



**Kalamunda Community Radio (Inc.)**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2023-2024**

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

© 2024 - Kalamunda Community Radio (Inc.) – KCR 102.5 FM  
Studios: 42 Ledger Road, Gooseberry Hill, WA 6076  
Postal Address: PO Box 916, Kalamunda, WA 6926  
E-mail: [kcradmin@kcr-fm.org.au](mailto:kcradmin@kcr-fm.org.au)  
Website: <https://www.kcr-fm.org.au>  
ABN: 82 420 569 327

## Introduction

This Report (formerly known as the Chairperson's Report) covers the period from April 2023 to March 2024. The major event during this period was the completion of the new Studios within the Gooseberry Hill Hall, a really outstanding achievement for the Station. The negotiations with the Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA), and with the ABC about changing KCR's broadcast frequency from 102.5 FM to 88.9 FM also consumed a considerable amount of time for the limited volunteers that the Station has.

## Opening of the New Facilities at the Ledger Road Studios

The background to this was described in last year's Annual Report at which point the Studios had reached the point where they were ready for the complex installation of the new desks with their associated equipment - CD players, turntables, computers and network, hundreds of metres of wiring. A completely new equipment rack with associated switching gear was constructed and brought into use.

Following extensive testing an official launch was held on 23 November 2023 with the ribbon cutting carried out by the Hon Mathew Hughes, MLA in the presence of about 50 guests from the City of Kalamunda, representatives of local organisations, our major sponsors, presenters, volunteers, and members. The rooms KCR occupy are located within the Gooseberry Hill Hall at the Ledger Road Reserve. This Hall was built by public subscription in 1984 for the use of local residents and we were pleased that two of the original advocates for the construction of the building, Marian and Terry Rolfe, were present to see that it is still being actively used for benefit of the City of Kalamunda residents.

KCR received its first experimental broadcast licence over 25 years ago in 1997 and now has Studios that rival some of those in the public sector. As mentioned in last year's Annual Report, taking into account the grants, the value of equipment that has been brought into use, and the considerable volunteer hours by KCR volunteers, the value of this project has exceeded \$80,000, no mean feat for such a small, community station. 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.



Matthew Hughes and KCR Chair, Roger Jennings addressing the guests



Matthew Hughes starts the first live broadcast from the new Studios whilst the Vice-chair, Harry Nijssen looks on



The new Studios are light and airy and look out over the Ledger Road Reserve through sound-proof windows

With the old studio and associate equipment coming to the end of its useful life after many years of continuous service, the KCR Committee of Management decided that a rapid move to the new facilities was needed. Basic training on the new equipment was given to all Presenters and from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December all broadcasts have taken place from the new Studios.

With the excellent cooperation of all KCR's presenters this bold move has paid off with only a very few minor glitches which were easily overcome.

The Committee of Management thanks everybody who has made this possible. KCR is now set for the foreseeable future.

## Moving to 88.9 FM Broadcast Frequency

As discussed in last year's Annual Report, the reorganisation by the ACMA of the FM broadcast spectrum in the Perth area to accommodate the ABC's transition from AM to FM broadcast will require KCR to change frequency from 102.5 FM to 88.9 FM. Several discussions took place between KCR, the ABC, and Broadcast Australia, (the ABC's Technical Consultants), with advice from the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA), to try to ensure that not only would KCR not be disadvantaged by this move but gain some benefit.

KCR currently broadcasts with a power of 200 watts on a 20-metre tower. Whilst our transmission can be heard up and down the coast from Mandurah to Quinns Rocks and beyond, we struggle to be heard within our Licence Area Plan, particularly in those suburbs such as Lesmurdie which is shielded by the scarp. This problem would be considerably alleviated if the ACMA granted us permission to broadcast at 500 watts on a 40-metre tower with circular polarisation. When the move from 102.5 FM to 88.9 FM was first proposed by the ACMA in 2019, KCR was given to understand that this would be allowed. However, with changes at the ACMA following the COVID-19 epidemic that decision was lost.

KCR has attempted to restore this decision, and our request formed part of an overall submission to the ACMA in mid-December 2023 made by the ABC on our behalf. A decision by the ACMA is expected just after Easter. There then needs to be a 4-week public consultation period which is expected to concentrate on the ABC's proposals with KCR's proposal unlikely to come under scrutiny. In the meantime, Broadcast Australia have been carrying out preliminary inspections for KCR's frequency move. They will provide and install an appropriate antenna on our existing tower and a second, portable transmitter to enable us to simulcast our programs on both frequencies for about four weeks. This will be followed by transmission of an information message on 102.5 FM directing listeners to the new frequency. If all goes to plan, this is likely to begin in mid-June.

