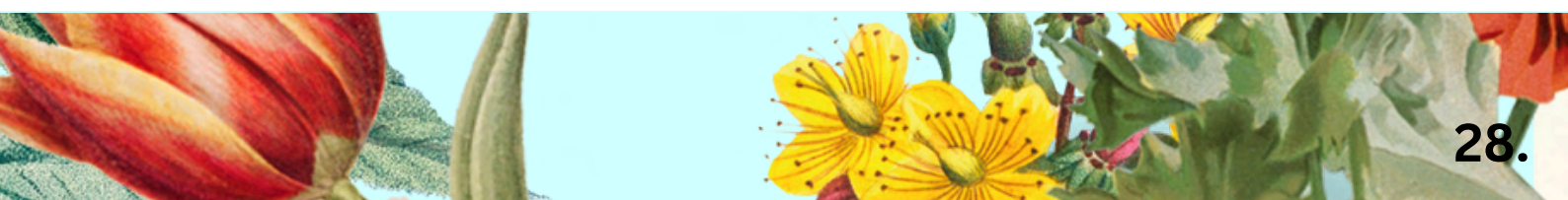
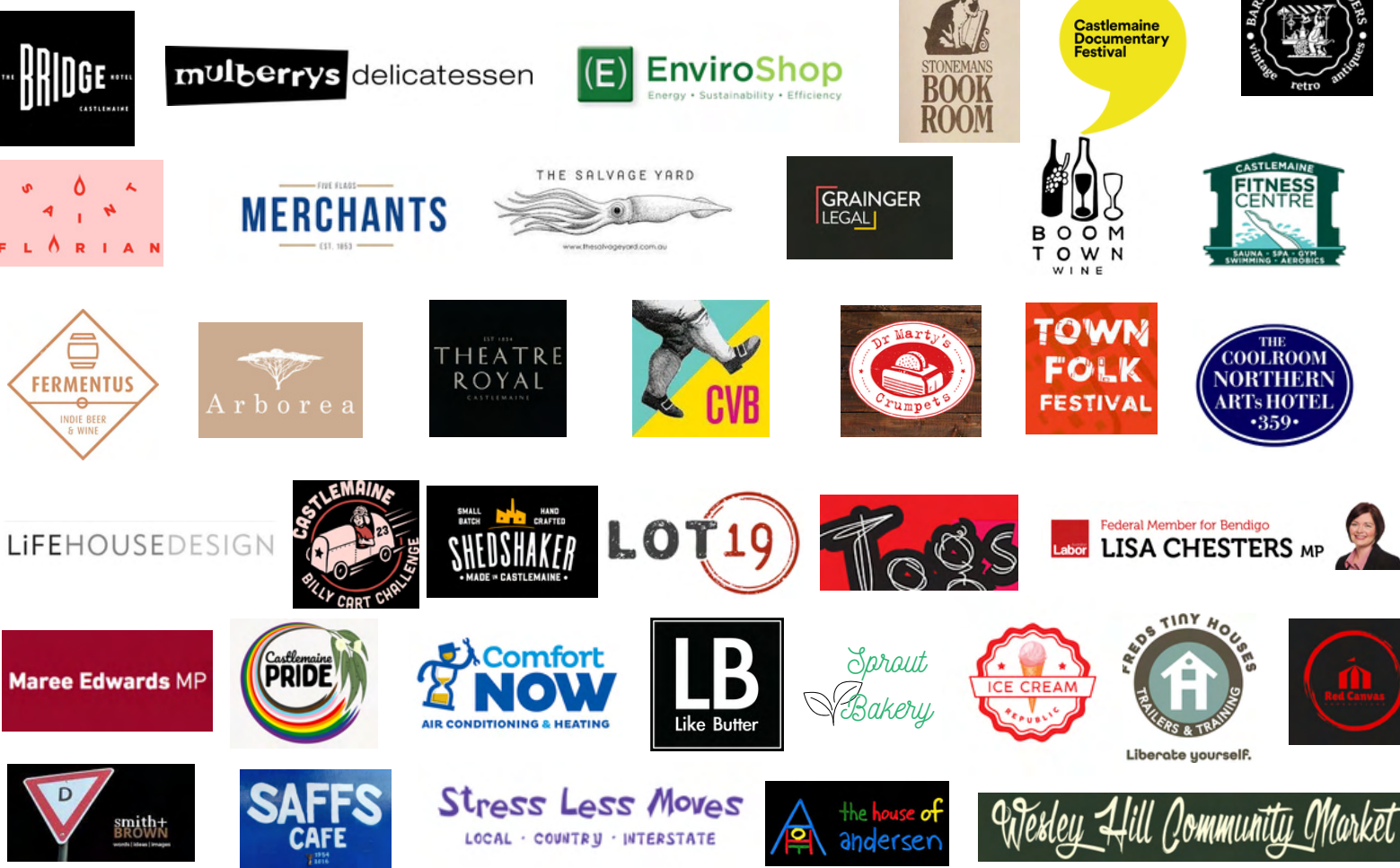
Subscriber Discounters

