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NEWSLETTER: May 2020

## EDITORIAL

It's a bumper issue this month. Just shows what gets done when we have the time. Many of us are still presenting shows in our usual spots and we also have a number who are presenting from home. Thanks to those who are sharing their experience with us in this newsletter.

A big thanks to Ross for supplying masks and hand sanitiser  
*Leonie*

## CHAIRLADY'S REPORT

I hope this report finds you and your families well as we continue to navigate our way through these unprecedented times.

Whilst it was not possible for our last general meeting, it is great that we are almost back to our normal way of meeting. This might not be the case for our next meeting, but we will cross that bridge when we come to it. Please consider attending as part of your commitment to Alive 90.5.

We were lucky enough to not have to close our doors to on-air presenting, but needed to take all the precautions, which I'm please to say we did. I'd like to thank all the presenters for cooperating with us as we navigated our way over the past 2 months as per the Federal Government direction on Monday the 23rd of March to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Rest assured the health and wellbeing of our presenter, members and guests will be our highest priority when we get back to normal practices, and we will have numerous additional measures in place for the safety of you, your family and friends

I have been in constant consultation with our key business partners to ensure we can remain financial whilst on air and when given the green light by the Federal Government, State Government and the NSW Health Department to open up completely, that we remain financial, moving forward.

During CoVID-19 we have become "digital natives". I have personally downloaded the APP and encourage you and our members to do likewise. The app offers a simple and practical way for each of us to help prevent further outbreaks. We have been fortunate to have no outbreaks or cases of the virus at the Alive 90.5 radio station.

We are pleased to let you know that with restrictions being lifted, **we are allowing 3 people in the studio.** Please continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands, sanitize and DO NOT cough into the microphones.

A Big thanks for your loyalty, support and understanding throughout this time.

With only 3 months to the AGM, please consider whether you

would like to be part of the board of Alive 90.5. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th August 2020.

**Gillian Schrickker – Chairlady**

## SPONSORSHIP

There has been a drop in income during this time, but hopefully our sponsors will bounce back and continue to support Alive 90.5

I will be contacting more businesses, especially those who have had opportunities to showcase their businesses on Alive 90.5

## GRANTS

There are 2 grant applications in the pipeline. As sponsorship has dropped it is important that we find ourselves on the other end of COVID-19 in a better financial position. Thank you to the board members for always thinking outside the box when making these applications. With the assistance of an external source we are quietly confident these applications will be successful.

## CAN YOU BEAT 26 YEARS?

Kerima-Gae Topp has just passed 26 years continuous broadcasting at Alive. Whilst it doesn't top Alan Jones, it's a remarkable achievement.

## BIGGEST MORNING TEA

We had so much fun broadcasting live the Virtual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of Cancer Council NSW. \$1908 has been raised so far. Fabulous effort everyone. You can still donate at <https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/GillianSchrickker> and help us get to \$3000!

I enjoyed pulling it together. With the amazing assistance from Darryn Capes-Davis our first virtual event and broadcast via facebook live went off easily.

Thank you to our sponsors, for the gifts to support the raffle. A further \$175 was made from the raffle with 5 winners.



## FEEDBACK

Hi, our Management Committee chairman was browsing the Internet, and came across your fabulous website. Could I ask who created this website, and roughly what it cost you? We would be interested in having a similar website done for us at Cairns FM89.1 community radio. Any information you can provide would be much appreciated.

## WELFARE

Our thoughts are with Rayjeana from Rayg on the Radio on the passing of her sister. We're here for you Rayjeana and Gillian is also coping with her mother's doctor appointments after her cancer diagnosis

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 6 new members. A big welcome to Tania Gutierrez, Liam Mc Guire and Thomas English who have joined as general members and Annette Parker, Nicholas Bender and Saric Morris who are listener members. It brings the total membership to 152.

The Board made the decision that fees will be paid for all members and new members for 2021. I have just updated the date so that everyone is financial until 31/6/2021. Remember we need to get to 500 for our next licence approval so with free joining available it would be a good time to encourage all your friends and family to join up. You can still access your profile to ensure all your details are up to date, especially email addresses.

## Introducing Liam McGuire who will be presenting at weekends

Liam lives in Bella Vista and has been in the radio industry for 2 years. He's a producer for Ben Fordham's Breakfast Show on 2GB and Executive Producer of Australia Overnight with Luke Grant on 2GB, 4BC and 3AW. He has a passion for communication and the media and is currently studying a Bachelor of Journalism at Western Sydney University. He will be graduating at the end of the year. Liam says "I love radio, it's the only medium in the media that allows for the instant connection with listeners. I'm very excited to be a part of the Alive 90.5fm family, and you'll be hearing me on the airwaves very soon!"



Looking forward to your show Liam

## TECHNOLOGY

Darryn always keeps us updated about all the advances with technology he is making at the station. Just make sure you absorb his emails. I know I had to refer to the black start up one recently. The CSAs are up to date and fresher thanks to Darryn

## REMOTE BROADCASTING

Here are some personal experiences of what it's like to get set up at home.