Making such a move will require a considerable amount of targeted advertising. There will also be a need to re-record all the KCR message sweeps and announcements. The opportunity is already being taken to refresh all of these. The ABC will be assisting us with both of these.



## KCR's Presence in the Digital World

The new KCR website continues to be updated regularly by our Webmaster, Kerry Gubb, and our presence on Facebook is growing steadily thanks to the continuous updating by Justin Stevens. Weekly posts reach over 20,000 users each year with a 42% increase in net followers to 420. There is a roughly equal distribution between men and women with the 65+ age group predominately women and the 45-54 age group predominately men. The KCR Instagram account will be re-launched later in 2024 to coincide with the change in frequency.

Many listeners now use our streaming service which is available not only from our website but by using the new CBAA Community Plus phone app and other international apps.

## Membership and Volunteers

KCR continues to struggle to recruit new members and several of our previous members have not renewed their membership. We currently have 30 Presenters and eight other volunteers from a total membership of 60. So much time has been taken up with both the completion of the new studios and the preparation for the change in frequency that we have not been able to have a membership drive. Hopefully, this will be possible during the coming year.

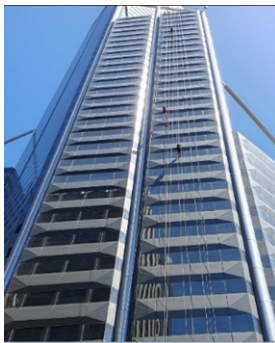
Sadly, Norman Campbell, a founder member of KCR, and Richard Saunders, a long-time member, passed away in April and October 2023 respectively.

At a conservative estimate, our Presenters and other volunteers 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.

## Programming

KCR Presenters broadcast live programs from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm on weekdays, 7.00 am to 6.00 pm Saturdays, and 6.00 am to 9.00 pm Sundays. This is more than half our broadcast output which few community radio stations of our size around Australia achieve.

Our programs still cover a full range of music genres. In addition, there are programs with live interviews of relevance to our broadcast area. A summary of these is given at the end of this Report. In addition, there is a program aimed at the local Jewish Communities along with a program covering Egyptian music and Arabic cuisine. The News from an independent supplier, Airnews, continues to be broadcast on the hour from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm weekdays and two-hourly thereafter. The WA News is broadcast once each weekday afternoon. Only two other community stations in Perth provide a news service, both much larger than us.



More than 75 Community Service Announcements (CSAs) have been produced in the past year for announcers to read out. Audio CSAs were broadcast regularly to publicise amongst others, the Hash House Harriers, Mundaring Folk Club, Perth Hills Live Music Association, Kalamunda Circle Dancing, Kalamunda Historical Society, Parkrun. Of particular note was the \$8,000 raised for Guide Dogs by Dave Hodson, the

presenter of the Friday evening show, *Hodson Sods*, by abseiling down Central Park (a Perth CBD office building) in October 2023.



## Outside Broadcasts (OBs)

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 on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 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.



View of the  
Racetrack at the  
Festival of Speed

A new motoring OB was from the Festival of Speed at Carco Raceway on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This was highly successful with the weekly *Round the Bend* program broadcast live from the event. It is hoped that this event will happen annually with KCR participating.



Lindsay Morris, Peter Baillie,  
and Dave Hodson  
at the Men's Shed

There were OBs from Kalamunda Men's Shed and the Kalamunda Show. As usual Stirk Park Carols was broadcast live in December, with an edited version re-broadcast on Christmas morning.

The larger of our new Studios is big enough to comfortably accommodate live groups. Considerable planning has been going on for the past six months for a live event, Hillstock, which will be taking place at the Kalamunda Club on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This is being organised by Mark Philips, the presenter of the Tuesday evening show, *The Mixtape*. Some of groups performing are able to come into the Studios to preview their music in the coming weeks. The event will be broadcast live. It's set to be a really fun night, and it's really raised the profile of the station in the wider Perth music community, particularly on social media, which is where we have been directing the majority of our marketing. Four of the six artists playing the event are Perth Hills based acts.



## Sponsorship



As with all small community radio stations, 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 and we thank them for their continued support. 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

All the massive technical input required to set up the new Studios has been described earlier.