Castlemaine Community House
Ice Cream Republic
Jonny Baker
Barrow Boy Traders
Maine Shoes & Accessories
Sound Recordings
Pud for All Seasons

Rock Steady Records
Stoneman's Book Room
The Taproom
The Undercut Club
Theatre Royal Castlemaine
Union Studio
Wonderpants



Castlemaine Mail





Profit and Loss

Castlemaine District Radio Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Trading Income		
Other income		
Donations	3,657.62	1,781.62
Fundraising	19,257.29	11,379.36
Production Studio Hire	2,536.07	750.00
Interest Income	1,630.84	245.51
Total Other income	27,081.82	14,156.49
Grants		
Grants - Content	3,000.00	1,800.00
Grants - SM Salary	51,714.00	61,902.00
Grants - Station grants	27,020.00	6,500.00
Grants - Training Co-Ordinator	23,900.00	23,100.00
Total Grants	105,634.00	93,302.00
Operational income		
Memberships	3,810.00	3,965.00
Merchandise Sales	7,251.29	4,158.91
Sponsorship	42,141.68	37,046.00
Subscriber Income	31,556.68	2,225.00
Outside Broadcast	1,100.00	3,200.00
Total Operational income	85,859.65	50,594.91
Total Trading Income	218,575.47	158,053.40
Gross Profit	218,575.47	158,053.40
Operating Expenses		
Accounting Fees	6,522.53	3,710.57
Advertising & Promotion	389.99	2,290.57
Bank Fees	64.99	164.68
Events & Marketing	434.94	1,858.05
Insurance	6,870.11	4,857.21
Licenses & Permits	4,958.90	7,969.63
Merchandise Costs	4,474.41	4,981.65
Office Supplies	1,016.63	2,789.34
Postage	340.30	210.75
Printing	355.06	5.00
Realised Currency Gains	-	(4.42)
Rent	19,942.00	21,317.00
Repairs and Maintenance	-	554.72
Sponsorship Production	2,310.00	7,200.00
Studio Equipment	1,327.04	3,178.47
Subscriptions	1,381.29	2,073.31

Profit and Loss



	2024	2023
Superannuation	14,338.24	13,195.97
Telephone & Internet	1,424.56	2,138.00
Training	-	3,761.75
Wages	130,349.70	127,063.96
Website Hosting & Maintenance	896.90	638.00
Total Operating Expenses	197,397.59	209,954.21
Net Profit	21,177.88	(51,900.81)



Balance Sheet

Castlemaine District Radio Inc. As at 30 June 2024

	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets		
Bank		
AUD PayPal	213.81	2,885.92
Castlemaine & District Radio Inc	107,888.16	82,309.61
Term Deposit	10,984.62	10,518.94
Visa Card Account	328.90	23.60
Total Bank	119,415.49	95,738.07
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	13,486.13	533.20
Bendigo Bank 155719610	-	5,064.56
Prepayments	-	500.00
Total Current Assets	13,486.13	6,097.76
Total Assets	132,901.62	101,835.83
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	5,912.74	4,034.41
Grant Funds Payable	3,745.54	1,815.69
PAYG Withholdings Payable	11,570.00	5,446.00
Rounding	-	1.30
Superannuation Payable	3,308.82	3,214.86
Total Current Liabilities	24,537.10	14,512.26
Total Liabilities	24,537.10	14,512.26
Net Assets	108,364.52	87,323.57
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	21,177.88	(51,900.81)
Retained Earnings	87,186.64	139,224.38
Total Equity	108,364.52	87,323.57



Bridge and Tunnel Accounts
ABN: 98 641 945 968

Sarah Currie
03 9448 2358
sarah@bridgeandtunnelaccounts.com
PO Box 9, Ballarat, Vic 3350

14th October 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT RADIO INC.

For the 12 months period ending 30 June 2024, Castlemaine District Radio reports a profit of \$21,177.88. This is a \$73,078.69 increase when compared to the financial year ended 30 June 2023 – a significant turn-around. The increase in profit is a result of a combination of an increase in income and a reduction in expenses for the period from proactive financial management and regular reviews of income and expenditures performed by station management and the board.

