



Kalamunda Community Radio (Inc.)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023

March 2023

KCR 102.5 FM acknowledges its programs are broadcast from Whadjuck Country
with studios in Gooseberry Hill
The Members of KCR convey their respect to Elders past, present and emerging

Introduction

This Report (formerly known as the Chairperson's Report) covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. Despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic which was at its height in WA earlier in the year, KCR has had a successful year in several areas – our Licence has been renewed for a further five years; considerable progress has been made towards the construction and fit out of two new Studios; a solar panel system with battery backup to enable KCR to be almost entirely “off grid” is now up and running; discussions have begun on how best KCR can accommodate the Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA) intention to reorganise the FM spectrum in the Perth Metropolitan area; a new website has been launched; and our Facebook page has been rejuvenated. All of these are described later in this Report.

Renewal of KCR's Broadcast Licence

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report, the process for the renewal of our broadcast licence issued by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is complex and involved input from many people within KCR. I am pleased to report that the licence has been renewed for a further five years from 28 February 2023. By the next renewal KCR will have been broadcasting for approaching 30 years.

The only area which ACMA asked us to address in the coming year was regarding membership. We have been aware for several years that our membership base is too small and, indeed, seems to be falling. We agree with ACMA's request that we need to increase our membership urgently and we will be running a membership drive later in 2023. This was to have happened in 2020 but the COVID-19 Pandemic prevented this. ACMA also wants us to make membership application easier and more transparent. We have already done away with the requirement for new members to be sponsored by two existing members. In addition, although it is normal for Associations in WA not to give prospective members who are declined the reason behind this, KCR expects to amend its Constitution to provide reasons, and a mechanism for appeal. This conforms with the general process in the Eastern States.

Establishing New Facilities at the Ledger Road Studios

As described in the 2021/22 Annual Report, the City of Kalamunda offered KCR the use of the Meeting Room opposite the existing Studio complex to convert into two new studios. Negotiations with the City over the best way to do this proved to be much more complex and time consuming than expected. The solutions finally agreed were more expensive than KCR would have wished, and the start of work was delayed until late 2022. However, the building and electrical work, painting, and carpet installation were all completed by the start of 2023. In the meantime, a great deal of preliminary work on the new studio desks and computer network was undertaken. It is now expected training on the use of the desks by Presenters will begin after Easter and live broadcasting from the new studios will start mid-2023.

The installation of solar panels with battery backup, mainly paid for by a Federal Government Grant, was also delayed by other negotiations with the City of Kalamunda but these were satisfactorily concluded in late 2022 and the system is now already partially in use. Once the new studios are fully operational, they will be powered virtually entirely from the solar system 24 hours a day. The computer network will be similarly powered. There is also a fall-back facility should the NBN go down. We will be able to continue to broadcast even in the event of disruption caused by a bush fire. Should there be a problem at our transmitter our streaming service on the internet will still be operational. There will also be a considerable reduction in KCR's electricity bills. We understand that KCR may be unique amongst Community Radio Stations in Australia with this facility.

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report, taking into account the Grants, the value of equipment that will be brought into use, and the considerable volunteer hours by KCR volunteers, the value of this project is now at least \$80,000. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated work of KCR volunteers in particular Lindsay Morris who spent many hours navigating the multitudinous bureaucratic issues and, along with Harry Nijssen, applied their considerable technical skills.

Installing a New Transmission Mast and Housing for the Transmitter at the 2 Railway Road Site and a Move to 88.9 FM Broadcast Frequency

The staff at the City of Kalamunda were very helpful in dealing with Landgate and successfully secured for us the block of land where the current Transmission Tower and equipment are located. The ACMA is almost certainly about to reorganise the FM broadcast spectrum in the Perth Metropolitan Area and allocate our 102.5 FM frequency to the ABC who want to move their existing AM stations to the FM wave band. This will require KCR to move to the lower end of the band at 88.9 FM.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic we understood from ACMA that if we were to make this move voluntarily, we would be allowed to increase our tower from 20 meters to 40 meters and our broadcast power to 500 watts. The population of our Licence Area Plan (LAP) is over 222,000 in an area of about 275 sqkm but due to the local topography our signal is unable to penetrate into many areas. An increase in tower height and power would alleviate much of this. However, in the ensuing years with staff changes at ACMA this decision seems to have been lost and KCR is working to restore it. The cost of such a project is likely to be over \$70,000 and KCR would need to seek grant funding for this.