There were few major technical issues during the year apart from a failure of the main cable feeding the antenna on our tower in late December which took us off air for several days. It appears that a lightning strike over two years ago had damaged the connection and in the very high winds that were being experienced at that time it finally broke. A delicate re-connection by Lindsay Morris and Harry Nijssen on top of a cherry picker was required to put us back on air.



Our solar panel/storage battery system is now fully operational. This enable us to operate essentially “off-grid” so that not only can we continue to broadcast in the event of a power failure but our electricity bills are considerably reduced.

As part of the Studios installation a new computerised Weekly Log Program was introduced. This was devised by one of KCR’s members, Peter Meinema, and not only does away with the need for paper copies but provides an accurate count of sponsorship messages played which in turn can be reported to our sponsors.

### 2023-2024 Committee of Management (at 31 March 2024)

<b>Chairperson</b>	Roger Jennings
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Harry Nijssen
<b>Secretary</b>	Julie Evans
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Nicol
<b>CSAs and Grants</b>	Peter Baillie
<b>Sales</b>	Terry Duke
<b>Technical</b>	Lindsay Morris
<b>Training and Broadcast Quality</b>	Justin Stevens

In July 2023 David Lazaro and Glen Wallace resigned from the Committee and Peter Baillie and Justin Stevens were co-opted to take their places.

I would like to thank all those who have been members of the Committee during the past year for the dedicated work they have put into keeping the Station running and for helping to build KCR into an important contributor to the lives of the residents of our Licence Area Plan – The Cities of Kalamunda, Belmont, Bayswater, the Town of Bassendean, and Midland in the City of Swan.

I also thank all the Presenters, Volunteers, and others for their valuable contributions.

The coming year will involve some changes as we move to 88.9 FM but I’m confident KCR will continue to grow and be strong into the future.

**Roger Jennings (Chairperson, KCR Committee of Management) – March 2024**

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



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



KALAMUNDA  
AND DISTRICTS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



COMMUNITY  
BROADCASTING  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN  
MUSIC  
RADIO  
AIRPLAY  
PROJECT

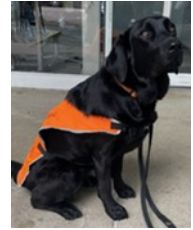




## Interviews and Reviews in 2023/24

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, *Around the Bend* with Terry Duke and Justin Stevens on Saturday mornings and *Mixtape* with Mark Phillips on Tuesday evenings. The range of items covered was extensive and varied.

There have been 24 guests on Dave Hodson's show *Hodson Sods*, who regularly choose up to half the music. They have ranged in age from 13 to 85 years of age and include regular visits from trainee Guide Dogs to assist in socialising. Dave also takes requests from around the world.

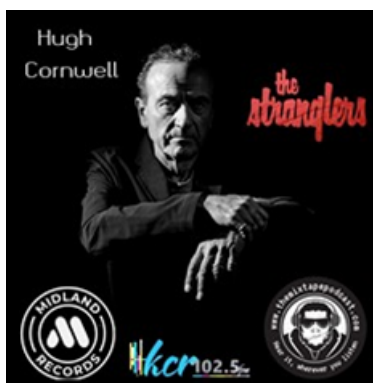


On *Noonday Carousel* there have been fourteen interviews with theatre directors and twenty-four book and movie reviews, both mainstream and art-house. Ten interviews covered a wide range of different topics from the consequences of stroke and prostate cancer to education at the Kalamunda Community Learning Centre, and the City of Kalamunda Public Library system. There are frequent segments about wine and wine making.

Each week there is story telling by Irene Rowe, reading of poetry from world-wide established poets by L DePeras and P Jeffery. Of particular note has been interviews and readings with the following poets:

Andrew Burke, L. J. Christensen  
Jo Clark, Fran Graham  
P Jeffery, Lakshmi Kanchi,  
Geoffrey Lillburne, Virginia O'Keefe  
Anshu Pande, G.Di Piazza  
Rose Van Son

Fran Graham  
reading her own  
poetry



On the *Mixtape*, Mark Phillips interviewed 26 Local Perth artists and 21 international and interstate artists who cover a wide range of genres - Big Beat, Metal, Hardcore, Pop, Rock, Indie, Blues, Country, Spoken Word and Poetry, Comedy, and Folk





## KCR's Sponsors During 2023 and 2024

