



Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Inc

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April, 2012 - Well it has been some time since the last CBAV newsletter – but that is not to say that the organisation has been inactive; far from it in fact with the new CBAV committee working feverishly on a number of fronts. We hope to bring you up to date with what has been going on.

CBAV Committee

At the last AGM late in 2011, the new committee was elected and this resulted in some new committee members and a change in the leadership team as well. The committee now comprises the following:

President Ken Thompson – from 3GCR in Morwell

Secretary Chris Zerafa – from 3NOW in Hadfield

Treasurer Emma Johnson – from 3MDR in Emerald

Public Officer John Worcester – from 3MBS / 3WBC

Committee Members

Eugene O'Rourke (3ZZZ / 3WBC), Mark Perrott (non metro 3OKR Kilmore), Heidi Tobin (non metro KLFM Bendigo), Mike Tobin (non metro KLFM Bendigo) and Ania Zamecznik (3ZZZ).

As you can observe, the committee represents a good cross section of both metro and rural community broadcasters and also has diversity through a good blend of youth and experience to serve the interests of Victorian based community broadcasters.

CBAV Committee Meetings

The committee is meeting regularly and is holding such meetings at member station venues to enhance the opportunity for members to access the committee and provide input to their specific issues and challenges. The

committee has already met at two stations this year and if your station is happy to host a meeting of the CBAV committee, then let President Ken Thompson (0408 513 386) or Secretary Chris Zerafa (0418 104 058) know. We will be happy to make time available for dialogue with you.

Strategic Plan

Over the years, the CBAV has generally provided workshops and networking opportunities for Victorian based community broadcasters. Whilst the new CBAV committee is happy to pursue this approach generally, the committee has resolved to work in more creative and collaborative areas to further the interests of CBAV members and the sector in general. Examples of this include the pooling of ideas and projects under the Be Heard youth project, the world record attempt on playing the same song at the same time on the most number of stations (to promote youth and community broadcasting) and the preparation of a campaign for road safety. More on these projects later in this newsletter.

Importantly, the CBAV committee wants to better identify the needs of Victorian community

broadcasters and then craft its activities to meet those needs. Notably, the CBAV does not wish to compete with other groups, but rather complement the work of the CBAA and provide a focus and “vehicles of opportunity” for Victorian community broadcasters.

A survey questionnaire will be circulated soon to capture your feedback on issues you would like to see the CBAV pursue; the CBAV is keen to include your input in its planning. The CBAV is proposing to run a workshop around the middle of this year – building on the very successful workshops held in 2011 at Bendigo and Drouin. The focus will be on strategic and business planning to assist with the ACMA B66 compliance, however the CBAV wants to hear from you on this and other matters you consider worthy of inclusion.

New Website For CBAV

Emma Johnson has undertaken a power of work in re-developing the CBAV website. Whilst there will be further enhancements over time, please check out the new site at www.cbav.org.au - if you have any comments let us know what you think.

Be Heard Project

Mark Perrott is leading the CBAV co-ordination of the

project, ably supported by Emma Johnson and Chris Zerafa. There are ten Victorian stations involved in the project and whilst each are undertaking differing activities, it has been a fantastic encouragement to those who are participating in the CBAV networking, where the sharing of ideas and projects is shaping the outcomes.

Road Safety Initiative

A number of community stations have expressed concerns about road safety and despite mainstream media being used by government agencies to spread the message, it is felt that community broadcasters can also play a significant role in influencing driver behaviour. The CBAV is working on a project to encourage stations to produce Community Service Announcements to assist in an improvement on our roads.

World Radio Day

In case you missed it, the 13th February was World Radio Day and to promote the role of community broadcasting, Lyn Wells of 3BBR (Drouin) and CBAV President Ken Thompson were interviewed on ABC Gippsland. It was a good to showcase the community sector in this way and the CBAV is much appreciative of the support of the ABC in providing this opportunity.

Back To The Future?

With the advances in technology in recent years and the convenience and ease of use (for most) with CD's and Ipods, it is extremely interesting to note the re-emergence of the vinyl record which once was the

cornerstone of our music broadcasting. There has been a number of recent press articles noting that recording and publishing of music on records is making a return.

The advent of the digital technology and the introduction of the compact disc (CD) revolutionised the way in which we listened to music, particularly in the motor vehicle where cassettes and cartridges were the only practical option but were much inferior in sound quality of the vinyl record or the CD. For broadcasters, the CD has been a godsend with its ease of use in the studio and the ability to observe the time remaining on any particular item being presented.

However, is the sound from digital technology really better than the vinyl record it has replaced, Well according to one approach being taken by a Melbourne recording studio, the answer is a resounding no! Audiophile record label and home sound consultancy Live @BakerStreet is specialising in making recordings direct to vinyl; in other words this process does not use the traditional taping or recording digitally of many tracks to be mixed down to the two stereo tracks, but rather the recording is directly captured by the disc cutting lathe from which the vinyl record is produced, thereby enhancing the quality of the sound. Direct to disc (vinyl) recording is not new; in fact it has been around for decades and these records were often the ones played in the Hi-Fi shops to demonstrate the latest sound equipment,

which you could not seem to reproduce when you got the system home (because you only had normally produced records).

What is interesting though is that the often maligned vinyl record based on the analog approach actually provides a more accurate outline of the sound spectrum, whilst digital recording only takes a precise sample of the sounds. Digital recording is often a lesser representation of the sound than that achieved by analog, despite the fact that vinyl often comes with some imperfections (as the analog recording reproduces everything including the impurities) that often give character to the music. Digital formats such as MP3 require data to be compressed to reduce file size to allow data to be more easily transported, but this is done at the expense of sound quality. Whilst the differences between analog and digital may not be noticeable when music is heard through headphones, the difference can be obvious when delivered through a good sound system. This is where the vinyl record comes into its own and there is no question that the record can produce more warmth and ambience by comparison to the more sterile and clinical sound from the digital process.

So when was the last time you heard a vinyl record on a good sound system. Food for thought when broadcasting, especially when technology change usually means never going back to the old ways.