KCR has been in discussions with the ABC about this change. Not surprisingly they would not be willing to assist with cost of such an upgrade, however, there is more likely to be some success with assistance to advertise and promote the change of frequency since this is something they will need to do for themselves.

KCR Website and Facebook Page

Both of these received major makeovers during the past year. We are grateful to Jon Elbury of Fortunegreen for all his work on the new website and to Kerry Gubb who has become the Webmaster. The Domain name remains the same – kcr-fm.org.au – but the layout has been completely updated. Now changes to reflect new or altered programs, new presenters and latest news can easily be completed by KCR volunteers. The number of people who listen to KCR by streaming on the internet, either directly from our website or using one of the radio streaming Apps, continues to grow, and several presenters have regular listeners in the Eastern States or overseas.

Justin Stevens has worked throughout the year to revitalise KCR's Facebook page and to keep it up to date with the result that KCR now has nearly 300 followers.

Continuing Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

KCR continues to comply with all State of Western Australia and Federal Government Regulations on COVID-19. State and Federal Government COVID-19 Safety and Vaccination messages have continued to be broadcast as appropriate.

Membership and Volunteers

Membership of the Association has fallen during the past year. After KCR was unable to conduct a proposed membership drive in 2020, it was hoped to be able to do this during 2022 but preparations for the new studio and the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic meant this had to be postponed again. It is hoped to now do this in late 2023. KCR currently has 38 Presenters and a further 5 volunteers. At a conservative estimate, they contributed at least 10,000 hours to the Station during the past year. Using recognised figures, this represents well over \$350,000 worth of labour.

Sadly, one of the long-standing members of KCR and previous member of the Committee of Management, Neil Mackay, always known as Macka, passed away in 2022. One of his past programs was replayed in early 2023 as a tribute.

Programming

There are live programs from 7.00 am to at least 10.00 pm weekdays, 7.00 am to 8.00 pm Saturdays, and 6.00 am to 11.00 pm Sundays. We understand that few other community radio stations in Australia are achieving this level of live broadcasting. Most are using programs from the Community Radio Network (CRN) or stand-by music.

Programs cover a full range of music genres. In addition, there are programs with live interviews of relevance to our broadcast area and programs aimed at the local Sudanese, Sri Lankan, and Jewish Communities along with a program covering Egyptian music and Arabic cuisine. The National Radio News is broadcast on the hour from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm weekdays (5.00 pm in winter) and until 10.00 am at weekends (11.00 am in winter). The WA News is broadcast once each weekday afternoon. KCR is one of only three community stations in Perth who provide a news service. All are much larger than us.

There were two major milestones during the past year with Ossie Schokman presenting the one thousandth edition of his Sunday afternoon show, *With a Song in my Heart*, which is very much appreciated by all those in nursing homes around Perth. Harry Nijsen presented the nine hundredth edition of his Friday morning show, *Anything Goes*.

Several presenters have live interviews on their programs covering a very wide range of subjects. A summary of these is given at the end of this Report.

Outside Broadcasts

KCR has been involved throughout the year with a range of outside broadcasts of community events with the active involvement of members of the organisations concerned.

A broadcast from the annual Classic Cars Show at Ascot Racecourse took place again this year with KCR providing both the program live-to-air and to the spectators present. Interviews with local classic car enthusiasts took place throughout the five-hour broadcast. This event attracted a large crowd who were able to interact with KCR personnel.

Other outside broadcasts which took place include the local Men's Shed Open Day, the Hills Billy Cart Festival for local youth, Have-a-Go Day, the Machinery Preservation Group, and the Darling Range Hub. All of these were very well received.

