



**Kalamunda Community Radio (Inc.)**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2020-2021**

**March 2021**



## **Introduction**

This Report (formerly known as the Chairperson's Report) covers the period from April 2020 to March 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic made this a very unusual time for the Station but one in which KCR was able to not only survive but to grow in many ways. KCR is now in a strong position to move forward not only in the coming year but further into the future.

## **Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Once Western Australia entered lockdown in March 2020, KCR implemented all the advice provided by the Community Broadcasting Authority of Australia (CBAA) to create a safe working environment. All Presenters, not only older members, were given the opportunity to temporarily stop presenting their program if they felt at risk, or who had family members who might have been at risk. Several Presenters took up this offer whilst others stood in for them during their absence.

Strict signing-in requirements were enforced with hand sanitiser provided and visitors not allowed in the Studio complex. Additional cleaning of the Studio Desks and microphones was carried out by outgoing and incoming Presenters with longer handovers. Unlike many Community Radio Stations, KCR was able to continue with a virtually full set of live programs throughout the period. By September, all those Presenters who had temporarily stepped down felt comfortable returning to their programs. COVID safety procedures remain in place.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting was conducted by e-mails to all members who were given the opportunity to respond to both the circulated papers and the nominees for the Committee of Management. A Committee of nine members was elected unopposed.

Committee of Management Meetings were conducted using Zoom until the WA lockdown was eased. This technology created some issues, but members of the Committee were able to overcome these. However, a return to in-person Committee Meetings was welcomed by all.

During the early WA lockdown although many businesses were prevented from opening, others were still permitted to trade. However, frequently their customers were not aware of this. KCR Sales Staff therefore approached most of these within our broadcast area to provide a free "shout-out" in the form of 30-second announcement, broadcast frequently throughout the day by KCR, that they were still "Open for Business". A total of 41 businesses took up KCR's offer and the successful campaign ran from late March to the end of May. A big "thank-you" must go to all the Sales and Technical staff at the Station, as well as all those who recorded the messages, for their work in making this possible.

Federal Government COVID Safety messages were broadcast throughout the day with some continuing to be broadcast, particularly concerning the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

Following official guidance from the CBAA, KCR was able to continue broadcasting live programs as usual during the second, much shorter and severe, WA lockdown in February 2021 with only one day of recorded music before Presenters were back in the Studio.

## **Membership**

Membership of the Association has increased by 20% from 54 to 65 during the current year. Sadly, one of KCR's longest standing members, Ellen Beard, died in September 2020. Ellen was a very active member of KCR for many years and was Secretary and then Treasurer for some years.

## Programming

With the increase in Membership of the Association there has been an increase in Members wanting to become Presenters. There are now live programs from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm, weekdays, 7.00 am to 8.00 pm Saturdays and 6.00 am to 9.00 pm Sundays. With 35 Presenters, there is a waiting list of those wanting to have a program. Programs cover a full range of music genres. In addition, there are programs with live interviews of relevance to our broadcast area and a program aimed at the local Sudanese Community.

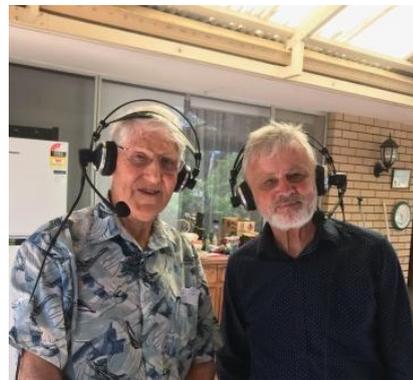
Outside Broadcasts were limited because of the COVID restrictions. However, a very successful broadcast was made at 6.00 am on Anzac Day. This was prepared by the Kalamunda Branch of the RSL who were unable to arrange their normal Service at the Kalamunda Cenotaph. The on-line audience for this broadcast was the highest ever at over 90 listeners from around the world. The program was uploaded to the internet and listened to in the Eastern States. The Kalamunda RSL was especially grateful for this.