## From Graham Johnston

While we broadcast from home it is more correct to say we upload our programs to the station's computer at our leisure and then they play at the designated time. Using Station Playlist Remote I can access the timeslots that my programs usually go to air. I can edit those playlists and insert my own music. As my programs are essentially music programs that is important. At home I also record voice drops such as back announcing tracks I have played. These are inserted into the program.

There are some differences however. When in the studio I can stop a track that is playing to start my program right on the hour. With SPL Remote, the track

coming up to the hour will continue to play through the hour before bringing the news on at maybe 2 or 3 minutes after the hour. This time is uncertain and as I have programmed the shows in advance I could lose a track or two if the timing is not right. As I publish my playlists on line in advance, this would not be good. After speaking with Darryn and Jerome, I found a way to start the shows precisely on the hour. That makes the timing more certain. The other issue with timing is that SPL shows the duration of the program, however it times the tracks according to the metadata attached to each file. For example, a track that is nominally 4 minutes in length might fade down too low at say 3 min 45secs SPL also cross fades tracks so in an hour I can lose about 2 minutes. If I lose too much in the first hour of the program, a station music track will be introduced which will continue until it ends in the next hour thus reducing the length of the second hour. My programs are smooth jazz and having AC/DC intrude halfway through the show is not good radio. That did happen once!

In order to have my programs of the proper length I have to guesstimate how much will be lost through track fading and cross fades. Of course, I could record each hour of my program as one continuous track so there would be no fading or cross fading but that would mean that those listening to the station on line would not get a playlist of the tracks that I am playing. I am still working on this but I have been able to achieve reasonable results. It is a big step forward and I do thank Darryn and the team for making this possible.



### **Graham in his home studio**

#### **From Tony Jenkins**

Broadcasting from home is great. I used to do it when I was away in the caravan, but it was vastly different. I used to pre-record my show in its entirety (Sounds Easy) including sponsorships etc. I used to send it via FTP and put it straight in the pre-broadcast folder. The system Jerome and Darryn have come up with is ideal for 'time related' shows. Once set-up it's a breeze. I'll be doing the first hour of my morning show this way even after the virus is slain.

#### **From Happy Jack**

Sometime after the COVID 19 virus had begun to impact our lives, I was concerned that both my wife and my good friend, Charles Agius, were highly vulnerable - as both had significantly reduced immunity to infection due to their individual health issues.

On that basis, I felt it desirable to minimise my time in the ALIVE 90.5 studios - in spite of the fact that very good efforts were being made to sanitise the studio environment for the well-being of all users.

As all music presented on my program is from my own vast collection, I decided to create my 3 hour Morning Magazine program using my home computer

- inserting sponsorships, CSA's etc. into each hour as required. I had already been using 'Audacity' as a program to help produce special broadcasting tracks - and so I incorporated all elements of my program into this format for separate 56minute pre-recorded segments. This worked quite well for a couple of weeks - but I was very unhappy with the quality of my own voice introductions (using my computer's inbuilt microphone). I have since purchased a "Stadium USB Microphone" from JB Hi Fi (cost \$79) which simply plugs in to my computer's USB port - and the recorded sound quality is no longer a problem. Although the process of pre-recording my program is more time-consuming, I'm delighted that it enables me to minimise my studio time until the COVID 19 danger period has elapsed.

### **UPDATE ON TOWER**

Our team continue to work with Council on the tower. At Council's request we are about to start analysing the FM coverage from the new tower at 40 m vs the coverage from a 25 tower that replaces our existing mast. Council have committed to providing the 25m tower, and depending on the cost they may/may not provide for the increase in tower height to 40 m.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **AGM Wed 26<sup>th</sup> August**

## **On-Air Presenter**

### **Volunteer Position**

ALIVE 90.5 FM in Sydney

**ALIVE90.5 FM** is Sydney's best sounding community radio station, and we are all about delivering engaging entertainment to the Hills, Parramatta and Cumberland with the best music selection, and authentic on-air talent.

Our mission is to entertain, inform, engage and educate our local, cultural, social and musical communities. And we want you as part of our Station!

As our newest on-air Presenter, broadcasting from our modern Studio in Baulkham Hills, you will be working closely with the Program Manager to creating engaging and dynamic radio. You will be responsible for ensuring the station's objectives are achieved through excellent local communication, effective planning/execution and on air work that makes you stand out.

We look far and wide to employ a diverse Station team – we all bring something a little bit different – and in return we will try and give you everything you need to bring your best self to work. We want your voice and your ideas on our radio station!

### **As the newest member of the ALIVE90.5 Crew you will have:**

- Genuinely passionate about MUSIC, LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS and a unique perspective.
- A desire to share music and learn about radio
- A genuine interest in people
- Basic computer skills and awareness

Previous radio experience is not necessary. We are interested in people who are interested in people, stories, music and life.

ALIVE90.5 is a values driven organisation. If you genuinely live and breathe our values, you'll be a perfect fit. We collaborate, take initiative, maximise creativity, have courage and act with integrity.

Keen? Apply now by submitting an introduction letter telling us who you are and why you want to be on the radio to [mail@alive905.com.au](mailto:mail@alive905.com.au)