This year's live broadcast from the Annual Carols by Candlelight event from Kalamunda's Stirk Park was most successful. There were several thousand local people present on an ideal

summer's evening. To cater for those who were unable to be present or listen to the broadcast on the day, the Station re-broadcast the event on Christmas Day morning as it has done for over 25 years.

Live Folk Groups continued performing in the KCR Studios on some Wednesday evenings. Live broadcasts from the KCR Studios will be much easier once the new Studios come into use. It is hoped to expand these in the future and to enable music groups to make recordings off-air.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship continues to form an important part of KCR's income. A list of those who have supported us throughout the year is given at the end of this report. Moreover, KCR is always looking for new sponsors and we encourage all members of KCR to help us to find more support in this area.

Technical

Fortunately, the current studio/transmitter setup has only experienced one major issue – an intermittent problem with the new transmitter purchased in 2020. The unit was returned to the manufacturer for service, and on its return, the opportunity was taken to optimise the transmission settings.

This has enabled considerable work to be undertaken with the setup of the new desks, the updating of the computer network, and the installation of the solar/battery off-grid system. So far Lindsay Morris, Harry Nijssen and Kerry Gubb have spent over 1,000 hours of volunteer time to establish the best possible broadcast environment for the Station. Much more time will need to be spent before the new Studios go live in about mid-year.

All Presenters will need to be trained in the use of the new Studios. There will inevitably be some teething problems, and everybody needs to recognise this. However, considerable time and effort is going into make the transition as smooth as possible.

2022-2023 Committee of Management

Chairperson	Roger Jennings
Vice-Chairperson	Harry Nijssen
Secretary	Julie Evans
Treasurer	Graham Nicol
Programming and Training	David Lazaro
Sales	Terry Duke
Technical	Lindsay Morris
Promotion and Policy	Justin Stevens (until August 2022)

The Committee of Management has been able to address successfully all the issues that have arisen in the past year. Throughout the year the existing Policy Documents have been kept under review and new ones created as required.

As Chairperson I, along with all members of the Committee of Management, are pleased with the way the Station has grown over the past three years despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of this has been due to the dedication of all the Presenters and Volunteers.

There are some concerns about the uncertainty regarding a possible change of frequency and the need for KCR to grow its membership base, but the Station is still in a strong position for the coming year and thereafter.

Roger Jennings (Chairperson, KCR Committee of Management) - March 2023

KCR wishes to acknowledge the support it has received from the following organisations:



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Appendix 1

Interviews and Reviews in 2022/23

The majority of these took place on the *Noonday Carousel* Monday midday program presented by Julie Evans, *Hodson Sods* presented on Friday evenings by Dave Hodson, and *Around the Bend* with Terry Duke and Justin Stevens on Saturday mornings. The range of items covered was extensive and varied.

- 37 individual movie and theatre reviews along with interviews with guests and playwrights



- 21 reviews of novels
- Weekly storytelling and around 50 poetry readings
- Bi-weekly wine and cooking segments
- Interviews with local politicians
- Sporting Clubs, and Community and Volunteer Groups
- Local Bands including the Black Chooks, a harp playing busker, Kalamunda Ukulele Band, performers at Perth Hills Live Music Association
- Local Infrastructure Projects including the Roe Highway/Kalamunda interchange and the new High Wycombe Station
- Weekly motoring interviews on Saturday mornings and at the Ascot Classic Car Show



Carols in Stirk Park 2022



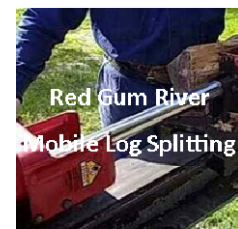
- At Outside Broadcasts including Carols in Stirk Park and Have-a-Go Day



Have-a-Go Day 2022

Appendix 2

KCR's Sponsors During 2022/23



© 2023 - Kalamunda Community Radio (Inc.) – KCR 102.5 FM
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