In late 2020 and early 2021 it was again possible to hold public events in WA and KCR broadcast a number of those in the Kalamunda area

- Kalamunda RSL Johnny Young Remembrance Day Concert in Stirk Park
- *Romancing the Stone* Open Day
- Kalamunda Men's Shed Open Day
- Kalamunda Carols in Stirk Park (re-broadcast on Christmas Day morning)
- Kalamunda Library event featuring the Blues Group *Backwater Rising*
- Over ten live Folk Groups performing in the KCR Studios



Interviews  
at  
*Romancing  
the Stone*  
Open Day



Live at the RSL Johnny Young Concert





### *Carols by Candlelight* in Stirik Park

During the COVID pandemic, news bulletins from the Community Radio News network were provided for free and a WA-specific bulletin was introduced on weekday afternoons. Once this free service ended the Committee of Management fully supported the proposal to take out a subscription to the News services with the intention of seeking a sponsorship for this. Negotiations are underway with a company to do so. KCR was able to negotiate a discount for the cost of the News with the full amount not payable until mid-2022.

For the first time, KCR submitted three entries to the Annual CBAA Awards competition.

- Best Station Production (a 60-second sweep, etc.) – *Open for Business* announcements
- Best Special Events Broadcast – The Anzac Day Service
- Excellence in Community Engagement – Jazz Café promoting local Jazz musicians during the COVID-19 crisis

Although we were not short-listed on this occasion, we received excellent support from the local community for these submissions. Further submissions will be made in 2021.

## **Sponsorship**

There was marked increase in sponsorship throughout the year with around twelve paid sponsorship at any one time. Of particular importance was the sponsorship of the weather bulletins by Chrissy's Market Place and sponsorship by the Eastern States marketing company for Aussie Loans which could lead to future business from other companies they represent. The KCR website is now sponsored by Benchmark Consultants and sponsors are being sought for other internet costs including streaming and podcasts. KCR has received excellent feedback from our sponsors.

Income from sponsorship increased 635% to \$8,830 from \$1,195 in the previous financial year.

## **Technical**

Many technical improvements have been put in place during the past year.

- After considerable negotiations and overcoming many technical issues, KCR finally managed to get connected to the NBN and the link between the Studio and the Transmitter is now as secure as possible using such a connection, which will never

provide 100% reliability. The modem in use provides the Studio with automatic switchover to the 4G Network should the NBN go down.

- A network server has been installed to centralise the storage of data, music, and sweeps. This will also enable Presenters to upload programs remotely to be scheduled for broadcast by KCR volunteers.
- A \$2,000 grant was obtained from Bendigo Bank which has been used to replace all the Stations old, second-hand computers with new micro-computers. These have enabled the Sweeps System to be upgraded to a user-friendly program which means that the duplication of sweeps, etc. on minidisks has now ended.
- Work is underway to setup a new Standby music system with updated tracks and appropriate scheduling.
- A grant of \$5,500 from the CBAA's COVID Crisis Fund was used to install a new transmitter when the old one was damaged by a lightning strike.
- The existing KCR website was given a new look with much more information about KCR's Programs and Presenters. Latest news is provided about forthcoming events and programs.
- Ongoing negotiations with the City of Kalamunda for KCR to use two additional rooms at the Gooseberry Hill Hall complex continue. This will enable the construction of two, much larger, identical studios and allow KCR to bring into use new Broadcast Desks that we already own. Facilities will be available for improved live broadcasts from the Studios and much better production facilities. Setting this up will involve considerable work by KCR volunteers. A grant will be sought to cover the cost of the setup.
- Negotiations are also in hand to replace the existing 20 metre transmission mast with a 40 metre one which will considerably improve KCR's coverage and enable the Station to meet a requirement from ACMA to move to a broadcast frequency of 88.9 Mhz. A grant will be needed for this as well.
- KCR's technical expertise was contracted to Voice Of The Avon YORK FM to instal, commission and train users in the operation of Tieline's ViA Outside Broadcast unit (the same as KCR uses) with a \$700 revenue return to KCR.

## **2020-2021 Committee of Management**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Harry Nijsen
<b>Vice-Chairperson and Sales</b>	Terry Duke
<b>Secretary</b>	Roger Jennings
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Nicol
<b>Programming and Training</b>	David Lazaro
<b>Technical</b>	Lindsay Morris
<b>Other Members</b>	Dave Panton
	Jeff Varcoe
	Max Williams

Among the issues that the Committee dealt with was rewriting the Rule of the Association to conform with the requirements of the Western Australia Department of Commerce. In the coming year, the Committee of Management will need to prepare for the renewal of KCR's licence at the start of 2022.

As Chairperson I, along with all members of the Committee of Management, would like to thank all the KCR Presenters and Volunteers who have brought the Station through the past, very difficult, year and look forward to their support and that of all KCR Members in the coming year, and into the future.

**Harry Nijsen (Chairperson, KCR Committee of Management) - March 2021**