

2EAR FM President's Report 2011 – AGM 26 November 2011.

Thank you for your attendance.

The past twelve months have been anything but boring and mundane, both behind the scenes and on the air.

Unfortunately we have lost some presenters – we farewelled Lee Finch at the beginning of this year, another victim of the BIG C. Work commitments, family circumstances and other personal issues meant that we lost 'Texas' Dave McGarry (a veteran of twenty five years), Norm Tongue, Fran Dunn and Tony Wood. We all hope that their circumstances may change and that they'll be able to return to 2 EAR FM. We have a number of new presenters who have added their own pizzazz to our program lineup and I bid them, formally, a very warm welcome.

Your seven person Management Committee elected at last year's Annual General Meeting thinned in the second half of the year. Tim Burke took on Sydney based work to be closer to his ailing elderly mother which meant he was unable to make a number of our meetings. Tim remained in touch via the phone and e-mail and contributed to the direction of the radio station. Unfortunately his mother died last week and we send our condolences. Tim is positive and advises that without that tie to Sydney, he hopes to be back in the area and on the air in the New Year.

Another member of the Management Committee was lost to us following an on air transgression in May this year. This member was suspended from all 2 EAR FM duties, and subsequently expelled from Eurobodalla Access Radio Incorporated last month. That former member has threatened legal action and I propose not to comment any further in that regard, at this time.

Your remaining committee has worked diligently – the prevailing circumstances have required it. Vice President Kathy Shields seems ever present. Our Treasurer Michael Bryant continues to produce good financials – thank you for both the good figures and your efforts. Secretary Sue Mitchell, along with Alan our Principal Trainer, Minute taker and general factotum, are never further than a phone call away if they're not on the Station's premises – a big thank you for a tremendous effort. As I said in my nomination spiel I consider the 2011 Management Committee has performed well. I mentioned that all decisions had been unanimous or reached by consensus – on reflection, as President, I was not required to call for a vote on any item.

It is pleasing to report that membership, sponsorship and we believe, audience, have all grown during the year. These are the results of hard work by those members, presenters and committee members who never let a chance go by to PLUG the radio station.

There have been a number of individuals who have gone the extra yard, make that *yards* plural, to help the radio station. A couple of old stagers warrant a big mention, taking on additional broadcast shifts and additional duties. Max Tickner has been a treasure in that regard and then for good measure he provided lawn mowing services. Kaye Shephard an OAM recipient in the 2011 Queens Birthday Honours list, congratulations, has taken a number of additional on air shifts as have Kathy Shields,

Alan and Sue Mitchell, Evelyn Miles and Cherie Hall who has taken on Norm Tongue's former Saturday morning 6am Country Kickoff program in addition to the many housekeeping duties she performs. Thanks to my radio buddy Paul Israel for assuming extra duties in Training and Production roles, not to mention as Webmaster. Thanks to the Jaksic brothers who undertook renovation work in the Station's bathroom area and to Steve Shields who keeps being roped into various projects. To Michael Bryant who is our valued bean counter and Invoice distributor and to Trish and Wal Gotovac who help in the office and with sponsorship, thank you.

Throughout the year in our newsletter I have reported on progress towards refurbishment of our studios and shared with you the frustration occasioned by power blackouts at Mt Wanderer. Then there was the period when we had two of our three transmitters out of action, not to mention problems in the re-commissioning of Studio B to broadcast capability. Our technical team of Nick Schirmer and visiting Techo David Bradford, led by Alan Mitchell have been tested. You'll hear more about it in the technical sub-committee report.

One matter that does concern the Management Committee is a propensity for the spread of misinformation in some quarters about goings on at the radio station. Be it by un-official web sites or Facebook, or other *ethereal* means, it is unnecessary and unhelpful. Your Management Committee has enough to do without chasing after bushfires. On applying to be a member of 2EAR FM we all agreed to be bound by the Rules of Association for the time being in force. Our Code of Conduct states (amongst other things):

All members of Eurobodalla Access Radio Incorporated are expected to maintain a standard of conduct that will uphold or enhance the Association's reputation.

On a personal note, I often have difficulty with anyone starting off with the almost self-righteous line *I'm a volunteer* and going on to list various difficulties or perceptions. We are all volunteers, we all volunteered to become members, some of us even volunteered to accept nomination for committee. Please don't sit back and whinge if something grates with you, come forward with a potential fix, and give us a hand to achieve it OR nominate yourself for a sub-committee or working group, or dare I say it, the Management Committee next time round. We need 100% positivity.

On that note let me share with you something that is 100% positive and that we should all celebrate and be proud of - it's the culmination of a big effort by Sue and Alan Mitchell and the outgoing Management Committee - I'm pleased to display a letter from the Australian Communications and Media Authority enclosing a Broadcasting Services Bands Licence to Eurobodalla Access Radio Inc. - the commencement date is 4th December 2011, with an expiry date of 3rd December 2016.

Thus the new Management Committee elected today will commence with a new, unqualified licence to broadcast for five years, and with generally new and upgraded studio and transmitter equipment, and cash in the bank. Good luck to them.

Anthony Groube