Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Senior Citizens Centre, Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine
And Via ZOOM

Tuesday 25 November 2025, 6 pm

Members Present:

1. Leon Stackpole	2. Lucy Armstrong	3. Annie Mac	4. Alex Parsons
5. Bonny Cassidy	6. Sophie Rau	7. Gen Ward	8. Amy Jennings
9. Shelley Krape	10. Crag Carrick	11. Emily Kratzmann	12. Martin Clifton
13. Melissa Scott	14. Bridget Haylock	15. Glenn Williams	16. Alex Playstead
17. Tina Helm	18. Elizabeth Ess	19. Marty Sharples	20. Julia Monsbourgh
21. Suzanne Donisthorpe			
Committee of Mgt			
22. Richard McLeish, President	23. 20. Rachael Cilauro, Treasurer	24. Suzanne Hogan, Secretary	25. Rosie Collins, General Member
26. Ian Patrick, General Member	27. Simon Smallchua, General Member	28. Martin Lee, General Member	
Staff			
Steph Riddel	Sue McLennan	Laura Cady	

Meeting opened: 6.34 pm

1. Welcome

- Rich acknowledged the beautiful country we live and work on and the deep connection the Djaara people have for their land
- Meeting with 28 members present. Rich welcomed all to the AGM and noted those who joined the AGM on Zoom (approximately 7 – 8 people) and those who made their apologies

Apologies:

Hayley West	Nancy Whittaker	Tony Peachy	Celia Finch

2. Business arising from the 2024 AGM and SGM Minutes

- No questions were received.

3. Confirmation of Minutes from the AGM and SGM held October 2024

***Motion*:** "That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting held 25 October be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting"

Moved: Glen Williams

Seconded: Steve Chalmers

4. The past year and the presentation of the Annual Report

- The Annual Report was distributed via email and posted to the website.
- Rich reinforced that MainFM is a community led and run organisation and invited questions from the audience on any topic
- Rich noted that overall the station and the broadcasts are in great shape with the big variable over the past year being funding. Rich went on to note that 12 months ago the CBF had not fully funded our staff positions.
- Despite this disappointment and to the credit of those involved, in particular Steph who prepared a solid grant application, has led to the station securing three years of funding for staff positions.
- The stability this brings is amazing and worth celebrating.

5. Presentation of Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Rachael Cilauro. Rachael noted:
    - The CBF funding for three years is amazing
    - The highlight figures of the profit and loss and balance sheets presented in the Annual Report were income for the period, $175,382 of which grant funding was $49,609. The operating expenses were $167,851, resulting in a very modest and expected loss of $1,469. This result was a good news story - a great indication of the work that Steph does at MainFM to contain costs.
    - Post COVID, MainFM is holding steady, with this amazing grant funding that pays for our staff positions. We are in a sound position and have a clear path forward,
    - MainFM has healthy cash reserves (equity). An acknowledgement of the good financial decisions before this day have allowed the station to have term deposits and to be in a strong position to make decisions going forward strategically.

Motion: Certification by two CoM members that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view of the association's financial position and performance and that they be accepted."

Moved: Ian Oberon

Seconded: Martin Lee

Questions/Comments from Members
Bridget Haylock

Can we increase staff hours on the basis that we have money in the bank?

- In line with the 3 year funding from CBF staff hours have been increased.

Elizabeth Ess

Stated there have been good knock on effects having an increased staff presence in the office.

- Agreed, the reinstatement of the volunteer and coordinators position back up to 2 days is a huge benefit.

Acknowledgement of Colin Lemon

Rich acknowledged the loss of one of our long-term community members, Colin Lemon, earlier this year. Rich remembered meeting him - having first encountered his name on the wall. Colin, alongside Steve, were stalwarts, if anything ever went wrong you could call for help, they were just a real lifeline. Colin had this unique and warm relationship with the station, too. He was a really gentle guy, and there's not a lot of gentle men in the world at the moment - he will be missed. And we can make a point of throwing down a Grateful Dead song, just to remember him. He was a huge deadhead, he probably played 90 - 95% of the station's Grateful Dead content.

MainFM Staffing

Rich flagged that Steph would be taking some leave over January and February

- Steph noted that this would be the first year in a long time that having secured the 3 year funding, she didn't have to write a huge grant application at this time of the year.
- Provides the opportunity to take leave owed and come back refreshed in the new year

Rich also noted the major staff changes MainFM witnessed this past year.

- Alex Playstead, without CBF funding Castlemaine High snapped up Alex, a big loss but he is still around as presenter
- We had a great recruitment team to bring in Lauz Cady
- Rich also acknowledged the huge effort of Sue McLennan in driving an amazing result in Sponsorships – from 42k the prior year to 69k this immediate past year.
- What a team

Election of Committee of Management

The following positions on the Committee of Management received only one nomination and as such were elected unopposed, no need for a ballot.

Vice President is: Martin Lee, a current member of CoM and presenter of Still Life with Pansy on Mondays.