Key financial outcomes for 30 June 2024 Financial Year:

Net profit \$21,177.88

Cash at bank \$119,415.49

Total assets \$132,901.62

Total liabilities \$24,537.10

Net Assets \$108,364.52

Total income for the 12-month period is reported to be \$218,575.47. This is a 38% increase when compared to the same period for the year ended 30 June 2023. Most notable increases to income numbers were from Fundraising, Merchandising Sales and Subscriber Income.

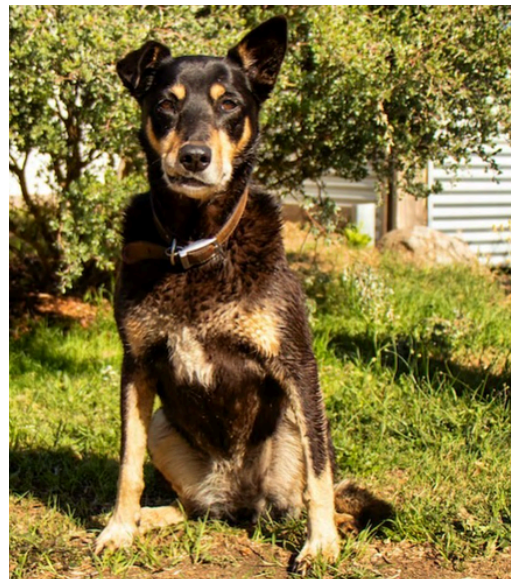
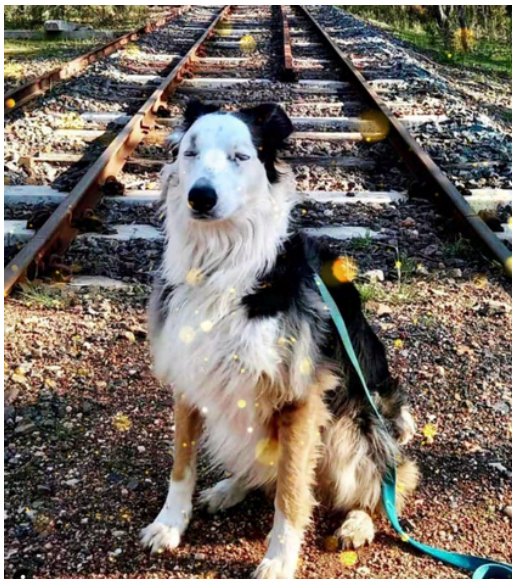
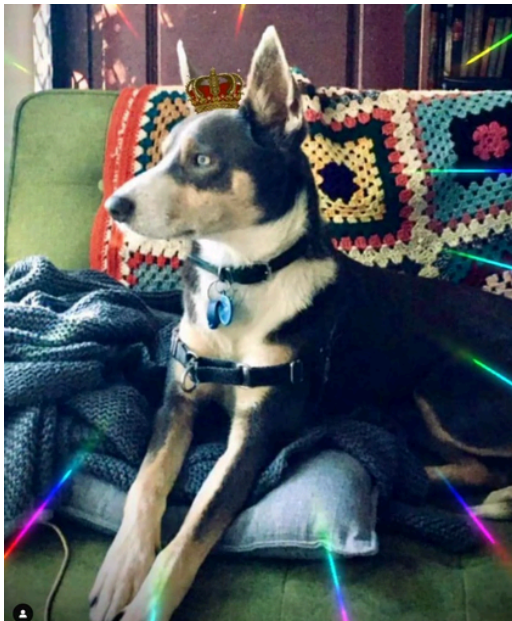
Total operating expenses of \$197,398.59 for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. There was a net decrease of \$12,556.62 when compared to the financial year ended 30 June 2023. While there were increases in the cost of accounting, insurance and a small increase in wages in the financial year, there were notable decreases in licenses & permits, sponsorship production and training costs.

We look forward to working closely with the management team and board to ensure a healthy financial result for the coming financial year of Castlemaine District Radio Inc.

Sarah Currie
Director
BAS Agent
TPB Registration Number 26053584

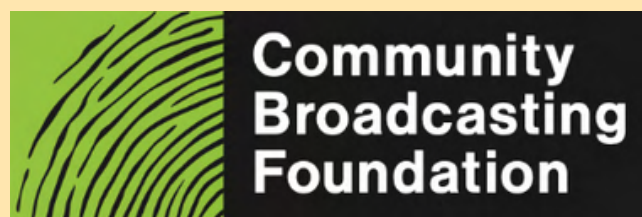
Some of our wonderful Doggo Subscribers







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



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

MAIN Game photos courtesy of Penny Ryan Photography

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.

Floral illustrations courtesy of [otto_fuog](#)