Hayley West stood down as Vice President, and we thank her for her support and wish her well in her deathly business

Secretary: Rosie Collins, a presenter on Ramjet Radio

General Member (2 years) Ian Patrick, a current CoM Member with much wisdom, stability and sensibility

General Member (2 years) Celia Finch policy juggernaut, regional detention and migration advising federal government

We lost Luqman Latif as he has so much on the go we had an additional position

General Member (1 year) Tina Helm, former station manager, grant reviewer, presenter

Suze Hogan moved to Treasurer as Rachael Cilauro stood down from the Treasurer role and Simon Smallchua remained a steady hand on CoM as a general member

Rachael Cilauro acknowledged the work of Rich in leading the team. Rich went on to clarify that he would continue through to the next AGM and was then required (by the Constitution) to step down from the CoM late 2026.

Station Manager Comments - Year in Review

- Steph applauded the work of the **Technical Committee** and in particular their response to the flood of July - a really tough time, crisis meetings every day, still recovering. Despite the challenges it also provided an opportunity to implement new technology and hardware.
- Thanks to Melissa Scott for stepping in to lead the **Programming Committee**, the committee is functioning well, the systems are working and MainFM has a really strong grid, such great shows and diversity of shows
- Thanks to all for the work and commitment on both sub committees
- Steph spoke about the **Strategic Plan** and the focus on the technical foundations that are now in place to support a new website and on demand
- Steph thanked Alex and Sue for their work throughout the year and stated she was excited to have Lauz on board.
- Steph spoke briefly about her and Sue McLennan's attendance at the **CBAA Conference** in Hobart. Steph noted
    - Friendly and great connections
    - Sue was invited to present a workshop on sponsorship which generated lots of people asking her questions
    - Sue was a finalist for an award, but she was robbed
    - There is a 30 page report available and it only scratches the surface

Agenda question from Julia Monsbourgh: Can the committee please report on whether they feel Halford street remains fit for purpose, and secondly what has been discussed at committee level in terms of finding another home for mainFm?

- Rich responded that it was part of the strategic plan to look at the new home for MainFM. Stating we have a shopping list for what we require in a new home. Most buildings in town don't pass muster except for the old gaol up on the hill.
- There was immediate opposition from the floor to the idea of MainFM shifting to the old gaol, with concerns regarding safety and creepy occurrences particularly for younger and female presenters, the amenities such as lack of cooling and heating and the studio space and setup.
- Rich went on to state that he had a few conversations but it was not a done deal.
- The conversation returned to the question of safety at the Halford Street location following the recent incident and the experience of Elizabeth and Julia. The key concern was there was no policy/procedure regarding protocols in the event of an incident and that security was of most concern.
- Rich responded that CoM were aware of the issue and at a recent meeting had reviewed the suggestions that were collated by Lauz regarding improvements and management of security and safety at Halford St.
- Rich stated that CoM takes responsibility for ensuring the safety of people on site at Halford street very seriously. Rich also noted that he had emailed to all members stating that we're trying to do what we can now, but we're also starting conversations about what else we can do to make it safe as soon as possible.
- Debate and various paradoxical points were noted including
    - The person of concern was a huge listener to MainFM and would send letters – he is one person who has challenges and would should work out how we deal with him
    - Should we call the police as occurred during this incident
    - This was not an isolated incident and staff have felt threatened

    - The challenges of mainFM presenters going out into the community and making connections. The answer is not to push people away but as presenters we don't know who people are
    - CoMs goal is being open with the community and balance presenter/staff safety. A view taht staff in the office meant the doors could be open, if no staff then the door should be shut.
- Discussion, suggestions and questions raised continued including; reinstating the side sliding glass door; leaving lights on all the time in hallways for safety; security and safety should be part of the risk management strategy; when should the door be locked, the challenge of individual response v reaction v systemic changes to support all presenters and visitors feeling safet at mainFM; duress alrams, convex mirros int he hallways.
- Rich reiterated what we are doing - Change door codes (1 number), contact details in the office, peep hole, intercom mirrors, cctv, duress button

- Lauz asked if CoM would support a working group? There was agreement that a working group was a great idea and interest to join would be sought within the next week to report back to the next CoM meeting on 13 December 2025.

- Scott returned to the topic of accommodation and reminded the group of the height required for the line of sight for the transmitter - this was why mainFM went to the gaol in the first place. Other height suitable places are the hospital, Etty st.
- Rich reiterated there will be consultation around future accommodation with a 3 - 5 year window before we have to be out of Halford St.
- Workspace has not been accommodating MainFM needs with regard to Etty Street.
- CoM have also been engaging with Mount Alexander Shire Council who have been strategic and incredibly supportive.

Meeting Close

- No questions from members online
- Rich noted the healthy quorum, which indicates the passion, commitment and engagement of the MainFM community. That's a good sign for the committee.
- Thanks to all for your engagement and your passion and your commitment to this dear little radio station that we drive off and we all spend so much time and blood, sweat and tears to really try to do the right thing.
- Rich thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 7.37 pm